

UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION: A CURRENT GLOBAL CRISIS

What is Christian persecution?

Christian persecution is hostility, mistreatment, or oppression that our brothers and sisters worldwide face because of their faith in Jesus Christ. While Christian persecution may seem like a faraway or ancient issue, it's a devastating reality for millions of Christians worldwide today. In fact, Christianity is the most persecuted religion today.

Christian persecution can take many forms, such as:

- Physical violence and torture
- Imprisonment
- Loss of homes and property
- Ostracism from family and community
- Discrimination in education and employment
- Sexual violence
- Death threats
- Murder

Daily prayers for the persecuted church:

- Pray for strength and endurance in the face of trials (Ephesians 3:16)
- Pray for physical protection and provision (Psalm 18:2)
- Pray for the advancement of the global Church (Matthew 28:19-20)
- Pray that persecuted believers would experience God's hope and peace (Romans 15:13)

Despite these challenges, persecuted Christians often demonstrate remarkable resilience and faith. Many continue to worship, share their faith, and serve their communities even in the face of severe opposition.

Where is Christian persecution happening?

Persecution is most severe in regions like:

- **Nigeria and Sub-Saharan Africa**, where Islamic extremist groups regularly target Christian communities
- **Central and East Asia (i.e. North Korea and China)**, where authoritarian regimes and increased surveillance restrict religious freedom
- **India and Southeast Asia**, where Hindu and other nationalisms attempt to wipe out Christianity
- **Parts of the Middle East**, where converting to Christianity can be punishable by death
- **Latin America**, where a surge in organized crime affects Christians

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can make an immediate difference by:

1. Praying for persecuted believers
2. Staying informed about persecution worldwide
3. Supporting organizations that serve persecuted Christians
4. Sharing about Christian persecution with your family and friends



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