



ANGOLA: Country Dossier

June 2018



OpenDoors

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

Open Doors International / World Watch Research Unit

June 2018 / 2

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World Watch List 2018

		1. Private Life	2. Family Life	3. Community Life	4. National Life	5. Church Life	6. Violence	TOTAL SCORE WWL 2018	TOTAL SCORE WWL 2017	TOTAL SCORE WWL 2016	TOTAL SCORE WWL 2015	TOTAL SCORE WWL 2014
Rank	Country	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score
1	North Korea	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	10.6	94	92	92	92	90
2	Afghanistan	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	10.0	93	89	88	81	78
3	Somalia	16.0	16.2	16.1	16.3	16.4	10.4	91	91	87	90	80
4	Sudan	14.2	14.5	14.3	15.6	16.0	12.0	87	87	84	80	73
5	Pakistan	14.4	13.5	13.8	15.0	13.1	16.7	86	88	87	79	77
6	Eritrea	15.2	14.5	15.8	16.1	15.2	9.4	86	82	89	79	72
7	Libya	15.2	15.3	14.2	15.7	15.5	10.4	86	78	79	76	71
8	Iraq	14.7	14.7	14.9	14.9	15.1	11.3	86	86	90	86	78
9	Yemen	16.7	16.6	16.4	16.5	16.7	2.6	85	85	78	73	74
10	Iran	14.0	14.1	14.5	15.8	16.4	10.0	85	85	83	80	77
11	India	12.6	12.7	13.2	14.7	12.9	14.4	81	73	68	62	55
12	Saudi Arabia	14.9	13.7	14.2	15.5	16.4	4.1	79	76	76	77	78
13	Maldives	15.2	15.5	13.5	15.8	16.7	1.1	78	76	76	78	77
14	Nigeria	11.8	11.5	13.1	12.1	12.1	16.5	77	78	78	78	70
15	Syria	14.4	14.3	14.1	14.5	14.7	3.7	76	86	87	83	79
16	Uzbekistan	15.5	12.1	13.0	13.1	16.0	3.5	73	71	70	69	68
17	Egypt	11.3	12.8	12.2	11.7	9.5	12.4	70	65	64	61	61
18	Vietnam	12.4	8.4	12.7	14.2	13.8	7.4	69	71	66	68	65
19	Turkmenistan	15.2	10.3	12.9	12.8	15.2	1.9	68	67	66	63	62
20	Laos	12.9	8.6	13.6	13.9	14.9	3.5	67	64	58	58	62
21	Jordan	13.2	13.3	11.5	10.9	13.0	4.3	66	63	59	56	56
22	Tajikistan	13.3	11.3	11.8	11.8	12.9	4.3	65	58	58	50	47
23	Malaysia	12.0	14.9	12.8	12.4	9.3	3.9	65	60	58	55	49
24	Myanmar	11.6	11.1	13.2	10.4	11.0	7.8	65	62	62	60	59
25	Nepal	12.6	11.9	10.7	11.5	12.4	4.6	64		(not in WWL)		
26	Brunei	14.3	14.2	10.7	10.2	13.5	0.9	64	64	61	58	57
27	Qatar	13.4	12.9	11.7	11.3	14.1	0.0	63	66	65	64	63
28	Kazakhstan	12.8	10.0	10.2	12.2	13.7	3.7	63	56	55	51	49
29	Ethiopia	9.8	10.0	10.8	10.9	10.5	10.4	62	64	67	61	65
30	Tunisia	11.9	13.2	10.6	10.7	12.0	3.9	62	61	58	55	55
31	Turkey	12.5	9.7	9.8	11.7	9.6	8.7	62	57	55	52	(not in WWL)
32	Kenya	12.0	10.9	10.0	7.9	11.7	9.4	62	68	68	63	48
33	Bhutan	11.9	11.6	12.4	11.4	13.1	1.1	62	61	56	56	54
34	Kuwait	13.4	12.6	11.6	10.9	12.3	0.4	61	57	56	49	50
35	Central African Republic	9.0	8.1	10.1	8.9	8.8	16.1	61	58	59	67	67
36	Palestinian Territories	12.1	12.8	10.7	10.5	12.6	1.1	60	64	62	58	53
37	Mali	11.4	9.6	11.2	8.1	9.2	9.6	59	59	55	52	54
38	Indonesia	10.3	11.0	11.5	10.0	9.3	6.9	59	55	55	50	46
39	Mexico	8.3	7.6	12.1	10.7	9.7	10.4	59	57	56	55	(not in WWL)
40	United Arab Emirates	13.6	12.2	10.0	10.4	11.8	0.2	58	55	55	49	51
41	Bangladesh	10.4	8.8	11.4	9.6	7.5	10.0	58	63	57	51	46
42	Algeria	12.3	13.1	7.5	10.4	12.4	2.0	58	58	56	55	54
43	China	9.2	7.2	8.0	10.7	13.3	9.1	57	57	57	57	51
44	Sri Lanka	11.1	7.6	10.5	11.3	10.1	6.9	57	55	(not in WWL)	51	55
45	Azerbaijan	13.1	9.1	9.3	11.1	12.4	2.4	57	(not in WWL)	57	50	(not in WWL)
46	Oman	12.1	12.2	9.9	9.4	12.6	1.1	57	53	53	55	56
47	Mauritania	11.5	11.3	11.1	12.2	11.0	0.0	57	55	(not in WWL)	50	51
48	Bahrain	12.9	13.1	10.2	9.9	10.3	0.2	57	54	54	(not in WWL)	48
49	Colombia	7.9	7.6	11.9	8.6	8.5	11.9	56	53	55	55	56
50	Djibouti	12.2	12.2	10.3	9.9	11.7	0.0	56	57	58	60	46

