

Christian Persecution Map

Central Asia

Believers in Central Asia endure restrictions on religious freedom imposed by authoritarian governments. In Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, for example, churches must be registered, yet registration is nearly impossible to achieve. There is particular hostility from the Muslim majority towards converts from Islam. In Kyrgyzstan in 2024 a 13-year-old Christian convert was beaten and killed by a group of Muslim teenagers.

Key Prayer

Pray for wisdom and strength for Christians experiencing legal restrictions on religious freedom, as well as harassment from the Muslim majority.

Sub-Saharan Africa

In many African countries Christians face the constant threat of Islamist terrorism. In the last few years thousands of believers have been killed in northern Mozambique and north-eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as northern and Middle Belt Nigeria where more Christians die for their faith than in the rest of the world combined (see pages 8-9 for more).

Key Prayer

Pray for the Lord's protection over His people, and the defeat of Islamist plans for an African caliphate.

Middle East and North Africa

Christians are a hated minority in many parts of this Muslim-majority region. Harsh laws severely limit religious freedom. Christian worship is forbidden for Farsi (Persian)-speaking believers in Iran, who are converts from Islam; worship is entirely outlawed in Saudi Arabia. Across the region, Muslim-background believers face particular hostility and ostracism from their communities.

Key Prayer

Ask the Lord to sustain believers who risk imprisonment or death for their faith.

Opposition to the Gospel exists all around the world, but is fiercer in some parts than others. These are the six regions of the world where Christians face the most persecution. Please pray for believers experiencing violence, hatred and discrimination across Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

East Asia

North Korea could be considered the worst country in the world for anti-Christian persecution. Any public expression of faith can result in whole families being sent to prison camps, where they suffer abuse and torture, and are often worked to death. Official churches in China are closely controlled by the authorities and have limited freedom. Unofficial "house churches" are at risk of being closed down.

Key Prayer

Ask God to draw close to believers who worship amid rigid state controls, risking their freedom and their lives for Him.

South-East Asia

Christians in Myanmar have endured violent persecution by the Buddhist-nationalist Tatmadaw (Myanmar military) for generations. In recent years many have been killed, and the survivors displaced from their homes. Christian converts in Laos may be expelled from their home villages. Believers in Indonesia are sometimes barred from meeting for worship by Islamist extremists.

Key Prayer

Pray for peace in Myanmar, and Christ's comfort for the bereaved, the displaced, the excluded and the marginalized.

South Asia

Islamist attitudes are prevalent in Pakistan, where many of our brothers and sisters face hostility and false "blasphemy" charges, while women and girls are at risk of being abducted and converted to Islam. Christians in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka all experience hatred from the religious majority of each country. Any Christians in Afghanistan could be executed as apostates.

Key Prayer

Pray for Christians to be protected from malicious "blasphemy" allegations and abduction in Pakistan, and hatred from majority religious groups across the region.