

World
Watch
Research

WWL 2022

Compilation of all main documents

(Excluding detailed country reports)

February 2022 revision



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 2022 reporting period was 1 October 2020 - 30 September 2021.
- The latest update of WWL Methodology together with various other background documents can be found on the [World Watch List Documentation](#)¹ page of the Open Doors Analytical website.
- WWL 2022 Full Country Dossiers giving in-depth information on the situation of Christians in the 76 countries listed will be available on the Open Doors Analytical website page with the heading [Full country dossiers – Open Doors Analytical](#)² as soon as updates are finalized.
- Concerning Gender-specific Religious Persecution ([GSRP](#))³ and Children and Youth-specific Religious Persecution ([C/YSRP](#))⁴, previous reports and methodology can be found on the respective pages of the Open Doors Analytical website.
- 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 April 2021).*
- The definition of persecution used in WWL analysis is: “Any hostility experienced as a result of one’s identification with Christ. This can include hostile attitudes, words and actions towards Christians”. This broad definition includes (but is not limited to) restrictions, pressure, discrimination, opposition, disinformation, injustice, intimidation, mistreatment, marginalization, oppression, intolerance, infringement, violation, ostracism, hostilities, harassment, abuse, violence, ethnic cleansing and genocide.
- This document is the property of World Watch Research (WWR), the research department of Open Doors International. It may be used and distributed free of charge, but please always acknowledge the source as: © 2021 Open Doors International.

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

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

³ <https://opendoorsanalytical.org/gender-specific-persecution/> (password: freedom)

⁴ <https://opendoorsanalytical.org/children-youth-religious-persecution/> (password: freedom)

2. WWL 2022: Table of scores and ranks

The table below includes all countries scoring 41 points or more in WWL 2022 analysis. These are the countries where Christians face high (41-60 points), very high (61-80 points) or extremely high (81-100 points) levels of persecution

WWL 2022		1. Private Life	2. Family Life	3. Community Life	4. National Life	5. Church Life	6. Violence	TOTAL SCORE	WWL 2021	Country	TOTAL SCORE	WWL 2020	Country	TOTAL SCORE
Rank	Country	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	WWL 2022	Rank	Country	WWL 2021	Rank	Country	WWL 2020
1	Afghanistan	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	15.0	98	2	Afghanistan	94	2	Afghanistan	93
2	North Korea	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	13.1	96	1	North Korea	94	1	North Korea	94
3	Somalia	16.5	16.7	16.6	16.6	16.6	8.5	91	3	Somalia	92	3	Somalia	92
4	Libya	15.6	15.5	15.9	16.2	16.3	11.5	91	4	Libya	92	4	Libya	90
5	Yemen	16.7	16.6	16.5	16.7	16.7	5.2	88	7	Yemen	87	8	Yemen	85
6	Eritrea	14.6	14.9	15.5	15.9	15.6	11.1	88	6	Eritrea	88	6	Eritrea	87
7	Nigeria	13.8	13.8	14.3	14.5	14.4	16.7	87	9	Nigeria	85	12	Nigeria	80
8	Pakistan	13.6	14.0	15.1	14.9	13.1	16.7	87	5	Pakistan	88	5	Pakistan	88
9	Iran	14.5	14.6	13.6	15.8	16.5	10.4	85	8	Iran	86	9	Iran	85
10	India	12.7	12.7	12.9	14.7	13.3	15.6	82	10	India	83	10	India	83
11	Saudi Arabia	15.1	15.1	15.0	15.9	16.7	3.1	81	14	Saudi Arabia	78	13	Saudi Arabia	79
12	Myanmar	12.4	11.5	13.8	13.4	13.1	14.8	79	18	Myanmar	74	19	Myanmar	73
13	Sudan	13.4	13.4	14.3	13.6	15.7	8.5	79	13	Sudan	79	7	Sudan	85
14	Iraq	14.0	14.6	14.0	14.8	13.9	6.9	78	11	Iraq	82	15	Iraq	76
15	Syria	12.9	13.8	13.5	14.3	13.9	9.3	78	12	Syria	81	11	Syria	82
16	Maldives	15.4	15.3	13.7	15.8	16.5	0.4	77	15	Maldives	77	14	Maldives	78
17	China	12.6	9.8	12.2	14.4	15.5	11.1	76	17	China	74	23	China	70
18	Qatar	14.2	14.1	11.1	13.0	14.3	7.2	74	29	Qatar	67	27	Qatar	66
19	Vietnam	11.3	9.7	12.7	14.1	14.5	8.7	71	21	Vietnam	72	21	Vietnam	72
20	Egypt	12.7	13.2	11.5	12.7	10.8	10.0	71	16	Egypt	75	16	Egypt	76
21	Uzbekistan	14.9	12.7	14.1	11.8	15.6	1.7	71	21	Uzbekistan	71	18	Uzbekistan	73
22	Algeria	14.0	14.0	11.1	13.4	14.1	4.1	71	24	Algeria	70	17	Algeria	73
23	Mauritania	14.3	13.9	13.1	14.0	14.1	0.9	70	20	Mauritania	71	24	Mauritania	68
24	Mali	9.4	8.2	13.9	10.3	12.8	15.0	70	28	Mali	67	29	Mali	66
25	Turkmenistan	14.5	11.3	13.6	13.3	15.7	0.6	69	23	Turkmenistan	70	22	Turkmenistan	70
26	Laos	12.0	10.3	13.2	13.3	14.1	5.9	69	22	Laos	71	20	Laos	72
27	Morocco	13.1	13.8	10.8	12.8	14.2	3.9	69	27	Morocco	67	26	Morocco	66
28	Indonesia	11.3	11.5	11.5	11.0	9.6	13.5	68	47	Indonesia	63	49	Indonesia	60
29	Bangladesh	11.8	10.7	12.9	11.3	10.2	11.3	68	31	Bangladesh	67	38	Bangladesh	63
30	Colombia	11.5	8.8	13.1	11.0	9.9	13.3	68	30	Colombia	67	41	Colombia	62
31	Central African Republic	9.0	8.6	13.6	9.6	11.4	15.6	68	35	Central African Republic	66	25	Central African Republic	68
32	Burkina Faso	9.4	9.7	12.0	9.6	12.1	14.8	68	32	Burkina Faso	67	28	Burkina Faso	66
33	Niger	9.4	9.5	13.9	7.2	12.8	14.8	68	54	Niger	62	50	Niger	60
34	Bhutan	13.4	12.4	11.7	13.7	13.8	1.7	67	43	Bhutan	64	45	Bhutan	61
35	Tunisia	11.9	12.7	10.6	11.3	13.4	6.5	66	26	Tunisia	67	34	Tunisia	64
36	Oman	13.8	14.0	10.3	13.2	13.4	1.5	66	44	Oman	63	42	Oman	62
37	Cuba	12.3	8.1	12.6	13.2	14.0	5.9	66	51	Cuba	62	61	Cuba	52
38	Ethiopia	9.9	10.3	13.1	10.3	12.3	9.8	66	36	Ethiopia	65	39	Ethiopia	63
39	Jordan	12.9	14.0	11.0	12.3	12.5	3.0	66	38	Jordan	64	33	Jordan	64
40	Congo DR (DRC)	8.0	7.9	12.6	9.7	12.0	15.6	66	40	Congo DR (DRC)	64	57	Congo DR (DRC)	56
41	Mozambique	9.3	8.5	11.3	7.9	12.5	15.6	65	45	Mozambique	63	66	Mozambique	43
42	Turkey	12.6	11.5	11.4	13.2	11.6	4.6	65	25	Turkey	69	36	Turkey	63
43	Mexico	10.3	8.3	12.5	10.8	10.3	12.6	65	37	Mexico	64	52	Mexico	60
44	Cameroon	8.8	7.6	12.6	7.2	13.1	15.4	65	42	Cameroon	64	48	Cameroon	60
45	Tajikistan	13.8	12.3	12.0	12.6	13.2	0.7	65	33	Tajikistan	66	31	Tajikistan	65
46	Brunei	14.8	14.5	10.3	11.0	13.2	0.6	64	39	Brunei	64	37	Brunei	63
47	Kazakhstan	13.4	11.6	11.1	12.6	13.5	1.7	64	41	Kazakhstan	64	35	Kazakhstan	64
48	Nepal	12.4	9.8	9.9	13.6	12.7	5.2	64	34	Nepal	66	32	Nepal	64
49	Kuwait	13.5	13.7	9.8	12.3	13.1	1.1	64	48	Kuwait	63	43	Kuwait	62
50	Malaysia	12.5	14.3	11.5	11.6	10.2	3.3	63	46	Malaysia	63	40	Malaysia	62
51	Kenya	11.7	9.2	11.4	8.0	11.5	11.1	63	49	Kenya	62	44	Kenya	61
52	Sri Lanka	12.9	9.9	11.4	11.3	9.4	7.8	63	52	Sri Lanka	62	30	Sri Lanka	65
53	Comoros	12.7	11.1	11.2	12.4	14.2	0.9	63	50	Comoros	62	54	Comoros	57
54	United Arab Emirates	13.4	13.6	10.1	11.8	12.2	1.3	62	53	United Arab Emirates	62	47	United Arab Emirates	60
55	Tanzania	9.3	10.8	10.3	8.6	8.7	13.7	61	57	Tanzania	58	60	Tanzania	55
56	Azerbaijan	13.1	9.9	9.3	11.0	13.4	3.3	60	61	Azerbaijan	56	53	Azerbaijan	57
57	Palestinian Territories	13.0	13.4	9.8	10.2	12.0	0.9	59	56	Palestinian Territories	58	51	Palestinian Territories	60
58	Djibouti	12.3	12.3	11.1	10.0	12.2	0.7	59	59	Djibouti	56	56	Djibouti	56
59	Kyrgyzstan	12.9	10.1	11.1	10.4	12.0	1.5	58	55	Kyrgyzstan	58	55	Kyrgyzstan	57
60	Bahrain	12.5	13.2	9.1	11.1	10.2	0.9	57	60	Bahrain	56	59	Bahrain	55
61	Nicaragua	9.1	5.6	11.1	11.8	11.3	7.6	56	63	Nicaragua	51	72	Nicaragua	41
62	Russian Federation	12.3	8.0	10.2	10.6	12.3	2.2	56	58	Russian Federation	57	46	Russian Federation	60
63	Chad	11.5	8.2	10.2	9.6	10.3	5.6	55	62	Chad	53	58	Chad	56
64	Burundi	7.6	7.8	9.7	9.2	9.6	8.1	52	64	Burundi	48	63	Burundi	48
65	Venezuela	5.6	4.5	11.2	9.4	11.1	9.6	51		(Venezuela)	(Below 41 points)		(Venezuela)	(Below 41 points)
66	Angola	6.8	6.7	8.1	10.1	11.4	7.8	51	68	Angola	46	68	Angola	43
67	Rwanda	8.1	5.5	6.7	10.3	10.1	9.3	50	72	Rwanda	42	71	Rwanda	42
68	Honduras	7.2	5.1	10.5	7.7	9.2	8.7	48	67	Honduras	46		(Honduras)	(Below 41 points)
69	Uganda	8.1	4.6	7.4	6.7	9.1	11.7	48	65	Uganda	47	62	Uganda	48
70	El Salvador	7.7	4.6	10.7	5.7	9.1	7.2	45	74	El Salvador	42		(El Salvador)	(Below 41 points)
71	Togo	9.2	6.7	9.3	7.1	9.8	2.4	44	71	Togo	43	73	Togo	41
72	Gambia	8.3	8.2	8.7	8.3	8.8	1.7	44	70	Gambia	43	67	Gambia	43
73	Guinea	10.3	7.5	8.3	7.0	8.1	2.0	43	66	Guinea	47	64	Guinea	45
74	South Sudan	5.7	0.9	7.0	6.3	7.8	15.0	43	69	South Sudan	43	65	South Sudan	44
75	Ivory Coast	9.8	8.6	8.2	5.5	7.9	2.0	42	73	Ivory Coast	42	70	Ivory Coast	42
76	Israel	9.8	8.4	5.6	6.6	6.6	4.3	41		(Israel)	(Below 41 points)		(Israel)	(Below 41 points)

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3. WWL 2022 Executive Summary

(WWL 2022 Press release, slightly adapted)

Afghanistan the most dangerous place to be a Christian as Taliban takeover emboldens Islamic extremists worldwide

Afghanistan is now the most dangerous place in the world to be a Christian, according to figures released today in the 2022 World Watch List (WWL). Afghanistan replaces North Korea at the top of the list after 20 years – this despite persecution also rising there this year.

The WWL, which records levels of persecution and discrimination across the globe, found that over 360 million Christians suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith – a rise of 20 million from last year. The number represents one in seven Christians worldwide. This year records the highest levels of persecution since the first list was published 29 years ago, and in recent years has plotted a steady increase.