WWL 2018 Persecution Watch Countries¹

		1. Private Life	2. Family Life	3. Community Life	4. National Life	5. Church Life	6. Violence	TOTAL SCORE WWL 2018
Rank	Country	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score
51	Comoros	11.7	11.5	9.1	9.4	13.9	0.4	56
52	Kyrgyzstan	11.7	9.5	10.0	8.1	11.6	2.8	54
53	Tanzania	10.1	10.3	10.1	9.5	9.0	3.9	53
54	Russian Federation	11.1	8.4	10.1	8.9	10.7	2.0	51
55	Morocco	10.4	11.5	7.6	8.8	12.0	0.6	51
56	Cuba	8.5	4.9	10.7	10.4	12.2	2.4	49
57	Uganda	10.9	8.7	9.5	8.7	4.8	3.9	46
58	Niger	9.9	9.7	9.0	7.0	7.1	2.6	45

¹ These countries reached a score of 41 points or more but did not receive enough points to be included in the WWL Top 50.

ANGOLA – Country Dossier (June 2018)

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Introduction

This country report is a collation of documents based around [Open Doors World Watch List \(WWL\)](#)¹ including statistical information on world religions, Christian denominations, and people groups prepared by the World Christian Database ([WCD](#))². Further news and analysis is supplied by [World Watch Monitor](#)³ and WWR staff.

ANGOLA		
World Watch List	Score	Rank
WWL 2018	No published details	-
WWL 2017	No published details	-
WWL 2016	No published details	-
WWL 2015	No published details	-
WWL 2014	No published details	-

¹ See: <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/countries/>

² WCD website: <http://www.brill.com/publications/online-resources/world-christian-database>

³ See: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/>

WWL 2018: Keys to understanding ANGOLA

Link for general background information:

BBC country profile: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13036732>

Recent country history

Angola is in southern Africa bordered by Namibia on the south, the Democratic Republic of Congo to the north, Zambia to the east and by the Atlantic Ocean in the west. It declared independence from Portugal on 11 November 1975 after more than thirty years of struggle for independence. It has become is one of Africa’s powerhouses, having “the fifth largest African economy with a GDP of \$66.1 billion.”⁴ The President Dos Santos came to power in 1979 and ruled for more than 35 years with an iron fist. He finally stepped down from office and João Lourenço won the election and assumed office in September 2017. This change does not bring a lot of hope in the country as the new president was the right-hand man of the former president. This means that Christians, who have been asking for better legal protection and recognition, will likely continue to be ignored.

