

A vertical bar with a color gradient from red at the top to grey at the bottom.

# **WORLD WATCH LIST 2025**

# **Top 50 Prayer Calendar**

**Pray with persecuted Christians  
who dare to share Jesus**

# WORLD WATCH LIST 2025

## ABOUT THE LIST

The World Watch List is compiled by Open Doors' analysts using real-world data from experts on the ground in 150 countries. Persecution in each country is recorded using a points system which tracks violence and pressure. This measures the number and severity of violent incidents against Christians and the degree of pressure exerted against the practice of their faith in 5 spheres of life.

**Violence**



**Private**



**Family**



**Community**



**National**



**Church**



Maximum score for each is 16.7, maximum total of 100 when combined. Each country's ranking is determined by its total score out of 100, giving an indication of severity of persecution.

## PERSECUTION LEVELS



**HIGH**

41-60 points



**VERY HIGH**

61-80 points



**EXTREME**

81-100 points

Every country on the list is ranked as having very high or extreme levels of persecution, showing the intensity of persecution against Christians.



**WANT TO  
KNOW MORE?**

Visit [www.opendoors.org.za](http://www.opendoors.org.za) for profiles on each WWL country with more testimonies, prayer points, persecution trends and ways you can become involved.

## **COUNTRIES WITH EXTREME PERSECUTION**

### **1 North Korea**

It's been more than 70 years since the Kim dynasty began, and things seem worse than ever for God's people. Pray that God will give North Korean Christians eyes to see His light amid the darkness.

### **2 Somalia**

Somalia can be an incredibly dangerous place to follow Jesus. Ask God to protect His people and to give them hope, even when everything seems hopeless.

### **3 Yemen**

It seems there is never an end to the violence in Yemen. Pray that God would bring peace and justice to Yemen, and that the cries of His people would not be forgotten.

### **4 Libya**

Christian migrant workers in Libya are at risk from extremist groups. Ask God to protect these believers, particularly in areas where there is no real rule of law.

### **5 Sudan**

Ask God to be with believers displaced by the violence

in Sudan. Pray that He would hear the cries of the suffering and deliver them.

### **6 Eritrea**

Last year saw yet another mass arrest of Christians. Pray that these believers – and others like them – will be freed. Pray that God will provide in the needs of their children who grow up without knowing their father or mother.

### **7 Nigeria**

Once again, Nigeria is one of the most violent places in the world for Christians. Pray for those whose loved ones have been killed or abducted due to the violence.

### **8 Pakistan**

Christians know they're second-class citizens in Pakistan, with many working in jobs considered unfit for Muslims. Pray they will find joy in their daily lives.

### **9 Iran**

Pray for secret churches, that God would protect these networks of underground believers and give them a spirit of wisdom and courage.



## **10 Afghanistan**

Pray that even as the Taliban continue their brutal regime, God will touch their hearts and change them. Pray that they will see the truth of Jesus' love and hope. Pray that those in prison would be protected and released.

## **11 India**

Pray that church leaders who are falsely accused under anti-conversion laws will not be attacked or imprisoned.

## **12 Saudi Arabia**

There are no legal churches in Saudi Arabia (outside of some permitted on compounds limited to non-Saudi residents). Pray that believers here would have an opportunity to find a place to worship and grow in knowledge of the Lord.

## **13 Myanmar**

The 2021 coup in Myanmar continues to have long-term consequences for Christians. Churches were destroyed and church leaders were targeted and detained in 2024. Ask God to be with His people.

## **COUNTRIES WITH VERY HIGH PERSECUTION**

### **14 Mali**

Many extremist groups are active in Mali, including groups affiliated with Al Qaeda and the Islamic State. Pray that God would protect believers who are targeted and violently attacked by these groups.

## **15 China**

Pressure seems to increase every year for Chinese Christians. Pray that believers would experience growth in their faith even as persecution rises.

## **16 Maldives**

The Maldives is regarded by much of the world as a vacation paradise. But it remains incredibly difficult for people to follow Jesus there. Pray that the global community's eyes would be opened to the situation facing Christians in the Maldives.

## **17 Iraq**

Even now, 10 years after ISIS took over parts of northern Iraq, Christians are slowly returning home. Pray for them as they continue to rebuild and recover.

## **18 Syria**

Following Jesus in Syria means confronting more than a decade of near-constant challenges – Islamic extremism, war, natural disasters and constant economic stress. Pray that God would bring about the peace only He can.

## **19 Algeria**

Almost every Protestant church in Algeria has been forcibly closed, or fears it will be soon. Pray that God will allow these places of worship to remain open. Pray that those whose churches have been closed will be able to find Christian community.



## **20 Burkina Faso**

Violence in Burkina Faso has led to a massive displacement crisis. Pray for believers who are displaced because of their faith. Ask God to bring them hope and healing.

## **21 Morocco**

Pray for converts from Islam who can be pressured or even attacked by their families and communities. Pray they would find hope and peace.

