World Watch Research

WWL 2025 Compilation of all main documents

(Excluding detailed country reports)

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

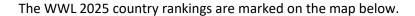
- The WWL 2025 reporting period was 1 October 2023 30 September 2024.
- The latest update of WWL Methodology together with various other background documents can be found on the <u>Research and Reports</u>¹ pages of www.opendoors.org and the <u>World Watch List Documentation</u>² page of the Open Doors Analytical website.
- WWL 2025 Persecution Dynamics per country giving in-depth information on the situation of Christians in the 78 countries listed will be available on both the www.opendoors.org and Open Doors Analytical websites as soon as updates are finalized.
- The collation of data and analysis presented by Open Doors in this document includes statistical information prepared by the World Christian Database (WCD). Source: Johnson T M and Zurlo G A, eds., World Christian Database (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed May 2024).
- The definition of persecution used in WWL analysis is: "Any hostility experienced as a result of one's identification with Christ. This can include hostile attitudes, words and actions towards Christians". This broad definition includes (but is not limited to) restrictions, pressure, discrimination, opposition, disinformation, injustice, intimidation, mistreatment, marginalization, oppression, intolerance, infringement, violation, ostracism, hostilities, harassment, abuse, violence, ethnic cleansing and genocide.

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

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

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





The table on page 4 includes all countries scoring 41 points or more in WWL 2025 analysis. These are the countries where Christians face high (41-60 points – marked in yellow), very high (61-80 points – marked in orange) or extremely high (81-100 points – marked in red) levels of persecution. A comparison is made with the scores and ranks of WWL 2024. The final column on the right shows the actual (i.e., unrounded) increase or decrease in the number of points compared to WWL 2024.

