

World
Watch
Research

WWL 2024

Compilation of all main documents

(Excluding detailed country reports)

January 2024



OpenDoors

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

Open Doors International / World Watch Research

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1. Brief note on methodology, sources, definitions and copyright

- The WWL 2024 reporting period was 1 October 2022 - 30 September 2023.
- The latest update of WWL Methodology together with various other background documents can be found on the [Research and Reports](https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/wwl-documentation/)¹ pages of www.opendoors.org and the [World Watch List Documentation](https://opendoorsanalytical.org/world-watch-list-documentation/)² page of the Open Doors Analytical website.
- WWL 2024 Full Country Dossiers giving in-depth information on the situation of Christians in the 78 countries listed will be available on both the www.opendoors.org and Open Doors Analytical websites as soon as updates are finalized.
- The collation of data and analysis presented by Open Doors in this document includes statistical information prepared by the World Christian Database (WCD). Source: *Johnson T M and Zurlo G A, eds., World Christian Database (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed March 2023).*
- 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.

¹ <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/wwl-documentation/>

² <https://opendoorsanalytical.org/world-watch-list-documentation/> (password: freedom)

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2. WWL 2024: Map and table of scores and ranks

The WWL 2024 country rankings are marked on the map below.



The table on page 12 includes all countries scoring 41 points or more in WWL 2024 analysis. These are the countries where Christians face high (41-60 points – marked in yellow), very high (61-80 points – marked in orange) or extremely high (81-100 points – marked in red) levels of persecution. A comparison is made with the scores and ranks of WWL 2023. The final column on the right shows the actual (i.e., unrounded) increase or decrease in the number of points compared to WWL 2023.

WWL 2024 Compilation of all main documents

WWL 2024 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	WWL 2024 Total Score	WWL 2023 Rank	WWL 2023 Total Score	WWL 2024 - WWL 2023
1	North Korea	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	12.8	96	1	98	-1.7
2	Somalia	16.5	16.7	16.6	16.6	16.6	10.6	93	2	92	1.9
3	Libya	15.9	16.0	15.9	16.1	16.4	10.2	91	5	88	2.1
4	Eritrea	14.6	14.9	15.5	15.9	15.7	12.8	89	4	89	0.6
5	Yemen	16.7	16.7	16.6	16.7	16.7	5.9	89	3	89	-0.1
6	Nigeria	13.5	13.9	14.5	14.9	14.4	16.7	88	6	88	-0.1
7	Pakistan	13.2	13.9	15.0	15.1	13.1	16.7	87	7	86	0.6
8	Sudan	14.1	14.2	14.9	14.9	15.5	13.3	87	10	83	3.9
9	Iran	15.0	14.6	13.5	15.8	16.5	10.9	86	8	86	0.4
10	Afghanistan	15.7	15.9	15.2	16.3	16.6	4.6	84	9	84	0.5
11	India	12.2	12.6	13.3	14.8	13.2	16.5	83	11	82	0.4
12	Syria	13.4	14.3	13.9	14.3	14.2	11.1	81	12	80	0.8
13	Saudi Arabia	15.2	15.3	14.8	15.7	16.6	3.3	81	13	80	0.7
14	Mali	11.1	10.1	14.7	12.8	15.1	15.6	79	17	76	3.1
15	Algeria	14.4	14.1	11.5	14.0	15.6	9.8	79	19	73	6.1
16	Iraq	14.2	14.4	14.0	14.8	13.9	7.8	79	18	76	3.1
17	Myanmar	12.2	10.6	13.4	13.7	13.0	16.1	79	14	80	-1.3
18	Maldives	15.6	15.5	13.6	16.0	16.4	0.9	78	15	77	0.9
19	China	13.0	10.0	12.8	14.6	16.0	11.1	78	16	77	0.7
20	Burkina Faso	11.7	9.7	13.2	11.5	13.8	15.6	75	23	71	4.8
21	Laos	11.6	10.6	13.2	14.3	14.0	11.3	75	31	68	6.6
22	Cuba	13.2	8.7	13.8	13.3	15.1	8.7	73	27	70	3.0
23	Mauritania	14.6	14.2	13.8	14.2	14.2	1.3	72	20	72	0.7
24	Morocco	13.2	13.8	11.7	12.8	14.4	5.4	71	29	69	2.0
25	Uzbekistan	14.6	12.7	13.9	12.6	15.5	1.7	71	21	71	-0.3
26	Bangladesh	12.4	10.6	12.5	10.8	10.4	14.1	71	30	69	1.9
27	Niger	9.4	9.6	14.5	7.7	13.1	15.9	70	28	70	0.6
28	Central African Republic	10.3	8.6	13.9	9.6	12.2	15.6	70	24	70	0
29	Turkmenistan	14.2	12.3	13.6	13.9	15.5	0.6	70	26	70	0.3
30	Nicaragua	12.1	7.6	13.2	13.2	14.1	9.6	70	50	65	5.3
31	Oman	14.3	14.0	10.6	13.3	14.0	3.1	69	47	65	4.2
32	Ethiopia	9.9	9.7	12.6	10.4	12.1	14.4	69	39	66	2.7
33	Tunisia	12.3	13.2	10.2	12.4	13.8	6.9	69	36	67	1.6
34	Colombia	11.1	8.6	12.9	11.3	10.4	14.1	68	22	71	-2.5
35	Vietnam	11.3	9.4	12.4	13.8	14.2	7.2	68	25	70	-1.8
36	Bhutan	13.1	12.1	12.4	14.1	14.3	2.2	68	40	66	1.9
37	Mexico	11.5	8.5	12.5	11.1	10.6	14.1	68	38	67	1.7
38	Egypt	12.5	13.7	11.4	11.9	10.9	7.8	68	35	68	0.4
39	Mozambique	9.3	8.5	13.9	8.4	12.5	15.0	68	32	68	-0.6
40	Qatar	14.2	14.2	10.5	13.2	14.4	0.6	67	34	68	-0.8
41	Congo DR (DRC)	8.0	7.9	12.6	9.7	13.0	15.9	67	37	67	0.4
42	Indonesia	10.9	12.3	11.5	10.2	9.7	11.5	66	33	68	-1.9
43	Cameroon	8.8	7.6	12.6	8.0	13.1	15.9	66	45	65	0.8
44	Brunei	15.0	14.7	10.0	10.8	14.1	1.3	66	46	65	0.7
45	Comoros	12.7	14.0	11.2	12.4	14.2	1.1	66	42	66	-0.4
46	Tajikistan	13.8	12.6	12.3	12.9	13.4	0.6	66	44	66	0.04
47	Kazakhstan	13.3	11.8	12.1	12.8	14.3	1.1	65	48	65	0.7
48	Jordan	12.9	14.2	10.5	12.4	12.8	2.2	65	49	65	0.4
49	Malaysia	13.0	14.1	11.5	12.2	11.1	2.4	64	43	66	-1.4
50	Turkey	13.0	11.5	11.6	13.2	11.4	3.1	64	41	66	-2.3
51	Kenya	10.3	9.2	11.4	8.0	11.5	12.4	63	51	64	-0.9
52	Tanzania	9.3	10.8	10.3	8.6	8.7	14.4	62	53	63	-1.1
53	Nepal	12.1	10.4	9.5	13.2	12.3	4.4	62	55	61	0.9
54	Kuwait	13.1	13.6	9.4	12.0	12.2	0.9	61	52	64	-2.4
55	Djibouti	12.3	12.6	12.7	10.1	12.3	1.1	61	56	60	0.6
56	Chad	11.6	8.2	10.2	10.2	10.3	10.6	61	60	58	3.0
57	United Arab Emirates	13.3	13.4	9.5	11.3	12.8	0.7	61	54	62	-0.8
58	Sri Lanka	12.9	9.2	10.8	11.5	9.7	5.9	60	62	57	2.9
59	Azerbaijan	13.2	9.9	9.6	11.9	13.6	1.7	60	58	59	1.0
60	Palestinian Territories	13.1	13.3	9.7	10.7	12.1	0.9	60	57	60	-0.5
61	Kyrgyzstan	13.2	10.3	11.3	10.5	12.2	1.3	59	59	59	0.2
62	Russian Federation	12.7	7.7	10.6	12.8	12.9	1.7	58	61	57	1.1
63	Rwanda	9.4	7.7	9.0	10.4	11.7	9.4	58	63	57	0.6
64	Burundi	7.6	7.8	9.4	9.8	9.7	12.8	57	65	55	1.7
65	Bahrain	12.0	13.2	8.6	11.3	8.5	1.1	55	66	55	-0.5
66	Honduras	7.9	4.7	12.2	7.3	9.9	12.6	55	67	53	1.3
67	Venezuela	6.0	4.4	11.1	10.0	10.8	10.7	53	64	56	-2.5
68	Togo	9.2	6.7	9.3	7.1	11.0	8.9	52	70	49	3.5
69	Guinea	10.3	7.5	8.3	8.3	10.5	7.2	52	71	48	4.3
70	Uganda	8.1	5.0	7.4	6.7	8.8	15.9	52	69	51	0.7
71	Angola	6.8	6.7	8.1	11.5	11.4	7.2	52	68	52	0
72	Lebanon	11.0	10.2	7.0	6.1	6.6	7.2	48			
73	Gambia	8.3	8.2	8.9	8.8	8.9	3.7	47	75	44	2.6
74	South Sudan	5.7	4.4	7.0	6.3	7.6	15.6	46	72	46	0.6
75	Belarus	9.6	3.8	5.8	9.7	13.3	3.3	46	76	43	2.6
76	Ivory Coast	12.0	6.5	8.7	5.9	8.0	3.3	44	74	44	0
77	Ukraine	5.5	4.8	8.0	11.6	11.6	2.8	44			
78	Israel	9.8	8.6	5.8	6.3	6.9	6.7	44			
	El Salvador								73	46	

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3. WWL 2024 Executive Summary

(WWL 2024 Press release, slightly adapted)

Islamic militants and autocratic regimes intensify danger for Sub-Saharan African Christians

More than 82 per cent of Christians killed across the globe for faith reasons were in Nigeria (ranked 6), according to Open Doors' World Watch List 2024, which ranks countries by the severity of persecution and discrimination endured by the Christians who live in them.

Faith-related killings in Sub-Saharan Africa far outstripped those of any other region on the annual list. This has been a trend for several years.

Intense violence in Ethiopia (32) saw the number of attacks on churches and schools grow sharply. There was a surge upwards in the number of Christian-owned businesses burned, looted, or confiscated in Burkina Faso (20) and Central African Republic (28).

These trends were mirrored elsewhere in Africa and other countries ranked on the annual list as attacks surged globally.

WWL 2024 in numbers

- 4998 Christians killed worldwide in faith-related attacks. Figures likely run much higher but many go unreported
- Seven-fold increase in attacks on churches, Christian schools and hospitals from 2,110 (WWL 2023) to 14,766 (WWL 2024).
- Christians beaten or threatened increased from 29,411 reported cases (WWL 2023) to 42,849
- Attacks on homes rose 371 per cent from WWL2023 figures (4,547 to 21,431)
- Christians forced out of their home or into hiding more than doubled from 124,310 to 278,716
- 365 million Christians (1 in 7 worldwide) face high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith – up from last year's figure of 360 million.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Twin problems of radical Islam and autocratic regimes bolstered by outsider influence

At least 4,606 Christians were killed because of their faith in 18 out of the 26 countries on the World Watch List that are south of the Sahara Desert. Fifteen of these 26 countries reached the highest level in the score for overall violence.

“The threat from Islamic militants in sub-Saharan Africa has intensified to the point where many Christians in the region feel increasingly fearful,” says Frans Veerman, Managing Director of Open Doors World Watch Research. “Christians are purposefully targeted or extra vulnerable

in a continent that is beset by the twin problems of radical Islamic elements and increasingly autocratic regimes. This is the ever-growing threat for Christians south of the Sahara Desert and, if left unchecked, these twin pressures are expected to overwhelm them and force them out of their homes and villages. At least 16.2 million Christians in Sub-Saharan Africa were forcibly displaced by violence at the end of 2022.

“Governments in the region need to take meaningful action to address the growing influence of jihadist groups and prioritize protecting the vulnerable from aggressors. Without this action, once thriving Christian communities will disappear.”

Radical Islamic elements exploiting unstable political conditions is a common thread across the African continent. The fractures in governance and security have opened the door for the jihadist activities seen, for example, in Burkina Faso, Mali (14), Mozambique (39), Nigeria and Somalia (2).

Mali and the Wagner Group

When French troops moved out of Mali in 2022 the Wagner group moved onto their bases. Their influence has significantly stifled the civic space for Christians. Speaking out against governmental injustices or the brutalities perpetrated by Wagner has become dangerous. Christians also fear repercussions for being associated with Western opposition to Wagner’s actions. Additionally, the private army has not stopped Islamic militants, traffickers and organized crime syndicates operating with impunity, meaning that Christians in Mali often gather under police protection from such elements. That the government sphere of influence, which had already been infringed upon during French involvement, continued to diminish rapidly during the reporting period is a worrying trend.

India (11) – brutal conflict saw violence rise sharply ahead of 2024 elections

There was a substantial rise in the number of Indian Christians killed and the number of churches, and Christian schools and homes attacked during the WWL 2024 reporting period.

The state of Manipur in north-eastern India saw the worst of this in May 2023. What began as a dispute between ethnic groups took on a disturbing religious dimension as Christians were targeted across the ethnic groups. The violence left 160 Christians dead, and thousands chased from their homes to find shelter elsewhere after watching their homes burned down. The emergence of a horrific video showing two naked women from the majority-Christian Kuki tribe being paraded and molested by a mob in the violence-hit Indian state of Manipur highlighted how women often pay a high price during conflict.

India in numbers

- A nine-fold increase in Christian fatalities since WWL 2023: 17 to 160
- Extreme rise in attacks on churches and Christian schools from 67 last year to 2,228
- The number of Christian homes attacked in the WWL 2022 reporting period was 91. It doubled to 180 the following year. The WWL 2024 figure is 5,900.

Church attacks/closures: China (19) and India worst offenders

Figures show that churches in China (estimated 10,000 closed) and India (2,228 attacked) were the most vulnerable to being closed down or destroyed. These two countries make up nearly 83 per cent of attack/closure incidents on churches in all countries on the 2024 list. Church attacks in Angola, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Nicaragua Nigeria, Niger, Rwanda and Sudan were particularly high.

China closed thousands of churches through a set of old and new authoritarian measures. Large unregistered 'house churches', which had been meeting in hotels or office blocks, have been forced to splinter into a myriad of less visible house groups, and many of the venues for state-approved churches were forced to close down and merge with larger churches.

By contrast, church attacks in India are perpetrated by aggressive mobs. According to Archbishop Dominic Lupon of Imphal, 249 churches were destroyed in the first 36 hours of the Manipur violence. These were all Meitei churches destroyed not by the Kuki tribe (who are predominantly Christian) but by Meitei Hindus attacking their own tribe.

Nicaragua (30)

Communist dictatorships in Latin America are increasingly hostile to the Church. Nicaragua is no exception, jumping 20 places on the list. Ortega's government has become more overt in how it represses religious freedom. In February 2023 the bishop of Matagalpa, Rolando Álvarez, a vocal defender of civic freedoms, was stripped of his citizenship and sentenced to 26 years in prison.

