
World Watch Research

Palestinian Territories: Persecution Dynamics

February 2025



OpenDoors

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

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World Watch List 2025 – Top 50

Rank	Country	Private life	Family life	Community life	National life	Church life	Violence	Total Score WWL 2025	Total Score WWL 2024	Total Score WWL 2023	Total Score WWL 2022	Total Score WWL 2021
1	North Korea	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	14.4	98	96	98	96	94
2	Somalia	16.5	16.7	16.6	16.6	16.7	11.1	94	93	92	91	92
3	Yemen	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	10.6	94	89	89	88	87
4	Libya	16.0	16.2	15.9	16.2	16.4	10.6	91	91	88	91	92
5	Sudan	14.1	14.2	15.5	14.9	15.3	16.1	90	87	83	79	79
6	Eritrea	14.6	14.9	15.5	15.9	15.9	12.2	89	89	89	88	88
7	Nigeria	13.5	13.9	14.6	14.9	14.5	16.7	88	88	88	87	85
8	Pakistan	13.6	13.9	15.0	15.0	12.9	16.7	87	87	86	87	88
9	Iran	15.0	14.6	13.5	15.9	16.5	10.9	86	86	86	85	86
10	Afghanistan	15.6	15.9	15.9	16.4	16.7	5.0	85	84	84	98	94
11	India	12.2	12.9	13.3	14.9	13.9	16.5	84	83	82	82	83
12	Saudi Arabia	15.2	15.3	14.8	15.8	16.6	3.3	81	81	80	81	78
13	Myanmar	12.6	11.1	13.5	14.1	12.9	16.5	81	79	80	79	74
14	Mali	11.1	10.1	14.7	13.0	15.2	15.6	80	79	76	70	67
15	China	13.2	10.1	12.8	14.6	16.1	11.1	78	78	77	76	74
16	Maldives	15.6	15.3	13.7	15.8	16.5	0.7	78	78	77	77	77
17	Iraq	14.2	14.4	14.3	14.8	13.9	6.1	78	79	76	78	82
18	Syria	13.5	14.4	13.9	14.4	14.3	7.0	78	81	80	78	81
19	Algeria	14.7	14.3	11.5	14.7	16.0	6.3	77	79	73	71	70
20	Burkina Faso	11.7	9.7	13.2	11.5	14.0	15.6	76	75	71	68	67
21	Morocco	13.2	13.8	11.6	12.9	14.3	8.3	74	71	69	69	67
22	Laos	11.8	10.7	13.5	14.1	13.9	9.8	74	75	68	69	71
23	Mauritania	14.6	14.2	13.8	14.2	14.2	2.8	74	72	72	70	71
24	Bangladesh	12.4	10.6	12.7	11.3	10.4	16.1	74	71	69	68	67
25	Uzbekistan	14.6	12.7	13.5	12.4	15.5	4.4	73	71	71	71	71
26	Cuba	13.2	8.5	13.9	13.3	15.1	9.1	73	73	70	66	62
27	CAR	10.3	8.6	13.9	9.6	14.0	15.6	72	70	70	68	66
28	Niger	9.4	9.6	14.5	7.7	14.6	15.7	72	70	70	68	62

Rank	Country	Private life	Family life	Community life	National life	Church life	Violence	Total Score WWL 2025	Total Score WWL 2024	Total Score WWL 2023	Total Score WWL 2022	Total Score WWL 2021
29	Turkmenistan	14.3	12.3	13.6	13.9	15.3	1.5	71	70	70	69	70
30	Nicaragua	12.4	7.6	13.7	13.3	14.1	9.6	71	70	65	56	51
31	Mexico	11.7	9.0	12.5	11.8	11.0	14.6	71	68	67	65	64
32	Oman	14.5	14.1	10.9	13.8	14.1	3.0	70	69	65	66	63
33	Ethiopia	9.9	9.7	12.6	10.4	12.1	15.6	70	69	66	66	65
34	Tunisia	12.4	13.2	10.1	12.6	13.8	8.1	70	69	67	66	67
35	DRC	8.0	7.9	12.6	10.8	14.5	16.1	70	67	67	66	64
36	Bhutan	13.2	13.2	12.3	14.1	14.2	2.2	69	68	66	67	64
37	Mozambique	9.3	8.5	13.9	8.4	12.5	15.9	68	68	68	65	63
38	Kazakhstan	13.3	11.6	12.2	12.8	14.2	4.3	68	65	65	64	64
39	Tajikistan	14.1	12.7	12.7	13.2	13.7	1.9	68	66	66	65	66
40	Egypt	12.7	13.7	12.1	12.4	10.9	6.3	68	68	68	71	75
41	Qatar	14.2	14.2	10.5	13.2	14.4	0.7	67	67	68	74	67
42	Comoros	12.7	14.0	11.2	12.4	14.2	2.6	67	66	66	63	62
43	Cameroon	8.8	7.6	12.6	8.4	13.1	16.1	67	66	65	65	64
44	Vietnam	10.8	9.5	12.2	14.1	14.1	5.9	67	68	70	71	72
45	Turkey	13.0	11.7	11.7	13.2	11.5	5.4	67	64	66	65	69
46	Colombia	11.0	7.9	12.7	11.5	10.5	12.6	66	68	71	68	67
47	Kyrgyzstan	13.5	10.3	11.7	11.4	12.4	6.9	66	59	59	58	58
48	Brunei	14.8	14.8	10.8	10.8	14.0	0.6	66	66	65	64	64
49	Chad	11.0	8.2	10.2	9.9	10.3	15.9	65	61	58	55	53
50	Jordan	12.9	14.3	10.4	12.2	12.8	2.4	65	65	65	66	64