WWL 2025 Rank	Country	Region	Sub-Region	1. Private Life Score	2. Family Life Score	3. Community Life	4. National Life Score	5. Church Life Score	6. Violence Score	Total WWL 2025 Scor		WWL 2024 Rank	Total WWL 2024 Scor	WWL 2025 - WWL 2024
1	North Korea	Asia	Eastern Asia	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	14.4	98		1	96	1.7
2	Somalia	Africa	Eastern Africa	16.5	16.7	16.6	16.6	16.7	11.1	94		2	93	0.6
3	Yemen	Asia	Western Asia	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	10.6	94		5	89	4.6
5	Libya Sudan	Africa Africa	Northern Africa Northern Africa	16.0 14.1	16.2 14.2	15.9 15.5	16.2 14.9	16.4 15.3	10.6 16.1	91 90		3 8	91 87	0.7 3.1
6	Eritrea	Africa	Eastern Africa	14.6	14.9	15.5	15.9	15.9	12.2	89		4	89	-0.3
7	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	13.5	13.9	14.6	14.9	14.5	16.7	88		6	88	0.2
<u>8</u>	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	13.6	13.9	15.0	15.0	12.9	16.7	87		7	87	0.2
10	Iran Afghanistan	Asia Asia	South Asia South Asia	15.0 15.6	14.6 15.9	13.5 15.9	15.9 16.4	16.5 16.7	10.9 5.0	86 85		9 10	86 84	0.1 1.1
11	India	Asia	South Asia	12.2	12.9	13.3	14.9	13.9	16.5	84		11	83	1.1
12	Saudi Arabia	Asia	Western Asia	15.2	15.3	14.8	15.8	16.6	3.3	81		13	81	0.1
13	Myanmar	Asia	Southeastern Asia	12.6	11.1	13.5	14.1	12.9	16.5	81		17	79	1.8
14 15	Mali China	Africa Asia	Western Africa Eastern Asia	11.1 13.2	10.1 10.1	14.7 12.8	13.0 14.6	15.2 16.1	15.6 11.1	80 78		14 19	79 78	0.3
16		Asia	South Asia	15.6	15.3	13.7	15.8	16.5	0.7	78		18	78	-0.2
17	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	14.2	14.4	14.3	14.8	13.9	6.1	78		16	79	-1.5
18	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	13.5	14.4	13.9	14.4	14.3	7.0	78		12	81	-3.8
19 20	Algeria Burkina Faso	Africa Africa	Northern Africa Western Africa	14.7 11.7	14.3 9.7	11.5 13.2	14.7 11.5	16.0 14.0	6.3 15.6	77 76		15 20	79 75	-1.9 0.3
21	Morocco	Africa	Northern Africa	13.2	13.8	11.6	12.9	14.3	8.3			24	71	2.9
22	Laos	Asia	Southeastern Asia	11.8	10.7	13.5	14.1	13.9	9.8	74		21	75	-1.2
23 24	Mauritania	Africa	Western Africa	14.6 12.4	14.2 10.6	13.8 12.7	14.2 11.3	14.2 10.4	2.8 16.1	74 74		23 26	72 71	1.5 2.9
25	Bangladesh Uzbekistan	Asia Asia	South Asia Central Asia	14.6	10.6	13.5	12.4	15.5	4.4	73		25	71	2.9
26	Cuba	Latin America	Caribbean	13.2	8.5	13.9	13.3	15.1	9.1	73		22	73	0.4
27	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	10.3	8.6	13.9	9.6	14.0	15.6	72		28	70	1.8
28	Niger	Africa Asia	Western Africa Central Asia	9.4 14.3	9.6 12.3	14.5 13.6	7.7 13.9	14.6 15.3	15.7 1.5	72		27 29	70	1.3
30	Turkmenistan Nicaragua	Latin America	Central Asia Central America	14.3	7.6	13.6	13.9	15.3	9.6	71 71		30	70 70	0.8
31	Mexico	Latin America	Central America	11.7	9.0	12.5	11.8	11.0	14.6	71		37	68	2.4
32	Oman	Asia	Western Asia	14.5	14.1	10.9	13.8	14.1	3.0	70		31	69	1.0
33	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	9.9	9.7	12.6	10.4	12.1	15.6	70		32	69	1.1
34 35	Tunisia Congo DR (DRC)	Africa Africa	Northern Africa Middle Africa	12.4 8.0	13.2 7.9	10.1 12.6	12.6 10.8	13.8 14.5	8.1 16.1	70 70		33 41	69 67	1.5 2.8
36	Bhutan	Asia	South Asia	13.2	13.2	12.3	14.1	14.2	2.2	69		36	68	1.0
37	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	9.3	8.5	13.9	8.4	12.5	15.9	68		39	68	0.9
38	Kazakhstan	Asia	Central Asia	13.3	11.6	12.2	12.8	14.2	4.3	68		47	65	3.0
39 40	Tajikistan Egypt	Asia Africa	Central Asia Northern Africa	14.1 12.7	12.7 13.7	12.7 12.1	13.2 12.4	13.7 10.9	1.9 6.3	68 68		46 38	66 68	2.7 0.0
41	Qatar	Asia	Western Asia	14.2	14.2	10.5	13.2	14.4	0.7	67		40	67	0.2
42	Comoros	Africa	Eastern Africa	12.7	14.0	11.2	12.4	14.2	2.6			45	66	1.5
43	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	8.8	7.6	12.6	8.4	13.1	16.1	67		43	66	0.6
44 45	Vietnam Turkey	Asia Asia	Southeastern Asia Western Asia	10.8 13.0	9.5 11.7	12.2 11.7	14.1 13.2	14.1 11.5	5.9 5.4	67 67		35 50	68 64	-1.7 2.6
46	Colombia	Latin America	South America	11.0	7.9	12.7	11.5	10.5	12.6	66		34	68	-2.1
47	Kyrgyzstan	Asia	Central Asia	13.5	10.3	11.7	11.4	12.4	6.9	66		61	59	7.5
48	Brunei	Asia	Southeastern Asia	14.8	14.8	10.8	10.8	14.0	0.6	66		44	66	0.0
49 50	Chad Jordan	Africa Asia	Middle Africa Western Asia	11.0 12.9	8.2 14.3	10.2 10.4	9.9 12.2	10.3 12.8	15.9 2.4	65 65		56 48	61 65	4.5 0.0
51	Malaysia	Asia	Southeastern Asia	12.8	13.7	11.7	12.4	11.2	3.0	65		49	64	0.5
52	Azerbaijan	Asia	Western Asia	13.3	10.2	9.6	12.2	13.7	5.6	65		59	60	4.6
53	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	10.3	9.2	11.4	8.0	11.5	13.9	64		51	63	1.5
54 55	Nepal Tanzania	Asia Africa	South Asia Eastern Africa	12.2 9.3	10.6 10.8	9.5 10.3	12.6 8.6	12.3 8.7	5.9 15.4	63 63		53 52	62 62	0.9
56	Russian Federation	Europe	Eastern Europe	12.7	7.9	10.7	13.1	14.1	4.4			62	58	4.5
57	Djibouti	Africa	Eastern Africa	12.3	12.6	12.7	10.1	12.1	1.7	61		55	61	0.4
58	Kuwait	Asia	Western Asia Southeastern Asia	13.1 10.9	13.6	9.4	12.0	12.2	0.9 5.7	61		54 42	61 66	0.0
59 60	Indonesia United Arab Emirates	Asia Asia	Western Asia	13.3	11.9 13.4	10.9 9.5	11.6 11.3	10.2 12.8	0.6	61 61		57	61	-4.9 -0.2
61	Sri Lanka	Asia	South Asia	12.7	8.7	11.5	11.5	8.5	7.6	60		58	60	0.4
62	Palestinian Territories	Asia	Western Asia	13.1	13.3	10.3	10.7	12.1	0.2	60		60	60	-0.2
63	Burundi	Africa	Eastern Africa	7.6 9.4	7.8	9.4 9.0	9.8 10.4	9.7 12.1	14.6 9.4	59 58		64	57	1.9
64 65	Rwanda Honduras	Africa Latin America	Eastern Africa Central America	7.9	7.7 4.7	9.0	7.3	9.9	9.4	58	-	63 66	58 55	0.4
66	Togo	Africa	Western Africa	9.2	6.7	10.4	7.1	11.5	9.3	54		68	52	2.0
67	Bahrain	Asia	Western Asia	12.0	13.2	8.6	11.3	8.5	0.6	54		65	55	-0.6
68			Western Africa	10.3	7.5	8.3	8.3	10.5	8.9	54		69	52	1.7
69 70		Europe Africa	Eastern Europe Middle Africa	6.8 6.8	5.0 6.7	7.8 8.1	12.5 11.5	13.5 11.4	7.2 8.3	53 53		77 71	44 52	8.5 1.1
71	Venezuela	Latin America	South America	6.3	4.4	11.1	10.0	10.8	9.6	52		67	53	-0.9
72	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	8.1	5.0	7.4	6.7	8.8	16.1	52		70	52	0.2
73	Ivory Coast	Africa	Western Africa	12.0	6.5	8.7	5.9	8.0	9.6	51		76	44	6.3
74 75	Lebanon Gambia	Asia Africa	Western Asia Western Africa	11.5 8.3	10.1 8.2	7.0 8.9	6.2 8.8	6.7 8.9	7.2	49 48	H	72 73	48 47	0.7
76	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	5.7	4.4	7.0	6.3	8.1	15.6	48		74	46	0.7
77	Belarus	Europe	Eastern Europe	9.9	3.7	5.0	10.8	14.1	3.1	47		75	46	1.1
78	Philippines	Asia	Southeastern Asia	9.2	6.6	6.6	6.1	5.7	8.5	43		79	40	2.3

3. WWL 2025 Executive Summary

(WWL 2025 Press release, slightly adapted)

Authoritarian regimes and jihadist movements intensify danger for Christians in Central Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa

The Open Doors World Watch List 2025 reveals that violence and authoritarian restrictions against Christians have risen globally during the past year, most notably in Central Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. No country stood out more than Kyrgyzstan, which rose sharply on the World Watch List, the annual ranking of the countries where it is most difficult to live as a Christian.

For the third straight year and for the 23rd time since the first World Watch List in 1993, North Korea ranked at the top of the list. Since 2002, the DPRK has been No. 1 every year but 2022, when it ranked second to Afghanistan in the wake of its fall to the Taliban.