Afghanistan – the brutal reality

The report paints a shocking picture of life for Afghanistan's small, deeply hidden, Christian population, suggesting that:

- Christian men are facing almost certain death if their faith is discovered.
- Women and girls may escape death but may be married to young Taliban fighters who want "spoils of war". When women and girls are raped, they will be trafficked.
- The incoming Taliban government gained access to recordings and reports that helped to identify Christians who were often detained, in order to identify networks of Christians, before being killed.
- Taliban fighters are actively tracking down Christians from existing intelligence, even going door-to-door to find them.
- Much of the Christian population has fled to rural regions or refugee camps in neighboring nations – all of which feature in the WWL as countries hostile to Christians.

Emboldened: The 'Talibanization' of West Africa and beyond

Meanwhile, the fall of Kabul has fuelled a new mood of invulnerability among other jihadist groups worldwide. The groups believe that they won't face serious opposition from the West for their expansionist agendas and are exploiting nations with weak or corrupt governments. Its effects are not yet fully felt in the WWL 2022 reporting period (1 October 2020 till 30 September 2021) but there are strong signs it is set to further boost violence in countries such as Nigeria (#7), Mali (#24), CAR (#31), Burkina Faso (#32), Niger (#33) and DRC (#40) – countries with already high levels of violence.

The current jihadist expansion has moved Nigeria's former Head of Naval Intelligence, Commodore Kunli Olawunmi to describe a concerted strategy of 'Talibanization' in Nigeria by the jihadist groups – a deliberate, religiously-motivated degrading of security and order in which state actors and tribal groups are complicit.⁵ In Nigeria a total of 4,650 Christians has been recorded as killed – 79 per cent of the worldwide total.

We can see a similar strategy by jihadist groups and their supporters elsewhere in the region.

- Sub-Saharan Africa, already the place where violence against Christians is highest, has faced further steep rises in jihadist violence, with fears that a significant part of the region faces destabilization.
- Social order in Mali, (#24 on the WWL) is deteriorating fast, with fears it could become the 'next Afghanistan' with insurgency spilling into neighbouring countries Niger and Burkina Faso.
- Both the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), plagued by the Alliance of Democratic Forces, and the Central African Republic (CAR) have joined Nigeria in the top ten list for levels of violence.

The continuing violence and destabilization in these areas look set to have serious consequences as hundreds of thousands more around the world flee their homes for safety. "The rise of Afghanistan to the top of the World Watch List is deeply troubling," says Dan Ole Shani, CEO of Open Doors International. "Apart from the incalculable suffering it represents, it sends out a very clear message to Islamic extremists everywhere: 'You can continue your brutal fight for influence, unchecked.' Factions like Islamic State and Alliance of Democratic Forces (ADF) now see their goal of an Islamic caliphate - once thwarted in Iraq and Syria – as, once again, achievable. The cost in human lives and misery this new-found sense of invincibility is causing, and will continue to cause, is hard to overstate."

The 'refugee' church

An estimated 84 million people have been forced to leave their homes, either internally displaced, or, for an estimated 26.6 million, as refugees in other nations⁶. A significant number are Christians, fleeing religious persecution:

- In parts of Sub-Saharan Africa the Christian population has simply emptied out and left. In the past few years, hundreds of churches have been closed in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and 470 in Nigeria for this reporting period alone.
- Hundreds of thousands have fled Islamist violence (e.g., in the Sahel region) or are fleeing forced conscription (Eritrea #6), civil conflict (Sudan #13), state repression (Iran #9), and/or family oppression due to their faith.
- Christian IDPs and refugees continue to live in Iraq (#14), Syria (#15), Lebanon, and Jordan (#39) amongst others. As Christians they can be denied humanitarian and other practical assistance by authorities.

⁵ Insecurity: The Govt Knows Sponsors of Boko Haram, Says Former Naval Chief, 25 August 2021: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KyHowYHyAp8>

⁶ <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/>

- In Myanmar (#12), at least 200,000 Christians have been internally displaced and 20,000 fled the country as Christian regions have been targeted in the ongoing conflict.

Often, when people have fled their homes, they are even more vulnerable. Christian women fleeing their homes and seeking safety report sexual assault to be the leading source of persecution, with multiple reports of women and children subjected to rape, sexual slavery, and more, both in camps and while they journey in search of safety. Poverty and insecurity compound their vulnerability, with some drawn into prostitution to survive.

As jihadism spreads and destabilizes nations, we can expect this Christian exodus to multiply further.

‘One country, one people, one creed’ – the suffocation of diversity

As China’s (#17) economic influence spreads across the world, so too does its authoritarian imposition of conformity on its citizens. This extends to pretty much every area of life; speech, belief, and behavior. From May 2021 new legislation required China’s religious leaders to “love the motherland, support the leadership of the Communist Party and the socialist system”. They must not “undermine national unity”. This is enforced by the ruling party’s use of pioneering technology to surveil and control its citizens. In two provinces, all official Christian churches have surveillance cameras installed.

And this technologically fueled authoritarianism is rapidly spreading far beyond China. Numerous other nations have seen the way this imposition of “unity” over diversity has been rolled out by the ruling Communist Party.

- [Open Doors’ recent India \(#10\) report](#)⁷ describes a nation being drawn further into nationalist ‘Hindutva’ ideology, where to be Indian is to be Hindu. A wave of vigilante violence against Christians and other religious minorities, has been overlooked or even encouraged by political leaders across the nation, and accompanied by a surge in misinformation and propaganda from mainstream and social media.
- A similar model of loyalty and homogeneity is seen in nations as diverse as Myanmar (#12), Malaysia (#50), Sri Lanka (#52) and the central Asian states. All these face increased restrictions for those who deviate from the creed of ‘one country, one people, one creed’.
- Under Communist ideology in the Americas, the Covid-19 pandemic has been used as a pretext to surveil churches and impose further restrictions. In Cuba (entering the list at #37), after July’s protests, church leaders who spoke out were detained and tortured. In Nicaragua (#61) and Venezuela (#65), the ruling parties promoted smear campaigns against Catholic bishops, cancelled registration permits and closed churches.

⁷ <https://media.opendoorsuk.org/document/pdf/Destructive%20Lies-Executive-Summary.pdf>

Other key trends this year

High rising nations

Along with Afghanistan, there are several countries with noteworthy rises in recorded persecution. These include

- **Qatar (#18 from #29)**, the host for this year's World Cup, where converts from Islam especially face physical, psychological and (for women) sexual violence.
- **Indonesia (#28 from #47)**, where Christians faced two attacks in Central Sulawesi, as well as a bomb attack against the cathedral in Makassar.
- **Myanmar (#12 from #18)**, where the army has attacked Christian villages and churches, driving more than 200,000 into IDP camps.
- **Bhutan (#34 from #43)**, where converts especially face community pressure and violence – in the case of women, sexual violence.

Rising violence, unrelenting pressure

Recorded killings of Christians for their faith rose from 4,761 registered cases (WWL 2021) to 5,898 (WWL 2022). Sub-Saharan Africa, and Nigeria especially, accounts for the bulk of these.

The total number of churches attacked rose from 4,488 registered cases (WWL 2021) to 5,110 (WWL 2022) and detentions and arrests rising 44 per cent (from WWL 2021) to 6,175, with 1,315 of these in India.

However, while overt violence may be more attention-grabbing, the everyday unrelenting pressure upon Christian communities is just as important and continues to rise. These express themselves in a myriad of subtle and overt forms: discrimination at work, pressure to renounce your faith from family members, being placed at the back of the queue for aid and medicine – particularly during COVID, bureaucracy preventing the licensing of churches, and much more.

North Korea

Despite dropping to second place, persecution levels in North Korea have actually reached record highs this year. With a new anti-reactionary thought law', it has seen a rise in Christians arrested and house churches closed. Arrest inevitably means imprisonment in one of the nation's brutal 're-education camps', from which few people emerge alive.

Crumbs of comfort

Iraq (#14 from #11), Syria (#15 from #12), Egypt (#20 from #16), and Turkey (#42 from #25) have seen reductions in violence. Although it may just be that there were fewer opportunities for active persecution during the COVID pandemic, it is still welcome.

The WWL in numbers

Open Doors' 2022 World Watch List (2021 rankings in brackets):

1	Afghanistan (2)	19	Vietnam (19)	35	Tunisia (26)
2	North Korea (1)	20	Egypt (16)	36	Oman (44)
3	Somalia (3)	21	Uzbekistan (21)	37	Cuba (51)
4	Libya (4)	22	Algeria (24)	38	Ethiopia (36)
5	Yemen (7)	23	Mauritania (20)	39	Jordan (38)
6	Eritrea (6)	24	Mali (28)	40	Congo DR (DRC)
7	Nigeria (9)	25	Turkmenistan		(40)
8	Pakistan (5)		(23)	41	Mozambique (45)
9	Iran (8)	26	Laos (22)	42	Turkey (25)
10	India (10)	27	Morocco (27)	43	Mexico (37)
11	Saudi Arabia (14)	28	Indonesia (47)	44	Cameroon (42)
12	Myanmar (18)	29	Bangladesh (31)	45	Tajikistan (33)
13	Sudan (13)	30	Colombia (30)	46	Brunei (39)
14	Iraq (11)	31	Central African	47	Kazakhstan (41)
15	Syria (12)		Republic (35)	48	Nepal (34)
16	Maldives (15)	32	Burkina Faso (32)	49	Kuwait (48)
17	China (17)	33	Niger (54)	50	Malaysia (46)
18	Qatar (29)	34	Bhutan (43)		

Beyond the top 50, five more countries are also scored 'very high'. Overall, 76 countries -two more (Israel and Venezuela) than the previous year - showed extreme, very high or high levels of persecution and discrimination, affecting at least one in every seven Christians worldwide.

How many Christians are persecuted?

Persecution of Christians has continued to intensify globally, reaching the highest levels since the list began nearly 30 years ago.

- More than 360m Christians suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith.
- This number represents one in seven Christians worldwide, up from one in eight in the 2021 list.

About the WWL and how the figures are collected

The first annual WWL was recorded in January 1993. Countries' overall persecution scores are an amalgamation of six different scores: for violence levels, along with persecution in private life, family life, community life, civic life and of church communities. This year's list covers the period 1 Oct 2020 - 30 Sept 2021.

Released at the beginning of each year, the list uses extensive research, data from Open Doors field workers, external experts and persecution analysts to quantify and analyze persecution worldwide. It is certified by the International Institute for Religious Freedom.

COVID-19 restrictions necessitated adaptations in on-ground data collection. With additional digital tools and experts' research, Open Doors believes the WWL 2022 scoring, and analysis maintains its quality and reliability. Learn more about the [methodology for the WWL](#)⁸.

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⁸ <https://opendoorsanalytical.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Complete-WWL-Methodology-November-2021.pdf>

4. WWL 2022 Summary of Trends

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1) Taliban takeover boosts jihadists’ belief in eventual success – globally

The Taliban’s takeover of government in Afghanistan gave jihadists globally a profound psychological boost, not least across Asia. In neighboring Pakistan, the Taliban there strengthened as Islamist groups celebrated. Others may get bolder; Indonesia’s [Jemaah Islamiyah](#)⁹, which carried out the 2002 Bali bombings, has ties to the Taliban.

Across Africa, jihadists frequently operate in countries which suffer from a corrupt and weak government and administration; they now see it as a matter of time before the foreign forces supporting the fight against them leave. One example is al-Shabaab, which has been fighting the government of Somalia and its allies (the African Union forces) for the past decade. Here, the “underground” Church is already small and scattered, as in Afghanistan.

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) continues to see the most violence against Christians. Ranked on that alone, the Democratic Republic of Congo – plagued by the Alliance of Democratic Forces, now openly affiliated to the Islamic State group – and the Central African Republic join Nigeria – which once again scores the maximum points possible – in the top ten for violence. This year, it’s become clear that neither Christians nor other minority groups can count on the security apparatus commanded by the Nigerian Federal Government for their protection. Colleges, schools, churches, villages and community leaders continue to be targeted for kidnappings, killings, injuries and destruction of livestock and livelihoods especially by Fulani militants, as well as known jihadist groups such as Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province.

Mozambique and Cameroon also make the Top 10 for violence, due to jihadists there and across the Lake Chad Basin (Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon and southern Niger) and in the Sahel - Mali, Burkina Faso and western Niger. Four of these seven Sub-Saharan countries were not even in the WWL Top 50 in 2014. (Chad is not in the WWL 2022 Top 50, but at no. 63, and is termed a “Persecution Watch Country”.)