North Korea (1) holds the number one spot

North Korea once again holds the number one place on the World Watch List. Christians are forced to practice their faith in complete secrecy. Reports of raids rarely reach international media, but one example became known in April 2023 when five Christians gathered in a remote farmhouse in central North Korea for prayer only to find police had been tipped off by an informant and were waiting for them. The five arrested Christians will now face years of hard labour.

Signs of hope

- **Mali:** in June 2023, Malian voters approved a new constitution that could pave the way for the return to civilian rule. In the new constitution there is clear recognition of the Christian minority in the country.
- **India:** The Congress Party dislodged the Hindu-nationalist BJP in the spring 2023 elections in Karnataka state with a pledge to revise anti-conversion laws. Most anti-conversion laws have been introduced state-by-state by Narendra Modi's BJP government since it became the ruling political party in India in 2014.

How does Open Doors speak up on behalf of persecuted Christians?

Open Doors' supports Christians by protecting and promoting their right to freely believe, worship, and practice their faith alone or with others, free from intolerance and discrimination. The 2024 World Watch List particularly highlights the plight of Christians in Sub-Saharan Africa. Open Doors calls on governments to provide protection from violent aggressors,

and ensure justice for victims and accountability for perpetrators. We ask governments to make these priorities in foreign policy and diplomatic engagement.

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4. WWL 2024 Summary of Trends

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Religiously motivated violence intensifies as Sub-Saharan Africa destabilizes

Violence targeting Christians has long been a defining characteristic of the persecution pattern south of the great desert. That trend intensified during the World Watch List 2024 reporting period.

Of the 26 Sub-Saharan countries with overall scores at or above “High” levels of persecution, 16 had “Extremely High” scores in the violence subcategory. A year ago, the number of countries with scores in the “Extremely High” violence tier was 13.

Driving the general rise in violence on the 2024 list was an increase in attacks on churches and Christian homes and businesses. Evidence of the increasing intensity could be found in, for example, Ethiopia, where the number of attacks on churches and public Christian properties such as schools grew sharply. The number of Christian-owned businesses burned, looted, or confiscated in Burkina Faso and Central African Republic surged.

In 18 of the 26 Sub-Saharan countries with at least “High” overall levels of persecution, at least 4,606 Christians were killed because of their faith during the 12-month reporting period for the 2024 list, which concluded 30 September 2023. There were no recorded killings in the remaining eight of those 26 countries. And, as in the previous year, Nigeria accounted for about 9 of every 10 of those religiously motivated killings in Sub-Saharan Africa’s World Watch List countries. The number of killings in these countries is likely to be much higher because in conflict and in the aftermath of conflict it is difficult to get reliable reports on the impact of violence.

Beyond mortal attacks, the displacement of Christians from their homes and communities is an important measure of anti-Christian violence. Data from Switzerland-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees indicate that at the end of 2022, 34.5 million people were living as forcibly displaced persons (refugees and IDPs) in the Sub-Saharan African countries that have at least “High” levels of persecution on the World Watch List.

Of those 34.5 million, an estimated 16.2 million were Christians. That represents about 3% of the 534 million Christians who live in the 26 Sub-Saharan countries with at least “High” overall levels of persecution.

Why the increase in violence? The big African picture is complex and individual incidents occur along a wide spectrum of local circumstances, but a common thread is the exploitation of destabilizing conditions across the continent by radical Islamic elements. One example: The already deteriorating security situation in Mali lost its veneer of international security structure when French troops finally left in November 2022 and U.N. mission (MINUSMA) will have completely withdrawn by the end of December 2023, creating more room for jihadist aggression.

Another: Military coups that forced regime change in Niger and Gabon in 2023 were only the latest in a [string of overthrows](#) going back to 2022 and 2021. Historically, military regimes are not always friendly to religious pluralism — though in Niger, the coup leaders appointed a Christian to the government. Overthrows have a long history on the continent, but their recent resurgence indicates a broader democratic backsliding — a worrisome trend for religious communities.

As they have in previous years, the fractures in governance and security provided room for jihadist activities in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Nigeria but also Somalia, Mozambique, and other countries across the region. Human Rights Watch, for one, [documented](#) “widespread killings, rapes, and lootings of villages in northeast Mali” by jihadist militants since January 2023.

The most pronounced proliferation of groups affiliated with the Islamic State group and al-Qaeda is in Sub-Saharan Africa. The eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), for example, has become a safe haven for the Islamic Allied Democratic Forces group, which has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group. The ADF has been trying to destabilize Uganda and has been targeting churches and Christians in northeastern Congo for several years. In January 2023, ADF militants detonated a bomb at a church service in the border town of Kasindi (eastern DRC), killing at least 12 and injuring dozens more.

In Nigeria, thousands of members of the militant, though still active, Boko Haram group have laid down their weapons. The group is now by far overshadowed by ISWAP (Islamic State West African Province) which continues to menace Nigeria’s northeast and many other parts of the country. Elsewhere, raids on predominantly Christian communities, killings, abductions, sexual violence and destruction of livelihoods continue, much of it at the hands of Fulani militants. All of this violence [affects Christians disproportionately](#).

An example of the regular surges of violence in Nigeria is the series of attacks on Christian communities in Plateau State in the period 17 April – 10 July 2023. In which the number of Christians killed was 315, with 31 Muslims killed, according to a [report by the Para-Mallam Peace Foundation](#). The resulting weeks of attacks affected no less than 6,603 households; there were 18,751 people displaced, nearly all of them Christians, among them 6,066 orphans between the ages of 0-5 years. These IDPs were temporarily housed in 14 camps hosted by the Church of Christ in Nations Local Church Councils (COCIN-LCC).

Even when they are not specifically targeted for religious reasons, however, Christians throughout Sub-Saharan Africa are extra vulnerable within the region's broader conflicts, such as those in Ethiopia, Sudan and Cameroon. Christians are soft targets that can be attacked with virtual impunity. This "persecution by convenience" severely restricts their future prospects and also those of their families and future generations.

Foreign influence in Sub-Saharan Africa squeezes Christian life

Authoritarian regimes in the region have found China and Russia to be willing partners.

China's increasing role in Africa — in infrastructure, technology, training — is enabling and strengthening autocratic regimes on the continent. Companies like Huawei are making massive inroads into African markets. African governments are spending \$1 billion per year on surveillance technologies, according to the UK-based Institute of Development Studies. The biggest customer is Africa's most populous country, Nigeria — both the federal government and individual states within the country. Europe and the United States have been willing sellers of such technology, too, the report notes, but their African market share has been giving way to China.

China's government, meanwhile, has chosen Africa as its first market for direct export of its authoritarian governance model. At a new campus in Tanzania, the Chinese Communist Party has opened its first overseas academy devoted to training political leaders in Beijing's fusion of one-party rule with economic and social planning. Political parties from six African countries made up the academy's first cadre.

Foreign influence in Africa during the World Watch List reporting period also came from Russia — more specifically, from the Wagner Group, a private military contractor widely assumed to have deep connections with the Russian government. The outfit had been increasingly active in various African nations including Burkina Faso, Mali, Central African Republic, Mozambique and Madagascar. Known for its ruthless tactics for putting down extremist activity, including cruelty toward civilians, Wagner has been gaining a foothold in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Wagner has emerged as one of the most feared entities in the Sahel region, particularly in Burkina Faso, Mali, and other nations where their presence has been or continues to be felt. Their influence has significantly stifled the civic space for Christians. Speaking out against governmental injustices or the brutalities perpetrated by Wagner has become an arduous task. Researchers in Burkina Faso and Mali note the near-impossibility, and at times life-threatening nature, of documenting the atrocities committed by this group. While the collective desire to combat terrorist groups is evident, Wagner views civilians as expendable entities, complicating

the situation further. Geopolitical complexities add layers of difficulty, especially for Christians, particularly Protestants, who fear repercussions for being associated with Western opposition to Wagner's actions. The threat posed by Wagner extends beyond mere human rights violations, as their manipulation of vital economic sectors, notably mining, leaves African nations vulnerable to increased chaos and instability.

Violence in India rises sharply as elections approach

Vast India, the most populous nation on earth, is a jumble of trends. The situation for Christians has been worsening rapidly in some parts of the country, and improving in others, so that when freedom of religion for Christians across the whole country is taken into account, the result is a score that increased by only one point. Beneath the total score, however, is evidence that for Christians, India is becoming more violent.

In 2022, the World Watch List counted 10 Indian Christians who had been killed because of their faith. On the 2023 list, the number was 17. On the 2024 list, it is 160.

Increases were detected in other categories that help comprise the violence score: The number of attacks on Christian churches, schools and other institutions reported in the 2022 list was 47; on the 2023 list, 67; and on the 2024 list, 2,228. Christian homes attacked: 91 on the 2022 list; 180 on the 2023 list, and nearly 5,900 on the 2024 list. Christian businesses attacked: 2, then 37, then 1,572.

Most dramatically, more than 62,000 Indian Christians were forced to leave their homes during the World Watch List 2024 reporting period. That was an exponential jump from 380 on the 2022 list and 834 on the 2023 list.

The epicenter of the surge in violence and displacement has been the northeastern state of Manipur, where hostilities between the majority Meitei and minority Kuki ethnic groups erupted in May 2023. Meitei advocacy for official tribal status was met with opposition from the predominantly Christian Kuki, who argued that bestowing official status on the Meitei would empower the larger and mostly Hindu ethnic group to push into Kuki areas. In the violence that spilled out of the debate — much of it waged online and laced with hate speech directed toward Kuki — hundreds of churches, even those with Meiti congregations, were destroyed, scores of people killed, and tens of thousands driven from their homes.

A U.N. [statement](#) noted the horror of “images of gender-based violence targeting hundreds of women and girls of all ages, and predominantly of the Kuki ethnic minority. The alleged violence includes gang rape, parading women naked in the street, severe beatings causing death, and burning them alive or dead.”

Conditions in refugee camps in Manipur and neighboring Mizoram state have deteriorated; the U.N. has urged a more forceful humanitarian response; the Indian government has been slow to move; there are reports of anti-terrorism units abusing their mandate as a pretext for attacking minorities; and the entire situation has been drenched in a fog of online misinformation and communication blackouts.

The chaos in Manipur is playing out against the familiar backdrop of muscular Hindu nationalism that characterizes the national government and large segments of the country. Under the protective roof of the governing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its leader, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the more radical Hindu nationalists view all Christians as alien to the nation, and do not shy away from using violence in pursuit of a purely Hindu India. Converts to Christianity from a Hindu background are constantly under pressure to return to Hinduism.

The 2024 World Watch List records evidence of this anti-Christian pressure in a steady rise in hostilities in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh states. In late 2022, for example, residents of a Chhattisgarh village issued an ultimatum to approximately 200 Christians from 70 families: renounce their faith, or leave. Those who protested were beaten. Also late in 2022, police in Uttar Pradesh arrested nine pastors for “conversion activities,” including one who was hosting a wedding reception for his daughter and son-in-law. Uttar Pradesh is one of 12 Indian states where forced religious conversion is illegal, which provides a legal pretext for such crackdowns on Christians, while equivalent charges against Hindus are rare.

Meanwhile, India’s Supreme Court is deliberating on whether the country’s “scheduled caste” category, the members of which are widely known as Dalits, should be broadened to include Muslims and Christians. It is a hugely sensitive cultural issue with the potential to trigger large-scale political unrest.

India’s 2024 general elections will only add anxiety. In its campaign to retain control of the national government, the BJP can be expected to manufacture religious conflict as political fuel.

Churches under unprecedented attack from governments, mobs and insurgents

Out of all the countries scoring 41 or more points in the WWL 2024 reporting period, the ten countries where the most churches were attacked were China, India, Nigeria, Nicaragua, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Sudan, Burkina Faso, Niger and Angola. Together the number of churches or other public Christian properties attacked or closed down in these countries was an astonishing 14,129 (out of a total of 14,766 for all 78 countries on the 2024 list) but researchers believe it could have been thousands more. China and India top the list with an estimated 10,000 and 2,228 church attacks/closures respectively.

By far the largest number of churches closed down can be seen in the so-called ‘house churches’ in China. This term in the Chinese context has often been misleading: Although ‘House churches’ initially began as small, unregistered house groups gathering for worship, many grew immensely, holding their meetings in public places like hotel facilities or rented office floors. These churches frequently had hundreds or even thousands of Christians attending every week. But that freedom is now over, due in part to the authorities taking advantage of measures enforced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. ‘House churches’ have now returned to their roots, splintered into a myriad of less visible house groups, many with little pastoral leadership and few resources. At the same time, many of the venues for state-approved churches (TSPM) are being forced to close down and merge with larger churches. Added to this government pressure, [new TSPM regulations](#) have come into force in 2023 which show (particularly visibly

in Articles 27, 36, 39, 40) how the Communist Party is actually daring to redefine Christian priorities and values.

In contrast to China, the church attacks in India are perpetrated by aggressive mobs. An example is the violence which broke out on 4 May 2023 in the Churachandpur area of Imphal city in Manipur. [According to Archbishop Dominic Lupon of Imphal](#) (YouTube interview at 9:45-19:35 minutes), on 4 May 2023, 249 Meitei churches were destroyed within the first 36 hours, targeted not by Kukis (who are predominately Christian) but by Meitei Hindus and adherents of Sanamahism. According to Lupon, the Meitei mobs which targeted the churches were organized through the Arambol Tenggol and Meitei Leepun vigilante organizations. Most of the Kuki population were under severe attack by these same mobs during the first 36 hours and were fleeing their homes. Thus, it was radical elements within the Meiteis that were attacking their own (Meitei Christians) as well as attacking the Kukis.

In Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Niger, churches or public Christian properties are typically attacked by predominantly Islamic insurgents who raid or invade Christian communities. For the WWL 2024 reporting period a very conservative estimate of churches and public Christian properties attacked or abandoned in these countries was 950. In Nigeria alone the number was 750.

During attacks on communities, people often flee their aggressors; their houses, businesses, fields, churches and public Christian properties (e.g., cemeteries) are abandoned, if not destroyed. Their forced displacement may be temporary or long-term.

Table listing attacks on Christian communities in Nigeria in the WWL 2024 reporting period

Total number of attacks on Christian communities in Nigeria with Christians killed or abducted	1,099
Attacks on Christian communities with 5 or more Christians killed or abducted	323
Attacks on Christian communities with 10 or more Christians killed or abducted	157

Whatever the situation was, it means that for each incident with 5 or more Christian victims (see table above) at least 2 or 3 churches or public Christian properties were attacked or abandoned, even in small communities. The bigger the community, the higher the number. So, in the case of Nigeria, it was calculated that at least 750 churches and public properties were attacked during the reporting period.