World Watch List 2025 – Ranks 51-78

Rank	Country	Private life	Family life	Community life	National life	Church life	Violence	Total Score WWL 2025	Total Score WWL 2024	Total Score WWL 2023	Total Score WWL 2022	Total Score WWL 2021
51	Malaysia	12.8	13.7	11.7	12.4	11.2	3.0	65	64	66	63	63
52	Azerbaijan	13.3	10.2	9.6	12.2	13.7	5.6	65	60	59	60	56
53	Kenya	10.3	9.2	11.4	8.0	11.5	13.9	64	63	64	63	62
54	Nepal	12.2	10.6	9.5	12.6	12.3	5.9	63	62	61	64	66
55	Tanzania	9.3	10.8	10.3	8.6	8.7	15.4	63	62	63	61	58
56	Russian Federation	12.7	7.9	10.7	13.1	14.1	4.4	63	58	57	56	57
57	Djibouti	12.3	12.6	12.7	10.1	12.1	1.7	61	61	60	59	56
58	Kuwait	13.1	13.6	9.4	12.0	12.2	0.9	61	61	64	64	63
59	Indonesia	10.9	11.9	10.9	11.6	10.2	5.7	61	66	68	68	63
60	UAE	13.3	13.4	9.5	11.3	12.8	0.6	61	61	62	62	62
61	Sri Lanka	12.7	8.7	11.5	11.5	8.5	7.6	60	60	57	63	62
62	Palestinian Territories	13.1	13.3	10.3	10.7	12.1	0.2	60	60	60	59	58
63	Burundi	7.6	7.8	9.4	9.8	9.7	14.6	59	57	55	52	48
64	Rwanda	9.4	7.7	9.0	10.4	12.1	9.4	58	58	57	50	42
65	Honduras	7.9	4.7	11.7	7.3	9.9	13.1	55	55	53	48	46
66	Togo	9.2	6.7	10.4	7.1	11.5	9.3	54	52	49	44	43
67	Bahrain	12.0	13.2	8.6	11.3	8.5	0.6	54	55	55	57	56
68	Guinea	10.3	7.5	8.3	8.3	10.5	8.9	54	52	48	43	47
69	Ukraine	6.8	5.0	7.8	12.5	13.5	7.2	53	44	37	37	34
70	Angola	6.8	6.7	8.1	11.5	11.4	8.3	53	52	52	51	46
71	Venezuela	6.3	4.4	11.1	10.0	10.8	9.6	52	53	56	51	39
72	Uganda	8.1	5.0	7.4	6.7	8.8	16.1	52	52	51	48	47
73	Ivory Coast	12.0	6.5	8.7	5.9	8.0	9.6	51	44	44	42	42
74	Lebanon	11.5	10.1	7.0	6.2	6.7	7.2	49	48	40	35	34
75	Gambia	8.3	8.2	8.9	8.8	8.9	4.4	48	47	44	44	43
76	South Sudan	5.7	4.4	7.0	6.3	8.1	15.6	47	46	46	43	43

Rank	Country	Private life	Family life	Community life	National life	Church life	Violence	Total Score WWL 2025	Total Score WWL 2024	Total Score WWL 2023	Total Score WWL 2022	Total Score WWL 2021
77	Belarus	9.9	3.7	5.0	10.8	14.1	3.1	47	46	43	33	30
78	Philippines	9.2	6.6	6.6	6.1	5.7	8.5	43	40	32	34	26

Copyright, sources and definitions

World Watch Research has divided up the previously named Full Country Dossier into two separate documents:

- [Background country information](#) (published annually in summer)
- [Persecution dynamics](#) (published annually in January/February).

These documents are the property of World Watch Research (WWR), the research department of Open Doors International. They include data and analysis based around Open Doors World Watch List (WWL) and statistical information on world religions, Christian denominations and people groups prepared by the World Christian Database (WCD). Highlighted links in the text can be found written out in full at the end of each document under the heading “External links”. These documents may be used and distributed free of charge, but please always acknowledge the source as: © Open Doors International.

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.

The latest update of WWL Methodology can be found on the research pages of the Open Doors website: <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/wwl-documentation/>.

Reporting period

The WWL 2025 reporting period was 1 October 2023 - 30 September 2024.

Brief country details

Palestinian Territories: Population (UN estimate for 2024)	Christians	Chr%
5,495,000	42,600	0.8

Zurlo G A and Johnson T M, eds., World Christian Database, Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed May 2024

Palestinian Territories: Religious context	Number of adherents	%
Christians	42,600	0.8
Muslim	4,431,000	80.6
Hindu	0	0.0
Buddhist	0	0.0
Ethnic religionist	0	0.0
Jewish	726,000	13.2
Bahai	2,800	0.1
Atheist	5,000	0.1
Agnostic	287,000	5.2
Other	0	0.0
<i>OTHER includes Chinese folk, New religionist, Sikh, Spiritist, Taoist, Confucianist, Jain, Shintoist, Zoroastrian.</i>		

Zurlo G A and Johnson T M, eds., World Christian Database, Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed May 2024

Map of country



As described by [101 Vizualizing Palestine: The 1995 Oslo II Accord](#) divided the Palestinian West Bank into three administrative zones:

- Area A (18%), where the Palestinian Authority (PA) administers civil and security matters in the eight cities (with some surrounding villages) marked on the map.
- Area B (22%), where the PA administers only civil matters.
- Area C (60%) where Israel maintains full control. Area C includes all Israeli settlements and two thirds of the West Bank’s fertile agricultural land.

While Area C is a continuous territory, Areas A and B are fragmented into 166 separate enclaves. In spite of the breakdown of the Oslo process, Areas A, B and C remain in force today.

Dominant persecution engines and drivers

Palestinian Territories:	
Main Persecution engines	Main drivers
Islamic oppression	One's own (extended) family, Government officials, Ethnic group leaders, Non-Christian religious leaders, Violent religious groups, Citizens (people from the broader society), including mobs
Religious nationalism	Government officials, Citizens (people from the broader society), including mobs
Ethno-religious hostility	Government officials, Citizens (people from the broader society), including mobs
Clan oppression	Ethnic group leaders, Citizens (people from the broader society), including mobs, One's own (extended) family
Dictatorial paranoia	Government officials

Engines and Drivers are listed in order of strength. Only Very strong / Strong / Medium are shown here.

Brief description of the persecution situation

The outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war in October 2023 has caused tremendous harm to the small Christian community in Gaza, as well as significantly increasing pressure in the West Bank. Until the ceasefire was reached in January 2025, more than thirty Christians in Gaza had lost their lives and most have lost homes and property. In the West Bank, increased tensions have worsened the already existing limitations imposed by the Israeli authorities, which is causing many economic and social difficulties. For instance, all Christian communities have been struggling for years with the imposed travel restrictions and those have further increased following the outbreak of the war. Many Christian families have moved abroad or are trying to leave; which is endangering the vitality of the Christian communities.

Converts from Islam to Christianity bear the brunt of persecution from their families and it is difficult for them to connect to existing churches. The influence of radical Islamic ideology is growing but, at the same time, more and more young people can be found questioning (radical) Islam on social media.

Historical churches have to be diplomatic in their engagement with the Muslim community. Harassment of church leaders and local Christians by radical Jewish elements has also increased in recent years. Christians not affiliated with the main historical churches sometimes face opposition from the latter concerning theological issues and the problem of 'sheep stealing'. However, these kind of problems also occur between non-traditional church groups. Before the war which began in October 2023, Gaza was ruled by Islamist Hamas. Their current influence in Gaza is unclear. The West Bank is governed by the more moderate Fatah. At least 60% of the West Bank is under full Israeli control. The level of persecution in the two areas is different. Within the Gazan community, where the hostility towards Christians is more intense, Islamic militants and conservative Islamic society play a more significant role than in the West Bank.

Specific examples of violations of rights in the reporting period

In both the West Bank and Gaza, converts from Islam to Christianity remain vulnerable to both family and state pressure, with the pressure being extreme within the Gazan community. During the WWL 2025 reporting period, all Christians in Gaza, both converts from Islam to Christianity and those belonging to the historical Christian communities, have suffered immensely because of the Israel-Hamas war, with at least 33 Christian deaths caused by the war which began in October 2023. Tensions also increased in the West Bank, making it more difficult for daily life as Christians, with several families feeling forced to move abroad.

Specific examples of positive developments

Despite severe hardship during the Israel-Hamas war, both the Roman Catholic Church and the Greek Orthodox Church in Gaza have been able to contribute to assistance given to the local community, helping both Muslim and Christian residents.