Freedom House labeled Angola “not free” both in civil liberties and political rights.⁵ Freedom of expression, freedom of association and other human rights are curtailed by the ruling party. According to a report by Freedom House, “Despite constitutional guarantees of freedom of expression, the state owns the only daily newspaper and national radio station, as well as the main television stations. These outlets, along with private media owned by senior officials and members of the Dos Santos family (former president), act as mouthpieces for MPLA; censorship and self-censorship are common.”⁶

The religious landscape

Angola is a country with a 93.5% Christian population, according to WCD estimates. The US State Department’s 2016 Religious Freedom report estimates as follows: “41 percent of the population is Roman Catholic and 38 percent Protestant. Individuals not associated with any religion constitute 12 percent of the population. The remaining 10 percent is composed of animists, Muslims, Jews, and other religious groups. According to the government, most Muslims are immigrants from North, West, and East Africa.”⁷

The political landscape

The country went through some devastating phases after gaining independence. It is a presidential republic, with the president acting both as head of state and head of government.

⁴ See: http://theafricaneconomist.com/top-12-largest-and-strongest-african-economies/#.VKaz2yvF_NM, last accessed 4 March 2018.

⁵ See: https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2014/angola-0#.VKgfFyvF_NM, last accessed 4 March 2018.

⁶ See: https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2014/angola-0#.VKgfFyvF_NM, last accessed 4 March 2018.

⁷ See: <https://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/irf/religiousfreedom/index.htm#wrapper>, last accessed 4 March 2018.

Theoretically, the country moved to a multi-party system following the 1992 elections. However, as in many other sub-Saharan countries, the elections in Angola only bear a façade of institutional democracy. Angola is one of the prime examples where a national liberation movement has taken over as the dominant ruling party.

In 2010, a new constitution was adopted with major changes to the structure of the government. The main changes were to limit the terms of the president to two (ten years in total), and to change how the president should be elected. The President, under the 1992 constitutional amendments, was directly elected by the people, but the 2010 constitution allows the majority party in Parliament to select the president, who is normally the head of its party.

Angola is known for its protracted and devastating civil war that was fought for more than 25 years. At the height of the Cold War, the battle for Angola became a proxy war between the West and the East. The war began before independence (gained in 1975) and was caused mainly by ideological differences among the factions who were fighting for independence. These were: The National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA - right wing); the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA - socialist); and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA - anti-socialist).

Following independence, the three main groups who had fought for independence had disagreements over leadership and violence followed. “The MPLA, supported by Cuba, the Soviet Union, and the Eastern bloc, assumed power and instilled a socialist government. In the 1970s, with Cuban assistance, the MPLA was able to defeat the FNLA, but the members of UNITA continued to wage a war against the government.”⁸ “The MPLA's ability to function as an effective government was underpinned financially by revenue from diamond and oil exports and aid from the USSR. Cuba provided technical, military, healthcare and educational expertise.”⁹ However, “Due to the military operations of UNITA, control by the government of areas outside the cities was slight. The economic linkages between the interior and the coastal cities disintegrated. The cities were dependent on imported goods paid for by oil earnings while the rural areas reverted to subsistence agriculture to survive. The poverty in the rural areas forced a migration to the cities where there was no infrastructure and no jobs to provide for them.”¹⁰

The devastating effect of the war left the country on the brink of complete disintegration. To avoid further bloodshed and the enormous impact of the war on the country, following the collapse of the Soviet bloc, the MPLA government decided to engage in a dialogue with UNITA: “In 1990, UNITA recognized the legitimacy of the MPLA government as a transitional one, the MPLA formally renounced Marxist-Leninism in favor of Social Democracy, and in 1991 the two parties were able to arrive at a settlement and signed The Bicesse Accords in Portugal. A new constitution was agreed on, the merger of the two forces into a single national army was blueprinted and multi-party elections were scheduled.”¹¹ The agreement laid out a

⁸ See: <https://peaceaccords.nd.edu/matrix/accord/43>, last accessed 4 March 2018.

⁹ As cited in <http://www.content.eisa.org.za/old-page/angola-first-civil-war-1975-1992>, last accessed 4 March 2018.

¹⁰ Id.

¹¹ Id.

transition to multi-party democracy in Angola under the supervision of the United Nations' UNAVEM II mission, which ended in 1995. The election was held in 1992, and the MPLA won. UNITA rejected the election and went to war. In 2002, the leader of UNITA Jonas Savimbi was killed in an ambush, and the civil war ended with a victory for MPLA.