WWL 2025 selected numbers

	WWL 2025	WWL 2024
	1 Oct. 2023 to	1 Oct. 2022 to
	30 Sept. 2024	30 Sept. 2023
Christians killed worldwide for their faith	4,476	4,998
Attacks on Christian homes, shops or businesses for faith-related reasons	28,368	21,431
Christians in Sub-Saharan Africa forcibly displaced due to violence	16 million	16.2 million
Christians worldwide who face high levels of persecution	380 million	365 million

Along with the suffocating oppression that has long been endured by North Korea's underground Christians, the 2025 list continues to document other trends that have spanned the years, such as the continuing deadly violence across much of the African continent. If there is a new development for 2025, it is found in Central Asia.

Central Asia: Authoritarianism on the rise

Kyrgyzstan's World Watch List score rose 7.5 points — the most of any country on the list — which was enough to elevate it 14 spots to rank 47th, its first appearance in the top 50 since 2013.

"Before the current president, [Sadyr] Japarov, came to power in January 2021, Kyrgyzstan was known as the least authoritarian country in the Central Asia region," said World Watch Research analyst Rolf Zeegers. Since then, he said, "a whole range of more restrictive legislation was introduced. We have been noting an increase of religious freedom restrictions."

The country saw a sharp uptick in violence against churches, including stone-throwing incidents and raids on worship services.

Similarly, tightening government controls in neighbouring Kazakhstan increased its World Watch List score by 3 points, which helped to push it up 9 places to 38th. Researchers logged reports of police raids on worship meetings, as well as of sexual abuse of Christian women.

"The threat from authoritarian regimes in Central Asia has intensified to the point where many Christians in the region feel increasingly fearful," says Frans Veerman, Research Fellow at Open Doors. "Christians are purposefully targeted or extra vulnerable in countries beset by increasingly autocratic regimes and radical elements."

Sub-Saharan Africa: Ongoing violence

Sudan's score rose 3 points, which helped to move the country up 3 spots to 5th, driven by intensification of civil war. The country saw increases in Christians killed, sexually assaulted, and attacks on Christian homes and businesses. More than 7.7 million people were internally displaced by mid-2024, making it the largest displacement crisis in the world.

Nigeria remains one of the most dangerous places for Christians, ranking 7th. Attacks by Fulani militants and jihadist groups continue, with Christians disproportionately affected.

Other notable findings

Civil war: Yemen's World Watch List score rose a robust 4.6 points, which elevated the country to 3rd on the list. The ongoing civil war, and the increasing influence of the Houthis rebels, has forced dozens of Christian house churches to cease their meetings. In addition, a Christian convert was killed by family members. The fighting between Myanmar's army and a host of opposition militias drove its score into the "Extreme persecution" category, which encompasses the top 13 countries on the World Watch List.

The disappearing Church: In countries like Algeria, Libya and Afghanistan, the visible Christian presence is diminishing, forcing believers into isolation or underground worship.

Surveillance states: Christians in China and other autocratic states are increasingly cautious about openly expressing their faith due to advanced surveillance.

4. WWL 2025 Summary of Trends

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Violence drives significant score increases

An increase in anti-Christian violence propelled significant score changes among several countries on the World Watch List. While violence was the common denominator among those countries, the contexts were different: either tightly controlled autocratic states, or countries that are unstable due to weak government or civil war.

Authoritarianism in Central Asia

No country among the top 50 had a greater score increase than **Kyrgyzstan**, which added more than 7 points to its persecution score. Ranked 61st a year ago, the Central Asian country rose 14 spots to rank 47th on the 2025 World Watch List — its first appearance in the top 50 since 2013. It was, by far, the biggest move on the list, and the primary reason was a sharp uptick in violence against the church. For example, the Baptist Union reported that on multiple occasions during the year, local residents hurled stones at the office of a Christian organization in Karakul in an attempt to drive it off its property. In March, representatives of the State Commission on Religious Affairs, some of them armed, raided St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Talas, forced departing worshippers back inside, and held the congregation there until two Slovak nuns had signed a statement admitting to "illegal missionary activities" and "spreading their ideology."

Such assaults helped to drive up Kyrgyzstan's historically low violence score faster than in any other country. It happened against a backdrop of a presidency that has been concentrating power to itself for several years. Amnesty International <u>said in April</u> that the government has intensified its campaign to stifle public criticism and peaceful dissent. New laws promoting vaguely defined notions of cultural traditions and national values have been undermining the rule of law and restricting freedom of expression. Overly broad definitions of political activity are being used to curb the right to freedom of association.

It was a similar story in neighboring **Kazakhstan**, whose score rose 3 points for 2025; only four countries registered a greater increase. That was enough to propel the country up 9 places in the rankings, to 38th. Only Kyrgyzstan ascended more spots. And again, the reason was a pronounced increase in violence against Christians. Since 2010 the Kazakh regime under Presi-

dent Nursultan Nazarbayev had taken on a more authoritarian character, and a 2019 change in leadership brought no real improvement for Christians. Sparked by energy price rises in 2022, the bloodiest unrest since the country's post-Soviet independence broke out in multiple cities. The government now seems more terrified than ever at the prospect of protests, and Kazakhstan's police state leaves nothing to chance.

For example, World Watch Research received reports of police raids on four worship meetings of three unregistered Protestant communities in southern Kazakhstan. Sources reported that at least 20 Christian women were sexually abused because of their religion, and at least as many were forcibly married to Muslim men. Such numbers are a tiny share in a country of 20 million people, about a quarter of whom identify as Christian, but they are a noticeable departure from the immediate past, especially as the larger Orthodox church does not seem to be affected. Protestants are a small minority in this quarter of Christians.

Civil war in Yemen and Myanmar

Since 2015, **Yemen** has endured a civil war between ethnic Houthi rebels and the government, which has backing from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. A ceasefire agreement remains elusive, and lawlessness permeates the country, creating space for oppression targeting minorities, including Christians. But it's not only the areas under Houthi rebel influence; Christians living in areas under the internationally recognised government also are not faring well. Yemeni law outlaws leaving Islam and blaspheming the religion, for which some Christians have been arrested. During the WWL 2025 reporting period, Christians found themselves detained by authorities, either because of their faith itself, or in response to bogus accusations made by family or others as a form of anti-Christian harassment. The increase in Houthi power and influence following the October 2023 attacks on Israel has meant that dozens of Christian house churches no longer can meet. The few remaining migrant Christians are legally free to conduct worship in private, but this hasn't happened for years, due to the civil war.