The Greek Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church are the main denominations within the West Bank and Gaza, followed by the Greek Catholic (Melkite) Church. There are also Lutheran and Anglican churches present, as well as several (independent) evangelical churches. Jerusalem and Bethlehem are the main centers of Palestinian Christianity, while Ramallah also hosts a number of churches and religious institutions. There are also active churches in other areas, but the number of Christians in these areas is low. A specific example of a religious educational institution serving wider Middle East Protestants is Bethlehem Bible College, which in international Protestant circles is known (among other things) for its biennial "[Christ at the Checkpoint](#)" conferences (Bethlehem Bible College, last accessed 10 February 2025).

Christian communities and how they are affected

Communities of expatriate Christians: Expatriate Christians are not involuntarily isolated in the Palestinian Territories and are hence not scored as a separate category in WWL analysis.

Historical Christian communities: The two largest denominations in this category are the Greek Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church. They are officially registered and have several congregations in the West Bank and one each in Gaza. In Gaza, Christians from these churches are vulnerable to conversion to Islam: They often feel trapped, cannot stand the threats and are sometimes offered allurements such as housing, wives, jobs or diplomas. In the West Bank, they have the freedom to worship, as long as they do not proselytize Muslims. These churches have a significant influence in

society. Both the Roman Catholics as well as the Greek Orthodox run private schools, which are also attended by many Muslims. However, religious education classes are held separately.

Converts to Christianity: Converts from a Muslim background definitely face the most severe persecution of all types of Christianity. In the West Bank they face threats and are put under great pressure to give up their new faith, starting at the family level. In Gaza, their situation is so dangerous that they live their Christian faith in utmost secrecy. Nevertheless, evidence suggests that the number of converts from Islam is growing slowly.

Non-traditional Christian communities: There are several Evangelical churches in the West Bank and one Baptist church in Gaza. Leaders of the historical Christian communities often see the presence of Evangelical churches as a threat. In November 2019, the Palestinian Authority [officially recognized](#) the Council of Local Evangelical Churches (Christian Today, 12 November 2019). Cross-denominational "church-changers" are also included in this category. When Christians change their church affiliation (e.g. from a historical to a non-traditional Protestant church) this regularly causes trouble with their families. Depending on the family, they experience pressure from family members to return to their former denomination.

Areas where Christians face most difficulties

Both Ramallah and the Bethlehem area are known to be more open and less Islamically conservative than the Nablus area in the north and the Hebron area in the south of the West Bank. Converts from Islam to Christianity often relocate to the Ramallah and Bethlehem areas. Before the Israel-Hamas war which started in October 2023, pressure from Islamic society on Christians was high - and even higher for converts from Islam to Christianity. It is currently too early to draw conclusions about the effects of the war in this regard. It is clear, though, that the war and destruction of infrastructure has made life almost unlivable in Gaza.

Position on the World Watch List

Palestinian Territories: World Watch List	Points	WWL Rank
WWL 2025	60	62
WWL 2024	60	60
WWL 2023	60	57
WWL 2022	59	57
WWL 2021	58	56

In WWL 2025, the score remained the same as in WWL 2024. There was a fall in the violence score from 0.9 points to 0.2 which offset the rise in pressure in the *Community sphere of life*. Under the shadow of the Israeli-Hamas war which began in October 2023, there has been less interest in targeting Christians. In Gaza, the war turned life for Christians into severe hardship, with at least 33 Christians being killed through Israeli attacks and bringing the community on the brink of extinction. In the West Bank, the already existing limitations imposed by the Israeli authorities have been tightened and all

Christian communities face travel restrictions which have further increased following the outbreak of the war. Many Christian families have moved abroad or are trying to leave. Although the Israel-Hamas war has severely impacted the Christian community, especially in Gaza, the violence stemming from the war is not deemed to be primarily faith-related and as such has not caused an increase in score.

Persecution engines

Palestinian Territories: Persecution engines	Abbreviation	Level of influence
Islamic oppression	IO	Strong
Religious nationalism	RN	Medium
Ethno-religious hostility	ERH	Medium
Clan oppression	CO	Medium
Christian denominational protectionism	CDP	Weak
Communist and post-Communist oppression	CPCO	Not at all
Secular intolerance	SI	Not at all
Dictatorial paranoia	DPA	Medium
Organized corruption and crime	OCC	Weak

The scale for the level of influence of Persecution engines in society is: Not at all / Very weak / Weak / Medium / Strong / Very strong. For more information see WWL Methodology.

Islamic oppression (Strong) / Clan oppression (Medium)

Generally speaking, Christians are affected by *Islamic oppression* throughout the Palestinian Territories, although there is noticeably more pressure in Gaza than in the West Bank, because of the presence of radical Islamic movements there. In addition, there is a continuing influence and enforcement of age-old norms and values. In the Palestinian Territories this is very much mixed with Islam and especially affects converts from Islam. As in the rest of the Middle East, religion is connected to family identity. Therefore, leaving Islam is interpreted as betraying one's family. In general, families put strong social pressure on converts to make them return to Islam, leave the region or to be silent about their new faith. In many cases, converts are [alienated from their families](#) as a result of their faith (Christianity in the Middle East, April 2014).

Palestinian society is conservative, with tribalism playing an important role as society is often clan-structured. This directly affects the possibilities for Muslims to turn to Christianity. Turning away from Islam is not only seen as a religious switching of loyalties, but also as a switch towards a new identity. Conversion is seen as turning one's back on one's own (extended) family and on the values one has been raised with. Conversion is thus an act of disrespect in a society in which family honor is a key element.

Religious nationalism - Jewish (Medium) / Ethno-religious hostility (Medium)

Palestinian Christians report that it is Israel's control of the West Bank and current war on Gaza, which causes most pressure in their lives. This pressure comes: i) from Israel's external control - i.e. of all borders, combined with a permit system for entering Israel and for travelling between Gaza and the West Bank, thus limiting the possibility of visiting holy places in Jerusalem, for example; and ii) from Israel's internal control of approximately 60% of the West Bank (territories belonging to Area C under the Oslo accords) - an area which separates all the regions controlled by the Palestinian Authority. Internal checkpoints within the West Bank are used to control the area and to protect the Israeli settlements within the West Bank. This control creates a sense of insecurity, limits economical development and limits the freedom of movement, thus isolating the Christian communities within the West Bank.

Without hope for a political solution, many Christians do not see a future for themselves in the Palestinian Territories and emigrate to other parts of the world. The Israeli control of the West Bank is linked to the view that sees the West Bank as part of the biblical Israel belonging to Jews only. The general feeling among non-Jews (including Palestinian Christians) is that they are being allowed no space to live a dignified life in the West Bank.

Pressure from these engines has increased since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war in October 2023. Especially the West Bank saw a strong increase in the number of violent incidents in which Israeli settlers living in the West Bank attacked Palestinians and their properties. The attackers are usually protected by the Israeli armed forces.