Although much further down the list of countries where the greatest number of churches were attacked, what has been going on in Algeria is just as devastating. Of the 47 churches affiliated with the Église Protestante d'Algérie (the Protestant umbrella organization), only 4 remained open in 2023. Several independent churches have also ceased meeting. This state of affairs has emerged through the Algerian government stepping up its campaign of using a 2006 law to increase pressure on the indigenous Protestant church, by interrogating church leaders and charging them with "holding worship without permission" or similar offences. During these interrogations, several church leaders received verbal orders to close their churches. This is a new trend as in previous years churches received officially documented orders to close their churches, which could be contested in court. At least 18 Christians, both church leaders and other persons active in the church, have received (suspended) prison sentences. As a result of

this government action, pressure has increased to such an extent that the few remaining churches will have to consider ceasing all visible activities in 2024. The space for Christian life in Algeria is clearly diminishing.

Christians are less and less at home in the Middle East and North Africa

More than a decade of civil war in Syria had already scattered and diminished the Christian presence in the country. The devastating earthquake in February 2023 made the precarious situation worse. By no means was Syria the only country where the squeeze on Christian life was so invasive; the increase of Algeria's score on the World Watch List was very sharp, and Tunisia went further down the authoritarian path. But the 7.8-magnitude quake that radiated out from Turkey focused the world's eyes on Syria.

Syria's score on the 2024 World Watch List rose 1 point, a modest increase but enough to push the country into the list's "Extreme Persecution" tier. Christians fleeing the war's multi-front violence and subsisting amid the collapsed economy have been easy targets of violence and Islamic pressure to retreat from public life.

Militant Islamic opponents of the Assad regime, such as Hay'at Taḥrīr al-Shām and elements of the Islamic State group, have demolished or taken over historical churches, whose leaders are vulnerable to attack or kidnapping. Christians in these areas who haven't been forcibly displaced from their homes have little scope for expressing their faith.

In government-controlled areas, meanwhile, the regime's attitude towards churches is determined by the Christian community to which they belong. Though all Christian churches feel pressure, historical churches — such as Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches — tend to enjoy more standing to defend their rights than Evangelical church groups such as Baptists and Pentecostals.

Christians have been caught in the persistent pockets of conflict and, in some cases, deliberately targeted. In Afrin, for example, Turkish-backed troops are reported to be targeting Kurdish Christians.

Then came the earthquake. As a result of the disaster, 9 out of 10 people who had already fled the war's violence at least once to live in displacement camps were displaced yet again, according to [Action for Humanity](#). "The quake "not only destroyed more homes, schools and places for children to play, they also shattered any sense of safety for so many of the most vulnerable children and families," said the director of UNICEF. Christian children already had been particularly vulnerable to such a shock, as many Christian schools had been closed or damaged because of the war and children have had to attend government — meaning Islamic — schools.

To make matters worse, just weeks after the quake Hay'at Taḥrīr al-Shām attacked government forces, and elements of the Islamic State group launched attacks. Once again caught up in conflict, Christian families have begun a new wave of migration, convinced that they are not welcomed by their Muslim countrymen and that their native country is not theirs.

Bit by bit, Christian life in other parts of the Middle East likewise is becoming less tenable. In 2023 Turkey continued its years-long military incursions into northern Iraq, where most of Iraq's Christians live, to fight the Kurdistan Workers' Party. The fighting has prevented Christians, who had fled the violence, from returning to their villages.

Even the meager piece of political territory held by Iraqi Christians is increasingly contested. A paramilitary group of Christians that formed in 2014 to fight the Islamic State group invasion of northern Iraq has since morphed into a political operation known as the Babylon Movement, which now holds all 5 of the seats reserved for Christians in Iraq's 329-seat parliament. Presented as a local Christian force, Babylon has recruited largely from Shia Muslim communities, and has ties to Iraq's Shia political party, the paramilitary Badr Organization, and the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps. It has since been accused of corruption and other unsavory practices, leading to the U.S. sanctioning its leader.

At the core of the tension is the Iraqi president's withdrawal of the presidential decree recognizing Cardinal Louis Sako's role and authority, which prompted the bishop to move the patriarchal see from Baghdad to Erbil in Iraqi Kurdistan. Sako has claimed his uprooting is the work of the Babylon Movement's leader, Rayan al-Kildani, whom Sako says intends to claim ownership of church property and other assets. al-Kildani has dismissed the allegations.

The end result: more pressure upon an embattled Christian minority.

Adding to that pressure is a 2023 Iraqi election-reform law that gives victorious major political parties the power to allocate the few parliamentary seats reserved for ethnic and religious minorities. Church leaders of various denominations urged their church members to boycott the November 2023 parliamentary elections if the representation of Christians and the protection of their interests could not be guaranteed.

According to a country expert, pressure on Christians in Iraq increased during the past year after pages of the Quran were publicly burned in [Sweden](#) in June 2023.

Pressure on Christians in Iraqi Kurdistan increased further as two Christians were accused of blasphemy after posting online messages on social media. One of them was sentenced to prison, the other had to leave the country for his safety while a case against him was pending. The two cases were widely publicized online, leading to incitement of hatred against Christians in the region.

In northern Africa, the Algerian government in 2023 stepped up its campaign to use a 2006 law to shut down churches affiliated with the EPA, or Église Protestante d'Algérie. It was a further diminishment of the space for Christian life in Algeria compared to previous years when already numerous churches were closed.

Libya climbed to the third position on the World Watch List. In May 2023, a major incident occurred in Libya in which several Christians of Muslim background were [arrested](#) and two foreign Christians [deported](#). During the WWL 2024 reporting period, hundreds of migrants have been [arbitrarily arrested](#) by Libyan authorities, including Christians from Sub-Saharan Africa and Egypt. It is believed that several of them were also targeted because of their Christian faith. Reports over widespread human trafficking, (sexual) abuse, torture and extortion have been

coming out of Libya for years now. Their faith makes Christian migrants extra vulnerable for such abuse, forcing most of them to keep their faith a strict secret.

Tunisia's World Watch List score continues to climb, lifted by President Kais Saied's continued drift into authoritarianism. After asserting emergency powers in 2021, Saied deposed the prime minister, dissolved parliament, sacked judges, then launched investigations into political opponents. In 2023 a key opposition leader was arrested, and Saied earned international rebuke with a speech, heavy with racial overtones, that accused Sub-Saharan Africans of bringing "criminality and violence" to Tunisia. The resulting popular fury fell heavily upon Sub-Saharan African Christians in Tunisia, many of whom lost their jobs, while others fled the country.

Even in Lebanon, where Christians comprise a greater share of the population than in any other Middle Eastern country, and far removed from the top 50 countries on the World Watch List, Christians are witnessing a decline in privileges and influence in national life. Attacks on churches and Christian properties are increasing. Combined with the deteriorating economy, the situation has many Christians thinking about leaving their country.

Nicaragua deteriorates rapidly

The story in Latin America, increasingly, is Nicaragua. No. 50 on the World Watch List a year ago, it has moved up 20 spots to sit at No. 30. Nicaragua's score rose more than 5 points, which was an increase of 8.3%, the fastest rise in Latin America and one of the fastest among all WWL countries.

Cuba has become Latin America's top-ranked World Watch List country — evidence that, along with the example of Nicaragua, communist dictatorships in the region are intensifying their campaigns against Christian freedom. It is in Nicaragua, however, where persecution is on the quick march.

The rapid rise in Nicaragua's score is a product of the government's increasingly open hostility toward the Church. No longer indirect, the restrictions on religious freedom now are in full view, wrapped in legal frameworks tailor-made for the purpose. Critics of the government's repression of free expression, both clerical and secular, are arrested, as are their defenders. Universities and other institutions linked to the Church have their registrations cancelled. Christian-owned property and media outlets are seized. Catholic priests and bishops are accused of espionage; some have their citizenship stripped; nuns and other church representatives have been forced into exile. Some Christian celebrations in public spaces have been prohibited. The Nicaraguan government even shut down its embassy to the Holy See.

Perhaps the most notorious example of the government's pressure campaign began in the latter part of 2022 when it made a wide range of accusations against the bishop of Matagalpa, Rolando Álvarez, a vocal defender of civic freedoms in Nicaragua. The bishop was stripped of his citizenship and, after refusing exile to the U.S., was sentenced in February 2023 to more than 26 years in prison. The magistrate who read out the sentence on national TV said that the bishop was "considered [a traitor to the country](#) and guilty, as a co-perpetrator, of the crimes of undermining national integrity, propagation of false news through information and communication technologies, obstruction of functions, aggravated disobedience or contempt of

authority, all committed in real competition and to the detriment of Nicaraguan society and the State of Nicaragua.”

Global condemnation has rained down upon Álvarez’ conviction, his detention in Nicaragua’s notorious Modelo penitentiary, and the regime’s assaults on religious freedom generally and the Catholic Church specifically. The European Union has issued a formal denunciation, while the U.S. State Department [placed visa restrictions](#) on complicit Nicaraguan government officials. The Permanent Council of the Organization of American States [charged](#) that Ortega has turned Nicaragua’s back on its previous commitments to international covenants upholding “freedom of thought and expression, freedom of conscience, religion or belief.” And in September, the U.N. Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua [said](#) that the widespread human rights violations occurring in the country amount to crimes against humanity.

Nicaragua’s repression of the Church fit into the Ortega regime’s increasingly autocratic rule since election in 2006, and especially since the government’s crackdown on the attempted 2018 pro-democracy movement. The government’s aim is not simply to silence the voice of Christians but, given their influence in the country, to hinder their credibility and stop their message from spreading. In that way, Nicaragua is not setting the trend with its quick rise on the World Watch List so much as it is falling into step with single-party, communist Cuba.

North Korea re-establishes its hold on No. 1

For 20 years the DPRK had held the No. 1 spot on the World Watch List, ranking as the single most difficult country to live the Christian faith. Then in the 2022 list it slipped to No. 2, just behind Afghanistan in the wake of the Taliban takeover during the summer of 2021.

In the 2023 World watch List reporting period, after all Christians who could had left the country and the worst of the religiously motivated violence in Afghanistan had abated — though by no means ceased — North Korea moved back to the top of the list. This year, with North Korea once again at No. 1, the familiar annual pattern has re-established itself.

Also familiar, here on the Pacific Rim as on the African continent, is the influence of China. In the weeks following Pyongyang’s August announcement that it would begin to re-open the border with its western neighbor, China has sent hundreds of North Korean refugees back to their native country, according to Human Rights Watch.

The organization [has reported](#) that Chinese authorities forcibly repatriated 80 North Koreans in August, and 40 more in September. Then, in early October — just after the 12-month World Watch List data-collection period had concluded for purposes of the 2024 list — China dispatched five waves of convoys across the border into North Korea, Human Rights Watch said, basing its report on the testimony of “an underground missionary from South Korea with extensive contacts in North Korea and China.” In all, the agency said, the number of North Korean refugees returned to their homeland could be as many as 600. The South Korean government [confirmed](#) the mass repatriation but did not specify the number of refugees involved.

International law forbids forced repatriation. Human Rights Watch said “the returnees, mostly women, are at grave risk of being detained in forced labor camps, and face torture, sexual violence, enforced disappearance, and execution.”

It’s unknown how many of the repatriated North Koreans are Christians, though of course the regime’s zero-tolerance policy toward believers has always been a powerful motivator for Christians to risk the dangers of trying to leave. Attempted border crossings had become less common, however, after the government closed the border with China in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In all five spheres of Christian life measured by the World Watch List, the pressure upon North Korean Christians is at the highest level; the score in all categories except violence is at the maximum. Those who follow the World Watch List know Pyongyang’s smothering squeeze on religious faith is as constant as the earth’s rotation. What proves remarkable are the shoots of faith that continue to pierce through the unrelenting oppression. For example, an April 2023 Radio Free Asia [news account](#), about the arrest of five family members who had gathered for prayer, was noteworthy not so much for the ordinary facts of the incident, but mostly because it was publicly reported so swiftly.

A few rays of light

The deteriorating situation for Christian life in Mali is documented in this summary. Still, it is worth noting that in June 2023, Malian voters approved a referendum on the adoption of a new constitution, a move seen as one that could pave the way for the return to civilian rule, and the holding of new elections in 2024. The military government pledged to work toward a return to civilian rule after the Economic Community of West African States lifted a set of trade and financial sanctions. In the new constitution there is clear recognition of the Christian minority in the country.

In the midst of India’s many pressures upon Christian life, a bit of relief: The Congress Party dislodged the Hindu-nationalist BJP after spring 2023 elections in Karnataka state. According to the Hindustan Times, the new Congress-led government intends to initiate a so-called “de-saffronization drive.” New State Minister Priyank Kharge was quoted as saying “many orders and laws enforced under the previous BJP regime such as school textbook revisions and anti-conversion laws were against state interest and will be revised or withdrawn.”

Sri Lanka’s score rose 3 points to place it at No. 58 on the World Watch List. Yet Open Doors partners continue to report success in educating pastors to stand up for their constitutional rights, which has prevented church closures in some cases.

And in Laos, whose score increase was one of the greatest on the 2024 World Watch List, there was this report from a country expert: “In all my years working as a researcher, I never saw a clearer connection of a growing church with growing opposition, resulting in higher scores,” the researcher said. “I find it comforting that the biblical verses predicting this connection are still true.”

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5. WWL 2024: Country religious statistics

Open Doors estimates for the number of Christians have been used for 13 countries. In all other cases, WCD estimates have been used (Johnson T M and Zurlo G A, eds., World Christian Database, Leiden/Boston, Brill, accessed March 2023). The light brown shading indicates a country scoring 41+ points but ranked outside WWL 2024 Top 50.

