

# PRAY FOR CHRISTIANS SUFFERING PERSECUTION

Every day Christians around the world face abuse, assault, arrest, false imprisonment, and even murder. Please pray that they may be encouraged to continue responding to those who hate them with love.



## NORTH AFRICA

Pray for the Christians who form a tiny minority in the Islamic nations of North Africa. Open Christian witness is often not possible, and many believers meet in secret. Pray for wisdom for church leaders.

## SYRIA

Much of northern Syria has been under the control of radical Islamist groups. Pray for the Christians who remain in Syria, unable to flee because of poverty, and those who have lost homes and family.

## IRAQ

Secular conflict has caused hundreds of thousands of Christians to flee the country or to become displaced within Iraq. Those who remain face kidnap and murder and the danger of frequent bombings.

## IRAN

Islamic clerics wield ultimate political control in this repressive republic. Open Christian witness is banned, and spies monitor Christian groups. Pray that the Church will continue to grow.

## CENTRAL ASIA

Pray for Christians who continue to face persecution in several republics within the former Soviet Union. Pressure comes from both authoritarian governments and Islamic societies.

## CHINA

Despite the growth of China's free market economy, religious freedoms are severely curtailed in several provinces. Pray for the house churches which continue to grow.

## NORTH KOREA

Christian belief is forbidden, and even the discovery of a Bible can lead to executions. Thousands of believers are held in concentration camps.

## LAOS

Pressure comes from the Communist government, Buddhist and animist societies. Christians must gain state approval for church buildings and are ostracised and abused within their communities.

## EGYPT

Christians are discriminated against in the areas of employment and education and face attacks from extremists. Pray for those from a Muslim background, who are under the greatest pressures.

## SUDAN

The government tries to close churches in an attempt to drive Christianity and non-Arabs out of the country. Converts have been arrested and imprisoned.

## NIGERIA

Christians face violent attacks in several northern and central states. Pray for those whose loved ones have been abducted or murdered.

## KENYA

Near Kenya's eastern border with Somalia, al-Shabaab terrorists have attacked churches and killed individual Christians outside their homes, in their villages, at their workplace and even in a primary school.

## TANZANIA

The spread of the gospel amongst Muslims is provoking a growing hostility towards Christians. Churches and pastors are being targeted and attacked by extremists.

## MEXICO

Pray for evangelicals in Mexico who face attacks from *Caciques*, community chiefs who practise traditional religion.

## CUBA

The constitution guarantees freedom of religion, but all religious groups must be registered. Churches may be demolished and pastors are randomly arrested and imprisoned or put under house arrest.

## SAUDI ARABIA

Pray for Christians in Saudi Arabia, where only Islamic practice is permitted. Anyone involved in the conversion of a Muslim faces jail, expulsion or execution.

## AFGHANISTAN

Pray for those who convert from Islam after watching or listening to our partner's broadcasts.

## PAKISTAN

Pray for Christians who daily face discrimination in education, employment and the legal system, as well as abduction, assault, rape, killings and bombings.

## MALDIVES

This is one of the least evangelised nations on earth. Any religion other than Sunni Islam is banned. Pray that Christians have wisdom as they practise their faith.

## BANGLADESH

Pray for Christians in rural areas who face discrimination and sporadic violence in this predominantly Muslim nation. Pray for their safety.

## COLOMBIA

Pray for evangelical Christians and pastors who face violence from paramilitary groups and those behind the trade in illegal drugs.

## ETHIOPIA

Persecution is mostly committed by Muslims against Christian members of the Somali community. But any Christian may be harassed, denied access to resources and attacked.

## ERITREA

The government has closed churches and imprisoned and tortured many leaders and believers.