Dictatorial paranoia (Medium)

Dictatorial paranoia is connected to plain greed and the safeguarding of the interests of a small group. Nepotism is widespread within clan-based Palestinian society and people with connections to those in power are most of the time well-off. Christians have traditionally been involved with Fatah and the nationalist movement. Most Christians support the factions in their struggle against the Israeli authorities and face no major difficulties. Nevertheless, the fact that no elections have taken place for many years, the democratic legitimacy of the PA government is low.

Both Fatah and Hamas try to maintain power by all means necessary. Freedom of expression and therefore the freedom of religion is limited; if church leaders criticize the authorities or their Islamic rule, it can have negative consequences, especially in Gaza. Christians also face the pressure of Israeli government control; for example, church leaders in Jerusalem have to operate carefully in order not to lose privileges such as easy access to obtaining visas and permits.

Drivers of persecution

Palestinian Territories: Drivers of Persecution	IO	RN	ERH	CO	CDP	CPCO	SI	DPA	OCC
	STRONG	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	WEAK			MEDIUM	
Government officials	Medium	Strong	Strong					Medium	
Ethnic group leaders	Medium			Medium					
Non-Christian religious leaders	Medium								
Religious leaders of other churches					Weak				
Violent religious groups	Medium								
Citizens (people from the broader society), including mobs	Medium	Strong	Strong	Medium					
One's own (extended) family	Strong			Medium					

The scale for the level of influence of Drivers of persecution in society is: Not at all / Very weak / Weak / Medium / Strong / Very strong. For more information see WWL Methodology.

Drivers of Islamic oppression

- **Extended family (Strong):** Members of a convert's (extended) family will put a lot of pressure on a convert to give up the Christian faith. Converts face being expelled and harassed by their families. The situation for converts in Gaza is even worse, as the Christian community is tiny and there have been hardly any places to hide.

- **Government officials (Medium):** Both the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and Hamas in the Gaza Strip enforce Islamic rule in their specific jurisdictions. Converts face the worst pressure, above all in the Gaza Strip. Other Christians, like the historical Christian communities, face less difficulties, especially in the West Bank, where the Palestinian Authority tries to include the Christian community in their struggle against the Israeli government.
- **Ethnic group leaders (Medium):** Family heads are likely to put pressure on family members to act against a convert family member.
- **Non-Christian religious leaders (Medium):** Radical imams sometimes use hate-speech against Christians.
- **Violent religious groups (Medium):** Groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad are active in the Gaza Strip and a source of danger for Christians, particularly for converts from Islam to Christianity.
- **Citizens (people from the broader society), including mobs (Medium):** As the number of Palestinian Christians is very small (0.8% according to WCD 2024 estimates) compared to the Muslim majority, the biggest pressure is the subtle pressure from normal citizens. This can be seen, for instance, in the dress rules for women, which are enforced via disapproving looks or comments. Palestinian society is conservative, with more liberty in the cities of Bethlehem and Ramallah, compared to the rural areas and the cities of Nablus and Hebron. Most Christians are part of the historical Christian communities. They have to operate carefully, as they are regarded by Muslim society as being 'different'. One country researcher stated: "The majority eats the minority here. The Christians isolate themselves, out of fear of upsetting society in one way or another".

Drivers of Religious nationalism / Ethno-religious hostility - Jewish

- **Government officials (Strong) / Citizens (Strong):** Palestinian Christians mostly face pressure from Israeli government officials, above all the Israeli security forces, in their day-to-day life. Confrontations with Israeli inhabitants of the West Bank, the settlers, can also be intimidating. Both security forces and settlers are well-armed, but the latter are known to be more zealous than the ordinary Israeli soldier. Settler violence, often supported by the Israeli army, significantly increased following the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war in October 2023.

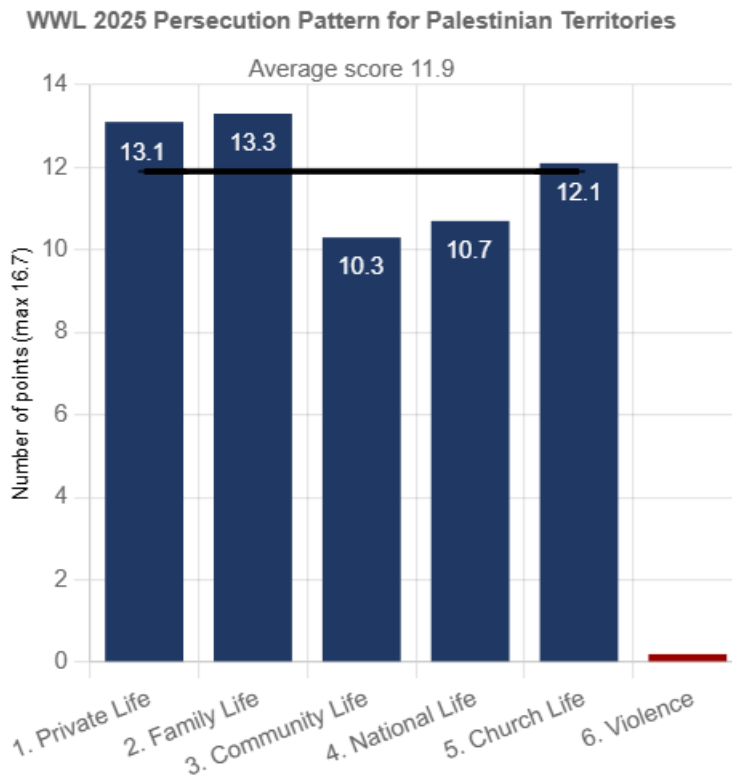
Drivers of Clan oppression

- **Extended family (Medium):** Family members persecute converts because they have violated tribal customs, e.g. the family honor.
- **Citizens (people from broader society), including mobs (Medium):** Tribalism is mostly driven by society in general, but it is also supported by the governing authorities when they give tribal customs and 'reconciliation meetings' priority over codified laws and the rule of law. In this system, minorities such as Christians are mostly at a [disadvantage](#) (Formal and informal justice in Palestine, in: Études rurales, 184/2009, 169-184).
- **Ethnic group leaders (Medium):** Family heads feel the need to protect the honor of the wider family. Hence, they are likely to put pressure on family members to act against a family member who converts.

Drivers of Dictatorial paranoia

- Government officials (Medium):** Palestinian government officials and other people connected to the Palestinian Authority and Hamas are at times a source of pressure. Criticizing the authorities or their Islamic rule can have negative consequences, especially in Gaza. Christians also face pressure from the Israeli government with church leaders in Jerusalem having to operate carefully in order not to lose visa and permit rights.

The Persecution pattern



The WWL 2025 Persecution pattern for the Palestinian Territories shows:

- The average pressure on Christians is at a very high level (11.9 points), increasing very slightly from 11.8 points in WWL 2024. The reason for this very high score is the pressure experienced by converts, particularly in the *Private* and *Family spheres of life*.
- Although all *spheres of life* show high or very high levels of pressure, pressure is highest in the *Family, Private* and *Church spheres*. The pressure in the *Private* and *Family sphere* reflects the difficulties converts face if they want to have a Christian marriage or funeral, for example. The pressure in the *Church sphere* shows the limitations the churches experience when it comes to evangelizing and integrating converts.
- The score for violence decreased from 0.9 points in WWL 2024 to 0.2 points in WWL 2025. The decrease was caused by a lower number of reported incidents - see Section *Violence* below for details.