WWL 2024 Rank	Country	Region	Subregion	Total population (UN 2023 estimate as compiled by WCD; accessed March 2023)	Number of Christians (WCD, accessed March 2023)	Number of Christians (OD estimate)
10	Afghanistan	Asia	South Asia	41,681,000		thousands
15	Algeria	Africa	Northern Africa	46,053,000	144,000	
71	Angola	Africa	Middle Africa	36,149,000	33,795,000	
59	Azerbaijan	Asia	Western Asia	10,370,000	248,000	
65	Bahrain	Asia	Western Asia	1,812,000	208,000	
26	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	169,432,000	950,000	
75	Belarus	Europe	Eastern Europe	9,419,000	7,496,000	
36	Bhutan	Asia	South Asia	796,000	19,500	
44	Brunei	Asia	South-eastern Asia	449,000	54,200	
20	Burkina Faso	Africa	Western Africa	22,721,000	5,315,000	
64	Burundi	Africa	Eastern Africa	12,999,000	12,236,000	
43	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	28,608,000	17,647,000	
28	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	5,119,000	3,807,000	
56	Chad	Africa	Middle Africa	17,921,000	6,294,000	
19	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	1,452,128,000		96,700,000
34	Colombia	Latin America	South America	51,673,000	49,079,000	

45	Comoros	Africa	Eastern Africa	926,000	4,700	
41	Congo (DRC)	Africa	Middle Africa	98,152,000	93,396,000	
22	Cuba	Latin America	Caribbean	11,291,000	6,966,000	
55	Djibouti	Africa	Eastern Africa	1,030,000	10,900	
38	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	108,032,000	9,797,000	
4	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	3,728,000	1,739,000	
32	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	123,771,000	74,679,000	
73	Gambia	Africa	Western Africa	2,631,000	118,000	
69	Guinea	Africa	Western Africa	14,239,000	486,000	
66	Honduras	Latin America	Central America	10,379,000	9,925,000	
11	India	Asia	South Asia	1,419,656,000	71,120,000	
42	Indonesia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	281,844,000	34,562,000	
9	Iran	Asia	South Asia	86,976,000		1,245,000
16	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	43,171,000	154,000	
78	Israel	Asia	Western Asia	9,055,000	183,000	
76	Ivory Coast	Africa	Western Africa	28,444,000	10,006,000	
48	Jordan	Asia	Western Asia	10,312,000		170,000
47	Kazakhstan	Asia	Central Asia	19,407,000	4,859,000	
51	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	57,459,000	47,077,000	
54	Kuwait	Asia	Western Asia	4,428,000	536,000	
61	Kyrgyzstan	Asia	Central Asia	6,825,000	271,000	
21	Laos	Asia	South-eastern Asia	7,581,000	212,000	
72	Lebanon	Asia	Western Asia	6,585,000	2,234,000	
3	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	7,119,000	35,100	

49	Malaysia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	33,579,000	3,096,000	hundreds
18	Maldives	Asia	South Asia	535,000		
14	Mali	Africa	Western Africa	22,106,000	497,000	
23	Mauritania	Africa	Western Africa	5,030,000	11,100	
37	Mexico	Latin America	Central America	132,834,000	126,876,000	
24	Morocco	Africa	Northern Africa	38,194,000	31,200	
39	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	34,035,000	19,184,000	
17	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	55,664,000	4,479,000	
53	Nepal	Asia	South Asia	30,770,000	1,448,000	
30	Nicaragua	Latin America	Central America	6,855,000	6,506,000	
27	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	27,066,000	66,600	
6	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	222,182,000	102,988,000	
1	North Korea	Asia	Eastern Asia	26,090,000		
31	Oman	Asia	Western Asia	5,412,000	196,000	
7	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	233,757,000	4,195,000	
60	Palestinian Territories	Asia	Western Asia	5,469,000	42,300	
40	Qatar	Asia	Western Asia	3,029,000	414,000	
62	Russian Federation	Europe	Eastern Europe	145,629,000	120,066,000	
63	Rwanda	Africa	Eastern Africa	13,924,000	12,767,000	
13	Saudi Arabia	Asia	Western Asia	36,329,000	2,194,000	
2	Somalia	Africa	Eastern Africa	17,339,000		hundreds
74	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	11,891,000	7,272,000	
58	Sri Lanka	Asia	South Asia	21,649,000	2,027,000	

8	Sudan	Africa	Northern Africa	47,095,000	2,013,000	
12	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	20,638,000	579,000	
46	Tajikistan	Asia	Central Asia	10,162,000	63,100	
52	Tanzania	Africa	Eastern Africa	65,136,000	36,348,000	
68	Togo	Africa	Western Africa	8,887,000	4,267,000	
33	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	12,152,000	22,200	
50	Turkey	Asia	Western Asia	85,957,000	169,000	
29	Turkmenistan	Asia	Central Asia	6,283,000	66,000	
70	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	49,701,000	41,944,000	
77	Ukraine	Europe	Eastern Europe	42,911,000	36,942,000	
57	United Arab Emirates	Asia	Western Asia	10,165,000	1,125,000	
25	Uzbekistan	Asia	Central Asia	34,809,000	352,000	
67	Venezuela	Latin America	South America	30,017,000	27,445,000	
35	Vietnam	Asia	South-eastern Asia	99,699,000	9,635,000	
5	Yemen	Asia	Western Asia	31,818,000		a small number

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6. Total number of persecuted Christians and derived statements

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1) Advice for communication

When the number of Christians living in situations of persecution or discrimination is estimated for all countries that have scored 41 points or more, it comes to 366.55 million. For the WWL 2024 Top 50 countries, it comes to 318.26 million. For communication purposes and to take account of the margin of uncertainty, the total number has been rounded off to 365 million and 317 million.

WWL 2024	Total number of Christians	Rounded off for communication purposes
All countries scoring 41 points or more	366,554,100	365 M
Top 50 countries	318,260,600	317 M
Ranks 51 to 78	48,293,500	48 M

Please use the following statement for WWL 2024 communication to the general public. (Please note that the qualifier “more than” is necessary, because the estimates were limited to countries that scored 41 points or more in WWL 2024. There are other countries that did not score 41 points but where there are groups of Christians that live in comparably difficult situations):

- “More than 365 million Christians face high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith.”

- “In Open Doors’ World Watch List top 50 countries alone, 317 million Christians face very high or extreme levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith.”

That means:

Worldwide – 1 in 7

In Africa – 1 in 5

In Asia – 2 in 5

In Latin America – 1 in 16

See sections 3 and 4 below for more information concerning the “one in ...” statements.

2) Explanation for the use of the qualifier “high”

In WWL-Methodology, “high” levels of persecution or discrimination occur when the score-range is 41 to 60 points. Above this there are two other categories: “very high” (61-80 points) and “extreme” (81-100 points). All countries that scored at least 41 points were taken into account for estimating the number of persecuted Christians in the world. To define the number of persecuted Christians in each of those countries, the level of persecution or discrimination was estimated for regions within that country, based on the overall country questionnaire. It would have been better if a questionnaire were completed for each region separately, but WWR did not have the capacity for that extra work.

If the estimate of the level of persecution or discrimination for a specific region within the country came within the range of “high” and above, the Christian population in that region was counted as persecuted Christians. The total of such regions made up the number of persecuted Christians in that country. Alternatively, if in a country there were serious differences in persecution or discrimination of different Categories of Christianity or even Christian denominations, the number of most affected category or denomination would be chosen, and sometimes reduced by a certain percentage.

In [WWL-Methodology](#) (Complete World Watch List Methodology, updated October 2023, page 57), “high” is generally defined as “where living as a Christian means that although there may be a tolerated church which enjoys some freedom, in practice prominent Christians are targeted, churches themselves are subject to significant restrictions, and the culture remains largely hostile to a Christian presence in such areas as education and employment.” It can also be that there is a lot of violence targeting Christians and churches, while the overall pressure is still limited.

Thus, it does not mean that all Christians in those situations are directly facing high levels of persecution. It means they are living in regions within their countries (or are part of Christian denominations) where the seriousness of the persecution situation is estimated to be ‘high’ (or higher).

Again, please do not take out the qualifier “high”. This is crucial, since there are other definitions of persecution that would give a considerably higher figure.

3) The basis for statements derived from the 365 million number

This document now further elaborates upon the meaning of the “365 million in the world” number. The basis for the statements to follow can be found in the table below:

WWL 2024	Total population	Total no. of Christians	No. of persecuted Christians	1 in x Christians persecuted	WWL 2023	WWL 2023
					No. of persecuted Christians	1 in x Christians persecuted
AFRICA	1,440,353,000	710,891,000	140,796,300	5.0	135,638,400	5.1
ASIA	4,753,501,000	394,170,000	180,285,800	2.2	178,707,900	2.2
EUROPE	747,090,000	566,067,000	6,008,000	94.2	4,829,000	117.7
LATIN AMERICA	671,063,000	616,926,000	39,464,000	15.6	40,256,000	15.2
NORTHERN AMERICA	375,508,000	269,011,000		N/A	-	N/A
OCEANIA	44,285,000	28,879,000		N/A	-	N/A
TOTAL	8,031,800,000	2,585,944,000	366,554,100	7.1	359,431,300	7.1

4) Statements derived from the 365 million number

The following statements include the number of persecuted Christians in all countries scoring at least 41 points:

- **“One in every 7 Christians live in situations of at least ‘high’ levels of persecution or discrimination for their faith.”**
(In WWL 2023 this was 1/7; in WWL 2022: 1/7; in WWL 2021: 1/8; in WWL 2020: 1/8; in WWL 2019: 1/9)

And:

- **“In Africa one in every 5 Christians live in situations of at least ‘high’ levels of persecution or discrimination for their faith.”**
(In WWL 2023 this was 1/5; in WWL 2022: 1/5; in WWL 2021: 1/6; in WWL 2020: 1/5; in WWL 2019: 1/6)
- **“In Asia two in every 5 Christians live in situations of at least ‘high’ levels of persecution or discrimination for their faith.”**
(In WWL 2023 this was 2/5; in WWL 2022: 2/5; in WWL 2021: 2/5; in WWL 2020: 2/5; in WWL 2019: 1/3)
- **“In Latin America one in every 16 Christians live in situations of at least ‘high’ levels of persecution or discrimination for their faith.”**
(In WWL 2023 this was 1/15; in WWL 2022: 1/15; in WWL 2021: 1/12; in WWL 2020: 1/21; in WWL 2019: 1/21)

5) Why a breakdown of persecuted Christians per country is not published

It is not possible to provide a public version of the breakdown of the numbers of persecuted Christians per country, as this is sensitive information.

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7. WWL 2024 Article on violence

Data on violence perpetrated against Christians in all countries scoring 41+ points in the reporting period 1 October 2022 – 30 September 2023

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6.9 How many houses of Christians or other property (excluding shops) have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down or confiscated for faith-related reasons? Total: 21,431 57

6.10 How many shops or businesses of Christians have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down, closed or confiscated for faith-related reasons? Total: 5,740..... 59

6.11 How many Christians have been forced to leave their homes or go into hiding in-country for faith-related reasons? Total: 278,716 61

6.12 How many Christians have been forced to leave the country for faith-related reasons? Total: 16,404 64

1. Summary data of Questionnaire Block 6 questions and WWL comparisons

In the overview table below it can be seen how the destructive impact of violence against Christians has (sharply) increased in WWL 2024 as compared to WWL 2023. Please also note that - as in all WWL reporting periods - the violence data reported and included below is an absolute minimum figure. In reality, it is very likely that the numbers were higher than those listed here.

Questions Block 6 Violence	WWL 2024	WWL 2023	WWL 2022	WWL 2021	WWL 2020	WWL 2019	WWL 2018	WWL 2017
6.1 Christians killed for faith-related reasons	4,998	5,621	5,898	4,761	2,983	4,305	3,066	1,207
6.2 Churches or public Christian properties attacked	14,766	2,110	5,110	4,488	9,488	1,847	793	1,329
6.3 and 6.4 Christians detained without trial, arrested, sentenced and imprisoned	4,125	4,542	6,175	4,277	4,811	3,150	1,905	
6.5 Christians abducted	3,906	5,259	3,829	1,710	1,052			
6.6 and 6.7 Christians raped or otherwise sexually harassed, or forced to marry non-Christians	3,231	2,843						
6.8	42,849	29,411						

Christians physically abused (including beatings and death threats) otherwise or mentally abused									
6.9 and 6.10 Houses, shops, businesses or other property of Christians attacked	27,171	6,757							
6.11 and 6.12 Christians forced to leave their homes, go into hiding in-country or leave the country	295,120	139,307							

2. Summary statements focusing on all WWL 2024 violence data

The statements below are based on the tables giving detailed violence data per country and region in Section 4 of this document. Besides the actual recorded numbers, it is important to note that several 'symbolic numbers' (10*, 100*, 1000*, 10,000* or 100,000*) were used. Nearly all totals have some symbolic numbers included, as the tables in Section 4 show. It follows that the numbers presented are (much) lower than in reality.

- **The total number of Christians killed for their faith decreased from 5,621 cases (WWL 2023) to 4,998 (WWL 2024).** This was only due to fewer Christians being killed for their faith in Nigeria. Elections were held in February and March 2023. The period before the elections showed a noticeable drop in the number of attacks on Christians. Unfortunately the insurgents took their violence to the old level again after the elections.
- **The total number of churches or public Christian properties attacked in differing forms of severity, increased sharply from 2,110 cases (WWL 2023) to 14,766 (WWL 2024).** Reports showed a very strong increase in the number of churches attacked compared to WWL 2023. Particularly influential in this rise were the numbers for China, India, Nigeria, Nicaragua and Ethiopia. See the WWL 2024 Trends Article for further explanation. Hidden behind the numbers of buildings attacked, is the fear and insecurity of many church communities that use those buildings. Such attacks may lead to the disintegration of church communities, even if the Christians are not forcibly displaced.
- **The total number of Christians detained for their faith increased from 3,154 cases (WWL 2023) to 3,329 (WWL 2024).**
- **The total number of Christians sentenced for their faith decreased from 1,388 cases (WWL 2023) to 796 (WWL 2024).**

- **The total number of Christians abducted for faith-related reasons decreased from 5,259 cases (WWL 2023) to 3,906 (WWL 2024).** As for killings (see above), the decrease was only due to a lower number of abductions in Nigeria, in particular in the period before the elections.
- **The number of cases of Christians raped or otherwise sexually harassed for faith-related reasons increased from 2,126 (WWL 2023) to 2,622 (WWL 2024).** Reporting was particularly difficult because of issues of trauma and cultural tabus.
- **The same applies for cases of forced marriages of Christians to non-Christians: The number decreased from 717 (WWL 2023) to 609 (WWL 2024).**
- **The number of cases of Christians who have been otherwise physically or mentally abused for faith-related reasons (including beatings and death threats) increased from 29,411 (WWL 2023) to 42,849 (WWL 2024).**
- **In WWL 2023, there were 4,547 cases of houses of Christians or other property (excluding shops) attacked. That number increased to 21,431 (WWL 2024).**
- **There were also cases of shops or businesses of Christians being attacked: The number increased from 2,210 (WWL 2023) to 5,740 (WWL 2024).**
- **Because of violence – and also pressure (especially where converts had to leave their homes and communities) – the number of Christians forced to leave their homes or go into hiding in-country for faith-related reasons was 124,310 in WWL 2023. The number increased to 278,716 in the WWL 2024 reporting period.**
- **Sometimes there was no choice for Christians but to leave their country because of persecution. The number of Christians forced to leave their country for faith-related reasons increased from 14,997 (WWL 2023) to 16,404 (WWL 2024).**

3. Introductory notes concerning detailed violence data per country and region

The WWL 2024 data presented in this document is based wherever possible on direct counting. In several cases, where it is very hard to know exact numbers and it is clear from indirect sources that there have been violent incidents occurring against Christians, numbers have been otherwise defined. See the discussion below. In such cases, the World Watch Research team has always estimated conservatively. In connection with this, please see Section 2 of the WWR document “WWL – Discussion of key themes”, published in October 2023 (available at <https://www.opendoors.org/research-reports/wwl-documentation/WWL-Discussion-of-Key-Themes-update-October-2023.pdf>).

The tables presented below do not pretend to give a complete picture. The exact details of what is happening to Christians in a country are difficult to obtain: For instance, especially in countries where there is conflict or a high level of secrecy, the media are often seriously curtailed by the regime or influenced by social actors. Please see the individual WWL 2024 Full Country Dossiers for more details. These are made publicly available in mid-January 2024 at:

- <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/country-dossiers/>
- <https://opendoorsanalytical.org/country-dossiers/> (password: freedom).

The data on violence presented is limited to all countries scoring 41 or more points in the WWL 2024 reporting period. There may be cases of violence in countries scoring 40 points or less, but these are not included here. For each question in Block 6, country data is shown.

For security reasons: There are 8 countries where the data on violence is presented but the names of those countries are not individually revealed. These countries are Afghanistan, Bhutan, Malaysia, Maldives, North Korea, Oman, Somalia and Yemen. The data for these 8 countries is indicated with “NN”.