The socio-economic landscape

Angola has abundant natural resources and is the second largest oil producing country in Africa. Also, its GDP is the fifth biggest in Africa. Petroleum and related products make up more than 90% of the country's exports. Diamonds are the second most important export product. According to the Economist magazine: "Oil provides few jobs for locals and Angola is horribly unequal. The quality of life of people in rural areas and slums, such as Luanda's Chicala, has barely improved since 2002. Most Angolans lack running water or electricity."¹² The country has formed a "pragmatic partnership"¹³ with China, which has become the top export destination for Angolan products as well as the main source for imported goods.

Concluding remarks

Angola is a country where the lack of rule of law and lack of good governance are prevalent. On the Fragile State Index, with a score of 87.4 points the country ranks 43rd out of 179 countries. This could be an indication of the fact that the country was in a civil war for almost three decades before it ended in 2002. It is a country where cronyism, clientelism, and nepotism are rampant. As a result, the magnitude of corruption in the country is high. According to Transparency International, Angola is one of the fifteen countries where corruption is rampant ranking 161 out of 175 countries.¹⁴ According to the Heritage Foundation: "Corruption is widespread among government officials at all levels. Investigations and prosecutions of government officials are practically nonexistent. Recourse to the judicial system is discouraged by time-consuming procedures and the appearance of extensive executive influence on outcomes."¹⁵ According to a Freedom House report, "Corruption and patronage are endemic in the government, and bribery often underpins business activity."¹⁶

The government in Angola is not ready to create space for civil society, genuine political parties and overall political changes. The laws put in place to restrict freedom of religion and assembly have made church registrations difficult. The harassment of political opponents and journalists is common. In this environment, it is very difficult to see freedom of religion, especially for non-traditional Protestants, to be upheld in the country.

¹² See: <http://www.economist.com/news/middle-east-and-africa/21600693-angola-badly-needs-diversify-its-one-dimensional-economy-still-much-too-oily>, last accessed 4 March 2018.

¹³ See: http://csis.org/files/media/isis/pubs/080306_angolachina.pdf, last accessed 4 March 2018.

¹⁴ See: <http://www.transparency.org/cpi2014/results>, last accessed 4 March 2018.

¹⁵ See: <http://www.heritage.org/index/country/angola>, last accessed 4 March 2018.

¹⁶ See: https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2012/angola#.VKwq0CvF_NM, last accessed 4 March 2018.

WWL 2018: Church History and Facts

How many Christians?

Pop 2017	Christians	Chr%
26,656,000	24,927,000	93.5

Source: WCD, May 2017

How did Christians get there?

Christianity was introduced into Angola before colonization. In 1491, Roman Catholic priests from Portugal paved the way to establish missions in the country. In the 16th century, Henrique, the son of Manikongo Nzinga Alfonsa¹⁷, became the first Sub-Saharan African to be consecrated as a bishop. However, the fact that the Portuguese turned their main focus to the slave trade hindered the expansion of the Christian faith for a considerable time. In 1865, the Vatican decided to send the White Fathers to the country¹⁸ with a new assignment so that Christianity could regain the momentum that it had lost earlier.

Protestants arrived in 1878, when British Baptists started working among the Bakongo people near São Salvador. In 1880, missionaries with the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions arrived to work among the Ovimbundu and were joined by Canadian Presbyterians (now an integral part of the United Church of Canada) in 1886.¹⁹ In 1885 forty-five missionaries from the Methodist Episcopal Church arrived in Angola as one of the first efforts organized by the newly elected bishop, William Taylor. The Christian Brethren established their mission in 1889. Anglicans established work in Angola early in the 20th century. The Pentecostal movement entered Angola in 1938, with initial efforts being made by the Church of God International.

¹⁷ Manikongo Nzinga Alfonsa was a ruler of the Kingdom of Kongo. He reigned over the Kongo Empire from 1509-1543.

¹⁸ See: Encyclopedia of African History 3-Volume Set, pp. 83-84.

¹⁹ See: Melton J.G. and Baumann M. (editors), Religions of the World (second edition): A Comprehensive Encyclopedia of Beliefs and Practices, p. 133.