The dangerous instability within Yemen is reflected in its 4.6-point increase in its score on the World Watch List, a change that was driven primarily by an increase in anti-Christian violence. Only Kyrgyzstan registered a greater increase in total score. The increase helped to push Yemen up 2 spots on the list, to No. 3. In all the world, only North Korea and Somalia are more difficult places for Christians to live.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the 2021 military coup, and the continued armed conflict between the army and a host of opposition forces in 2024 nudged the country up for 4 spots on the list, to 13th. It would require many pages to describe in detail the causes of Myanmar's turmoil; the forces arrayed in conflict and their shifting, murky alliances; the influence of neigh-

boring China; and the current on-the-ground situation — to say nothing of the crisis of refugee camps across the border in Bangladesh. Suffice it to say here that hopes are dim for a quick end to the war; the security situation in certain regions remains dire and has even deteriorated; and the likelihood of continued crimes against humanity can't be discounted.

Myanmar's Christians, about 8 percent of the population, are caught in the midst of the ongoing fighting throughout the country, and increasingly in the cities as well. In Kachin state alone, more than 100,000 Christians are languishing in displacement camps to avoid being killed or detained by regime forces or the Kachin rebels. The army increasingly attacks Christian churches where they are suspected of harboring insurgents. It has detained pastors and ordinary church members suspected of supporting or even leading the opposition forces and has launched

indiscriminate attacks in some predominantly or strongly Christian states. Attacks on Christians also come from ethnic insurgent forces. Christians living in the lawless remote and border regions of Myanmar are not only hard-pressed by a government relentlessly attacking everyone it assumes to be connected to the opposition, but also by groups benefitting from a drug trade and other lawless activities that remain profitable even in the midst of war.

Continued violence across Sub-Saharan Africa

More Christians live in Africa than on any other single continent. Through the years, the World Watch List has documented that the largest Christian population on Earth has been widely afflicted by targeted violence. The pattern persists in 2025. Chronic government instability has created a vacuum filled by opportunistic Islamic militants. Since the 2023 World Watch List, the violence score for the 15 Sub-Saharan countries included among the top 50 on the list has risen, on average, by 1 point. Violence in 13 of those 15 countries — including **Burkina Faso**, **Mali**, and the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** — is rated in the "extremely high" category under World Watch List methodology.

The Open Doors Arise Africa campaign is a multi-year response to this persistent reality. Its aim — to stand with the African church, to help it be salt and light where persecution is most extreme, to live out their faith and renew the next generation — relies upon the prayers and material support of Christians around the world.

Sudan's World Watch List total score rose 3 points; only three countries in the top 50 had greater increases. The increase was driven by the intensification of the civil war that broke out in Spring 2023 between Sudan's army and an alliance of militias. Research for the 2025 World Watch List registered increases in the number of Christians killed and sexually assaulted, as well as the number of Christian homes and businesses attacked. In a country of 49 million people, the number of internally displaced people by mid-2024 had surpassed 7.7 million — the largest displacement crisis in the world. Compounding the pressure on Christians is a racial component: Those of indigenous African descent, as opposed to Arab ethnicity, are targets not only for their faith but also for their ethnic identity. Christians of all backgrounds are trapped in the chaos, unable to flee. Churches are shelled, looted and occupied by the warring parties. The surge in

the violence score moved Sudan upward 3 spots on the list, to 5th.

For four straight years, **Chad's** total score has risen by at least two points, finally pushing it into the top 50 of the World Watch List in 2025, ranking 49th. Only Kyrgyzstan registered a greater increase in its violence score during the year. Elections in 2024 have not changed the reality of

ongoing political tensions, weak democratic processes, and the government's ongoing fight against the Islamic militant group Boko Haram — as well as the anti-Christian violence that blossoms in the unchecked environment. The military rules by decree; civil society has little access to government; and in February 2024 security forces killed Chad's main opposition leader. In the east, a humanitarian crisis boils in camps full of refugees fleeing Sudan's civil war. Islamic militancy groups such as Boko Haram and armed Fulani herdsmen feed on these unstable conditions, leading to killings, abductions, forced displacements and generally heightened discrimination of Christians. They are denied access to community resources, receive unequal treatment in the workplace, and endure social ostracism, surveillance and intimidation.

In these steadily declining conditions, Christians often are seen as being allies to the "other side" or as foreign agents. They are being displaced, and their properties are being destroyed and burned. The situation is especially difficult in regions outside the capital and largest city, N'Djamena, where Christians often resort to practicing their faith in secrecy due to the influence of radical groups.

Nigeria stands apart from this group of Sub-Saharan countries, but only because there was not much room for conditions to worsen: Nigeria already was, and remained, among the most urgently dangerous places on earth for a Christian. Its score on the 2025 World Watch List is almost identical to its 2024 score. The measure of anti-Christian violence in the country is already at the maximum possible under World Watch List methodology. Nigeria's new ranking on the list, 7th, remains firmly among the top 10. The reasons are well established: In the country's North-Central zone, where Christians are more common than they are in the North-East and North-West, Fulani militants attack farming communities, killing many hundreds, Christians above all. Jihadist groups such as Boko Haram and the splinter group Islamic State in West Africa Province, among others, are also active in the country's northern states, where federal government control is scant and Christians and their communities continue to be the targets of raids, sexual violence, and roadblock killings. Abductions for ransom have increased considerably over recent years. The violence has also spread to the southern states.

<u>A 2024 report</u> by the Observatory for Religious Freedom in Africa concluded that among the 30,880 civilians killed in Nigeria from 2020 through 2023, the number of Christians was 22,360, while the number of Muslims killed was 8,315 — a disparity of nearly 3-to-1 in a country where the Christian and Muslim shares of the population are roughly equal. During <u>Christmas 2023</u>, for example, at minimum 295 Christians were killed by more than 3,000 Fulani militants fanning out to 38 villages in Plateau State, as reported by Truth Nigeria.