In the tables below, Column F indicates with the word ‘TRUE’ where a symbolic round number has been used; this is because the number of cases has been impossible to count exactly. Possible symbolic round numbers are 10, 100, 1000, 10,000 or 100,000. A symbolic number of 10 could in reality be (much) more than 10, but the real number is uncertain; the same applies for the other symbolic numbers.

A further disclaimer: Even where it was possible to count exact numbers, it has to be understood that what has been counted is very often the absolute minimum. Much violence against Christians goes unnoticed and/or unreported.

4. Detailed WWL 2024 Block 6 violence data per country and region



Please note: In the tables below, the coloring (red, orange and yellow) corresponds to the coloring used in the WWL 2024 Table of scores and ranks denoting ‘Extreme’, ‘Very high’ and ‘High levels’ of overall persecution.

6.1	How many Christians have been killed for faith-related reasons (including state sanctioned executions)? TOTAL: 4,998
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From high to low:

Question 6.1 Rank	Country	Region	Sub-Region	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2024 Rank	Total WWL 2024 Score
1	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	4118		16.7	6	88
2	Congo (DRC)	DR Africa	Middle Africa	261		15.9	41	67
3	India	Asia	South Asia	160		16.5	11	83
4	NN			100	TRUE	12.8		
5	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	55		15.9	70	52
6	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	34		16.1	17	79
7	Burkina Faso	Africa	Western Africa	31		15.6	20	75
8	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	24		15.9	43	66
9	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	23		15.6	28	70
10	Colombia	Latin America	South America	16		14.1	34	68
11	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	15		14.4	32	69
12	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	14		16.7	7	87
13	Mexico	Latin America	Central America	13		14.1	37	68
14	Honduras	Latin America	Central America	11		12.6	66	55
15	Mali	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	15.6	14	79
16	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	10		14.1	26	71
17	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	15.9	27	70
18	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	15.0	39	68
19	Tanzania	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	14.4	52	62

20	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	15.6	74	46
21	Indonesia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	7		11.5	42	66
22	Chad	Africa	Middle Africa	7		10.6	56	61
23	Sudan	Africa	Northern Africa	5		13.3	8	87
24	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	5		12.4	51	63
25	Burundi	Africa	Eastern Africa	5		12.8	64	57
26	Venezuela	Latin America	South America	5		10.7	67	53
27	Togo	Africa	Western Africa	5		8.9	68	52
28	NN			4		10.6		
29	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	4		7.8	16	79
30	Laos	Asia	South-eastern Asia	4		11.3	21	75
31	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	3		12.8	4	89
32	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	3		7.8	38	68
33	NN			2		4.6		
34	NN			1		5.9		
35	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	1		11.1	12	81
36	Vietnam	Asia	South-eastern Asia	1		7.2	35	68
37	Lebanon	Asia	Western Asia	1		7.2	72	48
Total				4,998				

6.2	<p>How many churches or public Christian properties (schools, hospitals, cemeteries, etc.) have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down, closed or confiscated for faith-related reasons? TOTAL: 14,766</p>
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From high to low:

Question 6.2 Rank	Country	Region	Sub-Region	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2024 Rank	Total WWL 2024 Score
1	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	10,000	TRUE	11.1	19	78
2	India	Asia	South Asia	2,228		16.5	11	83
3	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	750		16.7	6	88
4	Nicaragua	Latin America	Central America	347		9.6	30	70
5	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	284		14.4	32	69
6	Rwanda	Africa	Eastern Africa	120		9.4	63	58
7	Sudan	Africa	Northern Africa	100	TRUE	13.3	8	87
8	Burkina Faso	Africa	Western Africa	100	TRUE	15.6	20	75
9	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	100	TRUE	15.9	27	70
10	Angola	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	7.2	71	52
11	Mexico	Latin America	Central America	78		14.1	37	68
12	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	53		15.9	43	66
13	Congo DR (DRC)	Africa	Middle Africa	45		15.9	41	67
14	Colombia	Latin America	South America	42		14.1	34	68
15	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	40		16.7	7	87
16	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	32		16.1	17	79
17	Laos	Asia	South-eastern Asia	25		11.3	21	75

18	Iran	Asia	South Asia	22		10.9	9	86
19	Israel	Asia	Western Asia	18		6.7	78	44
20	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	17		11.1	12	81
21	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	14		15.6	28	70
22	Venezuela	Latin America	South America	14		10.7	67	53
23	Algeria	Africa	Northern Africa	12		9.8	15	79
24	Cuba	Latin America	Caribbean	12		8.7	22	73
25	Indonesia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	12		11.5	42	66
26	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	12		15.9	70	52
27	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	12.8	4	89
28	Mali	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	15.6	14	79
29	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	15.0	39	68
30	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	12.4	51	63
31	Tanzania	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	14.4	52	62
32	Burundi	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	12.8	64	57
33	Guinea	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	7.2	69	52
34	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	15.6	74	46
35	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	9		10.2	3	91
36	Honduras	Latin America	Central America	9		12.6	66	55
37	Lebanon	Asia	Western Asia	8		7.2	72	48
38	Vietnam	Asia	South-eastern Asia	7		7.2	35	68
39	Sri Lanka	Asia	South Asia	7		5.9	58	60
40	NN			6		12.8		
41	NN			6		10.6		

42	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	6	14.1	26	71
43	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	6	6.9	33	69
44	Togo	Africa	Western Africa	5	8.9	68	52
45	Ivory Coast	Africa	Western Africa	4	3.3	76	44
46	Morocco	Africa	Northern Africa	3	5.4	24	71
47	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	3	7.8	38	68
48	Nepal	Asia	South Asia	3	4.4	53	62
49	Chad	Africa	Middle Africa	3	10.6	56	61
50	Azerbaijan	Asia	Western Asia	3	1.7	59	60
51	Gambia	Africa	Western Africa	3	3.7	73	47
52	Ukraine	Europe	Eastern Europe	3	2.8	77	44
53	NN			2	5.9		
54	NN			2	3.1		
55	NN			2	2.2		
56	Turkey	Asia	Western Asia	2	3.1	50	64
57	Belarus	Europe	Eastern Europe	2	3.3	75	46
58	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	1	7.8	16	79
59	Uzbekistan	Asia	Central Asia	1	1.7	25	71
60	Brunei	Asia	South-eastern Asia	1	1.3	44	66
61	Kazakhstan	Asia	Central Asia	1	1.1	47	65
62	Palestinian Territories	Asia	Western Asia	1	0.9	60	60
Total				14,766			

6.3	<p>How many Christians have been detained without trial for faith-related reasons?</p> <p>TOTAL: 3,329</p>
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From high to low:

Question 6.3 Rank	Country	Region	Sub-Region	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2024 Rank	Total WWL 2024 Score
1	India	Asia	South Asia	2,085		16.5	11	83
2	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	300		12.8	4	89
3	Iran	Asia	South Asia	122		10.9	9	86
4	NN			100	TRUE	12.8		
5	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	100	TRUE	16.7	7	87
6	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	100	TRUE	11.1	19	78
7	Laos	Asia	South-eastern Asia	65		11.3	21	75
8	Cuba	Latin America	Caribbean	45		8.7	22	73
9	Nicaragua	Latin America	Central America	38		9.6	30	70
10	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	31		10.2	3	91
11	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	25		7.8	38	68
12	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	24		14.4	32	69
13	Vietnam	Asia	South-eastern Asia	20		7.2	35	68
14	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	18		16.1	17	79
15	NN			17		5.9		
16	Belarus	Europe	Eastern Europe	14		3.3	75	46
17	Morocco	Africa	Northern Africa	13		5.4	24	71
18	Indonesia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	12		11.5	42	66

19	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	16.7	6	88
20	Sudan	Africa	Northern Africa	10	TRUE	13.3	8	87
21	NN			10	TRUE	4.6		
22	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	11.1	12	81
23	Uzbekistan	Asia	Central Asia	10		1.7	25	71
24	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	10	TRUE	14.1	26	71
25	Mexico	Latin America	Central America	10		14.1	37	68
26	Jordan	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	2.2	48	65
27	Nepal	Asia	South Asia	10		4.4	53	62
28	Chad	Africa	Middle Africa	10	TRUE	10.6	56	61
29	Rwanda	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	9.4	63	58
30	Burundi	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	12.8	64	57
31	Angola	Africa	Middle Africa	10	TRUE	7.2	71	52
32	NN			9		10.6		
33	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	7		6.9	33	69
34	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	7		15.9	70	52
35	Congo DR (DRC)	Africa	Middle Africa	6		15.9	41	67
36	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	5		15.9	43	66
37	Sri Lanka	Asia	South Asia	5		5.9	58	60
38	Russian Federation	Europe	Eastern Europe	4		1.7	62	58
39	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	3		7.8	16	79
40	Colombia	Latin America	South America	3		14.1	34	68
41	Turkey	Asia	Western Asia	3		3.1	50	64
42	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	3		12.4	51	63
43	Ukraine	Europe	Eastern Europe	3		2.8	77	44
44	Algeria	Africa	Northern Africa	2		9.8	15	79
45	NN			2		0.9		

46	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	2	15.9	27	70
47	NN	Asia	Western Asia	2	3.1	31	69
48	Bahrain	Asia	Western Asia	2	1.1	65	55
49	Saudi Arabia	Asia	Western Asia	1	3.3	13	81
50	Israel	Asia	Western Asia	1	6.7	78	44
Total				3,329			

6.4 How many Christians have been sentenced to jail, labor camp, sent to psychiatric hospital as punishment, or similar things for faith-related reasons? **TOTAL: 796**

From high to low:

Question 6.4 Rank	Country	Region	Sub-Region	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2024 Rank	Total WWL 2024 Score
1	India	Asia	South Asia	247		16.5	11	83
2	NN			100	TRUE	12.8		
3	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	12.8	4	89
4	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	100	TRUE	16.7	7	87
5	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	100	TRUE	11.1	19	78
6	Cuba	Latin America	Caribbean	30		8.7	22	73
7	Nicaragua	Latin America	Central America	22		9.6	30	70
8	Algeria	Africa	Northern Africa	18		9.8	15	79
9	Iran	Asia	South Asia	16		10.9	9	86
10	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	10	TRUE	10.2	3	91
11	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	16.7	6	88
12	Vietnam	Asia	South-eastern Asia	5		7.2	35	68
13	NN			5		2.4		

14	Russian Federation	Europe	Eastern Europe	5	1.7	62	58
15	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	4	7.8	38	68
16	NN			3	10.6		
17	NN			3	5.9		
18	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	3	14.4	32	69
19	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	2	7.8	16	79
20	Laos	Asia	South-eastern Asia	2	11.3	21	75
21	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	2	14.1	26	71
22	Belarus	Europe	Eastern Europe	2	3.3	75	46
23	NN			1	4.6		
24	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	1	11.1	12	81
25	Saudi Arabia	Asia	Western Asia	1	3.3	13	81
26	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	1	16.1	17	79
27	Indonesia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	1	11.5	42	66
28	Kyrgyzstan	Asia	Central Asia	1	1.3	61	59
29	Ukraine	Europe	Eastern Europe	1	2.8	77	44
Total				796			

6.5	How many Christians have been abducted for faith-related reasons (including Christians missing in a persecution context)? TOTAL: 3,906
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From high to low:

Question 6.5 Rank	Country	Region	Sub-Region	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2024 Rank	Total WWL 2024 Score
1	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	3,300		16.7	6	88
2	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	100	TRUE	16.7	7	87
3	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	15.6	28	70
4	Congo (DRC)	DR Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	15.9	41	67
5	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	45		16.1	17	79
6	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	32		15.9	70	52
7	Chad	Africa	Middle Africa	13		10.6	56	61
8	Iran	Asia	South Asia	12		10.9	9	86
9	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	12.8	4	89
10	NN			10	TRUE	5.9		
11	Sudan	Africa	Northern Africa	10	TRUE	13.3	8	87
12	Saudi Arabia	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	3.3	13	81
13	Mali	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	15.6	14	79
14	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	7.8	16	79
15	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	10	TRUE	11.1	19	78
16	Burkina Faso	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	15.6	20	75
17	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	10	TRUE	14.1	26	71
18	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	15.9	27	70
19	Mexico	Latin America	Central America	10		14.1	37	68

20	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	10	TRUE	15.9	43	66
21	Burundi	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	12.8	64	57
22	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	15.6	74	46
23	India	Asia	South Asia	8		16.5	11	83
24	Morocco	Africa	Northern Africa	8		5.4	24	71
25	Colombia	Latin America	South America	8		14.1	34	68
26	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	6		10.2	3	91
27	Ukraine	Europe	Eastern Europe	5		2.8	77	44
28	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	4		6.9	33	69
29	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	4		12.4	51	63
30	Honduras	Latin America	Central America	4		12.6	66	55
31	Togo	Africa	Western Africa	4		8.9	68	52
32	NN			3		10.6		
33	Venezuela	Latin America	South America	3		10.7	67	53
34	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	2		11.1	12	81
35	Nicaragua	Latin America	Central America	2		9.6	30	70
36	NN			1		3.1		
37	Turkey	Asia	Western Asia	1		3.1	50	64
38	Russian Federation	Europe	Eastern Europe	1		1.7	62	58
	Total			3,906				

6.6	How many Christians have been raped or otherwise sexually harassed for faith-related reasons? TOTAL: 2,622
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From high to low:

Question 6.6 Rank	Country	Region	Sub-Region	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2024 Rank	Total WWL 2024 Score
1	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	1,000	TRUE	16.7	6	88
2	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	500		11.1	12	81
3	NN			100	TRUE	12.8		
4	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	100	TRUE	16.7	7	87
5	Saudi Arabia	Asia	Western Asia	100	TRUE	3.3	13	81
6	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	100	TRUE	16.1	17	79
7	Burkina Faso	Africa	Western Africa	100	TRUE	15.6	20	75
8	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	15.6	28	70
9	Congo DR (DRC)	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	15.9	41	67
10	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	15.9	43	66
11	India	Asia	South Asia	35		16.5	11	83
12	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	17		10.2	3	91
13	Morocco	Africa	Northern Africa	12		5.4	24	71
14	NN			10	TRUE	10.6		
15	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	12.8	4	89
16	NN			10	TRUE	5.9		
17	Sudan	Africa	Northern Africa	10	TRUE	13.3	8	87
18	NN			10	TRUE	4.6		
19	Mali	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	15.6	14	79

20	Algeria	Africa	Northern Africa	10	TRUE	9.8	15	79
21	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	7.8	16	79
22	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	10	TRUE	11.1	19	78
23	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	10	TRUE	14.1	26	71
24	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	15.9	27	70
25	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	10	TRUE	6.9	33	69
26	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	10	TRUE	7.8	38	68
27	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	15.0	39	68
28	Jordan	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	2.2	48	65
29	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	12.4	51	63
30	Tanzania	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	14.4	52	62
31	Djibouti	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	1.1	55	61
32	Chad	Africa	Middle Africa	10	TRUE	10.6	56	61
33	Rwanda	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	9.4	63	58
34	Burundi	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	12.8	64	57
35	Togo	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	8.9	68	52
36	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	15.9	70	52
37	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	15.6	74	46
38	Mexico	Latin America	Central America	7		14.1	37	68
39	Iran	Asia	South Asia	6		10.9	9	86
40	Honduras	Latin America	Central America	2		12.6	66	55
41	NN			1		3.1		
42	Colombia	Latin America	South America	1		14.1	34	68
43	Venezuela	Latin America	South America	1		10.7	67	53
Total				2,622				