Pressure in the 5 spheres of life

In each of the five spheres of life discussed below, four questions have been selected from the WWL 2025 questionnaire for brief commentary and explanation. The selection usually (but not always) reflects the highest scoring elements. In some cases, an additional paragraph per sphere is included to give further information deemed important. To see how individual questions are scored on a scale of 0-4 points, please see the “WWL Scoring example” in the WWL Methodology, available at: <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/wwl-documentation/>.

Pressure in Block 1 / Private sphere

Block 1.4: It has been risky for Christians to reveal their faith in written forms of personal expression (including expressions in blogs and Facebook etc.). (3.50 points)

In the West Bank, Christians - and even some converts from Islam to Christianity - share Christian messages on social media. Among the Gazan community, Christians from the historical Christian communities will do the same, but for converts, discussing their new faith is impossible. However, all Christians have to be careful when touching upon issues related to Islamic beliefs. Comments on social media opposing Islam have in recent years led to mob violence, arrests and detention.

Block 1.1: Conversion has been opposed, forbidden, or punishable, including conversion from one type of Christianity to another. (3.25 points)

Both converts from Islam and cross-denominational “church-changers” experience pressure in this sphere of life. In the West Bank, converts from Islam can in some places more or less openly practice their faith, but the situation remains difficult overall. Inside the Gazan community, the situation for Christians with a Muslim background is very serious. Giving any impression to those around them that they might be Christian can have dire consequences.

Block 1.3: It has been dangerous to privately own or keep Christian materials. (3.25 points)

Converts from Islam to Christianity have to be careful when owning a Bible or other Christian materials. It might reveal their new faith to their family members or be interpreted as an attempt to proselytize. This is even more the case for converts within the Gazan community. However, technical solutions like Bible apps and online Christian materials offer possibilities to avoid family pressure.

Block 1.7: It has been risky for Christians to speak about their faith with immediate family members. (3.25 points)

Family members often find it difficult to accept that a convert has left Islam, especially since this is closely related to concepts such as family honor. Family members might respond violently and converts are often banished or placed under pressure to recant their new faith. So even if their conversion is known, speaking about their faith with immediate family members remains risky. This is also the case, because it can be interpreted as proselytizing and the authorities will act against them (especially within the Gazan community).

Block 1 - Additional information

Christians belonging to the historical and non-traditional churches have freedom to practice their faith privately, as long as they do not evangelize Muslims. The display of Christian symbols (e.g. crosses) is particularly dangerous for converts.

Pressure in Block 2 / Family sphere

Block 2.1: Babies and children of Christians have automatically been registered under the state or majority religion. (3.50 points)

Children of converts from Islam cannot be registered as "Christian", as converts cannot change their religious affiliation on their identity documents.

Block 2.2: Registering the birth, wedding, death, etc. of Christians has been hindered or made impossible. (3.50 points)

Converts from Islam to Christianity struggle to have their Christian marriage officially recognized. Marriages between a Christian man from an historical church and a female convert are not recognized and their children are considered to be born out of wedlock. This can lead to the parents losing the custody over their children if a case arises.

Block 2.4: Christian baptisms have been hindered. (3.25 points)

Baptisms of converts always have to take place in secret, especially within the Gazan community. A baptism is the ultimate sign of leaving Islam for Christianity; its discovery can easily lead to violence from family members and the local community. Hence, recognized churches are often very cautious about baptizing converts.

Block 2.8: Christian children have been pressured into attending anti-Christian or majority religion teaching at any level of education. (3.25 points)

While Christian schoolchildren belonging to the historical and non-traditional communities have their own separate religious classes, even in Gaza, children from converts from Islam to Christianity have to follow Islamic religious education. International schools can be less strict in this regard, but the level of school fees is simply too high for many.

Block 2 - Additional information

If their faith is discovered, converts are put under pressure by their families, especially within the Gazan community but also – to a lesser extent – in the West Bank. The children of known convert parents are likely to be harassed or discriminated against. Children belonging to the historical Christian communities may also be discriminated against in schools in Gaza. Except for converts, most Christians are free to live their Christian convictions within the circle of the family. However, if a Christian husband and father converts to Islam and divorces his Christian wife, their children (if under 18 years of age) would automatically become Muslims. Also, if a Christian married to a Muslim is divorced, he or she would be excluded from having custody of the children. This is explained by the fact that a large part of family law is handled by Sharia law which does not treat Christians on an equal footing with Muslims.

Pressure in Block 3 / Community sphere

Block 3.10: Christians have been discriminated against in public or private employment for faith-related reasons. (3.50 points)

Palestinian society is organized along tribal lines and finding employment is often dependent on family connections. Known converts often lose their social networks and hence their employment. Christian youth are low in number and due to the dire economical circumstances they often struggle to find appropriate employment. However, the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank sometimes applies affirmative action offering government jobs to Christian youth, not least because they are often highly educated.

Block 3.1: Christians have been harassed, threatened or obstructed in their daily lives for faith-related reasons (e.g. for not meeting majority religion or traditional dress codes, beard codes etc.). (3.25 points)

Christianity is often linked to the 'immoral' West and many Christian women feel under pressure to wear clothing with long sleeves, for instance, in order to avoid negative remarks or harassment, although they normally refuse to wear a headscarf. Christian women from a Muslim background are often forced (or feel under pressure) to wear the hijab within their communities. This kind of pressure is particularly high within the Gazan community and in rural areas.

Block 3.7: Christians have been pressured by their community to renounce their faith. (3.25 points)

This can happen to both converts from Islam to Christianity as well as to Christians who change from one church denomination to another (often from a historical denomination to a non-traditional one), although the pressure on converts from Islam to Christianity is usually significantly higher. Even if family members accept a conversion, they often ask the convert not to be public about his or her new faith to protect the family honor. Known converts will often be ostracized and lose their social networks in the local community.

Block 3.5: Christians have been put under pressure to take part in non-Christian religious ceremonies or community events. (2.75 points)

Converts from Islam often feel under pressure to take part in Islamic ceremonies, e.g. praying in the mosque or fasting during Ramadan, in order to keep their new faith secret or preserve the family honor.

Block 3 - Additional information

In Gaza – and in majority Muslim communities in the West Bank – there is pressure on the entire local Christian community. Added to this is the general context of war, ongoing political unrest and the growing influence of radical Islam in the Middle East, especially within the Gazan community.

Pressure in Block 4 / National sphere

Block 4.1: The Constitution (or comparable national or state law) limits freedom of religion as formulated in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (3.75 points)

The Palestinian Basic Law – which functions as a temporary constitution – guarantees the "freedom of belief, worship and the performance of religious functions" under the condition that "public order or public morals are not violated". However, it also states that the official religion is Islam and Sharia is the main source of legislation. One of the consequences of this is the total lack of any official recognition of converts from Islam to Christianity.