In 2023 new president Bola Ahmed Tinubu reshuffled his leadership, establishing a more equal balance of Christians and Muslims at the levers of government. The hope was this would steer security forces toward more effective intervention against the human rights violations being perpetrated against Christians. Little evidence of this was detected, however, during the 12-month reporting period for the 2025 World Watch List, which concluded 30 Sept. 2024. On the evening of Easter Sunday in 2024, for example, villages in southern Kaduna state were attacked in an area heavy with military installations. Witnesses told the news media they saw no government effort to protect the victims (Truth Nigeria, 2 April 2024).

Signs of the church going underground

How do you measure persecution when there's no Christian church left to persecute?

Algeria's total score in 2025 is 2 points less than a year earlier. The reason? All Protestant churches have been forced to close; there are none remaining that can be targeted for closure. That fact caused a drop in Algeria's score for violence, which brought down the overall score.

Yet, other forms of pressure on Algeria's Christians intensified. The number of Christians awaiting trial and sentencing is at an all-time high. Others keep a low profile to avoid prosecution under laws that regulate non-Muslim religious practice. The government has been attempting various forms of financial and organizational pressure to weaken churches, with a particular focus on online Christian activities. The overall pressure, in combination with the closure of the churches, has forced many Algerian Christians into isolation.

Christian isolation and church diminishment is a pattern detected in the 2025 World Watch List in a number of countries:

The small Christian community in **Libya** is extremely careful to avoid a repeat of the March 2023 crackdown that swept up numerous Christians for arrest.

In **Syria**, the looting of churches reduced somewhat during the reporting period — one year removed from the February 2023 earthquake. But, rising crime, increased corruption, growing religious discrimination and political instability are fueling fear. This is driving a Christian emigration, altering the demographics of the ancient birthplace of the Church, as well as weakening churches and challenging the future of Christian life in the region.

Under the shadow of the Israeli-Hamas war that began in October 2023, Christian communities in **Gaza** and the **West Bank** have come to the brink of extinction. In Gaza, at least 33 Christians were killed, and most houses destroyed during the violence. In the West Bank, existing limitations imposed by the Israeli authorities were tightened; travel restrictions that already applied to Christian communities were narrowed further following the outbreak of the war. Many Christian families have moved abroad or are trying to leave.

The church in **Afghanistan** is deeply underground, and for that reason there are fewer visible expressions of Christianity for the Taliban authorities to crack down on. On the other hand, the same isolation of the church makes it very difficult to get verified accounts of faith-related attacks.

With each year, the era of the church's relatively open presence in **China** fades deeper into memory. Unregistered churches, one tolerated by the Chinese government, now are considered illegal as authorities more regularly enforce regulations and tighten policies. State-approved churches come under stronger ideological pressure; new laws steer pastors into indoctrination sessions, where they are urged to preach accordingly, and outlaw religious education for child-

ren. Smaller congregations are either forced to merge to make a larger church that is easier to control, or to take their fellowships underground, into isolated home groups.

China is the world's most advanced surveillance state, but it is not alone, and Christians in autocratic states generally are being more alert to being watched, both online and *IRL* — in real life. In China and elsewhere, World Watch List researchers report they detect a growing caution among Christians to be open with their faith. This is an especially urgent signal to Open Doors, whose mission is to *strengthen what remains* (Rev. 3:2) of the Church, wherever it may be, so it may continue to live up to its calling to shine the Light of Christ.

Mexico stands out in Latin America

Of note in Latin America is **Mexico's** total score of 71, which represents a 2.4-point increase from the previous year and is the highest score the World Watch List has ever assigned to Mexico.

The sphere of Christian life in Mexico that made the single largest contribution to its total score was violence. While scores increased in most spheres for 2025, Mexico's violence score of 14.6 is the highest the country has ever received and is the highest violence score among all Latin American countries on the World Watch List.

Organized crime is a prominent concern in Mexico, and cartels battling each other often target church leaders and Christian organizations, especially those who attempt to broker peace or who provide assistance to victims of violence and intimidation. World Watch List researchers during the most recent reporting period noted a jump in the number of Christians killed and abducted because of their faith, as well as an increase in attacks on Christian homes and other property. It was, generally, a more violent year in Mexico; the country held elections in mid-2024, and a wave of attacks nationwide left at least 37 candidates for various offices dead, and hundreds more candidates injured. While the pre-election violence surge was not directed at Christians specifically, it intensified the already dangerous conditions for the church.

Mexico also stands out in 2025 because it is the only Latin American country in the top 50 to rise in the rankings. Mexico now ranks 31st on the list, one spot lower than Nicaragua and five spots behind No. 26 Cuba. The last time Mexico ranked this high was 2005.

5. WWL 2025: Country religious statistics

Open Doors estimates for the number of Christians have been used for 12 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 May 2024). The red shading highlights countries scoring 81-100 points in WWL 2025, the orange highlights the score-range 61-80 points and the yellow 41-59 points.

WWL 2025 Top 50 alphabetical

WWL 2025 Rank	Country	Total population (UN 2023 estimate as compiled by WCD; accessed May 2024)	Number of Christians (WCD, accessed May 2024)	Number of Christians (OD estimate)
10	Afghanistan	43,373,000		thousands
19	Algeria	46,279,000		144,000
24	Bangladesh	174,701,000		950,000
36	Bhutan	792,000	18,800	
48	Brunei	456,000	55,600	
20	Burkina Faso	23,840,000	6,169,000	
43	Cameroon	29,394,000	17,128,000	
27	Central African Republic	5,916,000	4,433,000	
49	Chad	18,847,000	6,003,000	
15	China	1,425,179,000		96,700,000
46	Colombia	52,341,000	49,693,000	
42	Comoros	868,000	5,500	
35	Congo DR (DRC)	105,625,000	100,566,000	
26	Cuba	11,175,000	6,843,000	
40	Egypt	114,484,000	10,084,000	
6	Eritrea	3,818,000	1,687,000	
33	Ethiopia	129,720,000	77,509,000	
11	India	1,441,720,000	73,233,000	
9	Iran	89,810,000		800,000
17	Iraq	46,524,000	154,000	
50	Jordan	11,385,000		170,000
38	Kazakhstan	19,828,000	5,031,000	
47	Kyrgyzstan	6,840,000	263,000	
22	Laos	7,737,000	224,000	
4	Libya	6,964,000	35,500	
16	Maldives	518,000		hundreds