What church networks exist today? ²⁰

Orthodox	Catholic	Protestant	Independent	Unaffiliated	Double-aff	Evangelical	Renewalist
0	15,593,000	6,820,000	1,277,000	1,430,000	-192,000	4,630,000	5,486,000

Source: WCD, May 2017

Religious context (selection)

Christian	Muslim	Hindu	Buddhist	Ethno-religionist	Jewish	Bahai	Atheist & others ²¹
24,927,000	276,000	490	2,200	1,191,000	0	2,700	255,900

Source: WCD, May 2017

Notes on the current situation

The main challenges that Christians face in the country are the regulations and restrictions imposed by the government. Registration is particularly difficult, with the government not being willing to recognize or register new churches.

WWL 2018: Short & Simple Persecution Profile

Reporting period: 1 November 2016 - 31 October 2017

Where persecution comes from

Angola is a majority Christian country (93.5% of the population according to WCD) and yet Christians are suffering persecution. The source of this persecution is the government, with government officials making difficulties for Christians by creating obstacles when dealing with church registration requirements and related issues. As a result, many Christian groups are operating without registration. There is also an element of *Denominational protectionism*, which requires more in-depth analysis. The US State Department's 2016 Religious Freedom Report states: "Some leaders of legally recognized religious organizations continued to criticize publicly the proliferation of smaller, unrecognized religious groups. Newer and more

²⁰**Orthodox:** Eastern (Chalcedonian), Oriental (Pre-Chalcedonian, Non-Chalcedonian, Monophysite), Nestorian (Assyrian), and non-historical Orthodox. **Roman Catholics:** All Christians in communion with the Church of Rome. **Protestants:** Christians in churches originating in or in communion with the Western world's 16th-century Protestant Reformation. Includes Anglicans, Lutherans and Baptists (any of whom may be Charismatic) and denominational Pentecostals, but not Independent traditions such as Independent Baptists nor independent Charismatics. **Independents:** Believers who do not identify with the major Christian traditions (Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Protestant). **Unaffiliated Christians:** Persons professing publicly to be Christians but who are not affiliated to churches. **Doubly-affiliated Christians:** Persons affiliated to or claimed by 2 denominations at once. **Evangelicals:** Churches, denominations, and individuals who identify themselves as evangelicals by membership in denominations linked to evangelical alliances (e.g., World Evangelical Alliance) or by self-identification in polls. **Renewalists:** Church members involved in Pentecostal/Charismatic renewal movements.

²¹This category includes Atheists, Agnostics and New religionists.

established religious groups traded accusations of corruption and profiting from their members' personal assets. Governmental organizations as well as some religious associations called for all new religious groups to rejoin their 'mother churches' or cease operations."²²

How Christians are suffering

Christians in Angola suffer in a variety of ways. First of all, the government has not recognized any new churches since 2004. Secondly, as a result of this, many churches are operating illegally, causing Christians to fear possible arrest or even demolition of their churches. Thirdly, the government is also creating an unfavorable environment by publicly stating that religious sects are a cause for concern.

Examples

Many Christian groups do not have recognition and therefore constantly face monitoring. In 2015, members of the so-called "Light of the World Church" ambushed and killed 9 police officers and this event has caused many Christian groups to be regarded with suspicion. The government also closed three churches down in the second half of 2016 and threatened to close more.

WWL 2018: Persecution Dynamics

Reporting period: 1 November 2016 - 31 October 2017

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Position on World Watch List (WWL)

Score and rank are not available for publication.

²² See: <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/268860.pdf>, last accessed 27 February 2018.

Persecution engines

Persecution engines in Angola ²³	Level of influence
Islamic oppression	Not at all
Religious nationalism	Not at all
Ethnic antagonism	Very weak
Denominational protectionism	Weak
Communist and post-Communist oppression	Not at all
Secular intolerance	Not at all
Dictatorial paranoia	Medium
Organized corruption and crime	Not at all

Dictatorial paranoia (Medium):

Angola is run by a government that is not democratic. Space for civic organizations and opposition is very limited. The government wants all institutions to support its policies and when it perceives that certain churches are not doing this sufficiently, it will close these and church related institutions down. The government principally uses church registration laws to control the church activities. The country has not officially recognized any church since 2004, which means that there are hundreds of churches operating without proper registration. They are thereby vulnerable as targets for government crackdowns.