⁹ <https://www.benarnews.org/english/commentaries/asean-security-watch/taliban-abuza-08162021185452.html>

2) Global Church increasingly ‘displaced’ or ‘refugee’ – adding to its vulnerabilities

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees¹⁰ says about 84 million people were forcibly displaced in 2021, either within their own country, or – for 26 million – across borders. Many of them are Christians fleeing persecution: Hundreds of thousands are affected by Islamist violence (e.g. in the Sahel region) or are fleeing forced conscription (Eritrea), civil conflict (Sudan), state repression (Iran), and/or family oppression due to their faith. The vast majority remain in their region, displaced in-country or as refugees.

In parts of Sub-Saharan Africa (including north-east Kenya), research indicates that the Christian population has simply emptied out and gone. In the past few years, hundreds of churches have been closed in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger – joined this year by 470 in Nigeria alone. If Christians were to return, it’s likely violent jihadist attacks would resume.

Once displaced or travelling, they risk extortion, human trafficking, rape and detention, especially if they ever reach Libya.

Christians IDPs and refugees continue to live in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan amongst others. If they’re a minority in their countries of origin they can report extra vulnerabilities if they’re in camps: they can experience discrimination by officials (especially if they’ve converted from a Muslim background) and even be denied humanitarian and other practical assistance. This can be true even in Western settings.

Christian women report their leading source of persecution as sexual assault. WWL researchers received reports of women and children subjected to rape, sexual slavery, harassment and more, both in camps and especially while they journeyed in search of safety. Poverty and insecurity compound their vulnerability; some are forced into prostitution to survive.

For these and other reasons, many Christian refugees prefer to avoid camps altogether, meaning they’re never registered and so don’t qualify for food aid, trauma support and so on. Their children may miss out on education, too.

Conflict in Myanmar targets the Christian-majority Chin State and Christian minority populations (e.g. Kachin, Kayah, Shan State); the Burmese military bombed churches and also killed or detained pastors. Research indicates that 200,000 Christians have been displaced and a further 20,000 of them have fled the country during the WWL 2022 reporting period.

Elsewhere, across parts of Sub-Saharan Africa and in parts of Asia, Christians leave their homes and countries reluctantly, having no other way to escape constant discrimination and pressure in the legal, political, economic and social spheres. This steady ‘exodus’ weakens existing churches as youths migrate from countries as different as Nigeria and Malaysia.

¹⁰ <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/>

3) China's model of centralized control of religion leads the world

As China's economic prowess and influence grows – with its infrastructural Belt and Road initiative now including a "digital technology" component – so has Chinese nationalism. This requires social stability, enforced from above with "orders", rather than by choice, freedom of speech or of other belief systems. Chinese religious leaders realize they must conform. New rules from May 2021 require them to "love the motherland, support the leadership of the Communist Party and the socialist system". They must not "endanger national security, undermine national unity" or "divide the country."

Meanwhile, new rules limit the extent of citizens' contact with foreigners in the country¹¹.

Under Communist ideology in the Americas, the pandemic continued to be used as a pretext to surveil churches and impose greater restrictions. In Cuba, after mass protests in July, Catholic and Protestant leaders who spoke out for social justice were detained, tortured and fined excessively. In Nicaragua and Venezuela too, ruling parties promoted smear campaigns against Catholic bishops, cancelled registration permits and closed churches.

This model, if not ideology, is emulated recently in countries as diverse as Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Malaysia, joining others such as the Central Asian states, all of which have increased restrictions on dissenters from 'One country, one people, one religion'.

Minorities continue to suffer discrimination in societies made increasingly suspicious of them, especially by mainstream and social media [[see Open Doors' India report](#)¹²].

Where authoritarianism combines with Islam, Christians suffer. Instability in the MENA region since the Arab Spring of 2011 means that dictatorial measures often continue against the historical and other established and non-traditional churches, as well as against Muslim converts in particular. Algeria, for instance, ordered three more Protestant churches to close this year (to add to 13 others which remain shut).

4) Authoritarian governments and even criminal gangs continue to use COVID restrictions to weaken the Church

China's swift and draconian response to COVID-19 is well-documented. Where the need for restrictions ended, in some regions many official Three Self churches, as well as un-registered churches, were not permitted to re-open, forcing them into smaller 'cell groups' meeting in homes or online. Meantime, reports from counties in Henan and Jiangxi provinces, for example, said surveillance cameras are now in all state-approved religious venues.

¹¹ China mulls new rules on foreigners to 'prohibit religious extremism' - CNN

¹² <https://media.opendoorsuk.org/document/pdf/Destructive%20Lies-Full%20version-DIGITAL-ODUK-2021.pdf>

At the same time, some Bible apps were banned from online stores. After the arrest of one man for 'illegal operation' of an online Christian bookstore, officials began a [nationwide investigation](#)¹³ into all his customers, including a request for anyone who bought a book by a jailed famous pastor¹⁴ to return it!

The pandemic appeared to provide "proof of concept" that surveillance by digital technology worked inside the country sufficiently that it is in demand globally, not least by other authoritarian governments. In Vietnam, for instance, state and non-state actors used COVID-19 outbreaks to slander churches, even to instigate [criminal investigations](#) against one church¹⁵.

From West Africa to Central America, government focus on fighting the pandemic continued to enable jihadist and/or organized criminal groups to further consolidate and/or expand their power and territorial control, as the World Watch List reported last year.

5) Any good news at all?

The Pope's visit to Iraq's region desecrated by Islamic State was generally seen as a success, despite fears it could cause a COVID outbreak; it encouraged more Christians to consider returning to rebuild.

A Colombian Catholic nun, Gloria Argoti, was freed by Islamist militants in Mali (Oct 2021) after nearly five years' captivity. She said her faith had helped her to survive the ordeal.

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¹³ <https://www.csw.org.uk/2021/11/24/press/5489/article.htm>

¹⁴ Pastor Wang Yi, of Early Rain Church, Chengdu

¹⁵ <https://www.iirf.eu/news/other-news/covid-19-leads-to-prosecution-of-house-church-group/>

5. WWL 2022: 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 April 2021). The light brown shading indicates a country scoring 41+ points but ranked outside WWL 2022 Top 50.

Rank	Country	Region	Subregion	Total population (UN 2021 estimate as compiled by WCD; accessed April 2021)	Number of Christians (WCD, accessed April 2021)	Number of Christians (OD estimate)
1	Afghanistan	Asia	South Asia	38,914,000		thousands
2	North Korea	Asia	Eastern Asia	25,951,000		400,000
3	Somalia	Africa	Eastern Africa	16,589,000		hundreds
4	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	6,746,000	34,600	
5	Yemen	Asia	Western Asia	30,911,000		a few thousand
6	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	5,555,000	2,611,000	
7	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	211,447,000	98,006,000	
8	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	212,107,000	4,080,000	
9	Iran	Asia	South Asia	84,308,000		800,000
10	India	Asia	South Asia	1,397,423,000	68,863,000	
11	Saudi Arabia	Asia	Western Asia	35,263,000		1,200,000
12	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	55,269,000	4,409,000	
13	Sudan	Africa	Northern Africa	44,592,000	1,984,000	
14	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	42,612,000	166,000	
15	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	19,586,000	638,000	
16	Maldives	Asia	South Asia	466,000		hundreds
17	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	1,428,481,000		96,700,000
18	Qatar	Asia	Western Asia	2,840,000	372,000	
19	Vietnam	Asia	South-eastern Asia	99,284,000	9,159,000	
20	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	104,692,000		16,250,000
21	Uzbekistan	Asia	Central Asia	33,649,000	347,000	
22	Algeria	Africa	Northern Africa	43,969,000	134,000	
23	Mauritania	Africa	Western Africa	4,908,000	10,900	
24	Mali	Africa	Western Africa	20,893,000	476,000	
25	Turkmenistan	Asia	Central Asia	6,117,000	67,300	
26	Laos	Asia	South-eastern Asia	7,262,000	203,000	
27	Morocco	Africa	Northern Africa	37,498,000	31,400	
28	Indonesia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	274,854,000	33,620,000	
29	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	171,500,000		1,103,000
30	Colombia	Latin America	South America	50,576,000	48,011,000	
31	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	5,023,000	3,780,000	
32	Burkina Faso	Africa	Western Africa	21,497,000	5,093,000	
33	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	25,006,000	64,700	
34	Bhutan	Asia	South Asia	844,000		30,000
35	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	12,019,000	22,800	
36	Oman	Asia	Western Asia	5,270,000	190,000	
37	Cuba	Latin America	Caribbean	11,500,000	7,127,000	
38	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	115,403,000	69,234,000	
39	Jordan	Asia	Western Asia	10,320,000		180,000
40	Congo DR (DRC)	Africa	Middle Africa	92,336,000	87,845,000	
41	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	33,230,000	18,012,000	
42	Turkey	Asia	Western Asia	84,515,000	170,000	
43	Mexico	Latin America	Central America	135,384,000	129,627,000	
44	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	26,614,000	16,366,000	
45	Tajikistan	Asia	Central Asia	9,657,000	65,300	
46	Brunei	Asia	South-eastern Asia	450,000		42,600
47	Kazakhstan	Asia	Central Asia	18,957,000	4,847,000	
48	Nepal	Asia	South Asia	30,578,000	1,341,000	
49	Kuwait	Asia	Western Asia	4,361,000	520,000	
50	Malaysia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	33,289,000	3,028,000	
51	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	54,781,000	45,083,000	
52	Sri Lanka	Asia	South Asia	21,146,000	1,932,000	
53	Comoros	Africa	Eastern Africa	888,000	4,300	
54	United Arab Emirates	Asia	Western Asia	9,937,000	1,087,000	
55	Tanzania	Africa	Eastern Africa	64,674,000	36,828,000	
56	Azerbaijan	Asia	Western Asia	10,179,000	247,000	
57	Palestinian Territory	Asia	Western Asia	5,460,000	43,100	
58	Djibouti	Africa	Eastern Africa	1,014,000	10,800	
59	Kyrgyzstan	Asia	Central Asia	6,382,000	274,000	
60	Bahrain	Asia	Western Asia	1,744,000	199,000	
61	Nicaragua	Latin America	Central America	6,481,000	6,141,000	
62	Russian Federation	Europe	Eastern Europe	143,637,000	117,816,000	
63	Chad	Africa	Middle Africa	16,766,000	5,861,000	
64	Burundi	Africa	Eastern Africa	12,305,000	11,580,000	
65	Venezuela	Latin America	South America	33,558,000	30,859,000	
66	Angola	Africa	Middle Africa	33,894,000	31,634,000	
67	Rwanda	Africa	Eastern Africa	13,379,000	12,227,000	
68	Honduras	Latin America	Central America	9,869,000	9,442,000	
69	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	48,698,000	41,352,000	
70	El Salvador	Latin America	Central America	6,512,000	6,271,000	
71	Togo	Africa	Western Africa	8,585,000	4,132,000	
72	Gambia	Africa	Western Africa	2,360,000	111,000	
73	Guinea	Africa	Western Africa	14,110,000	474,000	
74	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	13,960,000	8,696,000	
75	Ivory Coast	Africa	Western Africa	26,828,000	9,177,000	
76	Israel*	Asia	Western Asia	8,842,000	175,000	

* In May 2000, Israel became a full member of the UN Group of Western European and other States on a temporary basis (subject to renewal), thereby enabling it to put forward candidates for election to various bodies of the General Assembly. In 2004, Israel obtained a permanent renewal to its membership.

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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 high, very high and extreme levels of persecution or discrimination is estimated for all Top 50 countries, it comes to 312 million. Countries that have scored 41 points or more but have not entered the Top 50 add another 47 million. The total for all countries is 359 million. For communication purposes and to take account of the margin of uncertainty, the total is set for 312 million resp. 360 million.

Top 50:	312,588,500
Ranks 51-76:	46,483,600
TOTAL	359,072,100

Please use the following statement for WWL 2022 communication to the general public:

More than 360m Christians suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith. In Open Doors’ World Watch List top 50 alone, 312m Christians face very high or extreme levels.

Worldwide: That is one in 7; 1 in 5 in Africa, 2 out of 5 in Asia, and 1 in 15 in Latin America.

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

Either figure may be used on its own:

“More than 360m Christians suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith.”

“In Open Doors World Watch List top 50 countries alone, 312m Christians suffer very high or extreme levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith.”

The qualifier “more than” is necessary, because the estimates were limited to countries that scored 41 points or more in the WWL 2022. There are other countries that did not score 41 points but where there are groups of Christians that live in comparably difficult situations.