## **22 Laos**

Pray for the Lord's protection over Christians who are monitored and meet under the watchful eye of the Communist authorities.

## **23 Mauritania**

Local Christians in Mauritania aren't allowed to openly attend church. Pray these believers will be able to find a place where they can grow in faith with a Christian community.

## **24 Bangladesh**

Last year's riots and breakdown in law and order led to many believers being attacked. Ask God to bring healing to these believers

and protect every Christian, giving them strength to stand firm in their faith.

## **25 Uzbekistan**

As Christians and churches continue to be targeted for governmental abuse, ask God to be with them and help them to persevere, despite the constant frustration.

## **26 Cuba**

Pray for church leaders in Cuba who can be targeted for surveillance and abuse from state authorities. Ask God to provide strength and wisdom.

## **27 Central African Republic**

The political unrest in CAR has resulted in an environment where Christians can be targeted by extremists. Pray that God would protect His people from harm.

## **28 Niger**

Niger continues to battle political instability and threats from Islamic militants. Pray that God will bring order to chaos and will prevent radicals from taking power or territory.

### **29 Turkmenistan**

Ask God to make a way for His Word and other Christian materials to get to believers who are hungry for Scripture.

### **30 Nicaragua**

The authoritarian government of Nicaragua continues to target any perceived critics of its rule. Pray for God's protection for brave church leaders, who speak out against what's happening.

### **31 Mexico**

Parts of Mexico are under the control of gangs and cartels. Many times, these groups target Christians – especially church leaders. Pray that God will protect His people living in these regions.

### **32 Oman**

Churches in Oman are only officially available to non-Omanis. When Omanis do form a church, there's always a risk of discovery and a crackdown. Ask God to protect these faith communities.

### **33 Ethiopia**

Pray for believers living in unstable parts of Ethiopia where they may be targeted for following Jesus. Ask God to protect them.

### **34 Tunisia**

Ask God to help Tunisian Christians – who aren't allowed to worship publicly – find communities of Christians that can help them grow in faith.

### **35 Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

So many Christians have lost everything and have been forced to flee in the DRC. Pray these displaced followers of Jesus would be able to find stability and hope.

### **36 Bhutan**

Christians can be denied citizenship and other civic rights in Bhutan. Pray that God would help these believers find their worth and citizenship in Him.

### **37 Mozambique**

Even though residents of northern Mozambique were told they could return home, the region is still unstable and vulnerable to attacks from extremist groups – including one with ties to the Islamic State. Pray for protection for believers here.

### **38 Kazakhstan**

Pray for Christians who can be targeted by court cases for violations of Kazakhstan's Religion Law. Ask God to protect churches from misuse of these regulations.

### **39 Tajikistan**

Christians who meet in house churches can face monitoring from authorities and government raids. Pray that these believers would be able to worship together without fear.

### **40 Egypt**

Pray for Christians who experience discrimination and abuse because of

their faith. Pray that God would sustain them.

#### **41 Qatar**

Pray for native converts in Qatar, many of whom are secret Christians. Ask God to protect their faith and help them find other believers.

#### **42 Comoros**

Ask God to change hearts and laws so that people in the Comoros would be able to legally follow Jesus even if they were previously Muslim.

#### **43 Cameroon**

In the Far North region of Cameroon, many Christians have experienced repeated attacks. Pray that God will be with these hurting believers in a powerful way.

#### **44 Vietnam**

Pray for the Christians living in more remote areas who are oppressed, abused and even attacked because of their faith. Ask God to be with them and heal their wounds.



#### **45 Turkey**

There are some in Turkey who seek to tie Turkish identity to Islam. Pray that there would be an openness to accepting people of all faiths as true Turks.

#### **46 Colombia**

Pray for those Christians living in areas controlled by cartels. Pray they will be granted safety and wisdom.

#### **47 Kyrgyzstan**

Pray for all persecuted Christians. Open Doors is seeing an increase in persecution incidents. Some of them had to flee from their villages and homes. Pray for their faith and safety.

#### **48 Brunei**

Pray for believers who have limited access to Bibles. Pray they would be able to read and study God's Word freely.

#### **49 Chad**

On paper, Chad guarantees freedom of religion, but in practise, Christians, especially those from other faiths, face considerable pressure. Pray that the Lord will continuously sustain their faith and help them to be grounded in Him despite the challenges they may face.

#### **50 Jordan**

Thank God that many Christians in Jordan are free to worship. Ask that the Lord will make their worship a sign of light and hope for the whole region.

# WHEN BELIEVERS DARE...

In the darkest places, Christians like Joo Min dare to share Jesus. Will you stand with them?



Continue praying with us  
by **SIGNING UP** to receive  
communication from us:



Open Doors Southern Africa

**T** +27 11 888 9341

**E** southafrica@od.org

 +27 66 397 1319

**FIND US ON:**

[www.opendoors.org.za](http://www.opendoors.org.za)



Geopende Deure Open Doors NPC – Reg. Nr: 2004/023397/08 – PBO Nr: 930011129