Block 4.2: Officials have refused to recognize an individual's conversion as recorded in government administration systems, identify cards (etc.). (3.50 points)

This remains one of the biggest issues for converts from Islam to Christianity. Because they cannot officially change their religious identity, their Christian marriages will not be recognized and Islamic education classes are obligatory for their children at school.

Block 4.4: Christians have been hindered in travelling for faith-related reasons. (3.25 points)

Although not primarily faith-related, Christians experience great difficulties when travelling within the West Bank or to Israel (for further explanation, see above: *Persecution engines/Religious nationalism*). These kind of Israeli restrictions and limitations do not apply to Jewish residents of the West Bank.

Block 4.8: Christians have been hindered in expressing their views or opinions in public. (3.25 points)

Criticizing the authorities is risky for all Palestinians in Gaza, but Christians in particular apply self-censorship in order to avoid problems. The situation in the West Bank is better than within the Gazan community, but openly criticizing the Palestinian Authority (from a Christian perspective) can lead to arrest. In addition, Christians have to be very careful if they want to criticize Islam or Sharia law. Like all other Palestinians, Christians who are openly critical of the Israeli government can easily lose permission to travel to Jerusalem or to work in Israel.

Block 4 - Additional information

Laws in the West Bank generally protect religious freedom, whereas those in the Hamas-controlled areas are restrictive. The authorities sometimes fail to uphold and protect the rights of individual Christians and in some cases Christians – mostly converts – have to flee to a safe place somewhere else in the area. In engaging with the authorities, subtle discrimination is present in the entire Palestinian Territories, especially within the Gazan community, but this is less prevalent in areas with a large Christian population (as in the Bethlehem area). Nevertheless, Christians do have positions within the government. During Ramadan, it is socially unacceptable to consume food in public during the day. As a religious minority (and one which is often identified with the 'Christian' West) embedded in a majority Muslim society, Christians have to be careful in expressing their opinions and are inclined to self-censor. Converts cannot openly interact with the authorities as Christians.

Pressure in Block 5 / Church sphere

Block 5.7: Churches have been hindered from openly integrating converts. (3.75 points)

Converts with a Muslim background cannot officially gather as a congregation nor can they openly join existing churches in Gaza. There is more tolerance in the West Bank, with pressure mainly coming from the community and family members. Existing churches tend to be very cautious about welcoming converts since they try to avoid doing anything which would disturb relations with their Muslim neighbors.

Block 5.14: Openly selling or distributing Bibles (or other Christian materials) has been hindered. (3.50 points)

This is especially true for Gaza, where the only Christian bookshop was closed after its manager was murdered in 2007. (It remains contested whether he was killed because of his Christian activities). Distributing Christian materials, whether for free or for payment, would likely be considered as proselytizing, which is severely opposed by Hamas and other radical groups in Gaza. Bibles and Christian materials can be distributed to the tiny Christian community in Gaza.

Block 5.20: It has been risky for churches or Christian organizations to speak out against instigators of persecution. (3.50 points)

Churches have to act carefully in their relationship with both the Palestinian and Israeli authorities. Criticizing them can have negative consequences.

Block 5.3: Christian communities have been hindered in building or renovating church buildings or in claiming historical religious premises and places of worship which had been taken from them earlier. (3.25 points)

It is impossible for any community of converts to be officially recognized and build a church for themselves. In addition, even pre-war (i.e., before October 2023), it would have been very difficult for any Christian community to build a new church in Gaza. However, on a positive note in the West Bank, the Council of Local Evangelical Churches received official recognition in November 2019. Non-traditional church groups are likely to have more intensive contact with converts than the historical churches.

Block 5 - Additional information

Importing materials (including Christian literature and Bibles) to the West Bank can be problematic at times, especially because of high taxes levied by Israel. Pre-war (i.e., before October 2023), it was especially difficult for Gaza, due to both Israeli control and bureaucracy and confiscation of materials by Islamist Hamas. Within the Palestinian Territories there are some areas of friction between the different Christian denominations. In the 19th and 20th centuries, the main disputes were between the 'old' Greek-Orthodox and the 'new' Roman Catholic Church. Nowadays, it is the non-traditional church groups who are the newcomers and who are received with suspicion by the historical churches. This is partly caused by differing theological views, in particular when it comes to the status of Israel, where the historical church communities see Evangelicals as being too Western or Zionist and more in favor of Israel. Leaders of all church denominations are trying to protect their own flock. Hence, cross-

denominational “church-changers” sometimes experience pressure from their (extended) family or community.

Violence

Violence is defined in WWL Methodology as the deprivation of physical freedom or as bodily harm to Christians or damage to their property. It includes severe threats (mental abuse). The table is based on reported cases as much as possible, but since many incidents go unreported, the numbers must be understood as being minimum figures. The following points should be considered when using the data provided in the Block 6 table:

1. Some incidents go unreported because the Christians involved choose not to speak about the hostility being faced.

Possible reasons for this may be:

- *Doing so would expose them to more attacks. For example, if a family member is killed because of his/her faith, the survivors might decide to keep silent about the circumstances of the killing to avoid provoking any further attacks.*
- *In some circumstances, the reticence to pass on information may be due to the danger of exposure caused by converts returning to their previous faith.*
- *If persecution is related to sexual violence - due to stigma, survivors often do not tell even their closest relatives.*
- *In some cultural settings, if your loved one is killed, you might be under the obligation to take revenge. Christians not wishing to do that, may decide to keep quiet about it.*

2. Other incidents go unreported for the following possible reasons:

- *Some incidents never reach the public consciousness, because no one really knows about it; or the incident is simply not considered worth reporting; or media coverage is deliberately blocked or distorted; or media coverage is not deliberately blocked, but the information somehow gets lost; or the incidents are deliberately not reported widely for security reasons (e.g. for the protection of local church leaders).*
- *In situations where Christians have been discriminated against for many years, armed conflict can make them additionally vulnerable. Christians killed in areas where fighting regularly takes place are unlikely to be reported separately. Examples in recent years have been Sudan, Syria and Myanmar.*
- *Christians who die through the deprivation of basic necessities such as clean water and medical care (due to long-term discrimination) are unlikely to be reported separately. Christians are not always killed directly; they can be so squeezed by regulations and other oppressive factors that they die – not at once, but in the course of years. This often includes the deprivation of basic necessities such as clean water and medical care, or exclusion from government assisted socio-economic development projects. These numbers could be immense.*

Palestinian Territories: Violence scores per Block 6 question in questionnaire	WWL 2025	WWL 2024
6.1 How many Christians have been killed for faith-related reasons (including state sanctioned executions)?	0	0
6.2 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?	0	1
6.3 How many Christians have been detained for faith-related reasons?	0	0

(table continues below)

Palestinian Territories: Violence scores per Block 6 question in questionnaire	WWL 2025	WWL 2024
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?	0	0
6.5 How many Christians have been abducted for faith-related reasons (including Christians missing in a persecution context)?	0	0
6.6 How many Christians have been raped or otherwise sexually harassed for faith-related reasons?	0	0
6.7 How many cases have there been of forced marriages of Christians to non-Christians?	0	0
6.8 How many Christians have been otherwise physically or mentally abused for faith-related reasons (including beatings and death threats)?	0	1
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?	0	0
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?	0	0
6.11 How many Christians have been forced to leave their homes or go into hiding in-country for faith-related reasons?	1	0
6.12 How many Christians have been forced to leave the country for faith-related reasons?	0	1

In the WWL 2025 reporting period:

- **Christians forced to flee:** At least one convert from Islam to Christianity had to relocate because of family pressure.