6.7

How many cases have there been of forced marriages of Christians to non-Christians? **TOTAL: 609**

From high to low:

Question 6.7 Rank	Country	Region	Sub-Region	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2024 Rank	Total WWL 2024 Score
1	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	100	TRUE	16.7	7	87
2	Congo (DRC)	DR Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	15.9	41	67
3	NN			100	TRUE	2.4		
4	Iran	Asia	South Asia	30		10.9	9	86
5	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	11		15.9	27	70
6	NN			10	TRUE	10.6		
7	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	12.8	4	89
8	NN			10	TRUE	5.9		
9	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	16.7	6	88
10	Sudan	Africa	Northern Africa	10	TRUE	13.3	8	87
11	India	Asia	South Asia	10		16.5	11	83
12	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	11.1	12	81
13	Mali	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	15.6	14	79
14	Algeria	Africa	Northern Africa	10	TRUE	9.8	15	79
15	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	10	TRUE	11.1	19	78
16	Burkina Faso	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	15.6	20	75
17	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	10	TRUE	15.6	28	70
18	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	15.0	39	68
19	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	10	TRUE	15.9	43	66
20	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	12.4	51	63
21	Tanzania	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	14.4	52	62

22	Djibouti	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	1.1	55	61
23	Chad	Africa	Middle Africa	10	TRUE	10.6	56	61
24	Rwanda	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	9.4	63	58
25	Burundi	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	12.8	64	57
26	Guinea	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	7.2	69	52
27	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	15.9	70	52
28	Gambia	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	3.7	73	47
29	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	15.6	74	46
30	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	4		14.1	26	71
31	Nepal	Asia	South Asia	4		4.4	53	62
32	Morocco	Africa	Northern Africa	3		5.4	24	71
33	Togo	Africa	Western Africa	3		8.9	68	52
34	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	2		10.2	3	91
35	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	2		7.8	16	79
36	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	2		16.1	17	79
37	Mauritania	Africa	Western Africa	2		1.3	23	72
38	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	2		6.9	33	69
39	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	2		7.8	38	68
40	Saudi Arabia	Asia	Western Asia	1		3.3	13	81
41	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	1		14.4	32	69
Total				609				

6.8	<p>How many Christians have been otherwise physically or mentally abused for faith-related reasons (including beatings and death threats)? (Under mental abuse we only include death threats.) TOTAL: 42,849</p>
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From high to low:

Question 6.8 Rank	Country	Region	Sub-Region	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2024 Rank	Total WWL 2024 Score
1	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	10,000	TRUE	16.7	6	88
2	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	10,000	TRUE	16.7	7	87
3	India	Asia	South Asia	10,000	TRUE	16.5	11	83
4	NN			1,000	TRUE	12.8		
5	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	1,000	TRUE	12.8	4	89
6	Mali	Africa	Western Africa	1,000	TRUE	15.6	14	79
7	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	1,000	TRUE	16.1	17	79
8	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	1,000	TRUE	14.1	26	71
9	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	1,000	TRUE	15.6	28	70
10	Congo (DRC) DR	Africa	Middle Africa	1,000	TRUE	15.9	41	67
11	Rwanda	Africa	Eastern Africa	1,000	TRUE	9.4	63	58
12	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	1,000	TRUE	15.9	70	52
13	Iran	Asia	South Asia	330		10.9	9	86
14	Lebanon	Asia	Western Asia	300		7.2	72	48
15	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	252		14.4	32	69
16	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	202		12.4	51	63
17	Laos	Asia	South-eastern Asia	156		11.3	21	75
18	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	100	TRUE	10.2	3	91

19	Sudan	Africa	Northern Africa	100	TRUE	13.3	8	87
20	Saudi Arabia	Asia	Western Asia	100	TRUE	3.3	13	81
21	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	100	TRUE	11.1	19	78
22	Burkina Faso	Africa	Western Africa	100	TRUE	15.6	20	75
23	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	100	TRUE	15.9	27	70
24	Colombia	Latin America	South America	100	TRUE	14.1	34	68
25	Vietnam	Asia	South-eastern Asia	100	TRUE	7.2	35	68
26	Mexico	Latin America	Central America	100	TRUE	14.1	37	68
27	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	15.0	39	68
28	Indonesia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	100	TRUE	11.5	42	66
29	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	15.9	43	66
30	Chad	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	10.6	56	61
31	Burundi	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	12.8	64	57
32	Honduras	Latin America	Central America	100	TRUE	12.6	66	55
33	Togo	Africa	Western Africa	100	TRUE	8.9	68	52
34	Guinea	Africa	Western Africa	100	TRUE	7.2	69	52
35	Angola	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	7.2	71	52
36	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	15.6	74	46
37	Uzbekistan	Asia	Central Asia	60		1.7	25	71
38	Morocco	Africa	Northern Africa	54		5.4	24	71
39	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	50		11.1	12	81
40	Tajikistan	Asia	Central Asia	45		0.6	46	66
41	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	44		6.9	33	69
42	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	44		7.8	38	68

43	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	35		7.8	16	79
44	Algeria	Africa	Northern Africa	30		9.8	15	79
45	Venezuela	Latin America	South America	27		10.7	67	53
46	Kazakhstan	Asia	Central Asia	25		1.1	47	65
47	Cuba	Latin America	Caribbean	24		8.7	22	73
48	Turkmenistan	Asia	Central Asia	22		0.6	29	70
49	Nicaragua	Latin America	Central America	15		9.6	30	70
50	NN			15		2.4		
51	Comoros	Africa	Eastern Africa	14		1.1	45	66
52	Belarus	Europe	Eastern Europe	14		3.3	75	46
53	NN			10	TRUE	10.6		
54	NN			10	TRUE	5.9		
55	NN			10	TRUE	4.6		
56	Mauritania	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	1.3	23	72
57	NN			10	TRUE	3.1		
58	NN			10	TRUE	2.2		
59	Qatar	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	0.6	40	67
60	Jordan	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	2.2	48	65
61	Turkey	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	3.1	50	64
62	Tanzania	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	14.4	52	62
63	Kuwait	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	0.9	54	61
64	United Arab Emirates	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	0.7	57	61
65	Sri Lanka	Asia	South Asia	10	TRUE	5.9	58	60
66	Kyrgyzstan	Asia	Central Asia	10	TRUE	1.3	61	59
67	Bahrain	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	1.1	65	55
68	Gambia	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	3.7	73	47
69	Ivory Coast	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	3.3	76	44
70	Nepal	Asia	South Asia	9		4.4	53	62
71	Israel	Asia	Western Asia	6		6.7	78	44

72	Russian Federation	Europe	Eastern Europe	3	1.7	62	58
73	NN			1	0.9		
74	Brunei	Asia	South-eastern Asia	1	1.3	44	66
75	Palestinian Territories	Asia	Western Asia	1	0.9	60	60
Total				42,849			

6.9	How many houses of Christians or other property (excluding shops) have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down or confiscated for faith-related reasons? TOTAL: 21,431
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From high to low:

Question 6.9 Rank	Country	Region	Sub-Region	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2024 Rank	Total WWL 2024 Score
1	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	10,000	TRUE	16.7	6	88
2	India	Asia	South Asia	5,878		16.5	11	83
3	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	1,000	TRUE	16.7	7	87
4	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	1,000	TRUE	16.1	17	79
5	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	1,000	TRUE	15.6	28	70
6	Congo (DRC)	DR Africa	Middle Africa	1,000	TRUE	15.9	41	67
7	NN			100	TRUE	10.6		
8	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	12.8	4	89
9	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	100	TRUE	11.1	12	81
10	Mali	Africa	Western Africa	100	TRUE	15.6	14	79
11	Burkina Faso	Africa	Western Africa	100	TRUE	15.6	20	75
12	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	100	TRUE	14.1	26	71
13	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	100	TRUE	15.9	27	70

14	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	14.4	32	69
15	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	15.0	39	68
16	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	15.9	43	66
17	Chad	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	10.6	56	61
18	Laos	Asia	South-eastern Asia	78		11.3	21	75
19	Iran	Asia	South Asia	75		10.9	9	86
20	Colombia	Latin America	South America	44		14.1	34	68
21	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	27		15.9	70	52
22	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	23		7.8	38	68
23	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	16		10.2	3	91
24	Nicaragua	Latin America	Central America	11		9.6	30	70
25	NN			10	TRUE	12.8		
26	Sudan	Africa	Northern Africa	10	TRUE	13.3	8	87
27	NN			10	TRUE	4.6		
28	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	7.8	16	79
29	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	10	TRUE	11.1	19	78
30	Vietnam	Asia	South-eastern Asia	10		7.2	35	68
31	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	12.4	51	63
32	Tanzania	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	14.4	52	62
33	Nepal	Asia	South Asia	10		4.4	53	62
34	Burundi	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	12.8	64	57
35	Togo	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	8.9	68	52
36	Lebanon	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	7.2	72	48
37	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	15.6	74	46
38	Algeria	Africa	Northern Africa	7		9.8	15	79
39	Cuba	Latin America	Caribbean	7		8.7	22	73

40	Morocco	Africa	Northern Africa	7	5.4	24	71
41	Mexico	Latin America	Central America	6	14.1	37	68
42	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	5	6.9	33	69
43	Sri Lanka	Asia	South Asia	5	5.9	58	60
44	Venezuela	Latin America	South America	3	10.7	67	53
45	Gambia	Africa	Western Africa	3	3.7	73	47
46	Honduras	Latin America	Central America	2	12.6	66	55
47	Mauritania	Africa	Western Africa	1	1.3	23	72
48	Bhutan	Asia	South Asia	1	2.2	36	68
49	Kyrgyzstan	Asia	Central Asia	1	1.3	61	59
50	Israel	Asia	Western Asia	1	6.7	78	44
Total				21,431			

6.10	<p>How many shops or businesses of Christians have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down, closed or confiscated for faith-related reasons?</p> <p>TOTAL: 5,740</p>
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From high to low:

Question 6.10 Rank	Country	Region	Sub-Region	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2024 Rank	Total WWL 2024 Score
1	India	Asia	South Asia	1,572		16.5	11	83
2	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	1,000	TRUE	16.7	6	88
3	Burkina Faso	Africa	Western Africa	1,000	TRUE	15.6	20	75
4	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	1,000	TRUE	15.6	28	70
5	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	100	TRUE	16.7	7	87

6	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	100	TRUE	11.1	12	81
7	Mali	Africa	Western Africa	100	TRUE	15.6	14	79
8	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	100	TRUE	16.1	17	79
9	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	100	TRUE	15.9	27	70
10	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	15.0	39	68
11	Congo DR (DRC)	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	15.9	41	67
12	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	15.9	43	66
13	Chad	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	10.6	56	61
14	Iran	Asia	South Asia	32		10.9	9	86
15	Laos	Asia	South-eastern Asia	22		11.3	21	75
16	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	18		10.2	3	91
17	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	16		7.8	38	68
18	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	15		15.9	70	52
19	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	14		14.4	32	69
20	NN			10	TRUE	12.8		
21	NN			10	TRUE	10.6		
22	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	12.8	4	89
23	Sudan	Africa	Northern Africa	10	TRUE	13.3	8	87
24	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	7.8	16	79
25	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	10	TRUE	11.1	19	78
26	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	10	TRUE	14.1	26	71
27	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	12.4	51	63
28	Tanzania	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	14.4	52	62
29	Rwanda	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	9.4	63	58
30	Burundi	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	12.8	64	57

31	Lebanon	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	7.2	72	48
32	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	15.6	74	46
33	Cuba	Latin America	Caribbean	5		8.7	22	73
34	Togo	Africa	Western Africa	5		8.9	68	52
35	Nicaragua	Latin America	Central America	3		9.6	30	70
36	Israel	Asia	Western Asia	2		6.7	78	44
37	Algeria	Africa	Northern Africa	1		9.8	15	79
38	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	1		6.9	33	69
39	Indonesia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	1		11.5	42	66
40	Turkey	Asia	Western Asia	1		3.1	50	64
41	Nepal	Asia	South Asia	1		4.4	53	62
42	Sri Lanka	Asia	South Asia	1		5.9	58	60
Total				5,740				

6.11 How many Christians have been forced to leave their homes or go into hiding in-country for faith-related reasons?
TOTAL: 278,716

From high to low:

Question 6.11 Rank	Country	Region	Sub-Region	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2024 Rank	Total WWL 2024 Score
1	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	100,000	TRUE	16.7	6	88
2	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	100,000	TRUE	16.1	17	79
3	India	Asia	South Asia	62,119		16.5	11	83
4	Burkina Faso	Africa	Western Africa	7,000		15.6	20	75
5	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	1,000	TRUE	16.7	7	87

6	NN			1,000	TRUE	4.6		
7	Mali	Africa	Western Africa	1,000	TRUE	15.6	14	79
8	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	1,000	TRUE	14.1	26	71
9	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	1,000	TRUE	15.9	27	70
10	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	1,000	TRUE	15.6	28	70
11	Congo (DRC) DR	Africa	Middle Africa	1,000	TRUE	15.9	41	67
12	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	1,000	TRUE	15.9	43	66
13	Laos	Asia	South-eastern Asia	159		11.3	21	75
14	Iran	Asia	South Asia	130		10.9	9	86
15	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	12.8	4	89
16	Sudan	Africa	Northern Africa	100	TRUE	13.3	8	87
17	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	14.4	32	69
18	Colombia	Latin America	South America	100	TRUE	14.1	34	68
19	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	15.0	39	68
20	Chad	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	10.6	56	61
21	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	15.9	70	52
22	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	15.6	74	46
23	Mexico	Latin America	Central America	74		14.1	37	68
24	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	50		11.1	12	81
25	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	25		6.9	33	69
26	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	23		10.2	3	91
27	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	22		7.8	16	79
28	Vietnam	Asia	South-eastern Asia	22		7.2	35	68
29	Nepal	Asia	South Asia	21		4.4	53	62
30	Belarus	Europe	Eastern Europe	20		3.3	75	46

31	Venezuela	Latin America	South America	18		10.7	67	53
32	Algeria	Africa	Northern Africa	17		9.8	15	79
33	Morocco	Africa	Northern Africa	13		5.4	24	71
34	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	11		7.8	38	68
35	NN			10	TRUE	10.6		
36	NN			10	TRUE	5.9		
37	Saudi Arabia	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	3.3	13	81
38	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	10	TRUE	11.1	19	78
39	Nicaragua	Latin America	Central America	10		9.6	30	70
40	Indonesia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	10	TRUE	11.5	42	66
41	Comoros	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	1.1	45	66
42	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	12.4	51	63
43	Tanzania	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	14.4	52	62
44	Rwanda	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	9.4	63	58
45	Burundi	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	12.8	64	57
46	Togo	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	8.9	68	52
47	Guinea	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	7.2	69	52
48	Angola	Africa	Middle Africa	10	TRUE	7.2	71	52
49	Gambia	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	3.7	73	47
50	Ivory Coast	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	3.3	76	44
51	Kyrgyzstan	Asia	Central Asia	8		1.3	61	59
52	Sri Lanka	Asia	South Asia	7		5.9	58	60
53	NN			4		3.1		
54	NN			3		2.4		
55	Lebanon	Asia	Western Asia	3		7.2	72	48
56	Cuba	Latin America	Caribbean	2		8.7	22	73
57	NN			2		2.2		