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 that was simply too much 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, page 58), “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 or discrimination. 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 360 million number

This document now further elaborates upon the meaning of the “360 million in the world” number. The basis for the statements to follow can be found in the table below:

Region	WWL 2022 Total no. of Christians	WWL 2022 No. of persecuted Christians	WWL 2022 1 in x Christians persecuted	WWL 2021 No. of persecuted Christians	WWL 2021 1 in x Christians persecuted
AFRICA	685,474,000	137,982,700	5.0	120,930,000	5.5
ASIA	384,414,000	176,483,400	2.2	165,202,000	2.3
EUROPE	563,932,000	3,990,000	141.3	2,357,000	239.9
LATIN AMERICA	617,259,000	40,616,000	15.2	53,379,000	11.5
NORTHERN AMERICA	268,618,000	-	N/A	0	N/A
OCEANIA	27,841,000	-	N/A	0	N/A
TOTAL	2,547,538,000	359,072,100	7.1	341,868,000	7.4

4) Statements derived from the 360 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 2021 this was 1/8; WWL 2020 this was 1/8; WWL 2019: 1/9; WWL 2018: 1/11.5 or 1/12)

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 2021 this was 1/6; WWL 2020 this was 1/5; WWL 2019: 1/6; WWL 2018: 1/7.5 or 1/8)

“In Asia two in every 5 Christians live in situations of at least ‘high’ levels of persecution or discrimination for their faith.”

(In WWL 2021 this was 2/5; WWL 2020 this was 2/5; WWL 2019: 1/3; WWL 2018: 1/3.5 or 1/4)

“In Latin America one in every 15 Christians live in situations of at least ‘high’ levels of persecution or discrimination for their faith.”

(In WWL 2021 this was 1/12; WWL 2020 this was 1/21; WWL 2019: 1/21; WWL 2018: 1/30)

5) The problem with publishing a breakdown of persecuted Christians per country

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 2022 Article on violence

Data on violence experienced by Christians in the countries scoring 41+ points in the reporting period 1 October 2020 – 30 September 2021

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1. Summary data of Questionnaire Block 6 questions 1-5 and WWL comparisons

Questions Block 6 Violence	WWL 2022	WWL 2021	WWL 2020	WWL 2019	WWL 2018	WWL 2017	WWL 2016
6.1 Christians killed for faith-related reasons	5,898	4,761	2,983	4,305	3,066	1,207	7,106
6.2 Churches and other Christian buildings attacked	5,110	4,488	9,488	1,847	793	1,329	2,425
6.3 and 6.4 Christians detained without trial, arrested, sentenced and imprisoned	6,175	4,277	4,811	3,150	1,905	-	-
6.5 Christians abducted	3,829	1,710	1,052	-	-	-	-

2. Summary statements focusing on all WWL 2022 violence data

The statements below are based on the tables giving detailed violence data per country and region in Section 4 of this document. It is important to note that nearly all totals include several symbolic numbers (10, 100, 1000 or 10,000). This indicates that the numbers presented are lower than in reality.

- The total number of Christians killed for their faith rose from 4,761 registered cases (WWL 2021) to 5,898 (WWL 2022).**

This is an increase of 24%. Again Nigeria contributed most to the total: 4,650 or 79% of the recorded killings were in Nigeria alone. Pakistan came second with 11% (620 Christians killed). NN, Burkina Faso, DR Congo and Mozambique all follow with symbolic 100* which suggests these numbers are at least 100 but could easily be higher.
- The total number of churches attacked in differing forms of severity, increased from 4,488 registered cases (WWL 2021) to 5,110 (WWL 2022).**

This is an increase of 14%. China had again the highest number of churches attacked: 3,000 or 59% churches attacked. Followed by Nigeria (470), Bangladesh (200), Pakistan (183) and Qatar (100). Central African Republic, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Burundi, Angola and Rwanda all have symbolic 100*, indicating the real numbers could be (much) higher.

- **The total number of Christians detained for their faith increased from 2,813 registered cases (WWL 2021) to 4,765 (WWL 2022).**
This is an increase of 69%. India (1,310), NN (1,000*), Pakistan (1,000*) and China (1,000*) make up for 90% of the total.
- **The total number of Christians sentenced for their faith decreased from 1,464 registered cases (WWL 2021) to 1,410 (WWL 2022).**
This is a decrease of 4%. The main share was to be found in NN (1,000*), Eritrea (100*), China (100*) and Bangladesh (81). They represent 91% of the total.
- **The total number of Christians abducted for faith-related reasons increased from 1,710 registered cases (WWL 2021) to 3,829 (WWL 2022).**
This is an increase of 124%. Abductions were highest in Nigeria (2,510; 66%), followed by Pakistan (1000*; 26%). Both countries together account for 92% of the registered abductions.
- It was difficult to **record actual cases of Christians raped or otherwise sexually harassed for faith-related reasons: 3,147 (WWL 2022).**
For 36 countries (out of 48) a symbolic number was chosen (2 x 1000*; 8 x 100*; 26 x 10*). The real number was certainly (much) higher. The problem is that this is such a taboo subject that reports are very hard to obtain.
- The same applies for **registered cases of forced marriages of Christians to non-Christians: 1,588 (WWL 2022).**
This number consists of symbolic numbers for 25 countries (out of 37). The numbers are: 1 x 1000*; 3 x 100*; 21 x 10*. A world of abject misery for women forced into such marriages is hidden behind this (far) too low number.
- The number of **recorded cases of Christians who have been otherwise physically or mentally abused for faith-related reasons (including beatings and death threats) was 24,678 (WWL 2022).**
The statement says 'recorded', but 36 out of 74 are symbolic numbers (1 x 10,000*; 9 x 1,000*; 13 x 100*; 13 x 10*), which means the number given is low.
- There were **4,543 recorded cases of houses of Christians or other property (excluding shops) attacked (WWL 2022).**
The first 3 (Nigeria, Pakistan and Mozambique) all have a symbolic 1000*. Numbers 6 to 10 (Iraq, Syria, China, Burkina Faso and DR Congo) all have a symbolic 100*. In reality the numbers must be (much) higher especially in countries where jihadist violence forces many Christians to flee their communities.
- The same applies for **registered cases of shops or businesses of Christians that were attacked: 1,906 (WWL 2022).**
This number is low given that 18 out of the 38 countries with data are symbolic numbers (1 x 1000*; 7 x 100*; 10 x 10*).

- Because of violence but also pressure (especially converts having to leave their homes and communities) the **registered cases of Christians forced to leave their homes or go into hiding in-country for faith-related reasons was 218,709 (WWL 2022)**. Part of this number was however symbolic (1 x 10,000*; 5 x 1000*; 9 x 100*; 14 x 10*). Many more Christians likely became Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). In Myanmar alone there were 200,000 (91%).
- Sometimes there was no choice for Christians but to leave their country because of persecution. The number of **recorded cases of Christians forced to leave the country for faith-related reasons was 25,038 (WWL 2022)**. Myanmar alone represents 80% of this number (20,000). The percentage for Asia, after statistical adjustment (see explanation below), was 42%, against 57% for Africa.

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

The WWL 2022 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 estimated. 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 2021 and the discussion below.)

The tables presented below do not pretend to be complete. 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 2022 Full Country Dossiers for more details. These are made publicly available in mid-January 2022 at <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 2022 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 and regional data is shown.

For security reasons: There are 5 countries where the data on violence is presented but the names of those countries are not individually revealed. These countries are Afghanistan, Maldives, North Korea, Somalia and Yemen. The data for these countries are indicated with “NN” which stands for the Latin “Nomen Nescio” (“name unknown”).

In the tables below, where there is an asterisk (“*”) beside the name of the country, this indicates that the number given is understood to be symbolic, meaning that the real number of incidents is possibly (much) higher. In cases where it has been impossible to count exactly, a symbolic round figure (10, 100, 1000, 10,000) is given. 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 was counted is very often the absolute minimum. Much violence goes unnoticed and/or unreported.

4. Detailed Block 6 violence data per country and region

Please note: The light brown shading indicates country scoring 41+ points but ranked outside WWL 2022 Top 50.

6.1	How many Christians have been killed for faith-related reasons (including state sanctioned executions)? TOTAL: 5.898
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From high to low:

Rank 6.1	Rank WWL 2022	Country	Region	Subregion	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Score	Block Score
1	7	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	4650		87	16.7
2	8	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	620		87	16.7
3		NN			100	TRUE		
4	32	Burkina Faso	Africa	Western Africa	100	TRUE	68	14.8
5	40	Congo DR (DRC)	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	66	15.6
6	41	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	65	15.6
7	31	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	29		68	15.6
8	44	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	27		65	15.4
9	55	Tanzania	Africa	Eastern Africa	25		61	13.7
10	28	Indonesia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	15		68	13.5
11	12	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	13		79	14.8
12	68	Honduras	Latin America	Central America	13		48	8.7
13		NN			10	TRUE		
14	4	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	10	TRUE	91	11.5
15	10	India	Asia	South Asia	10		82	15.6
16	24	Mali	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	70	15.0
17	33	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	68	14.8
18	74	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	43	15.0
19	20	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	8		71	10.0
20	30	Colombia	Latin America	South America	7		68	13.3
21	43	Mexico	Latin America	Central America	7		65	12.6
22	65	Venezuela	Latin America	South America	4		51	9.6
23	69	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	4		48	11.7
24	51	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	3		63	11.1
25	70	El Salvador	Latin America	Central America	3		45	7.2
26	29	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	2		68	11.3

27	56	Azerbaijan	Asia	Western Asia	2		60	3.3
28	14	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	1		78	6.9
29	19	Vietnam	Asia	South-eastern Asia	1		71	8.7
30	26	Laos	Asia	South-eastern Asia	1		69	5.9
31	38	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	1		66	9.8
32	75	Ivory Coast	Africa	Western Africa	1		42	2.0
33	76	Israel	Asia	Western Asia	1		41	4.3

6.2 How many churches or Christian buildings (schools, hospitals, cemeteries, etc.) have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down, closed or confiscated for faith-related reasons?
TOTAL: 5,110

From high to low:

Rank 6.2	Rank WWL 2022	Country	Region	Subregion	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Score	Block Score
1	17	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	3000		76	11.1
2	7	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	470		87	16.7
3	29	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	200		68	11.3
4	8	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	183		87	16.7
5	18	Qatar	Asia	Western Asia	100		74	7.2
6	31	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	68	15.6
7	32	Burkina Faso	Africa	Western Africa	100	TRUE	68	14.8
8	41	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	65	15.6
9	64	Burundi	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	52	8.1
10	66	Angola	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	51	7.8
11	67	Rwanda	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	50	9.3
12	30	Colombia	Latin America	South America	96		68	13.3
13	10	India	Asia	South Asia	47		82	15.6
14	43	Mexico	Latin America	Central America	45		65	12.6
15	61	Nicaragua	Latin America	Central America	28		56	7.6
16	38	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	25		66	9.8
17	65	Venezuela	Latin America	South America	24		51	9.6
18	12	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	23		79	14.8
19	33	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	20		68	14.8
20	9	Iran	Asia	South Asia	19		85	10.4
21	28	Indonesia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	16		68	13.5
22	55	Tanzania	Africa	Eastern Africa	11		61	13.7
23		NN			10	TRUE		
24		NN			10			
25	6	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	88	11.1
26	13	Sudan	Africa	Northern Africa	10	TRUE	79	8.5
27	15	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	10		78	9.3

28	19	Vietnam	Asia	South-eastern Asia	10		71	8.7
29	24	Mali	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	70	15.0
30	40	Congo DR (DRC)	Africa	Middle Africa	10	TRUE	66	15.6
31	44	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	10	TRUE	65	15.4
32	51	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	10		63	11.1
33	52	Sri Lanka	Asia	South Asia	10		63	7.8
34	69	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	48	11.7
35	74	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	43	15.0
36		NN			8			
37	37	Cuba	Latin America	Caribbean	7		66	5.9
38	63	Chad	Africa	Middle Africa	6		55	5.6
39	76	Israel	Asia	Western Asia	6		41	4.3
40	48	Nepal	Asia	South Asia	5		64	5.2
41	70	El Salvador	Latin America	Central America	5		45	7.2
42	22	Algeria	Africa	Northern Africa	4		71	4.1
43	35	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	4		66	6.5
44	42	Turkey	Asia	Western Asia	4		65	4.6
45	4	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	3		91	11.5
46	14	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	3		78	6.9
47	26	Laos	Asia	South-eastern Asia	3		69	5.9
48	56	Azerbaijan	Asia	Western Asia	3		60	3.3
49	68	Honduras	Latin America	Central America	3		48	8.7
50	20	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	2		71	10.0
51	34	Bhutan	Asia	South Asia	2		67	1.7
52		NN			1			
53	39	Jordan	Asia	Western Asia	1		66	3.0
54	50	Malaysia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	1		63	3.3
55	59	Kyrgyzstan	Asia	Central Asia	1		58	1.5
56	62	Russian Federation	Europe	Eastern Europe	1		56	2.2