Drivers of persecution

Drivers of persecution in Angola	Level of influence
Government officials at any level from local to national	Medium
Ethnic group leaders	Very weak
Non-Christian religious leaders at any level from local to national	Not at all
Christian religious leaders at any level from local to national	Weak
Violent religious groups	Not at all
Ideological pressure groups	Not at all
Normal citizens (people from the general public), including mobs	Weak
Own (extended) family	Weak
Political parties at any level from local to national	Medium
Revolutionaries or paramilitary groups	Not at all
Organized crime cartels or networks	Not at all
Multilateral organizations (e.g. UN) and embassies	Not at all

Drivers of persecution in Angola are mainly government officials. To a lesser extent ethnic leaders and other church leaders also participate. When it comes to converts, family and extended family members are the ones creating a hostile environment for Christians.

²³ The scale for the level of influence of Persecution engines and Drivers in society is: Not at all / Very weak / Weak / Medium / Strong / Very strong.

Context

Angola is a presidential republic; the president of Angola is both head of state and head of the multi-party government. Like other sub-Saharan African countries, Angola has gone through devastating phases after gaining independence. Theoretically, the country moved to a multi-party system following the 1992 elections. However, the idea of a multi-party system and periodic elections did not deepen and did not lead to democratic practices. Like other many sub-Saharan countries, the elections in Angola are characterized as “electoral authoritarianism” whereby “a façade of institutional democracy” is established. Angola is one of the prime examples where a national liberation movement has turned out to be a dominant ruling party.

Angola is also a country where lack of the rule of law and lack of good governance are prevalent and ranks 32nd out of 179 countries on the Fragile State Index, with a score of 91 points. This could be an indication for the fact that the country was embroiled in civil war for almost three decades before it ended in 2002. It is a country where cronyism, clientelism, and nepotism are rampant. As a result, the magnitude of corruption in the country is high. According to Transparency International, Angola is one of the fifteen countries where corruption is rampant, ranking 167 out of 180 countries.²⁴ According to the Heritage Foundation, “Corruption is widespread among government officials at all levels. Investigations and prosecutions of government officials are practically nonexistent. Recourse to the judicial system is discouraged by time-consuming procedures and the appearance of extensive executive influence on outcomes.”²⁵ According to a Freedom House report, “Corruption and patronage are endemic in the government, and bribery often underpins business activity.”²⁶

In addition to Christians, there are animists, Muslims, Jews, and other minority religious groups in the country. In the past there were widely reported stories that the government did not recognize Islam and mosques were a target for demolition. However, in the WWL 2018 reporting period, there were no such reports on this issue.

Christian communities and how they are affected

Communities of expatriate Christians:

Expatriate Christians do not exist as a separate WWL-category in the country.

Historical Christian Communities:

The largest denomination in this group is the Roman Catholic Church. These Christians often enjoy relative freedom but at times government officials also target them when church leaders have failed to endorse the government on certain issues.

Communities of converts to Christianity:

Converts in Angola are mainly “cross-denominational converts” who face persecution mainly from the churches they left.

²⁴ See: <https://www.transparency.org/country/AGO>, last accessed 27 February 2018.

²⁵ See: <http://www.heritage.org/index/country/angola>, last accessed 27 February 2018.

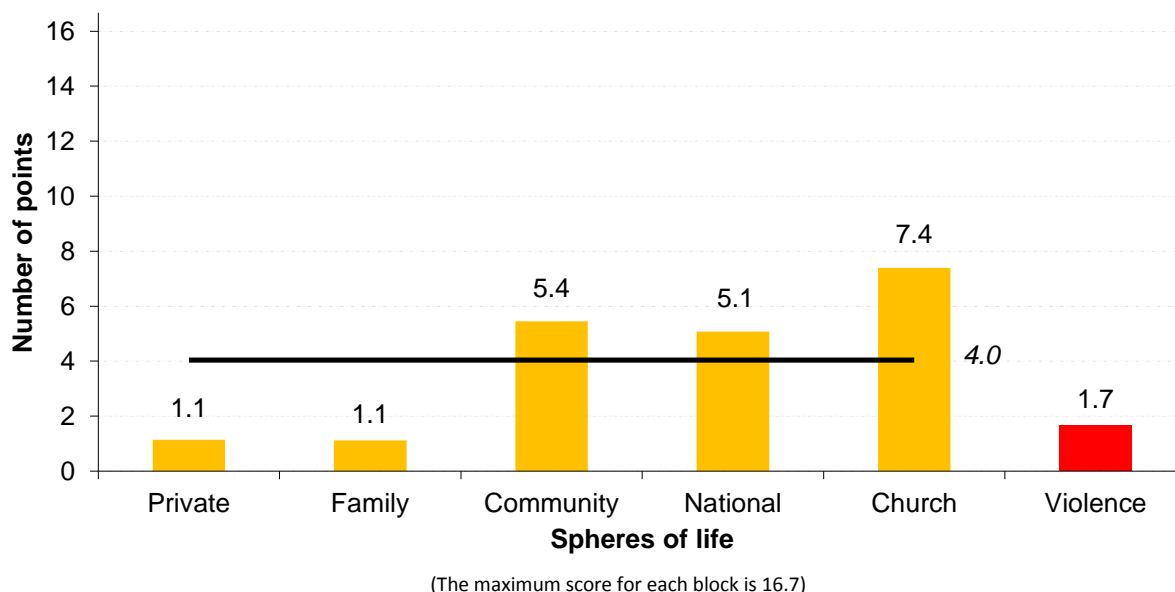
²⁶ See: <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2017/angola>, last accessed 27 February 2018.