Although not primarily faith-related, Christians in Gaza experienced high levels of violence during the WWL 2025 reporting period. All three churches in Gaza, including buildings on their compounds, were damaged by Israeli bombing. More than 30 Christians were killed due to the war (and many others received injuries). While the majority of those were killed by the collapse of a wall due to a nearby bomb blast, two Christians were killed inside the church compound by Israeli sniper fire ([Times of Israel, 17 December 2023](#)). In addition, most Christians in Gaza lost their homes, while others also lost their shops.

5 Year trends

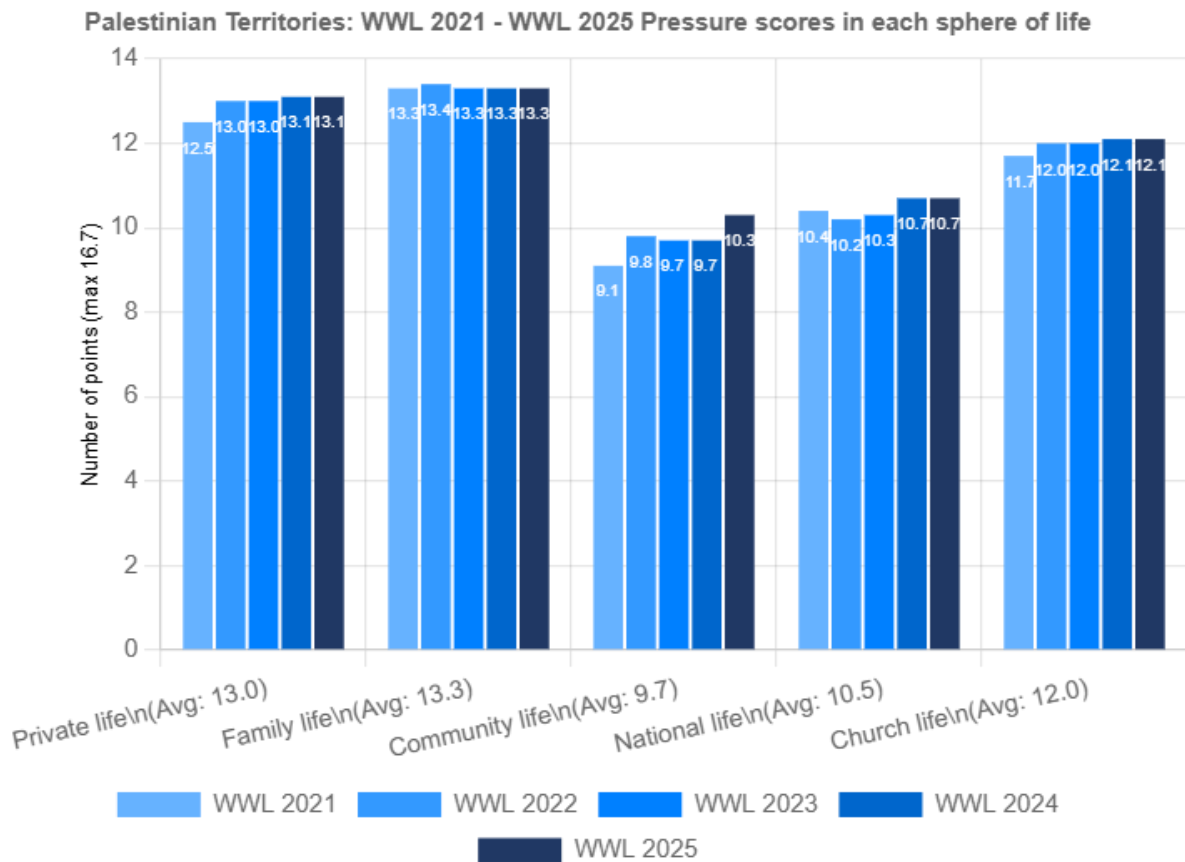
The following three charts show the levels of pressure and violence faced by Christians in the country over the last five WWL reporting periods.

5 Year trends: Average pressure

Palestinian Territories: WWL 2021 - WWL 2025	Average pressure over 5 Spheres of life
2025	11.9
2024	11.8
2023	11.7
2022	11.7
2021	11.4

The table above depicts average pressure and shows that the overall level of pressure on Christians has gradually risen, remaining very high throughout the last 5 WWL reporting periods.

5 Year trends: Pressure in each sphere of life



The chart above shows how the levels of pressure have increased in virtually every sphere since the WWL 2021 reporting period. Pressure has been most stable in the *Private, Family and Church spheres*.

5 Year trends: Violence against Christians



Despite some fluctuations, the level of violence in the Palestinian Territories has remained (very) low on average. However, especially in the case of converts from Islam to Christianity, it is highly probable that violence is under-reported.

Gender-specific religious persecution / Female

In the Palestinian Territories, male heads of household consider the choices and behavior of the women in their care to be deeply reflective of their leadership and personal honor. As such, women who stray beyond the culturally acceptable confines are at risk of retribution from their families. The [Amnesty International](#) 2020/21 country report once again highlighted the suspected use of so-called 'honor killings' - mainly by male relatives - revealing the precarious position of women in this patriarchal society. The threat of such honor-killing can be used to put pressure on women wishing to convert to Christianity. There is a strong sense of shame related to conversion from Islam; this has a significant practical impact on women and girls in particular because of their greater dependency within the family. Thus, they are more vulnerable to persecution from the family or close society, particularly in light of [insufficient legislation](#) addressing domestic violence and violence against women (UNFPA and UNDP, 2019, Gender Justice and the Law: Palestine).

Family members can almost always act with impunity against female converts. If a member of the younger generation converts to Christianity from Islam, families may turn to physical violence and forced confinement (house arrest) in order to persuade them to return. This is more often used for

girls as the family cannot expel them like they can boys. A country expert summarizes: “Often, especially for girls, when it is known about their faith in Christ, they are placed in a house and deprived of communication with others or of meeting any of their friends.”

Christian girls and women are sometimes looked down upon by their Muslim neighbors (e.g., for not wearing a veil in public). Although not imposed by the government, there is a socially enforced Islamic dress code affecting Christian women, requiring them to cover themselves in public, except for their heads. They are also vulnerable to online harassment and abuse.

Gender-specific religious persecution / Male

Palestinian men who convert to Christianity face a variety of forms of pressure and violence. Young male converts can be harassed, threatened and forced out of the family home. The Christian community struggles to accommodate these needy and often lonely individuals. It is also challenging for these men to marry a Christian, as both families will likely oppose the match. Such weddings would need to take place in secret and are rare.