6.3 How many Christians have been detained without trial for faith-related reasons?

TOTAL: 4,765

From high to low:

Rank 6.3	Rank WWL 2022	Country	Region	Subregion	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Score	Block Score
1	10	India	Asia	South Asia	1310		82	15.6
2		NN			1000	TRUE		
3	8	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	1000	TRUE	87	16.7
4	17	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	1000	TRUE	76	11.1
5	6	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	55		88	11.1
6	9	Iran	Asia	South Asia	49		85	10.4

7	30	Colombia	Latin America	South America	45		68	13.3
8	37	Cuba	Latin America	Caribbean	44		66	5.9
9	28	Indonesia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	25		68	13.5
10	26	Laos	Asia	South-eastern Asia	19		69	5.9
11	7	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	17		87	16.7
12	43	Mexico	Latin America	Central America	17		65	12.6
13	12	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	16		79	14.8
14	20	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	11		71	10.0
15	27	Morocco	Africa	Northern Africa	11		69	3.9
16		NN			10	TRUE		
17		NN			10	TRUE		
18	19	Vietnam	Asia	South-eastern Asia	10		71	8.7
19	29	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	10	TRUE	68	11.3
20	39	Jordan	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	66	3.0
21	64	Burundi	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	52	8.1
22	66	Angola	Africa	Middle Africa	10	TRUE	51	7.8
23	67	Rwanda	Africa	Eastern Africa	10		50	9.3
24	47	Kazakhstan	Asia	Central Asia	8		64	1.7
25	48	Nepal	Asia	South Asia	7		64	5.2
26	15	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	6		78	9.3
27	65	Venezuela	Latin America	South America	6		51	9.6
28	69	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	6		48	11.7
29	21	Uzbekistan	Asia	Central Asia	5		71	1.7
30	33	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	3		68	14.8
31	52	Sri Lanka	Asia	South Asia	3		63	7.8
32		NN			2			
33	22	Algeria	Africa	Northern Africa	2		71	4.1
34	35	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	2		66	6.5
35	42	Turkey	Asia	Western Asia	2		65	4.6
36	53	Comoros	Africa	Eastern Africa	2		63	0.9
37	62	Russian Federation	Europe	Eastern Europe	2		56	2.2
38	4	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	1		91	11.5
39	11	Saudi Arabia	Asia	Western Asia	1		81	3.1
40	13	Sudan	Africa	Northern Africa	1		79	8.5
41	14	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	1		78	6.9
42		NN			1			
43	18	Qatar	Asia	Western Asia	1		74	7.2
44	23	Mauritania	Africa	Western Africa	1		70	0.9
45	34	Bhutan	Asia	South Asia	1		67	1.7
46	38	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	1		66	9.8
47	61	Nicaragua	Latin America	Central America	1		56	7.6

6.4	<p>How many Christians have been sentenced to jail, labor camp, sent to psychiatric hospital as punishment, or similar things for faith-related reasons?</p> <p>TOTAL: 1,410</p>
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From high to low:

Rank 6.4	Rank WWL 2022	Country	Region	Subregion	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Score	Block Score
1		NN			1000	TRUE		
2	6	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	88	11.1
3	17	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	100	TRUE	76	11.1
4	29	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	81		68	11.3
5	8	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	50		87	16.7
6	9	Iran	Asia	South Asia	16		85	10.4
7	43	Mexico	Latin America	Central America	12		65	12.6
8	7	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	87	16.7
9	10	India	Asia	South Asia	5		82	15.6
10	26	Laos	Asia	South-eastern Asia	5		69	5.9
11	4	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	4		91	11.5
12	22	Algeria	Africa	Northern Africa	4		71	4.1
13	35	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	4		66	6.5
14	37	Cuba	Latin America	Caribbean	4		66	5.9
15	47	Kazakhstan	Asia	Central Asia	3		64	1.7
16		NN			2			
17	11	Saudi Arabia	Asia	Western Asia	2		81	3.1
18	30	Colombia	Latin America	South America	2		68	13.3
19	19	Vietnam	Asia	South-eastern Asia	1		71	8.7
20	20	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	1		71	10.0
21	28	Indonesia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	1		68	13.5
22	42	Turkey	Asia	Western Asia	1		65	4.6
23	50	Malaysia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	1		63	3.3
24	61	Nicaragua	Latin America	Central America	1		56	7.6

6.5	How many Christians have been abducted for faith-related reasons (including Christians missing in a persecution context)? TOTAL: 3,829
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From high to low:

Rank 6.5	Rank WWL 2022	Country	Region	Subregion	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Score	Block Score
1	7	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	2510		87	16.7
2	8	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	1000	TRUE	87	16.7
3	40	Congo DR (DRC)	Africa	Middle Africa	134		66	15.6
4	14	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	31		78	6.9
5	29	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	11		68	11.3
6	4	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	10	TRUE	91	11.5
7		NN			10	TRUE		
8	6	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	88	11.1
9	17	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	10	TRUE	76	11.1
10	24	Mali	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	70	15.0
11	31	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	10	TRUE	68	15.6
12	41	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	65	15.6
13	74	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	43	15.0
14	32	Burkina Faso	Africa	Western Africa	8		68	14.8
15	27	Morocco	Africa	Northern Africa	7		69	3.9
16	20	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	5		71	10.0
17	70	El Salvador	Latin America	Central America	5		45	7.2
18	26	Laos	Asia	South-eastern Asia	4		69	5.9
19	30	Colombia	Latin America	South America	4		68	13.3
20	43	Mexico	Latin America	Central America	4		65	12.6
21	44	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	4		65	15.4
22	50	Malaysia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	3		63	3.3
23	51	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	3		63	11.1
24	10	India	Asia	South Asia	2		82	15.6
25	12	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	2		79	14.8
26	33	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	2		68	14.8
27	35	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	2		66	6.5
28	55	Tanzania	Africa	Eastern Africa	2		61	13.7
29	65	Venezuela	Latin America	South America	2		51	9.6
30	36	Oman	Asia	Western Asia	1		66	1.5
31	38	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	1		66	9.8
32	61	Nicaragua	Latin America	Central America	1		56	7.6
33	68	Honduras	Latin America	Central America	1		48	8.7

6.6	How many Christians have been raped or otherwise sexually harassed for faith-related reasons? TOTAL: 3,147
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From high to low:

Rank 6.6	Rank WWL 2022	Country	Region	Subregion	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Score	Block Score
1	7	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	1000	TRUE	87	16.7
2	8	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	1000	TRUE	87	16.7
3		NN			100	TRUE		
4	11	Saudi Arabia	Asia	Western Asia	100	TRUE	81	3.1
5	12	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	100	TRUE	79	14.8
6	32	Burkina Faso	Africa	Western Africa	100	TRUE	68	14.8
7	39	Jordan	Asia	Western Asia	100	TRUE	66	3.0
8	40	Congo DR (DRC)	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	66	15.6
9	41	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	65	15.6
10	44	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	65	15.4
11	10	India	Asia	South Asia	38		82	15.6
12	27	Morocco	Africa	Northern Africa	12		69	3.9
13		NN			10	TRUE		
14		NN			10	TRUE		
15	4	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	10	TRUE	91	11.5
16		NN			10	TRUE		
17	6	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	88	11.1
18	13	Sudan	Africa	Northern Africa	10	TRUE	79	8.5
19	14	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	78	6.9
20	15	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	78	9.3
21	17	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	10	TRUE	76	11.1
22	18	Qatar	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	74	7.2
23	20	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	10	TRUE	71	10.0
24	22	Algeria	Africa	Northern Africa	10	TRUE	71	4.1
25	24	Mali	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	70	15.0
26	31	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	10	TRUE	68	15.6
27	35	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	10	TRUE	66	6.5
28	36	Oman	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	66	1.5
29	38	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	66	9.8
30	42	Turkey	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	65	4.6
31	49	Kuwait	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	64	1.1
32	51	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	63	11.1
33	54	United Arab Emirates	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	62	1.3
34	60	Bahrain	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	57	0.9
35	63	Chad	Africa	Middle Africa	10	TRUE	55	5.6
36	67	Rwanda	Africa	Eastern Africa	10		50	9.3
37	69	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	48	11.7
38	74	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	43	15.0
39	70	El Salvador	Latin America	Central America	9		45	7.2
40	30	Colombia	Latin America	South America	7		68	13.3

41	68	Honduras	Latin America	Central America	7		48	8.7
42	29	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	5		68	11.3
43	9	Iran	Asia	South Asia	3		85	10.4
44	52	Sri Lanka	Asia	South Asia	2		63	7.8
45	26	Laos	Asia	South-eastern Asia	1		69	5.9
46	33	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	1		68	14.8
47	58	Djibouti	Africa	Eastern Africa	1		59	0.7
48	64	Burundi	Africa	Eastern Africa	1		52	8.1

6.7 How many cases have there been of forced marriages of Christians to non-Christians?

TOTAL: 1,588

From high to low:

Rank 6.7	Rank WWL 2022	Country	Region	Subregion	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Score	Block Score
1	8	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	1000	TRUE	87	16.7
2	7	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	100	TRUE	87	16.7
3	40	Congo DR (DRC)	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	66	15.6
4	50	Malaysia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	100	TRUE	63	3.3
5	9	Iran	Asia	South Asia	30		85	10.4
6	10	India	Asia	South Asia	20		82	15.6
7		NN			10	TRUE		
8		NN			10	TRUE		
9	6	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	88	11.1
10	13	Sudan	Africa	Northern Africa	10	TRUE	79	8.5
11	14	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	78	6.9
12	17	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	10	TRUE	76	11.1
13	20	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	10	TRUE	71	10.0
14	24	Mali	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	70	15.0
15	31	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	10	TRUE	68	15.6
16	32	Burkina Faso	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	68	14.8
17	38	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	66	9.8
18	41	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	65	15.6
19	44	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	10		65	15.4
20	51	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	63	11.1
21	63	Chad	Africa	Middle Africa	10	TRUE	55	5.6
22	64	Burundi	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	52	8.1
23	69	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	48	11.7
24	71	Togo	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	44	2.4
25	72	Gambia	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	44	1.7
26	74	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	43	15.0
27	75	Ivory Coast	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	42	2.0
28	35	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	5		66	6.5
29	67	Rwanda	Africa	Eastern Africa	5		50	9.3
30	27	Morocco	Africa	Northern Africa	4		69	3.9
31	29	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	4		68	11.3

32		NN			3			
33	4	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	2		91	11.5
34	30	Colombia	Latin America	South America	2		68	13.3
35	11	Saudi Arabia	Asia	Western Asia	1		81	3.1
36	18	Qatar	Asia	Western Asia	1		74	7.2
37	33	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	1		68	14.8

6.8 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: 24,678

From high to low:

Rank 6.8	Rank WWL 2022	Country	Region	Subregion	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Score	Block Score
1	7	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	10,000	TRUE	87	16.7
2	10	India	Asia	South Asia	1779		82	15.6
3		NN			1000	TRUE		
4		NN			1000	TRUE		
5	6	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	1000	TRUE	88	11.1
6	8	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	1000	TRUE	87	16.7
7	12	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	1000	TRUE	79	14.8
8	17	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	1000	TRUE	76	11.1
9	31	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	1000	TRUE	68	15.6
10	41	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	1000	TRUE	65	15.6
11	50	Malaysia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	1000	TRUE	63	3.3
12	30	Colombia	Latin America	South America	683		68	13.3
13	29	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	400		68	11.3
14	38	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	215		66	9.8
15	69	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	194		48	11.7
16	9	Iran	Asia	South Asia	114		85	10.4
17	59	Kyrgyzstan	Asia	Central Asia	109		58	1.5
18	4	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	100	TRUE	91	11.5
19	11	Saudi Arabia	Asia	Western Asia	100	TRUE	81	3.1
20	13	Sudan	Africa	Northern Africa	100	TRUE	79	8.5
21	32	Burkina Faso	Africa	Western Africa	100	TRUE	68	14.8
22	40	Congo DR (DRC)	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	66	15.6
23	44	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	65	15.4
24	51	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	63	11.1
25	55	Tanzania	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	61	13.7
26	64	Burundi	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	52	8.1
27	66	Angola	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	51	7.8
28	68	Honduras	Latin America	Central America	100	TRUE	48	8.7
29	70	El Salvador	Latin America	Central America	100	TRUE	45	7.2