Non-traditional Christian communities:

Christians belonging to this group face the toughest persecution of all. First of all, they are targeted by the government through its registration laws. Secondly, they are seen as a threat by the bigger churches.

Pressure in the 5 spheres of life and violence

WWL 2018 Persecution Pattern for Angola



The WWL 2018 Persecution pattern for Angola shows:

- The average pressure on Christians is 4.0 points.
- Pressure is strongest in in *Church sphere* due to the fact that more than one thousand churches are operating without a proper license and they often face difficulties as a result. Most of them have been waiting for license since 2004.
- The score for violence is 1.7.

Private sphere:

This is the *sphere of life* (together with the *Family sphere*) with the lowest score. One of the main problems is that if Christians want to meet, they might be arrested if they do not have proper registration.

Family sphere:

This *sphere of life* also scores the lowest (with the *Private sphere*). In some remote places in the country, those who left a Historical Christian community to join a non-traditional church face problems concerning family rights like child custody.

Community sphere:

A country research states: “The major denominations who are recognized often belittle the unrecognized ones. They harass them whenever they meet.” Some were even asked to demolish some of their churches.

National sphere:

This is an area where Christians are victims of biased laws. The laws that the government passed to regulate religion has tremendous impact on freedom of religion as it restricts freedom of assembly and association as protected under UDHCR.

Church sphere:

This is the *sphere of life* in which Christians suffer most. More than 1000 Christian groups have applied for recognition, but they were refused. The registration requirements are just too complicated. The 2016 US State Department IRF report states: "To apply for government recognition, a religious group must collect 100,000-member signatures from 12 of the 18 provinces and submit them to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. The law also requires religious groups to submit documents defining their doctrine, organizational structure, methods of worship, and leadership, and the amount of time the group has operated in the country."²⁷

Violence:

The government closed down three Catholic churches in the second half of 2016. It has also been threatening to close others.

Gender profile of persecution

Female / Male: No data currently available.

Future outlook

The country has finally elected a new president. However, many think this is nothing to cheer about since the new president, Joao Lorengo, was right-hand man of the previous president.²⁸

Policy considerations

The country has been accused of serious violations of human rights, including violations of religious freedom. Open Doors suggests the following recommendations:

- The international community must insist that the Angolan government does all it can to improve its human rights record.
- The international community, faith-based organizations and other non-profit organizations should request the Angolan government to register Christian groups who have applied for a license.

²⁷ See: <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/268860.pdf>, last accessed 27 February 2018.

²⁸ See: <https://www.ft.com/content/3c08d3fe-c3cd-11e7-a1d2-6786f39ef675>, last accessed 27 February 2018.

- The government should also repeal the religious registration laws, as these have a profound effect on the freedom of religion as enshrined under international human rights treaties and declarations.

WWR in-depth reports

There are currently no in-depth reports on Angola are available at:
<http://opendoorsanalytical.org/reports/> (password: freedom).

Open Doors articles from the region

There are currently no Open Doors articles on Angola available at:
<http://opendoorsanalytical.org/articles/> (password freedom).

World Watch Monitor news articles

At the time of publishing, there were no WWM news articles on Angola. Any recent updates will be found at: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/>

Recent country developments

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Any recent updates will be found at: <http://opendoorsanalytical.org/> (password: freedom).

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