

World  
Watch  
Research

# WWL 2023

## Country scores and ranks

(Ranks 1 - 76)

January 2023 edition



**OpenDoors**

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

Open Doors International / World Watch Research

January 2023 edition

© Open Doors International

[research@od.org](mailto:research@od.org)

# Contents

1. Brief note on methodology, access to further information and copyright .....	2
2. WWL 2023: Scores and ranks .....	3
a) Countries scoring 81 – 100 points.....	3
b) Countries scoring 61 – 80 points.....	3
c) Countries scoring 41 – 60 points.....	4
3. WWL 2023: Audit Statement from IIRF .....	4

## 1. Brief note on methodology, access to further information and copyright

The WWL 2023 reporting period was 1 October 2021 - 30 September 2022.

The latest update of WWL Methodology together with various other background documents can be found on the [World Watch List Documentation](https://opendoorsanalytical.org/world-watch-list-documentation/)<sup>1</sup> page of the Open Doors Analytical website. WWL 2023 Full Country Dossiers giving in-depth information on the situation of Christians in the 76 countries listed are available on the Open Doors Analytical website page under the heading [Full country dossiers – Open Doors Analytical](https://opendoorsanalytical.org/country-dossiers/)<sup>2</sup>.

The definition of persecution used in WWL analysis is: “Any hostility experienced as a result of one’s identification with Christ. This can include hostile attitudes, words and actions towards Christians”. This broad definition includes (but is not limited to) restrictions, pressure, discrimination, opposition, disinformation, injustice, intimidation, mistreatment, marginalization, oppression, intolerance, infringement, violation, ostracism, hostilities, harassment, abuse, violence, ethnic cleansing and genocide.

This document is the property of World Watch Research (WWR), the research department of Open Doors International. It may be used and distributed free of charge, but please always acknowledge the source as: © 2023 Open Doors International.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://opendoorsanalytical.org/world-watch-list-documentation/> (password: freedom)

<sup>2</sup> <http://opendoorsanalytical.org/country-dossiers/> (password: freedom)

## 2. WWL 2023: Scores and ranks

The tables below includes all countries scoring 41 points or more in WWL 2023 analysis. These are the countries where Christians face high (41-60 points), very high (61-80 points) or extremely high (81-100 points) levels of persecution. The columns on the far right give a comparison to the scores and ranks in WWL 2022.

### a) Countries scoring 81 – 100 points

WWL 2023 Rank	Country	1. Private Life Score	2. Family Life Score	3. Community Life Score	4. National Life Score	5. Church Life Score	6. Violence Score	Total WWL 2023 Score	WWL 2022 Rank	TOTAL WWL 2022 Score
1	North Korea	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	14.4	98	2	96
2	Somalia	16.5	16.7	16.6	16.6	16.6	8.7	92	3	91
3	Yemen	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	5.9	89	5	88
4	Eritrea	14.6	14.9	15.5	15.9	15.7	12.2	89	6	88
5	Libya	15.6	15.5	15.9	16.1	16.3	9.1	88	4	91
6	Nigeria	13.8	13.8	14.6	14.8	14.4	16.7	88	7	87
7	Pakistan	13.4	13.8	14.8	14.8	12.9	16.7	86	8	87
8	Iran	14.5	14.6	13.8	15.8	16.5	10.7	86	9	85
9	Afghanistan	15.4	15.7	15.4	16.1	16.6	4.6	84	1	98
10	Sudan	14.1	14.2	14.9	14.9	15.5	9.4	83	13	79
11	India	12.3	13.1	13.0	14.8	13.3	15.7	82	10	82