30	74	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	43	15.0
31	21	Uzbekistan	Asia	Central Asia	64		71	1.7
32	35	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	53		66	6.5
33	56	Azerbaijan	Asia	Western Asia	52		60	3.3
34	20	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	51		71	10.0
35	33	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	43		68	14.8
36	43	Mexico	Latin America	Central America	40		65	12.6
37	52	Sri Lanka	Asia	South Asia	40		63	7.8
38	45	Tajikistan	Asia	Central Asia	37		65	0.7
39	27	Morocco	Africa	Northern Africa	34		69	3.9
40	48	Nepal	Asia	South Asia	33		64	5.2
41	47	Kazakhstan	Asia	Central Asia	31		64	1.7
42	26	Laos	Asia	South-eastern Asia	30		69	5.9
43	14	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	29		78	6.9
44	25	Turkmenistan	Asia	Central Asia	27		69	0.6
45	28	Indonesia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	24		68	13.5
46	61	Nicaragua	Latin America	Central America	22		56	7.6
47	62	Russian Federation	Europe	Eastern Europe	21		56	2.2
48		NN			19			
49	37	Cuba	Latin America	Caribbean	18		66	5.9
50	53	Comoros	Africa	Eastern Africa	18		63	0.9
51	19	Vietnam	Asia	South-eastern Asia	15		71	8.7
52	73	Guinea	Africa	Western Africa	15		43	2.0
53	22	Algeria	Africa	Northern Africa	11		71	4.1
54		NN			10	TRUE		
55	15	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	78	9.3
56	18	Qatar	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	74	7.2
57	23	Mauritania	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	70	0.9
58	39	Jordan	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	66	3.0
59	42	Turkey	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	65	4.6
60	49	Kuwait	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	64	1.1
61	54	United Arab Emirates	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	62	1.3
62	58	Djibouti	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	59	0.7
63	63	Chad	Africa	Middle Africa	10	TRUE	55	5.6
64	67	Rwanda	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	50	9.3
65	71	Togo	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	44	2.4
66	72	Gambia	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	44	1.7
67	65	Venezuela	Latin America	South America	9		51	9.6
68	60	Bahrain	Asia	Western Asia	5		57	0.9
69	75	Ivory Coast	Africa	Western Africa	4		42	2.0
70	34	Bhutan	Asia	South Asia	3		67	1.7
71	24	Mali	Africa	Western Africa	2		70	15.0
72	57	Palestinian Territories	Asia	Western Asia	2		59	0.9
73	36	Oman	Asia	Western Asia	1		66	1.5
74	76	Israel	Asia	Western Asia	1		41	4.3

6.9	<p>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?</p> <p>TOTAL: 4,543</p>
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From high to low:

Rank 6.9	Rank WWL 2022	Country	Region	Subregion	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Score	Block Score
1	7	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	1000	TRUE	87	16.7
2	8	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	1000	TRUE	87	16.7
3	41	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	1000	TRUE	65	15.6
4	44	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	270		65	15.4
5	29	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	135		68	11.3
6	14	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	100	TRUE	78	6.9
7	15	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	100	TRUE	78	9.3
8	17	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	100	TRUE	76	11.1
9	32	Burkina Faso	Africa	Western Africa	100	TRUE	68	14.8
10	40	Congo DR (DRC)	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	66	15.6
11	10	India	Asia	South Asia	91		82	15.6
12	43	Mexico	Latin America	Central America	80		65	12.6
13	31	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	71		68	15.6
14	38	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	62		66	9.8
15	12	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	43		79	14.8
16	26	Laos	Asia	South-eastern Asia	39		69	5.9
17	20	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	31		71	10.0
18	28	Indonesia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	27		68	13.5
19	51	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	16		63	11.1
20	9	Iran	Asia	South Asia	14		85	10.4
21	35	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	11		66	6.5
22		NN			10	TRUE		
23	6	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	88	11.1
24	13	Sudan	Africa	Northern Africa	10	TRUE	79	8.5
25	24	Mali	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	70	15.0
26	55	Tanzania	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	61	13.7
27	67	Rwanda	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	50	9.3
28	73	Guinea	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	43	2.0
29	74	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	43	15.0
30	19	Vietnam	Asia	South-eastern Asia	9		71	8.7
31		NN			8			
32	33	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	8		68	14.8
33	69	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	7		48	11.7
34	27	Morocco	Africa	Northern Africa	6		69	3.9
35	30	Colombia	Latin America	South America	6		68	13.3
36	62	Russian Federation	Europe	Eastern Europe	5		56	2.2

37	70	El Salvador	Latin America	Central America	5		45	7.2
38	4	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	3		91	11.5
39	65	Venezuela	Latin America	South America	3		51	9.6
40	21	Uzbekistan	Asia	Central Asia	2		71	1.7
41	37	Cuba	Latin America	Caribbean	2		66	5.9
42	52	Sri Lanka	Asia	South Asia	2		63	7.8
43	11	Saudi Arabia	Asia	Western Asia	1		81	3.1
44	39	Jordan	Asia	Western Asia	1		66	3.0
45	42	Turkey	Asia	Western Asia	1		65	4.6
46	47	Kazakhstan	Asia	Central Asia	1		64	1.7
47	50	Malaysia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	1		63	3.3
48	54	United Arab Emirates	Asia	Western Asia	1		62	1.3
49	71	Togo	Africa	Western Africa	1		44	2.4

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: 1,906

From high to low:

Rank 6.10	Rank WWL 2022	Country	Region	Subregion	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Score	Block Score
1	7	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	1000	TRUE	87	16.7
2	8	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	100	TRUE	87	16.7
3	14	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	100	TRUE	78	6.9
4	15	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	100	TRUE	78	9.3
5	31	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	68	15.6
6	32	Burkina Faso	Africa	Western Africa	100	TRUE	68	14.8
7	40	Congo DR (DRC)	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	66	15.6
8	41	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	65	15.6
9	38	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	34		66	9.8
10	9	Iran	Asia	South Asia	15		85	10.4
11	20	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	15		71	10.0
12	33	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	12		68	14.8
13	6	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	88	11.1
14	17	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	10	TRUE	76	11.1
15	24	Mali	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	70	15.0
16	29	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	10	TRUE	68	11.3
17	44	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	10	TRUE	65	15.4
18	51	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	63	11.1
19	55	Tanzania	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	61	13.7
20	69	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	48	11.7
21	71	Togo	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	44	2.4
22	74	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	43	15.0

23	19	Vietnam	Asia	South-eastern Asia	5		71	8.7
24	48	Nepal	Asia	South Asia	4		64	5.2
25	70	El Salvador	Latin America	Central America	4		45	7.2
26	26	Laos	Asia	South-eastern Asia	3		69	5.9
27	73	Guinea	Africa	Western Africa	3		43	2.0
28		NN			2			
29	10	India	Asia	South Asia	2		82	15.6
30	4	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	1		91	11.5
31		NN			1			
32	27	Morocco	Africa	Northern Africa	1		69	3.9
33	30	Colombia	Latin America	South America	1		68	13.3
34	35	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	1		66	6.5
35	47	Kazakhstan	Asia	Central Asia	1		64	1.7
36	64	Burundi	Africa	Eastern Africa	1		52	8.1

6.11 How many Christians have been forced to leave their homes or go into hiding in-country for faith-related reasons?
TOTAL: 218,709

From high to low:

Rank 6.11	Rank WWL 2022	Country	Region	Subregion	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Score	Block Score
1	12	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	200,000		79	14.8
2	7	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	10,000	TRUE	87	16.7
3		NN			1000	TRUE		
4	8	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	1000	TRUE	87	16.7
5	33	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	1000	TRUE	68	14.8
6	40	Congo DR (DRC)	Africa	Middle Africa	1000	TRUE	66	15.6
7	41	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	1000	TRUE	65	15.6
8	30	Colombia	Latin America	South America	598		68	13.3
9	38	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	534		66	9.8
10	43	Mexico	Latin America	Central America	405		65	12.6
11	10	India	Asia	South Asia	380		82	15.6
12	29	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	200		68	11.3
13	20	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	117		71	10.0
14		NN			100	TRUE		
15	14	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	100	TRUE	78	6.9
16	19	Vietnam	Asia	South-eastern Asia	100	TRUE	71	8.7
17	24	Mali	Africa	Western Africa	100	TRUE	70	15.0
18	31	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	68	15.6
19	32	Burkina Faso	Africa	Western Africa	100	TRUE	68	14.8
20	44	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	65	15.4
21	51	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	63	11.1

22	74	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	43	15.0
23	9	Iran	Asia	South Asia	90		85	10.4
24	26	Laos	Asia	South-eastern Asia	83		69	5.9
25	28	Indonesia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	55		68	13.5
26	67	Rwanda	Africa	Eastern Africa	50		50	9.3
27	69	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	30		48	11.7
28	15	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	23		78	9.3
29	27	Morocco	Africa	Northern Africa	20		69	3.9
30	35	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	17		66	6.5
31	4	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	12		91	11.5
32		NN			10	TRUE		
33	6	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	88	11.1
34	11	Saudi Arabia	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	81	3.1
35	13	Sudan	Africa	Northern Africa	10	TRUE	79	8.5
36	17	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	10	TRUE	76	11.1
37	48	Nepal	Asia	South Asia	10	TRUE	64	5.2
38	55	Tanzania	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	61	13.7
39	63	Chad	Africa	Middle Africa	10	TRUE	55	5.6
40	64	Burundi	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	52	8.1
41	66	Angola	Africa	Middle Africa	10	TRUE	51	7.8
42	71	Togo	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	44	2.4
43	72	Gambia	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	44	1.7
44	73	Guinea	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	43	2.0
45	75	Ivory Coast	Africa	Western Africa	10	TRUE	42	2.0
46	68	Honduras	Latin America	Central America	9		48	8.7
47	70	El Salvador	Latin America	Central America	9		45	7.2
48	21	Uzbekistan	Asia	Central Asia	8		71	1.7
49	50	Malaysia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	6		63	3.3
50	59	Kyrgyzstan	Asia	Central Asia	5		58	1.5
51	62	Russian Federation	Europe	Eastern Europe	5		56	2.2
52	39	Jordan	Asia	Western Asia	4		66	3.0
53	61	Nicaragua	Latin America	Central America	4		56	7.6
54	23	Mauritania	Africa	Western Africa	1		70	0.9
55	45	Tajikistan	Asia	Central Asia	1		65	0.7
56	52	Sri Lanka	Asia	South Asia	1		63	7.8
57	57	Palestinian Territories	Asia	Western Asia	1		59	0.9
58	76	Israel	Asia	Western Asia	1		41	4.3

6.12 How many Christians have been forced to leave the country for faith-related reasons?
TOTAL: 25,038

From high to low:

Rank 6.12	Rank WWL 2022	Country	Region	Subregion	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Score	Block Score
1	12	Myanmar	Asia	South-eastern Asia	20,000		79	14.8
2		NN			1000	TRUE		
3	6	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	1000	TRUE	88	11.1
4	7	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	1000	TRUE	87	16.7
5	9	Iran	Asia	South Asia	1000	TRUE	85	10.4
6		NN			100	TRUE		
7	4	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	100	TRUE	91	11.5
8	8	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	100	TRUE	87	16.7
9	17	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	100	TRUE	76	11.1
10	31	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	68	15.6
11	41	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	100	TRUE	65	15.6
12	44	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	65	15.4
13	66	Angola	Africa	Middle Africa	100	TRUE	51	7.8
14	42	Turkey	Asia	Western Asia	40		65	4.6
15	33	Niger	Africa	Western Africa	35		68	14.8
16	15	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	11		78	9.3
17	61	Nicaragua	Latin America	Central America	11		56	7.6
18		NN			10	TRUE		
19		NN			10	TRUE		
20	11	Saudi Arabia	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	81	3.1
21	14	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	10	TRUE	78	6.9
22	36	Oman	Asia	Western Asia	10		66	1.5
23	40	Congo DR (DRC)	Africa	Middle Africa	10	TRUE	66	15.6
24	46	Brunei	Asia	South-eastern Asia	10	TRUE	64	0.6
25	48	Nepal	Asia	South Asia	10		64	5.2
26	50	Malaysia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	10	TRUE	63	3.3
27	67	Rwanda	Africa	Eastern Africa	10	TRUE	50	9.3
28	69	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	9		48	11.7
29	27	Morocco	Africa	Northern Africa	7		69	3.9
30	65	Venezuela	Latin America	South America	6		51	9.6
31	35	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	4		66	6.5
32	70	El Salvador	Latin America	Central America	4		45	7.2
33	52	Sri Lanka	Asia	South Asia	2		63	7.8
34	57	Palestinian Territories	Asia	Western Asia	2		59	0.9
35	18	Qatar	Asia	Western Asia	1		74	7.2
36	24	Mali	Africa	Western Africa	1		70	15.0
37	26	Laos	Asia	South-eastern Asia	1		69	5.9

38	30	Colombia	Latin America	South America	1		68	13.3
39	37	Cuba	Latin America	Caribbean	1		66	5.9
40	39	Jordan	Asia	Western Asia	1		66	3.0
41	51	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	1		63	11.1

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8. WWL 2022: Ranking according to pressure score

Please note: The light brown shading indicates country scoring 41+ points but ranked outside WWL 2022 Top 50.