14	Mali	24,016,000	542,000	
23	Mauritania	4,994,000	11,000	
31	Mexico	129,388,000	123,265,000	
21	Morocco	38,211,000	33,000	
37	Mozambique	34,858,000	19,973,000	
13	Myanmar	54,965,000	4,760,000	
30	Nicaragua	7,143,000	6,775,000	
28	Niger	28,239,000	69,200	
7	Nigeria	229,152,000	106,608,000	
1	North Korea	26,245,000		400,000
32	Oman	4,714,000	187,000	
8	Pakistan	245,210,000	4,526,000	
41	Qatar	2,737,000	381,000	
12	Saudi Arabia	37,474,000	2,274,000	
2	Somalia	18,707,000		hundreds
5	Sudan	49,358,000	2,028,000	
18	Syria	24,348,000		579,000
39	Tajikistan	10,332,000	62,600	
34	Tunisia	12,565,000	23,300	
45	Turkey	86,260,000	257,000	
29	Turkmenistan	6,598,000	164,000	
25	Uzbekistan	35,674,000	406,000	
44	Vietnam	99,498,000	9,778,000	
3	Yemen	35,220,000		a small number

WWL 2025 Ranks 51 - 78 alphabetical

WWL 2025 Rank	Country	Total population (UN 2023 estimate as compiled by WCD; accessed May 2024)	Number of Christians (WCD, accessed May 2024)	Number of Christians (OD estimate)
70	Angola	37,805,000	34,739,000	
52	Azerbaijan	10,463,000	253,000	
67	Bahrain	1,499,000	184,000	
77	Belarus	9,455,000	7,439,000	
63	Burundi	13,592,000	12,748,000	
57	Djibouti	1,152,000	12,300	
75	Gambia	2,842,000	134,000	
68	Guinea	14,529,000	486,000	
65	Honduras	10,759,000	10,276,000	

59	Indonesia	279,798,000	36,608,000	
73	Ivory Coast	29,603,000	11,229,000	
53	Kenya	56,203,000	44,852,000	
58	Kuwait	4,349,000	629,000	
74	Lebanon	5,219,000	1,888,000	
51	Malaysia	34,672,000	3,449,000	
54	Nepal	31,240,000	1,678,000	
62	Palestinian Territories	5,495,000	42,600	
78	Philippines	119,106,000	107,061,000	
56	Russian Federation	143,957,000	120,066,000	
64	Rwanda	14,415,000	13,226,000	
76	South Sudan	11,277,000	6,862,000	
61	Sri Lanka	21,949,000		2,027,000
55	Tanzania	69,419,000	38,397,000	
66	Togo	9,261,000	4,803,000	
72	Uganda	49,924,000	41,726,000	
69	Ukraine	37,938,000	33,834,000	
60	United Arab Emirates	9,592,000	1,241,000	
71	Venezuela	29,395,000	27,137,000	

6. WWL 2025: Total number of persecuted Christians and derived statements

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1) Advice for communication

When the number of Christians living in situations of persecution or discrimination is estimated for all countries that have scored 41 points or more in WWL 2025, it comes to 380.66 million. For the WWL 2025 Top 50 countries, it comes to 311.06 million. For communication purposes and to take account of the margin of uncertainty, the total number has been rounded off to 380 million and 310 million. See the level 2 table which serves as an appendix to this document for details.

WWL 2025	Total number of Christians	Rounded off for communication purposes
All countries scoring 41 points or more	380,663,700	380 M
Top 50 countries	311,064,300	310 M
Ranks 51 to 78	69,599,400	70 M

Please use the following statement for WWL 2025 communication to the general public (Please note that the qualifier "more than" is necessary, because the estimates were limited to countries that scored 41 points or more in WWL 2025. There are other countries that did not score 41 points but where there are groups of Christians that live in comparably difficult situations):

- "More than 380 million Christians face high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith."
- "In Open Doors' World Watch List top 50 countries alone, 310 million
 Christians face very high or extreme levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith."

That means: Worldwide – 1 in 7; in Africa – 1 in 5; in Asia – 2 in 5; in Latin America – 1 in 16. See below for more information concerning the "one in ..." statements.

2) Explanation for the use of the qualifier 'high'

In WWL-Methodology, 'high' levels of persecution or discrimination occur when the score-range is 41 to 60 points. Above this there are two other categories: 'very high' (61-80 points) and 'extreme' (81-100 points). All countries that scored at least 41 points were taken into account for estimating the number of persecuted Christians in the world. To define the number of persecuted Christians in each of those countries, the level of persecution or discrimination was estimated for regions within that country, based on the overall country questionnaire. It would be best if a questionnaire were completed for each region separately, but that would be beyond WWR's capacity.

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 the most affected category or denomination was chosen, and sometimes reduced by a certain percentage.

In <u>WWL-Methodology</u> (Complete World Watch List Methodology, updated October 2024, page 57), 'high' is generally defined as "where living as a Christian means that although there may be a tolerated church which enjoys some freedom, in practice prominent Christians are targeted, churches themselves are subject to significant restrictions, and the culture remains largely hostile to a Christian presence in such areas as education and employment." It can also be that there is a lot of violence targeting Christians and churches, while the overall pressure is still limited.

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

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

3) The basis for STATEMENTS derived from the 380 million number

This document now further elaborates upon the meaning of the "380 million in the world" number. The basis for the statements to follow can be found in the table below:

WWL 2025	Total population	Total no. of Christians	No. of persecuted Christians	1 in x Christians persecuted
AFRICA	1,494,994,000	734,130,000	145,846,400	5.0
ASIA	4,785,060,000	415,647,000	189,977,200	2.2
EUROPE	741,652,000	564,737,000	7,152,000	79.0
LATIN AMERICA	669,973,000	615,229,000	39,151,000	15.7
NORTHERN AMERICA	381,048,000	271,909,000		N/A
OCEANIA	46,109,000	30,289,000		N/A
TOTAL	8,118,836,000	2,631,941,000	380,663,700	6.9

WWL 2024	WWL 2024
No. of	1 in x
persecuted	Christians
Christians	persecuted
140,796,300	5.0
180,285,800	2.2
6,008,000	94.2
39,464,000	15.6
	N/A
	N/A
366,554,100	7.1

4) Statements derived from the 380 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 2024 this was 1/7; in WWL 2023 1/7; in WWL 2022: 1/7; in WWL 2021: 1/8; in WWL 2020: 1/8; in WWL 2019: 1/9)

And:

"In Africa one in every 5 Christians live in situations of at least 'high' levels of persecution or discrimination for their faith."