### b) Countries scoring 61 – 80 points

WWL 2023 Rank	Country	1. Private Life Score	2. Family Life Score	3. Community Life Score	4. National Life Score	5. Church Life Score	6. Violence Score	Total WWL 2023 Score	WWL 2022 Rank	TOTAL WWL 2022 Score
12	Syria	13.2	14.1	13.6	14.1	14.1	11.3	80	15	78
13	Saudi Arabia	15.2	15.3	14.9	15.8	16.7	2.4	80	11	81
14	Myanmar	12.5	11.6	13.9	13.9	12.9	15.4	80	12	79
15	Maldives	15.4	15.3	13.8	16.0	16.4	0.2	77	16	77
16	China	12.9	10.0	12.7	14.5	15.6	11.1	77	17	76
17	Mali	11.1	10.1	14.7	10.3	15.1	15.0	76	24	70
18	Iraq	14.1	14.6	14.0	14.8	13.9	4.6	76	14	78
19	Algeria	14.1	14.1	11.5	13.7	15.1	4.8	73	22	71
20	Mauritania	14.5	14.2	13.3	14.1	14.2	1.3	72	23	70
21	Uzbekistan	14.9	12.7	13.9	12.7	15.6	1.5	71	21	71
22	Colombia	11.8	8.9	13.1	11.3	10.4	15.4	71	30	68
23	Burkina Faso	9.4	9.7	12.5	9.6	13.8	15.6	71	32	68
24	Central African Republic	10.3	8.6	13.9	9.6	12.2	15.6	70	31	68
25	Vietnam	11.8	9.6	12.8	14.6	14.4	6.9	70	19	71
26	Turkmenistan	14.5	11.3	13.6	14.1	15.7	0.6	70	25	69
27	Cuba	13.1	8.3	13.1	13.2	14.9	7.0	70	37	66
28	Niger	9.4	9.5	14.5	7.7	13.1	15.4	70	33	68
29	Morocco	13.2	13.8	10.9	12.2	14.5	4.8	69	27	69
30	Bangladesh	12.6	10.7	12.8	11.3	10.6	10.7	69	29	68
31	Laos	11.7	10.2	13.3	14.2	14.0	5.0	68	26	69
32	Mozambique	9.3	8.5	13.9	8.4	12.5	15.6	68	41	65
33	Indonesia	11.3	12.0	11.6	11.1	9.2	12.8	68	28	68
34	Qatar	14.2	14.1	10.5	13.2	14.4	1.5	68	18	74
35	Egypt	12.7	13.5	11.6	12.1	10.8	7.0	68	20	71
36	Tunisia	12.0	12.8	10.4	12.0	13.5	6.5	67	35	66
37	Congo DR (DRC)	8.0	7.9	12.6	9.7	13.0	15.6	67	40	66
38	Mexico	10.3	8.3	12.5	11.0	10.5	13.9	67	43	65
39	Ethiopia	9.9	10.3	13.1	10.4	12.1	10.6	66	38	66
40	Bhutan	13.2	12.3	11.6	13.9	14.2	1.1	66	34	67
41	Turkey	12.8	11.5	11.8	13.0	11.5	5.7	66	42	65
42	Comoros	12.7	14.0	11.2	12.4	14.2	1.5	66	53	63
43	Malaysia	12.8	14.3	11.4	12.2	11.1	3.9	66	50	63
44	Tajikistan	13.8	12.2	12.3	12.8	13.4	1.1	66	45	65
45	Cameroon	8.8	7.6	12.6	7.2	13.1	15.9	65	44	65
46	Brunei	14.8	14.6	10.1	10.9	14.4	0.4	65	46	64
47	Oman	14.0	14.1	10.3	13.3	12.9	0.6	65	36	66
48	Kazakhstan	13.2	11.6	11.9	12.7	14.2	1.1	65	47	64
49	Jordan	13.0	14.0	10.5	12.3	12.7	2.0	65	39	66
50	Nicaragua	10.8	5.9	11.9	12.8	13.6	9.4	65	61	56
51	Kenya	10.3	9.2	11.4	8.0	11.5	13.3	64	51	63
52	Kuwait	13.5	13.7	9.8	12.3	13.1	1.1	64	49	64
53	Tanzania	9.3	10.8	10.3	8.6	8.7	15.6	63	55	61
54	United Arab Emirates	13.4	13.4	9.9	11.2	12.8	1.1	62	54	62
55	Nepal	12.0	9.8	9.4	13.0	12.6	4.4	61	48	64