Squeeze	WWL 2022		1. Private Life	2. Family Life	3. Community Life	4. National Life	5. Church Life	TOTAL SCORE
Rank	Rank	Country	Score	Score	Score	Score	Score	SQUEEZE WWL 2022
1	1	Afghanistan	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	83
2	2	North Korea	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	83
3	5	Yemen	16.7	16.6	16.5	16.7	16.7	83
4	3	Somalia	16.5	16.7	16.6	16.6	16.6	83
5	4	Libya	15.6	15.5	15.9	16.2	16.3	79
6	11	Saudi Arabia	15.1	15.1	15.0	15.9	16.7	78
7	16	Maldives	15.4	15.3	13.7	15.8	16.5	77
8	6	Eritrea	14.6	14.9	15.5	15.9	15.6	76
9	9	Iran	14.5	14.6	13.6	15.8	16.5	75
10	14	Iraq	14.0	14.6	14.0	14.8	13.9	71
11	7	Nigeria	13.8	13.8	14.3	14.5	14.4	71
12	8	Pakistan	13.6	14.0	15.1	14.9	13.1	71
13	13	Sudan	13.4	13.4	14.3	13.6	15.7	70
14	23	Mauritania	14.3	13.9	13.1	14.0	14.1	69
15	21	Uzbekistan	14.9	12.7	14.1	11.8	15.6	69
16	25	Turkmenistan	14.5	11.3	13.6	13.3	15.7	68
17	15	Syria	12.9	13.8	13.5	14.3	13.9	68
18	18	Qatar	14.2	14.1	11.1	13.0	14.3	67
19	22	Algeria	14.0	14.0	11.1	13.4	14.1	66
20	10	India	12.7	12.7	12.9	14.7	13.3	66
21	34	Bhutan	13.4	12.4	11.7	13.7	13.8	65
22	27	Morocco	13.1	13.8	10.8	12.8	14.2	65
23	36	Oman	13.8	14.0	10.3	13.2	13.4	65
24	17	China	12.6	9.8	12.2	14.4	15.5	65
25	12	Myanmar	12.4	11.5	13.8	13.4	13.1	64
26	45	Tajikistan	13.8	12.3	12.0	12.6	13.2	64
27	46	Brunei	14.8	14.5	10.3	11.0	13.2	64
28	26	Laos	12.0	10.3	13.2	13.3	14.1	63
29	39	Jordan	12.9	14.0	11.0	12.3	12.5	63
30	49	Kuwait	13.5	13.7	9.8	12.3	13.1	62
31	19	Vietnam	11.3	9.7	12.7	14.1	14.5	62
32	47	Kazakhstan	13.4	11.6	11.1	12.6	13.5	62
33	53	Comoros	12.7	11.1	11.2	12.4	14.2	62
34	54	United Arab Emirates	13.4	13.6	10.1	11.8	12.2	61
35	20	Egypt	12.7	13.2	11.5	12.7	10.8	61
36	42	Turkey	12.6	11.5	11.4	13.2	11.6	60
37	37	Cuba	12.3	8.1	12.6	13.2	14.0	60
38	50	Malaysia	12.5	14.3	11.5	11.6	10.2	60
39	35	Tunisia	11.9	12.7	10.6	11.3	13.4	60
40	48	Nepal	12.4	9.8	9.9	13.6	12.7	58
41	57	Palestinian Territories	13.0	13.4	9.8	10.2	12.0	58
42	58	Djibouti	12.3	12.3	11.1	10.0	12.2	58
43	29	Bangladesh	11.8	10.7	12.9	11.3	10.2	57
44	56	Azerbaijan	13.1	9.9	9.3	11.0	13.4	57
45	59	Kyrgyzstan	12.9	10.1	11.1	10.4	12.0	56
46	60	Bahrain	12.5	13.2	9.1	11.1	10.2	56
47	38	Ethiopia	9.9	10.3	13.1	10.3	12.3	56
48	52	Sri Lanka	12.9	9.9	11.4	11.3	9.4	55
49	28	Indonesia	11.3	11.5	11.5	11.0	9.6	55
50	24	Mali	9.4	8.2	13.9	10.3	12.8	55
51	30	Colombia	11.5	8.8	13.1	11.0	9.9	54
52	62	Russian Federation	12.3	8.0	10.2	10.6	12.3	53
53	32	Burkina Faso	9.4	9.7	12.0	9.6	12.1	53
54	33	Niger	9.4	9.5	13.9	7.2	12.8	53
55	43	Mexico	10.3	8.3	12.5	10.8	10.3	52
56	31	Central African Republic	9.0	8.6	13.6	9.6	11.4	52
57	51	Kenya	11.7	9.2	11.4	8.0	11.5	52
58	40	Congo DR (DRC)	8.0	7.9	12.6	9.7	12.0	50
59	63	Chad	11.5	8.2	10.2	9.6	10.3	50
60	41	Mozambique	9.3	8.5	11.3	7.9	12.5	49
61	44	Cameroon	8.8	7.6	12.6	7.2	13.1	49
62	61	Nicaragua	9.1	5.6	11.1	11.8	11.3	49
63	55	Tanzania	9.3	10.8	10.3	8.6	8.7	48
64	64	Burundi	7.6	7.8	9.7	9.2	9.6	44
65	66	Angola	6.8	6.7	8.1	10.1	11.4	43
66	72	Gambia	8.3	8.2	8.7	8.3	8.8	42
67	71	Togo	9.2	6.7	9.3	7.1	9.8	42
68	65	Venezuela	5.6	4.5	11.2	9.4	11.1	42
69	73	Guinea	10.3	7.5	8.3	7.0	8.1	41
70	67	Rwanda	8.1	5.5	6.7	10.3	10.1	41
71	75	Ivory Coast	9.8	8.6	8.2	5.5	7.9	40
72	68	Honduras	7.2	5.1	10.5	7.7	9.2	40
73	70	El Salvador	7.7	4.6	10.7	5.7	9.1	38
74	76	Israel	9.8	8.4	5.6	6.6	6.6	37
75	69	Uganda	8.1	4.6	7.4	6.7	9.1	36
76	74	South Sudan	5.7	0.9	7.0	6.3	7.8	28

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9. WWL 2022: Ranking according to violence score

Please note: The light brown shading indicates country scoring 41+ points but ranked outside WWL 2022 Top 50.

Smash Rank	WWL 2022 Rank	Country	Violence Score
1	7	Nigeria	16.7
2	8	Pakistan	16.7
3	10	India	15.6
4	31	Central African Republic	15.6
5	40	Congo DR (DRC)	15.6
6	41	Mozambique	15.6
7	44	Cameroon	15.4
8	1	Afghanistan	15.0
9	24	Mali	15.0
10	74	South Sudan	15.0
11	12	Myanmar	14.8
12	32	Burkina Faso	14.8
13	33	Niger	14.8
14	55	Tanzania	13.7
15	28	Indonesia	13.5
16	30	Colombia	13.3
17	2	North Korea	13.1
18	43	Mexico	12.6
19	69	Uganda	11.7
20	4	Libya	11.5
21	29	Bangladesh	11.3
22	6	Eritrea	11.1
23	17	China	11.1
24	51	Kenya	11.1
25	9	Iran	10.4
26	20	Egypt	10.0
27	38	Ethiopia	9.8
28	65	Venezuela	9.6
29	15	Syria	9.3
30	67	Rwanda	9.3
31	19	Vietnam	8.7
32	68	Honduras	8.7
33	3	Somalia	8.5
34	13	Sudan	8.5
35	64	Burundi	8.1
36	52	Sri Lanka	7.8
37	66	Angola	7.8
38	61	Nicaragua	7.6
39	18	Qatar	7.2
40	70	El Salvador	7.2
41	14	Iraq	6.9
42	35	Tunisia	6.5
43	26	Laos	5.9
44	37	Cuba	5.9
45	63	Chad	5.6
46	5	Yemen	5.2
47	48	Nepal	5.2
48	42	Turkey	4.6
49	76	Israel	4.3
50	22	Algeria	4.1
51	27	Morocco	3.9
52	50	Malaysia	3.3
53	56	Azerbaijan	3.3
54	11	Saudi Arabia	3.1
55	39	Jordan	3.0
56	71	Togo	2.4
57	62	Russian Federation	2.2
58	73	Guinea	2.0
59	75	Ivory Coast	2.0
60	21	Uzbekistan	1.7
61	34	Bhutan	1.7
62	47	Kazakhstan	1.7
63	72	Gambia	1.7
64	36	Oman	1.5
65	59	Kyrgyzstan	1.5
66	54	United Arab Emirates	1.3
67	49	Kuwait	1.1
68	23	Mauritania	0.9
69	53	Comoros	0.9
70	57	Palestinian Territories	0.9
71	60	Bahrain	0.9
72	45	Tajikistan	0.7
73	58	Djibouti	0.7
74	25	Turkmenistan	0.6
75	46	Brunei	0.6
76	16	Maldives	0.4

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9. WWL 2022 Article on Gender-specific religious persecution (GSRP)

It took Sarah years to decide to follow Jesus. It was *such* a risky choice. As a teenager in North Africa, she didn't just grow up Muslim by convenience or convention; her father was an imam and held the household in an iron grip. As a child, she was harshly punished if she wasn't a good enough Muslim. Daring to leave Islam had nearly unthinkable consequences. The day her father discovered the Bible hidden underneath her bed, he beat her and screamed at her, "You're an apostate, you deserve to be dead."

What followed that day, that year, and then years into the future was exactly what she had feared. The physical violence, although awful, was not the most effective coercive force she faced. When she was young, her family limited her social circle; keeping her socially dependent upon her family, and setting a pattern of social ostracization as a form of control.

When she continued to persevere in her Christian faith, Sarah was subjected to verbal harassment from family members, who falsely accused her of leaving the family home to live out of wedlock with a man, being immoral and dishonoring the family. This untrue accusation was painful, deeply humiliating and totally isolating for her; Sarah had few protections in her patriarchal North African society, and little legal recourse in actual practice. In her context, the coercive control and violence which her family exercised over her was considered a normal and even appropriate means to control their wayward daughter.

According to global research, Sarah's experience of religious persecution is more typical than not. Behind closed doors, in ways that blend into the ambient violence and control of women, this form of religious persecution receives the unspoken approval of a disapproving society.

Although she was not forcibly married, Sarah was told that marriage was a way to reconcile and stop the gossip. "The man you marry will cleanse you from all your sins and we will be able to meet again." It was the pressure of being denied social access to her family, combined with the moral accusations that led Sarah, as an adult, to try to find 'belonging' again with her family by placating them with a marriage of their choosing.

The marriage did not create peace for Sarah. Instead, it produced a cycle of sexual violence and confinement to the house until her husband also kicked her out. She was left with nothing but the clothes she was wearing in a society where it is not socially acceptable for a woman to live on her own, even if she has the means to do so.

Open Doors World Watch Research (WWR) annually investigates gender-specific religious persecution (GSRP) dynamics, to better understand situations like Sarah's. The 2022 GSRP report to be published by WWR in March 2022 details the typical global means of religious persecution for men and women in the 76 countries most hostile to Christianity. Women and girls tend to suffer more often for their faith in the shadows of the domestic sphere or small social circles, with shame often playing a crucial role. Forced marriage, sexual violence, other physical violence

and incarceration by family are the most common tactics across 50 countries according to the 2022 report.

For many Christians, religious persecution takes place in contexts with more overt violence and danger than Sarah faced. In several regions throughout the world, Christian men and women suffer additional religious persecution at the hands of state or non-state actors. The situation in northern Nigeria continues to pose the most extreme threat to Christian women and girls. “In cases of abduction, the moment these girls are abducted, they are subjected to all manner of evil just to take control of their minds. Once their minds are affected, these girls will do everything they are asked to do”, a Nigerian respondent shares. “While the parents fight to free their daughters, the abductors continue to sexually abuse the girls, spike their food and drink [with drugs], control what they wear and where they sleep, and continually evoke evil spirits upon them to the point that these girls completely lose their minds and can’t think of going back to their homes.”

Among the topics highlighted in 2022 is the targeting of men if they are church leaders, used as examples to intimidate whole congregations through highly visible acts such as extortion, kidnappings and killings. More generally, men of the church are subject to visible forms of coercion and punishment for their faith: physical violence, economic harassment, government imprisonment and militia/military conscription. Whether targeting the individual men or women of the Christian community, gender-specific religious persecution isolates the vulnerabilities or strengths of each gender in order to cause damage to the whole Christian community.