(In WWL 2024 this was 1/5; in WWL 2023 1/5; in WWL 2022: 1/5; in WWL 2021: 1/6; in WWL 2020: 1/5; in WWL 2019: 1/6)

"In Asia two in every 5 Christians live in situations of at least 'high' levels of persecution or discrimination for their faith."

(In WWL 2024, this was 2/5; in WWL 2023 2/5; in WWL 2022: 2/5; in WWL 2021: 2/5; in WWL 2020: 2/5; in WWL 2019: 1/3)

"In Latin America one in every 16 Christians live in situations of at least 'high' levels of persecution or discrimination for their faith."

(In WWL 2024 this was 1/16; in WWL 2023 1/15; in WWL 2022: 1/15; in WWL 2021: 1/12; in WWL 2020: 1/21; in WWL 2019: 1/21)

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

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

7. WWL 2025 Article on violence

Data on violence perpetrated against Christians in all countries scoring 41+ points in the reporting period 1 October 2023 – 30 September 2024

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	6.8	37
	6.9	40
	6.10	41
	6.11	43
	6.12	45

Summary data of Questionnaire Block 6 questions and WWL comparisons

In the overview table below it can be seen how the destructive impact of violence against Christians in the WWL 2025 reporting period compares to foregoing WWLs. Please also note that - as in all WWL reporting periods - the violence data reported and included below is an absolute minimum figure. In reality, it is very likely that the numbers were higher than those listed here.

Questions Block 6	WWL	WWL	WWL	WWL	WWL	WWL	WWL	WWL	WWL
Violence	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
6.1 Christians killed for faith-related reasons	4,476	4,998	5,621	5,898	4,761	2,983	4,305	3,066	1,207
6.2 Churches or public Christian properties attacked	7,679	14,766	2,110	5,110	4,488	9,488	1,847	793	1,329
6.3 and 6.4 Christians detained without trial, arrested, sentenced and imprisoned	4,744	4,125	4,542	6,175	4,277	4,811	3,150	1,905	
6.5 Christians abducted	3,775	3,906	5,259	3,829	1,710	1,052			
6.6 and 6.7 Christians raped or otherwise sexually harassed, or forced to marry non-Christians	3,944	3,231	2,843						
6.8 Christians otherwise physically or mentally abused (including beatings and death threats)	54,780	42,849	29,411						

Questions Block 6 Violence	WWL 2025	WWL 2024	WWL 2023	WWL 2022	WWL 2021	WWL 2020	WWL 2019	WWL 2018	WWL 2017
6.9 and 6.10									
Houses, shops,									
businesses or other	28,368	27,171	6,757						
property of									
Christians attacked									
6.11 and 6.12									
Christians forced to									
leave their homes,		295,120	139,307						
go into hiding in-	209,771	233,120	135,307						
country or leave									
the country									

2. Summary statements focusing on all WWL 2025 violence data

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

- The total number of Christians killed for their faith decreased from 4,998 cases in WWL 2024 to 4,476 in the WWL 2025 reporting period. This was due to fewer Christians being killed for their faith in Nigeria (3,100 in WWL 2025 compared to 4,118 in WWL 2024). Although the number of violent incidents increased in Nigeria, the epicenter of violence partly shifted away from the North Central where many Christians live, leading to less Christian victims than last year. Meanwhile more Christians were killed outside Nigeria than last year (1,376 in WWL 2025 compared to 880 in WWL 2024).
- The total number of churches or public Christian properties attacked in differing forms of severity, decreased from 14,766 cases in WWL 2024 to 7,679 in the WWL 2025 reporting period. This decrease is explained by the much lower number for China (from a symbolic 10,000 for WWL 2024 to a symbolic 1,000 for WWL 2025). Meanwhile the number for Rwanda rose from 120 (WWL 2024) to 4,000 (WWL 2025). Hidden behind the numbers of buildings attacked, is the fear and insecurity of many church communities that use those buildings. Such attacks may lead to the disintegration of church communities, even if the Christians are not forcibly displaced.
- The total number of Christians detained for their faith increased from 3,329 cases in WWL 2024 to 3,604 in the WWL 2025 reporting period.

- The total number of Christians sentenced for their faith increased from 796 cases in WWL 2024 to 1,140 cases in the WWL 2025 reporting period.
- The total number of Christians abducted for faith-related reasons decreased from 3,906 cases in WWL 2024 to 3,775 in the WWL 2025 reporting period.
- The number of cases of Christians raped or otherwise sexually harassed for faithrelated reasons increased from 2,622 cases in WWL 2024 to 3,123 in the WWL 2025 reporting period. Reporting was particularly difficult because of issues of trauma and cultural tabus.
- The same applies for cases of forced marriages of Christians to non-Christians: The number increased from 609 cases in WWL 2024 to 821 in the WWL 2025 reporting period.
- The number of cases of Christians who have been otherwise physically or mentally abused for faith-related reasons (including beatings and death threats) increased from 42,849 cases in WWL 2024 to 54,780 in the WWL 2025 reporting period. The level of insecurity and fear caused by the incessant flow of attacks on Christians and Christian communities by Islamic terror groups and other radical religious groups in many Sub-Saharan and Asian countries, is not included in this number.
- In WWL 2025, there were 20,084 cases of houses of Christians or other property (excluding shops) attacked a decrease from 21,431 in WWL 2024.
- There were also cases of shops or businesses of Christians being attacked: The number increased from 5,740 cases in WWL 2024 to 8,284 in the WWL 2025 reporting period.
- Because of violence and also pressure (especially where converts had to leave their homes and communities) – the number of Christians forced to leave their homes or go into hiding in-country for faith-related reasons was 183,709 (a reduction in number compared to the 278,716 cases in the WWL 2024 reporting period).
- Sometimes there was no choice for Christians but to leave their country because of persecution. The number of Christians forced to leave their country for faith-related reasons increased from 16,404 cases in WWL 2024 to 26,062 in the WWL 2025 reporting period.