58	Jordan	Asia	Western Asia	1	2.2	48	65
59	Turkey	Asia	Western Asia	1	3.1	50	64
60	United Arab Emirates	Asia	Western Asia	1	0.7	57	61
Total				278,716			

6.12 How many Christians have been forced to leave the country for faith-related reasons? **TOTAL: 16,404**

From high to low:

Question Rank	Country	Region	Sub-Region	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2024 Rank	Total WWL 2024 Score
1	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	10,000	TRUE	16.1	17	79
2	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	1,000	TRUE	16.7	6	88
3	Iran	Asia	South Asia	1,000	TRUE	10.9	9	86
4	NN			1,000	TRUE	4.6		
5	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	1,000	TRUE	14.1	26	71
6	Congo DR (DRC)	Africa	Middle Africa	1,000	TRUE	15.9	41	67
7	India	Asia	South Asia	110		16.5	11	83
8	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	12.8	4	89
9	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	100	TRUE	16.7	7	87
10	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	100	TRUE	11.1	12	81
11	Mali	Africa	Western Africa	100	TRUE	15.6	14	79
12	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	100	TRUE	7.8	16	79
13	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	100	TRUE	11.1	19	78
14	Burkina Faso	Africa	Western Africa	100	TRUE	15.6	20	75
15	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	100	TRUE	15.9	27	70

16	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	15.6	28	70
17	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	15.9	43	66
18	Nicaragua	Latin America	Central America	71		9.6	30	70
19	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	17		10.2	3	91
20	Algeria	Africa	Northern Africa	14		9.8	15	79
21	Turkey	Asia	Western Asia	12		3.1	50	64
22	NN			10	TRUE	12.8		
23	NN			10	TRUE	10.6		
24	NN			10	TRUE	5.9		
25	Sudan	Africa	Northern Africa	10	TRUE	13.3	8	87
26	Saudi Arabia	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	3.3	13	81
27	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	15.0	39	68
28	Brunei	Asia	South-eastern Asia	10	TRUE	1.3	44	66
29	Malaysia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	10	TRUE	2.4	49	64
30	Chad	Africa	Middle Africa	10	TRUE	10.6	56	61
31	Rwanda	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	9.4	63	58
32	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	15.9	70	52
33	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	15.6	74	46
34	Morocco	Africa	Northern Africa	7		5.4	24	71
35	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	7		7.8	38	68
36	Cuba	Latin America	Caribbean	6		8.7	22	73
37	Laos	Asia	South-eastern Asia	5		11.3	21	75
38	Kuwait	Asia	Western Asia	5		0.9	54	61
39	NN			4		3.1		
40	Venezuela	Latin America	South America	4		10.7	67	53
41	NN			3		0.9		

42	Russian Federation	Europe	Eastern Europe	3	1.7	62	58
43	Colombia	Latin America	South America	2	14.1	34	68
44	Jordan	Asia	Western Asia	2	2.2	48	65
45	Honduras	Latin America	Central America	2	12.6	66	55
46	Mauritania	Africa	Western Africa	1	1.3	23	72
47	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	1	6.9	33	69
48	Vietnam	Asia	South-eastern Asia	1	7.2	35	68
49	Nepal	Asia	South Asia	1	4.4	53	62
50	Sri Lanka	Asia	South Asia	1	5.9	58	60
51	Palestinian Territories	Asia	Western Asia	1	0.9	60	60
52	Bahrain	Asia	Western Asia	1	1.1	65	55
53	Lebanon	Asia	Western Asia	1	7.2	72	48
54	Belarus	Europe	Eastern Europe	1	3.3	75	46
55	Ukraine	Europe	Eastern Europe	1	2.8	77	44
Total				16,404			

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8. WWL 2024: Ranking according to pressure score

The columns on the right give a comparison to the total pressure score in WWL 2023. For more detailed comparisons of scores in spheres of life for WWL 2020 – WWL 2024, see tables in section "5 Year trends" in each country's Full Country Dossier.

WWL 2024 Rank	Country			1. Private Life score	2. Family Life Score	3. Community Life score	4. National Life score	5. Church Life score	WWL 2024 Total Pressure		WWL 2023 Total Pressure
1	North Korea	Asia	Eastern Asia	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	83.3	North Korea	83.3
5	Yemen	Asia	Western Asia	16.7	16.7	16.6	16.7	16.7	83.3	Yemen	83.3
2	Somalia	Africa	Eastern Africa	16.5	16.7	16.6	16.6	16.6	82.9	Somalia	82.9
3	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	15.9	16.0	15.9	16.1	16.4	80.4	Libya	79.4
10	Afghanistan	Asia	South Asia	15.7	15.9	15.2	16.3	16.6	79.7	Afghanistan	79.2
13	Saudi Arabia	Asia	Western Asia	15.2	15.3	14.8	15.7	16.6	77.6	Saudi Arabia	77.9
18	Maldives	Asia	South Asia	15.6	15.5	13.6	16.0	16.4	77.0	Maldives	76.9
4	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	14.6	14.9	15.5	15.9	15.7	76.6	Eritrea	76.6
9	Iran	Asia	South Asia	15.0	14.6	13.5	15.8	16.5	75.4	Iran	75.2
8	Sudan	Africa	Northern Africa	14.1	14.2	14.9	14.9	15.5	73.6	Sudan	73.6
16	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	14.2	14.4	14.0	14.8	13.9	71.4	Iraq	71.4
6	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	13.5	13.9	14.5	14.9	14.4	71.2	Nigeria	71.3
23	Mauritania	Africa	Western Africa	14.6	14.2	13.8	14.2	14.2	70.9	Mauritania	70.2
7	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	13.2	13.9	15.0	15.1	13.1	70.3	Pakistan	69.8
12	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	13.4	14.3	13.9	14.3	14.2	70.2	Syria	69.2
29	Turkmenistan	Asia	Central Asia	14.2	12.3	13.6	13.9	15.5	69.5	Turkmenistan	69.2
15	Algeria	Africa	Northern Africa	14.4	14.1	11.5	14.0	15.6	69.5	Algeria	68.4
25	Uzbekistan	Asia	Central Asia	14.6	12.7	13.9	12.6	15.5	69.3	Uzbekistan	69.8
40	Qatar	Asia	Western Asia	14.2	14.2	10.5	13.2	14.4	66.5	Qatar	66.4
19	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	13.0	10.0	12.8	14.6	16.0	66.4	China	65.7
31	Oman	Asia	Western Asia	14.3	14.0	10.6	13.3	14.0	66.1	Oman	64.5
11	India	Asia	South Asia	12.2	12.6	13.3	14.8	13.2	66.1	India	66.4
36	Bhutan	Asia	South Asia	13.1	12.1	12.4	14.1	14.3	66.0	Bhutan	65.2
24	Morocco	Africa	Northern Africa	13.2	13.8	11.7	12.8	14.4	66.0	Morocco	64.6
46	Tajikistan	Asia	Central Asia	13.8	12.6	12.3	12.9	13.4	65.0	Tajikistan	64.4
44	Brunei	Asia	South-eastern Asia	15.0	14.7	10.0	10.8	14.1	64.5	Brunei	64.8
45	Comoros	Africa	Eastern Africa	12.7	14.0	11.2	12.4	14.2	64.5	Comoros	64.5
47	Kazakhstan	Asia	Central Asia	13.3	11.8	12.1	12.8	14.3	64.3	Kazakhstan	63.6
22	Cuba	Latin America	Caribbean	13.2	8.7	13.8	13.3	15.1	64.0	Cuba	62.6
14	Mali	Africa	Western Africa	11.1	10.1	14.7	12.8	15.1	63.8	Mali	61.3
21	Laos	Asia	South-eastern Asia	11.6	10.6	13.2	14.3	14.0	63.6	Laos	63.3
17	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	12.2	10.6	13.4	13.7	13.0	62.9	Myanmar	64.8
48	Jordan	Asia	Western Asia	12.9	14.2	10.5	12.4	12.8	62.8	Jordan	62.6
49	Malaysia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	13.0	14.1	11.5	12.2	11.1	61.9	Malaysia	61.9
33	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	12.3	13.2	10.2	12.4	13.8	61.8	Tunisia	60.7
35	Vietnam	Asia	South-eastern Asia	11.3	9.4	12.4	13.8	14.2	61.1	Vietnam	63.2
50	Turkey	Asia	Western Asia	13.0	11.5	11.6	13.2	11.4	60.8	Turkey	60.5
38	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	12.5	13.7	11.4	11.9	10.9	60.4	Egypt	60.8
54	Kuwait	Asia	Western Asia	13.1	13.6	9.4	12.0	12.2	60.3	Kuwait	62.5
30	Nicaragua	Latin America	Central America	12.1	7.6	13.2	13.2	14.1	60.2	Nicaragua	55.1
57	United Arab Emirates	Asia	Western Asia	13.3	13.4	9.5	11.3	12.8	60.2	United Arab Emirates	60.7
55	Djibouti	Africa	Eastern Africa	12.3	12.6	12.7	10.1	12.3	59.9	Djibouti	59.9
20	Burkina Faso	Africa	Western Africa	11.7	9.7	13.2	11.5	13.8	59.8	Burkina Faso	55.1
60	Palestinian Territories	Asia	Western Asia	13.1	13.3	9.7	10.7	12.1	58.9	Palestinian Territories	58.3
59	Azerbaijan	Asia	Western Asia	13.2	9.9	9.6	11.9	13.6	58.3	Azerbaijan	58.4
53	Nepal	Asia	South Asia	12.1	10.4	9.5	13.2	12.3	57.5	Nepal	56.6
61	Kyrgyzstan	Asia	Central Asia	13.2	10.3	11.3	10.5	12.2	57.5	Kyrgyzstan	56.5
62	Russian Federation	Europe	Eastern Europe	12.7	7.7	10.6	12.8	12.9	56.7	Russian Federation	55.2
26	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	12.4	10.6	12.5	10.8	10.4	56.6	Bangladesh	58.1
32	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	9.9	9.7	12.6	10.4	12.1	54.7	Ethiopia	55.9
42	Indonesia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	10.9	12.3	11.5	10.2	9.7	54.6	Indonesia	55.2
28	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	10.3	8.6	13.9	9.6	12.2	54.6	Central African Republic	54.6
34	Colombia	Latin America	South America	11.1	8.6	12.9	11.3	10.4	54.3	Colombia	55.6
27	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	9.4	9.6	14.5	7.7	13.1	54.3	Niger	54.2
37	Mexico	Latin America	Central America	11.5	8.5	12.5	11.1	10.6	54.2	Mexico	52.6
58	Sri Lanka	Asia	South Asia	12.9	9.2	10.8	11.5	9.7	54.1	Sri Lanka	53.3
65	Bahrain	Asia	Western Asia	12.0	13.2	8.6	11.3	8.5	53.6	Bahrain	54.2
39	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	9.3	8.5	13.9	8.4	12.5	52.6	Mozambique	52.6
41	Congo DR (DRC)	Africa	Middle Africa	8.0	7.9	12.6	9.7	13.0	51.1	Congo DR (DRC)	51.1
56	Chad	Africa	Middle Africa	11.6	8.2	10.2	10.2	10.3	50.4	Chad	50.4
51	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	10.3	9.2	11.4	8.0	11.5	50.3	Kenya	50.3
43	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	8.8	7.6	12.6	8.0	13.1	50.0	Cameroon	49.3
63	Rwanda	Africa	Eastern Africa	9.4	7.7	9.0	10.4	11.7	48.2	Rwanda	48.2
52	Tanzania	Africa	Eastern Africa	9.3	10.8	10.3	8.6	8.7	47.6	Tanzania	47.6
69	Guinea	Africa	Western Africa	10.3	7.5	8.3	8.3	10.5	44.9	Guinea	44.9
71	Angola	Africa	Middle Africa	6.8	6.7	8.1	11.5	11.4	44.5	Angola	44.5
64	Burundi	Africa	Eastern Africa	7.6	7.8	9.4	9.8	9.7	44.3	Burundi	44.3
68	Togo	Africa	Western Africa	9.2	6.7	9.3	7.1	11.0	43.3	Togo	43.3
73	Gambia	Africa	Western Africa	8.3	8.2	8.9	8.8	8.9	43.1	Gambia	43.1
67	Venezuela	Latin America	South America	6.0	4.4	11.1	10.0	10.8	42.3	Venezuela	43.9
75	Belarus	Europe	Eastern Europe	9.6	3.8	5.8	9.7	13.3	42.2	Belarus	39.6
66	Honduras	Latin America	Central America	7.9	4.7	12.2	7.3	9.9	42.0	Honduras	41.5
77	Ukraine	Europe	Eastern Europe	5.5	4.8	8.0	11.6	11.6	41.5	Ukraine	
76	Ivory Coast	Africa	Western Africa	12.0	6.5	8.7	5.9	8.0	41.1	Ivory Coast	41.1
72	Lebanon	Asia	Western Asia	11.0	10.2	7.0	6.1	6.6	40.9	Lebanon	
78	Israel	Asia	Western Asia	9.8	8.6	5.8	6.3	6.9	37.3	Israel	
70	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	8.1	5.0	7.4	6.7	8.8	35.9	Uganda	36.3
74	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	5.7	4.4	7.0	6.3	7.6	30.9	South Sudan	30.9
	El Salvador									El Salvador	39.0

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9. WWL 2024: Ranking according to violence score

The columns on the right give a comparison to the violence score in WWL 2023. For violence score comparisons for the reporting periods WWL 2020 – WWL 2024, see table in section "5 Year trends" in each country's Full Country Dossier.