For both men and women, psychological violence has risen to the top five Pressure Points¹⁶ and, many would argue, is the crux of every incident of religious persecution. Not just the mental hardship or emotional anguish which may accompany bereavement, violence or exclusion, but the ultimate question: Is your faith choice worth the suffering? Now aged 27, Sarah’s response remains clear: “I chose a challenging path, that is to follow Jesus. I knew it would be hard, but I didn’t lose hope. I tried and tried many times, I was exhausted, I fell many times, but rose again. I don’t have the fear I used to have when I was younger. God is here and He’s working in me.”

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¹⁶ Pressure Points and related GSRP methodology can be found at: <https://opendoorsanalytical.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/GSRP-Methodology-March-2021.pdf>, pp.4-6 (password: freedom).

10. WWL 2022 Article on Children and Youth-specific religious persecution (C/YSRP)

Targeting the next generation of the church: The challenges that face Christian children and youth

In September 2021, Open Doors World Watch Research (WWR) released preliminary findings on the unique challenges facing Christian children and youth of the persecuted church.¹⁷ The report found that, in the 50 countries listed where Christians face the highest levels of persecution, young people are isolated, harshly treated, and pressured to conform to majority identities. The goal – to weaken the church in the generations to come.



Photo © Open Doors International

Matti¹⁸ is a good example of how this pressure operates. He was born into a Christian family in Iraq, under the rule of the Arab Socialist Ba’ath Party. While he was still young, his parents divorced, and his mother remarried a Muslim. According to the law, Matti automatically became Muslim when his mother remarried and converted to her new husband’s religion. This new religious identity legally became part of Matti’s official record. However, in his heart, Matti still held on to a faith in Jesus.

When Matti was 25, he met a Christian woman whom he hoped to marry. Unfortunately, because he was technically a Muslim, the woman’s family rejected him. His legal identity meant that any children of their marriage would by law also be considered Muslim. Matti still hoped to marry and raise children in his chosen religion of Christianity. Unfortunately, this happened once more and Matti’s proposal of marriage to a Christian woman was rejected for the same reason.

Decisions made for Matti as a youth continue to impact his freedom to practice his religion and raise a family in the faith of his choice.

¹⁷ ‘Children and Youth Specific Religious Persecution 2021: Preliminary findings from 50 countries’. Available at: https://www.opendoors.org/Childrens_Report. An updated report on Children and Youth Specific Religious Persecution is scheduled for release on 1 September 2022.

¹⁸ Name changed for security reasons.

In general, persecution and discrimination target individuals where they are most vulnerable. This leaves Christian children and youth – including those in their formative years who are still developing their life choices – particularly exposed to persecution. Primarily reliant on the protection of adults and often lacking the physical or legal resources to protect themselves, they can be ‘soft targets’ for persecutors. Their suffering is especially unseen or invisible in societies where age equals status.

Matti never did find a woman whose family would allow her to marry him. His dream of raising children and passing on the faith which is so important to him has died. Now aged 45 – nearly two generations after his mother remarried – Matti's family status continues to be defined by one law regarding a child's religious registration. In a society where becoming a father gives status and a place of belonging, this law has shaped much of the course of his life and identity.

Equally sobering from the September 2021 report is the finding that for many young Christians of today, the persecution they face is of a more violent nature. It is deeply unsettling to think of the boys and girls of the church being attacked and, in extreme circumstances, killed. Unfortunately, this is a reality for many Christian youth.

Across the 50 countries researched, Christian girls live in fear of sexual violence, be it in a domestic environment hostile to their faith, in their local communities or at the hands of extremists. Whilst Christian boys are not immune from the threat of sexual violence, they primarily risk physical beatings or being forced into the ranks of militias or armed gangs. For both genders, Christian children and youth are at risk of being forced to flee their homes, and of being trafficked.

A statement from an Open Doors expert on youth in the Middle East serves as a suitable conclusion: “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 that it can’t impact society or exist in certain spaces and spheres at all, leaving the Church completely vulnerable and set up for more extreme persecution or to just fade into the shadows.”

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Education: The top challenge facing young Christians

In virtually all of the countries where Christians face the highest levels of persecution, Christian children and youth face discrimination and harassment in educational settings. For most people, school is a time of learning and friendship. Yet it can be the place where isolation, violence and shame are most keenly felt by Christian children and youth. They are singled out as different, bullied, marked down on graded assessments or even denied scholarships. In extreme cases, they are forced out of school, with a devastating impact on the rest of their lives.

Education goes a long way to determine a child’s path to financial and social security, without which the new adult generation will be even more vulnerable to numerous forms of pressure and discrimination coming from those who are

11. World Watch List history: Overview of country scores (WWL 2014 – WWL 2022) and milestones

How country persecution scores have evolved and where the milestones ‘high’ (41-60 points), ‘very high’ (61-80 points), ‘extreme’ (81-100 points) have been reached ¹⁹

The table below - listed according to WWL 2022 ranking - shows the WWL scoring history per country covering WWL 2014 to WWL 2022. This is the period of years in which there were no significant changes in methodology, which means that the total country scores (as well as scores for the different spheres of life and violence) can be suitably compared. In the table below:

- Column A indicates the country scores for WWL 2014. (For WWL 2014-2020, the WWL reporting period was always from November until the following October. The reporting period for WWL 2021 and WWL 2022 was from October until the following September.)
- Column B indicates when a country first scored 41 or more points (marked yellow) within the WWL 2014-2022 period.
- Column C shows when a country first scored 61 or more points (marked orange).
- Column D indicates when a country first scored 81 or more points (marked red).
- Column E indicates the country score attained in WWL 2022.

	Column	A	B	C	D	E
WWL 2022 rank	Country	WWL 2014 score	WWL when country entered 41+ point category	WWL when country entered 61+ point category	WWL when country entered 81+ point category	WWL 2022 score
1	Afghanistan	78	-	-	WWL 2015	98
2	North Korea	90	-	-	-	96
3	Somalia	80	-	-	WWL 2015	91
4	Libya	71	-	-	WWL 2018	91
5	Yemen	74	-	-	WWL 2017	88
6	Eritrea	72	-	-	WWL 2016	88
7	Nigeria	70	-	-	WWL 2021	87
8	Pakistan	77	-	-	WWL 2016	87
9	Iran	77	-	-	WWL 2016	85
10	India	55	-	WWL 2015	WWL 2018	82
11	Saudi Arabia	78	-	-	WWL 2022	81
12	Myanmar	59	-	WWL 2016	-	79
13	Sudan	73	-	-	WWL 2016	79
14	Iraq	78	-	-	WWL 2015 (but not WWL 2019-2020)	78
15	Syria	79	-	-	WWL 2015 (but not WWL 2018)	78

¹⁹ Details concerning the categories ‘high’, ‘very high’ and ‘extremely high’ can be found in the Complete WWL Methodology available at: <https://opendoorsanalytical.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Complete-WWL-Methodology-November-2021.pdf>, November 2021, pp.57-58.

	Column	A	B	C	D	E
WWL 2022 rank	Country	WWL 2014 score	WWL when country entered 41+ point category	WWL when country entered 61+ point category	WWL when country entered 81+ point category	WWL 2022 score
16	Maldives	77	-	-	-	77
17	China	51	-	WWL 2019	-	76
18	Qatar	63	-	WWL 2014	-	74
19	Vietnam	65	-	WWL 2014	-	71
20	Egypt	61	-	WWL 2014	-	71
21	Uzbekistan	68	-	-	-	71
22	Algeria	54	-	WWL 2019	-	71
23	Mauritania	51	-	WWL 2019	-	70
24	Mali	54	-	WWL 2019	-	70
25	Turkmenistan	62	-	WWL 2014	-	69
26	Laos	62	-	WWL 2017	-	69
27	Morocco	47	-	WWL 2019	-	69
28	Indonesia	46	-	WWL 2019	-	68
29	Bangladesh	46	-	WWL 2020	-	68
30	Colombia	56	-	WWL 2020	-	68
31	CAR	67	WWL 2016 -2017	WWL 2014-2015 and 2018-2022	-	68
32	Burkina Faso	Below 41	WWL 2019	WWL 2020	-	68
33	Niger	45	WWL 2014	WWL 2021	-	68
34	Bhutan	54	-	WWL 2017	-	67
35	Tunisia	55	-	WWL 2017	-	66
36	Oman	56	-	WWL 2020	-	66
37	Cuba	Below 41	WWL 2016	WWL 2021	-	66
38	Ethiopia	65	-	-	-	66
39	Jordan	56	-	WWL 2017	-	66
40	DRC	Below 41	WWL 2019	WWL 2021	-	66
41	Mozambique	Below 41	WWL 2019	WWL 2021	-	65
42	Turkey	Below 41	WWL 2015	WWL 2018	-	65
43	Mexico	43		WWL 2019 (but not WWL 2020)	-	65
44	Cameroon	Below 41	WWL 2015	WWL 2021	-	65
45	Tajikistan	47	-	WWL 2018	-	65
46	Brunei	53	-	WWL 2016	-	64
47	Kazakhstan	49	-	WWL 2018	-	64
48	Nepal	Below 41	WWL 2017	WWL 2018	-	64
49	Kuwait	50	-	WWL 2018 (but not WWL 2019)	-	64
50	Malaysia	49	-	WWL 2018 (but not WWL 2019)	-	63
51	Kenya	48	-	WWL 2015	-	63
52	Sri Lanka	55	WWL 2014	WWL 2020	-	63
53	Comoros	48	-	WWL 2021	-	63
54	UAE	51	-	WWL 2021	-	62
55	Tanzania	46	-	WWL 2022	-	62

	Column	A	B	C	D	E
WWL 2022 rank	Country	WWL 2014 score	WWL when country entered 41+ point category	WWL when country entered 61+ point category	WWL when country entered 81+ point category	WWL 2022 score
56	Azerbaijan	44	-	-	-	60
57	Palestinian Territories	53	-	WWL 2016 – WWL 2017 (only)	-	59
58	Djibouti	46	-	-	-	59
59	Kyrgyzstan	42	-	-	-	58
60	Bahrain	48	-	-	-	57
61	Nicaragua	Below 41	WWL 2019	-	-	56
62	Russia	Below 41	WWL 2015	-	-	56
63	Chad ²⁰	44	-	-	-	55
64	Burundi	Below 41	WWL 2019	-	-	52
65	Venezuela	Below 41	WWL 2019 (but not WWL 2021)	-	-	51
66	Angola	Below 41	WWL 2019	-	-	51
67	Rwanda	Below 41	WWL 2019	-	-	50
68	Honduras	Below 41	WWL 2021	-	-	48
69	Uganda	Below 41	WWL 2015	-	-	48
70	El Salvador	Below 41	WWL 2021	-	-	45
71	Togo	Below 41	WWL 2019	-	-	44
72	Gambia	Below 41	WWL 2019	-	-	44
73	Guinea	Below 41	WWL 2019	-	-	43
74	South Sudan	Below 41	WWL 2019	-	-	43
75	Ivory Coast	Below 41	WWL 2019	-	-	42
76	Israel	Below 41	WWL 2022	-	-	41

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²⁰ Chad: The country was not scored in WWL 2017. In WWL 2018 it scored below 41+ points.

12. WWL 2022: Audit Statement from IIRF



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Audit Statement on the outcomes of the Open Doors World Watch List 2022

The results of the Open Doors World Watch List 2022 are accurately presented by World Watch Research (WWR) within the parameters of precision reached in the processing of information. Country dossiers give a thorough, detailed, and differentiated account of the discrimination and persecution of Christians.

In-depth inspection of five sample countries selected by the auditors (bringing the total of countries audited since 2014 to 29) gave evidence that published methodology was diligently applied by WWR staff. Processes and sources were thoroughly documented and have been made transparently available on request. The documentation mechanisms have been maintained on the same level as in the previous year. Procedures are pursued that guarantee a stable depth of information.

The scoring accurately reflects the methodology and information processed. The degree of certainty of each country score always depends on the depth and quality of the information received in the reporting period. This may vary from country to country.

The methodology document (November 2021) describes various quality assurance measures by the WWR staff with regard to consistency in application of the questionnaire and methodology. WWR gave credible written description of how these were applied. WWR also provided detailed information about the processing of plausibility checks of the scoring results by internal analysts and by IIRF.

Additional statements, documents or interpretations by Open Doors International or the Open Doors national affiliates based on or associated with the publication of the World Watch List 2022 remain outside the scope of this audit statement.

IIRF has submitted a list of recommendations for potential future improvements to Open Doors.

Bonn, Cape Town, Colombo, this 17 January 2022

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(Research Director)

Dr. Dennis P. Petri
(International Director)

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