## INDIA & NEPAL

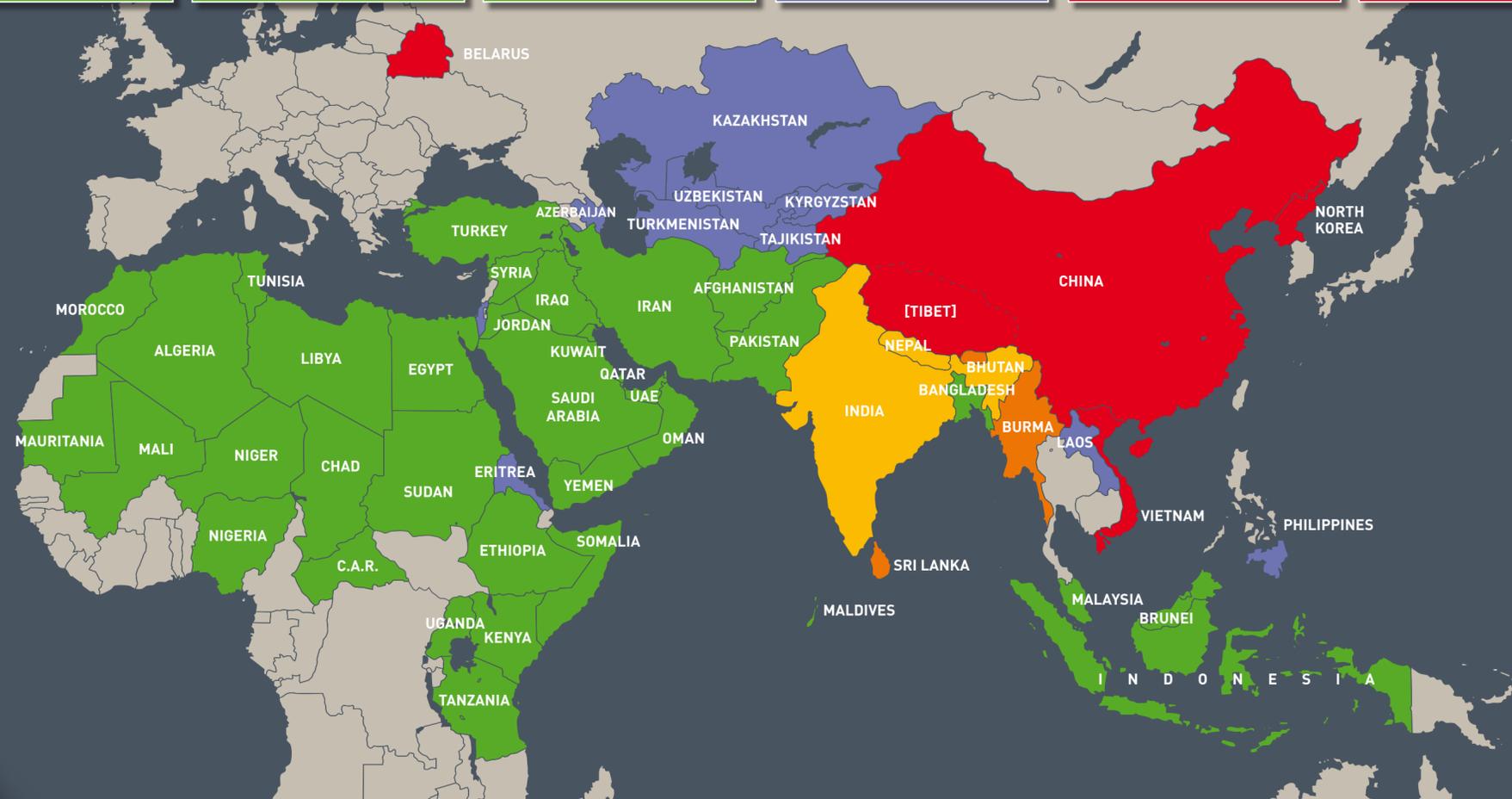
Persecution comes from extremist Hindus who, in India, want to see a Hindu-only country. Several states have introduced anti-conversion laws which are an additional pressure on churches.

## SRI LANKA

In remote areas Buddhist extremists often rally locals to attack Christians. A government directive which has no legal validity has also been used to try to close down churches.

## BURMA

Despite the apparent change of power from military dictatorship to democracy, Christians continue to face pressure within their communities.



## VIETNAM

The Communist regime claims to uphold religious freedoms, yet represses unregistered churches. Pray for the Hmong and Montagnard people groups, who face the most intense persecution.

## PHILIPPINES

Christians living in areas with significant influence from Muslim and Marxist guerrilla organisations have faced threats, kidnapping and death.

## INDONESIA

Christians are marginalised, face legal obstructions to establishing churches and have been attacked when gathering to worship.

## KEY

The main sources of persecution

- BUDDHIST SOCIETY
- COMMUNIST REGIMES
- HINDU EXTREMISTS
- ISLAMIC SOCIETY
- OTHER/MULTIPLE

RELEASE INTERNATIONAL  
**voice** 50 YEARS  
of Persecuted Christians 1968-2018

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