### c) Countries scoring 41 – 60 points

WWL 2023 Rank	Country	1. Private Life Score	2. Family Life Score	3. Community Life Score	4. National Life Score	5. Church Life Score	6. Violence Score	Total WWL 2023 Score	WWL 2022 Rank	TOTAL WWL 2022 Score
56	Djibouti	12.3	12.6	12.7	10.1	12.3	0.6	60	58	59
57	Palestinian Territories	13.0	13.3	9.7	10.3	12.0	2.0	60	57	59
58	Azerbaijan	13.2	10.0	9.5	12.0	13.6	0.6	59	56	60
59	Kyrgyzstan	12.9	10.2	11.0	10.4	12.0	2.0	59	59	58
60	Chad	11.6	8.2	10.2	10.2	10.3	7.6	58	63	55
61	Russian Federation	12.3	7.9	10.3	11.8	12.8	2.0	57	62	56
62	Sri Lanka	12.8	9.1	10.6	11.3	9.5	3.9	57	52	63
63	Rwanda	9.4	7.7	9.0	10.4	11.7	8.9	57	67	50
64	Venezuela	6.0	4.6	11.7	10.2	11.4	11.7	56	65	51
65	Burundi	7.6	7.8	9.4	9.8	9.7	11.1	55	64	52
66	Bahrain	12.7	13.3	8.7	10.7	8.8	0.9	55	60	57
67	Honduras	7.1	5.0	11.9	7.6	9.8	11.9	53	68	48
68	Angola	6.8	6.7	8.1	11.5	11.4	7.2	52	66	51
69	Uganda	8.1	5.0	7.4	6.7	9.2	14.8	51	69	48
70	Togo	9.2	6.7	9.3	7.1	11.0	5.4	49	71	44
71	Guinea	10.3	7.5	8.3	8.3	10.5	3.0	48	73	43
72	South Sudan	5.7	4.4	7.0	6.3	7.6	15.0	46	74	43
73	El Salvador	7.7	4.2	10.6	7.4	9.1	6.7	46	70	45
74	Ivory Coast	12.0	6.5	8.7	5.9	8.0	3.3	44	75	42
75	Gambia	8.3	8.2	8.9	8.8	8.9	1.1	44	72	44
76	Belarus	9.5	3.8	4.8	9.4	12.1	3.3	43	Below 41 points	

## 3. WWL 2023: Audit Statement from IIRF



International Institute for Religious Freedom

Bonn • Brussels • Cape Town • Colombo • Brasília • Delhi • Tübingen • Vancouver

[www.iirf.global](http://www.iirf.global)

### Audit Statement on the outcomes of the Open Doors World Watch List 2023

Thursday, 12 January, 2023

*Audit Coordinator: Dr Dennis P. Petri (International Director, IIRF)*

The audit of the 2023 edition of the World Watch List (WWL) of Open Doors, which is conducted annually by the International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF), has confirmed that the World Watch Research team has upheld the quality standards of the previous years.

The audit consisted of two parts. In the first, the team of auditors assessed whether the WWL methodology was applied correctly. We found that the WWL 2023 complies with all its methodological requirements, is based on a broad range of sources, and its conclusions are duly substantiated. It should be noted that the degree of certainty of each country score always depends on the depth and quality of the information received in the reporting period; and that this may vary from country to country.

In the second part of the audit, a determination was made as to whether the scores and write-ups adequately reflected the situation in the country, based on the knowledge and experience of the auditors. We concluded that, overall, the WWL 2023 provides an accurate, balanced, and detailed account of the discrimination and persecution of Christians in the world.

The IIRF team of auditors comprised six high level academics from different disciplines and nationalities. They each have active expertise on religious freedom in the countries and regions they audited.

The six countries selected for the audit were carefully chosen from the Top 50 of the WWL. None of these countries had been subject to audits in previous years. We also made sure that the work of all members of the World Watch Research team was audited.

The materials included in the audit were the final questionnaires for the countries considered, the accompanying country dossiers, and any additional information provided by the researchers of World Watch Research. Additional statements, documents, or interpretations by Open Doors International or the Open Doors national affiliates based on or associated with the publication of the WWL 2023 remain outside the scope of this audit statement.

A detailed audit report has been submitted to World Watch Research with recommendations for potential future improvements and will be discussed with the members of the research team.



Dr. Dennis P. Petri

International Director of the IIRF

[RETURN TO TOP OF DOCUMENT](#)