WWL 2024 Rank	Country	Region	Sub-Region	WWL 2024 Violence score	WWL 2023 Violence score
6	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	16.7	16.7
7	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	16.7	16.7
11	India	Asia	South Asia	16.5	15.7
17	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	16.1	15.4
27	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	15.9	15.4
41	Congo DR (DRC)	Africa	Middle Africa	15.9	15.6
43	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	15.9	15.9
70	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	15.9	14.8
14	Mali	Africa	Western Africa	15.6	15.0
20	Burkina Faso	Africa	Western Africa	15.6	15.6
28	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	15.6	15.6
74	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	15.6	15.0
39	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	15.0	15.6
32	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	14.4	10.6
52	Tanzania	Africa	Eastern Africa	14.4	15.6
26	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	14.1	10.7
34	Colombia	Latin America	South America	14.1	15.4
37	Mexico	Latin America	Central America	14.1	13.9
8	Sudan	Africa	Northern Africa	13.3	9.4
1	North Korea	Asia	Eastern Asia	12.8	14.4
4	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	12.8	12.2
64	Burundi	Africa	Eastern Africa	12.8	11.1
66	Honduras	Latin America	Central America	12.6	11.9
51	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	12.4	13.3
42	Indonesia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	11.5	12.8
21	Laos	Asia	South-eastern Asia	11.3	5.0
12	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	11.1	11.3
19	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	11.1	11.1
9	Iran	Asia	South Asia	10.9	10.7
67	Venezuela	Latin America	South America	10.7	11.7
2	Somalia	Africa	Eastern Africa	10.6	8.7
56	Chad	Africa	Middle Africa	10.6	7.6
3	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	10.2	9.1
15	Algeria	Africa	Northern Africa	9.8	4.8
30	Nicaragua	Latin America	Central America	9.6	9.4
63	Rwanda	Africa	Eastern Africa	9.4	8.9
68	Togo	Africa	Western Africa	8.9	5.4
22	Cuba	Latin America	Caribbean	8.7	7.0
16	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	7.8	4.6
38	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	7.8	7.0
35	Vietnam	Asia	South-eastern Asia	7.2	6.9
69	Guinea	Africa	Western Africa	7.2	3.0
71	Angola	Africa	Middle Africa	7.2	7.2
72	Lebanon	Asia	Western Asia	7.2	
33	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	6.9	6.5
78	Israel	Asia	Western Asia	6.7	
5	Yemen	Asia	Western Asia	5.9	5.9
58	Sri Lanka	Asia	South Asia	5.9	3.9
24	Morocco	Africa	Northern Africa	5.4	4.8
10	Afghanistan	Asia	South Asia	4.6	4.6
53	Nepal	Asia	South Asia	4.4	4.4
73	Gambia	Africa	Western Africa	3.7	1.1
13	Saudi Arabia	Asia	Western Asia	3.3	2.4
75	Belarus	Europe	Eastern Europe	3.3	3.3
76	Ivory Coast	Africa	Western Africa	3.3	3.3
31	Oman	Asia	Western Asia	3.1	0.6
50	Turkey	Asia	Western Asia	3.1	5.7
77	Ukraine	Europe	Eastern Europe	2.8	
49	Malaysia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	2.4	3.9
36	Bhutan	Asia	South Asia	2.2	1.1
48	Jordan	Asia	Western Asia	2.2	2.0
25	Uzbekistan	Asia	Central Asia	1.7	1.5
59	Azerbaijan	Asia	Western Asia	1.7	0.6
62	Russian Federation	Europe	Eastern Europe	1.7	2.0
23	Mauritania	Africa	Western Africa	1.3	1.3
44	Brunei	Asia	South-eastern Asia	1.3	0.4
61	Kyrgyzstan	Asia	Central Asia	1.3	2.0
45	Comoros	Africa	Eastern Africa	1.1	1.5
47	Kazakhstan	Asia	Central Asia	1.1	1.1
55	Djibouti	Africa	Eastern Africa	1.1	0.6
65	Bahrain	Asia	Western Asia	1.1	0.9
18	Maldives	Asia	South Asia	0.9	0.2
54	Kuwait	Asia	Western Asia	0.9	1.1
60	Palestinian Territories	Asia	Western Asia	0.9	2.0
57	United Arab Emirates	Asia	Western Asia	0.7	1.1
29	Turkmenistan	Asia	Central Asia	0.6	0.6
40	Qatar	Asia	Western Asia	0.6	1.5
46	Tajikistan	Asia	Central Asia	0.6	1.1
	El Salvador				6.7

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9. WWL 2024 Article on Specific Religious Persecution

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1. Children and youth

Why think about Christian children and youth in the context of the World Watch List (WWL)?

The World Watch List (WWL) not only speaks about where Christians are under threat right now, but where the Church could be impacted for generations to come.

As the Church is squeezed in hostile contexts and encounters religiously targeted violence, its capacity to empower children and youth can be challenged. Children who have chosen to become Christian, or are even simply associated with Christian communities and families, can face persecution themselves, specifically tailored to their unique vulnerabilities.

Denied education, bullied at school, harassed in their communities, obstructed from Christian teaching and separated from Christian parents, – these are some of the most widely encountered forms of persecution that Christian children and youth face.³

This is a threat to the next generation of the Church. The next church leaders, the next families of the church.

³ The top five Pressure points facing Christian children and youth in WWL countries under study (WWL 2023) are: Discrimination/harassment via education, Violence – verbal, Denied access to Christian religious teachings, materials and rites, Denied access to a Christian parent and Violence – psychological. [Pathways \(un\)locked: 2023 Children and Youth Interim Update](#), Open Doors International, 2023.

A youth expert from the Middle East comments: “If a church is full of people who have all experienced persecution within all these systems from a young age, the church will essentially be so wounded so that it can’t impact society ... leaving the church completely vulnerable and set up for more extreme persecution or to just fade into the shadows” ([Children and Youth Specific Religious Persecution 2021, p.14](#)).

However, there is hope. Churches can be places of belonging, places that nurture and affirm the resilience and energy that young people bring with them.

“Local faith actors have the opportunity to make churches the institution that most value the youth contribution, most empower youth, and even become known for the way that their youth use their gifts and work in collaboration with multi-generational community to bring transformation in both Church and society,” the Middle East youth expert concludes ([Children and Youth Specific Religious Persecution 2021, p.15](#)).

Education is acknowledged as important for children and youth across the world. Why is religious persecution relevant to education?

Education is key in every child’s life. It can break poverty cycles, foster social cohesion and transform communities. However, the nature and quality of education vary hugely within and across countries. Sadly, education can even be the vehicle for and location of discrimination and harassment, including on religious grounds.

Discrimination and harassment in education is consistently the most widely reported form of pressure facing Christian children and youth across three years of research on the subject. While contextual specificities might vary, specific religious persecution (SRP) analysis of WWL data has demonstrated how education has consistently been used to pressure young generations of Christian communities across regions and cultures.⁴

This can range from test and exam results being deliberately lowered for Christians, to curriculums and school routines enforcing majority religion practices, to teachers and those in authority exploiting positions of power to marginalize and abuse Christian children and youth. Instead of school as a place of safety and protection, it can be the location for a range of religiously targeted hostility.

For example, in Ethiopia (ranked 32nd on WWL 2024), Christian children and youth can face lower test scores, bullying by peers and teachers, being humiliated by teachers in class and peers ostracization. Read more about what this looks like in [Pathways \(un\)locked: 2023 Children and Youth Interim Update](#).

⁴ See: [A Generation at Risk](#), September 2022, p.6, available at: https://www.opendoors.org/Childrens_Report

2. Gender-specific

Violence in India is highlighted as a trend for WWL 2024. How can we consider gender specific religious persecution in this context?

Sexual violence hit headlines in India when a video went viral showing two naked women paraded by a mob in Manipur, allegedly stripped and gang raped ([BBC News, 20 July 2023](#)). Globally, sexual violence is used as a tool for religious persecution in the vast majority of countries; data used for the 2023 gender report indicated that this was a risk facing Christian women in 86% of WWL countries. Conflict-related sexual violence has also been raised as a topic of national and international concern, due to factors such as the prevalence of abuse and how sexual violence has been used as a conflict strategy by some actors; and other factors that contravene international law.⁵

Religious persecution can be intertwined with conflict dynamics in a myriad of ways; religious identity has the potential to make already marginalized communities especially vulnerable to violence ([Religious Freedom Institute, January 2020](#)).

This intertwining of sexual violence, religious identity and conflict can be seen in what has happened in Manipur in 2023. The conflict started as an ethnic conflict but quickly developed a strong religious emphasis. The underlying systems of religious intolerance and gender inequality created particular vulnerabilities for Christian women within the Manipur context.

According to Open Doors' sources, Christian women have been sexually attacked in the midst of the violence. While some have reported their assaults, many have not registered it with the police due to shame or fear of reprisal. Furthermore, the police have not intervened to protect these women and there have been deliberate delays in police investigations; in two reported cases Christian women have been handed to violent mobs by the police themselves.

The effects of sexual violence can ripple outwards; the impact of persecution can last long after the initial event. The two women in the initial viral video are reported as saying: "I was treated like an animal. It was hard enough to live with that trauma, but then two months later when the video of the attack went viral, I almost lost all hope to continue living." And, "I find it hard to face other people, even in my own community. My pride is gone. I will never be the same again." They have both had to leave their homes and go into hiding ([Forbes, 22 November 2023](#)).

Gender-specific religious persecution (GSRP) research has reported on how dynamics such as honor and shame can amplify the specific persecution that men and women face.⁶ When considering WWL trends such as rising violence in India, it is important to recognize not only the

⁵ For full discussion, see: Policy Paper – A theory of change for addressing conflict-related sexual violence, [UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, 28 November 2022, available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-sexual-violence-in-conflict-initiative-strategy/a-theory-of-change-for-addressing-conflict-related-sexual-violence#conceptualising-conflict-related-sexual-violence](#).

⁶ See, for instance: [Invisible - The Gender Report 2022](#), Open Doors, 1 March 2022, p.7, available at: <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/gender-persecution/The-Gender-Report-2022-DIGITAL-PDF.pdf>.

gender-specific shape that this can take, but also its enduring consequences. This is, of course, not restricted to India. On the Asian continent, the situation in Myanmar is very worrying. In many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, men and women, boys and girls, suffer from extreme forms of violence.

3. IDPs and refugees

In light of considerable forced displacement across the world in 2023, how does religious persecution impact the lives of IDPs and refugees?

At the end of 2022, in the countries scoring at least high levels of persecution (41 or more points for WWL 2024), 23.4 million Christians were internally displaced because of 'conflict and violence'. Because much of this violence is related to direct targeting of Christians or to extra vulnerability of Christians, we consider these Christians as 'persecuted Christians'. However, because the war in Ukraine is not faith-related, the totals for Ukraine need to be subtracted: 5.1 million Christians. This makes a total of 18.3 million 'persecuted Christian IDPs'. In addition to the above, there were 7.0 million Christian refugees. With a correction again made for Ukraine (subtracted 4.9 million), this gives a total of 3.5 million 'persecuted Christian refugees'.⁷

It follows, therefore, that at the end of 2022 there were in total 21.8 million forcibly displaced 'persecuted Christians' in the countries with at least high levels of persecution. 'Persecution' can be targeted persecution or 'persecution by convenience' (meaning: extra vulnerability for Christians or Christians considered soft targets).

The role of religion in violent attacks and forced migration is becoming increasingly visible around the world. In Nigeria for example, multiple radical Islamic groups such as Boko Haram, ISWAP and Fulani militants target Christians, resulting in the displacement of millions of Christians and other citizens both internally and in neighboring countries.

Either religious persecution by itself or in combination with multiple layers of pressure— such as ethnic tensions or economic insecurities – can push a person past a tipping point where they feel that there is no other option than to leave their home. Such pressures may build up over many years, or overnight. There is a great variety of scenarios which cause forced displacement in the context of religious persecution. Christians fleeing an attack on their community, for example, have a vastly different experience to a Christian convert who decides one night that the daily pressure faced from family members has finally become too much to bear.

It is evident that in some contexts, Christians are persecuted with the express aim of displacing them. Speaking about radical Islamic strategy, a regional expert shared: "They don't just attack, they attack in order to uproot." However, it should be noted that displacement may also be an

⁷ Sources used: IDMC, [2023 Global Report on Internal Displacement](#) and [UNHCR, Global Trends Report](#), June 2023. The numbers for forcibly displaced Christians have been derived by World Watch Research from these sources in combination with the World Christian Database (Editors: Johnson T M, Zurlo G A, Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed March 2023). These numbers are estimates.

unintended outcome; for instance, when security forces clash with radical Islamic groups forcing Christians and other civilians to flee for safety.

Christians do not leave persecution behind when they flee. Being a Christian can continue to expose them as a target, threat, or person of perceived lesser worth. The most common dangers that they face in displacement settings are physical insecurity, sexual abuse and psychological violence.

The three-year report of the [Observatory of Religious Freedom in Africa](#) (ORFA, February 2023)⁸ highlights the number of people killed or abducted in Nigeria by Boko Haram, ISWAP, Fulani militants and different bandit groups. Many of the victims were Christians killed or abducted during attacks on their communities, often during the farming season. Evidently, those attacks led to high numbers of displacement, often for prolonged periods of time, if not permanently.

Further in-depth research is required in order to understand how religion impacts the experience of Christians once in the context of displacement.

Textbox: Compounded increase in Christian suffering

It is important to realize that in many situations of forced displacement, the pressure points for Children and youth-specific persecution and Gender-specific religious persecution become intensified. For instance, school education for displaced children and youth now becomes simply inaccessible. Women and girls now become more vulnerable for sexual assault or exploitation. Men and boys now become more vulnerable for physical assault, including killing. In each case, it depends on the location to which the Christians are displaced. Sometimes this is a location which is as prone to persecution as the place they have come from, although the form of persecution may differ. At other times, they may end up in a seemingly more secure situation but still be easy prey for human predators or criminal gangs. At other times, the situation is indeed more secure but lack of basic necessities can still be a source of severe distress.

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⁸ Full link: <https://orfa.africa/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/230901-ORFA-Killings-and-Abductions-in-Nigeria-2019-2022.pdf>

10. WWL 2024: Audit Statement from IIRF



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Audit Statement

on the outcomes of the Open Doors World Watch List 2024

Wednesday, 17 January, 2024

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

The 2024 edition of the World Watch List (WWL), audited by the International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF), attests to the continued adherence to quality standards by the World Watch Research team, upholding the precedent set in previous years.

Conducted in two parts, the audit first examined the correct application of the WWL methodology. The findings revealed that the WWL 2024 complies with all methodological requirements, drawing from diverse sources and appropriately substantiating conclusions. The clarity regarding the engines of persecution used for analyzing different scenarios was crucial to the analysis of sources used and the scoring of the WWL questionnaire. The scoring also provided a valid and accurate reflection of the reality on the ground. The IIRF team of auditors observes that scores are consistent with past practices in the countries evaluated but are also adjusted based on contemporary changes identified by the sources.

The second part of the audit assessed whether the scores and write-ups accurately portrayed the country situations based on auditor knowledge and experience. The overall conclusion is that WWL 2024 offers a precise, well-balanced, and detailed overview of discrimination and persecution of Christians worldwide. Among the contributions of the auditors, it is noteworthy that they recognized the reliability and accuracy of the information. The facts detailed in the reports align with their knowledge of the country, underlining the credibility and thoroughness of the scores.

The IIRF audit team comprised six esteemed academics with diverse backgrounds and nationalities, each possessing active expertise in religious freedom in their audited countries or regions.

Carefully selecting six countries from the WWL Top 50, none of which had undergone previous audits, ensured a comprehensive evaluation. The audit encompassed the work of all World Watch Research persecution analysts.

Audit materials included final questionnaires (including underlying questionnaires by external experts, field researchers and field contributors individually or through focus groups), accompanying country dossiers, and additional information provided by World Watch Research. Any other statements, documents, or interpretations from Open Doors International or its affiliates related to the WWL 2024 publication were outside the audit's scope.

A comprehensive audit report, with recommendations for potential improvements, has been submitted to World Watch Research and will be discussed with the persecution analysts.



Dr. Dennis P. Petri

International Director of the IIRF

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