As men are usually the main financial providers in Palestinian families, job discrimination against men serves to weaken the whole family. Some Christian men from a Muslim background have reportedly been exploited in the workplace and lost jobs on the basis of their faith (although there were no known incidents in the WWL 2025 reporting period). As Palestinians operate in a context of Israeli dominance, this and the dire economic situation can make Christian men in general feel powerless. Many Christian men want to leave the Palestinian Territories to find a job abroad and escape life under Israeli dominance. Such emigration seriously weakens the Palestinian Christian community, since only the more capable men have the necessary qualifications and financial means for finding a job abroad.

Church leaders in Palestine (usually men) are also reported to face verbal abuse, including from ultra-orthodox Jews. Others have received threats and have, on rare occasions, been killed.

Persecution of other religious minorities

Minorities like the Bedouins and the Samaritans in Nablus are not persecuted in particular, although the living conditions of the former are difficult. Especially the Bedouins living in Area C of the West Bank face many problems with the Israeli military and civil authorities ([UN News, 3 June 2022](#)). There are also small communities of Shia and Ahmadi Muslims, but no issues involving infringements on their religious rights have been reported.

The small group of Jehovah's Witnesses are not officially recognized, but the Palestinian Authority established procedures to register their marriages and the birth of their children. According to the US State Department ([IRFR 2023 West Bank and Gaza](#), p.46):

- "Religious groups that were not recognized by the PA, such as Jehovah's Witnesses, faced a continued PA ban on proselytizing but stated they were able to conduct most other functions unhindered. Palestinian authorities generally recognized on a case-by-case basis personal status documents issued by unrecognized churches. The PA, however, continued to refuse to recognize personal status legal documents (e.g., marriage certificates) issued by some of these unrecognized churches, which the groups said made it difficult for them to register newborn children under their fathers' names or as children of married couples."

Hence, earlier reported problems concerning Jehovah's Witnesses seem not to have been fully resolved ([JW Newsroom, 2 March 2016](#)).

There are no other notable religious minorities in the Palestinian Territories that might face discrimination.

Trends Summary

1) An end to Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not in sight

Without any hope of a sustainable political solution to the situation with Israel materializing and with Gaza in a state of ruins, it is likely that sporadic outbreaks of violence will continue in Gaza and in the West Bank over the next years. Nation-building and reform are hindered by (among other factors) divisions between Hamas and Fatah. Attempts at reconciliation between both parties have repeatedly failed in the past. Apart from the questions hanging over the future of Gaza following the [ceasefire-deal](#) (BBC News, updated 2 February 2025), another pressing concern is the succession of incumbent President Abbas in the West Bank. He is ageing and reportedly has health problems, and there does not seem to be a clear roadmap for his succession after he cancelled the presidential elections in 2021. If he dies, the possible consequences are unpredictable and could lead to further internal conflict.

2) Palestinian Christians continue to emigrate

Despite progress in reaching an Israel-Hamas ceasefire, tensions remain high - as are the chances of renewed outbreaks of violence. In particular in Gaza, the tiny Christian minority has no real future perspective after the destruction of most of their homes and infrastructure. In the West Bank, unemployment has become a major issue after Israel withdrew most work permits. This has also affected the Christian community, as many of them work in the tourist industry and tourists have stopped coming to the country. This insecurity affects the quality of life of all Palestinians negatively, including Christians, leading to a continuing emigration of the latter. According to some observers, if the current levels of emigration continue, there will be no Christians left within one generation.

3) The two-state solution seems unlikely to become reality

Many international observers and politicians, as well as many Israeli academics, still cling to the idea of the two-state solution ([Foreign Affairs, 24 August 2021](#)). Others, including most Palestinian academics and civil society leaders, are more realistic in stating that the two-state solution will most likely never become a reality ([Jewish Insider, 28 July 2022](#)). There is a clear lack of political will on both sides of the divide, with the inner-Palestinian tensions between Fatah and Hamas complicating things further. Although some commentators state that more than 80% of the approximately 500,000 Israeli settlers in the West Bank live in the border region, which would suggest that a two-state solution is still possible, it is very unlikely that especially those living deep inside the West Bank will ever give up on what they call "Judea and Samaria". The Israel-Hamas war has only further worsened any perspective in this regard. This makes a viable Palestinian state very unlikely. In contrast, settlement expansion is likely to continue. If this situation continues, it will result in one state, which either grants equal rights to Palestinians and Israelis, or treats one part of the population differently to the other.

Further useful reports

Further background information per country and a selection of in-depth reports and smaller articles are available on the Research & Reports pages of the Open Doors website:

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

External Links

- Copyright, sources and definitions: Background country information - <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/wwl-background/>
- Copyright, sources and definitions: Persecution dynamics - <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/country-dossiers/>
- Map of country: 101 Visualizing Palestine - <https://101.visualizingpalestine.org/resources/glossary/areas-a-b-c#:~:text=The%20Oslo%20Accords%20divided%20the,where%20Israel%20maintains%20full%20control>
- Map of country: Oslo II Accord - <https://101.visualizingpalestine.org/resources/glossary/oslo-accords>
- Church spectrum today - additional information: Christ at the Checkpoint - <https://christatthecheckpoint.bethbc.edu/about-christ-at-the-checkpoint/>
- Christian communities and how they are affected: officially recognized - <https://christiantoday.com/article/after-12-year-struggle-palestinian-authority-officially-recognises-evangelical-group/133601.htm>
- Persecution engines description: alienated from their families - https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281034882_FREEDOM_OF_RELIGION_IN_ISRAEL-PALESTINE_MAY_MUSLIMS_BECOME_CHRISTIANS_AND_DO_CHRISTIANS_HAVE_THE_FREEDOM_TO_WELCOME_SUCH_CONVERTS
- Drivers of persecution description: disadvantage - <https://journals.openedition.org/etudesrurales/10550>
- Violence / Block 6 - commentary: Times of Israel, 17 December 2023 - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/christian-mother-daughter-killed-while-sheltering-in-gaza-church-patriarch-says/>
- Gender-specific religious persecution Female description: Amnesty International - <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol10/3202/2021/en/>
- Gender-specific religious persecution Female description: insufficient legislation - <https://arabstates.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Palestine%20Country%20Summary%20-%20English.pdf>
- Persecution of other religious minorities: UN News, 3 June 2022 - <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/06/1119692>
- Persecution of other religious minorities: IRFR 2023 West Bank and Gaza - <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-report-on-international-religious-freedom/israel-west-bank-and-gaza/>
- Persecution of other religious minorities: JW Newsroom, 2 March 2016 - <https://www.jw.org/en/news/legal/by-region/palestinian-territories/personal-rights-jehovahs-witnesses/>
- Trends Summary: ceasefire-deal - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy5klgv5zv0o>
- Trends Summary: Foreign Affairs, 24 August 2021 - <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/ask-the-experts/2021-08-24/two-state-solution-still-viable>
- Trends Summary: Jewish Insider, 28 July 2022 - <https://jewishinsider.com/2022/07/is-a-two-state-solution-viable-today/>