Introductory notes concerning detailed violence data per country

The WWL 2025 data presented in this document is based wherever possible on direct counting. In several cases, where it is very hard to know exact numbers and it is clear from indirect sources that there have been violent incidents occurring against Christians, numbers have been otherwise defined. See the discussion below. In such cases, the World Watch Research team has always estimated conservatively.

The tables presented below do not pretend to give a complete picture. The exact details of what is happening to Christians in a country are difficult to obtain: For instance, especially in countries where there is conflict or a high level of secrecy, the media are often seriously curtailed by the regime or influenced by social actors. Please see the WWL 2025 Persecution Dynamics per country for more details. These are made publicly available in mid-January 2025 on the Open Doors website: https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/.

The data on violence presented is limited to all countries scoring 41 or more points in the WWL 2025 reporting period. There may be cases of violence in countries scoring 40 points or less, but these are not included here. For each question in Block 6, country data is shown.

For security reasons: There are 10 WWL countries where the data on violence is presented but the names of those countries are not individually revealed. The data for these countries is indicated with "NN".

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

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

4. Detailed WWL 2025 Block 6 violence data per country

How many Christians have been killed for faith-related reasons (including state sanctioned executions)?

TOTAL: 4,476

Question 6.1 Rank	Country	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2025 Rank	Total WWL 2025 Score
1	Nigeria	3100		16.7	7	88
2	Congo DR (DRC)	355		16.1	35	70
3	Burkina Faso	201		15.6	20	76
4	Cameroon	100	TRUE	16.1	43	67
5	Niger	100	TRUE	15.7	28	72
6	NN	100	TRUE			
7	Central African Republic	67		15.6	27	72
8	Uganda	61		16.1	72	52
9	Myanmar	60		16.5	13	81
10	Mozambique	56		15.9	37	68
11	Mali	47		15.6	14	80
12	Sudan	44		16.1	5	90
13	Mexico	24		14.6	31	71
14	India	20		16.5	11	84
15	Honduras	14		13.1	65	55
16	Pakistan	14		16.7	8	87
17	Bangladesh	13		16.1	24	74
18	Chad	11		15.9	49	65
19	Ethiopia	11		15.6	33	70
20	South Sudan	10	TRUE	15.6	76	47
21	Tanzania	10	TRUE	15.4	55	63
22	Kenya	8		13.9	53	64
23	Burundi	7		14.6	63	59
24	NN	7				
25	Colombia	6		12.6	46	66
26	Philippines	4		8.5	78	43
27	Togo	4		9.3	66	54

Question 6.1 Rank	Country	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2025 Rank	Total WWL 2025 Score
28	NN	3				
29	Laos	3		9.8	22	74
30	Venezuela	3		9.6	71	52
31	Egypt	2		6.3	40	68
32	Eritrea	2		12.2	6	89
33	Russian Federation	2		4.4	56	63
34	Turkey	2		5.4	45	67
35	Indonesia	1		5.7	59	61
36	Iraq	1		6.1	17	78
37	Uzbekistan	1		4.4	25	73
38	Vietnam	1		5.9	44	67
39	NN	1				
	TOTAL	4,476				

How many churches or public Christian properties (schools, hospitals, cemeteries, etc.) have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down, closed or confiscated for faith-related reasons?

TOTAL: 7,679

Question 6.2 Rank	Country	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2025 Rank	Total WWL 2025 Score
1	Rwanda	4000		9.4	64	58
2	China	1000	TRUE	11.1	15	78
3	India	459		16.5	11	84
4	Nicaragua	317		9.6	30	71
5	Mexico	193		14.6	31	71
6	Sudan	182		16.1	5	90
7	Angola	100	TRUE	8.3	70	53
8	Burkina Faso	100	TRUE	15.6	20	76
9	Cameroon	100	TRUE	16.1	43	67
10	Central African Republic	100	TRUE	15.6	27	72
11	Congo DR (DRC)	100	TRUE	16.1	35	70
12	Eritrea	100	TRUE	12.2	6	89
13	Mozambique	100	TRUE	15.9	37	68
14	Niger	100	TRUE	15.7	28	72
15	Nigeria	100	TRUE	16.7	7	88
16	Myanmar	80		16.5	13	81
17	Mali	53		15.6	14	80
18	Ukraine	47		7.2	69	53
19	Colombia	46		12.6	46	66
20	Pakistan	40		16.7	8	87
21	Ethiopia	25		15.6	33	70
22	Kenya	21		13.9	53	64
23	Laos	18		9.8	22	74
24	Iran	17		10.9	9	86
25	Uganda	17		16.1	72	52
26	Bangladesh	14		16.1	24	74
27	Cuba	13		9.1	26	73
28	Honduras	13		13.1	65	55
29	Libya	13		10.6	4	91
30	Burundi	10	TRUE	14.6	63	59
31	Chad	10	TRUE	15.9	49	65

Question 6.2 Rank	Country	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2025 Rank	Total WWL 2025 Score
32	Guinea	10	TRUE	8.9	68	54
33	Ivory Coast	10	TRUE	9.6	73	51
34	Kyrgyzstan	10	TRUE	6.9	47	66
35	Lebanon	10	TRUE	7.2	74	49
36	South Sudan	10	TRUE	15.6	76	47
37	Tanzania	10	TRUE	15.4	55	63
38	NN	10	TRUE			
39	NN	9				
40	Sri Lanka	9		7.6	61	60
41	Venezuela	9		9.6	71	52
42	Azerbaijan	7		5.6	52	65
43	Morocco	7		8.3	21	74
44	Tunisia	7		8.1	34	70
45	Indonesia	6		5.7	59	61
46	Philippines	6		8.5	78	43
47	Togo	6		9.3	66	54
48	Vietnam	6		5.9	44	67
49	Algeria	5		6.3	19	77
50	Nepal	5		5.9	54	63
51	NN	5				
52	Gambia	4		4.4	75	48
53	Russian Federation	4		4.4	56	63
54	Syria	4		7.0	18	78
55	Turkey	4		5.4	45	67
56	Kazakhstan	3		4.3	38	68
57	Belarus	2		3.1	77	47
58	Comoros	2		2.6	42	67
59	Egypt	2		6.3	40	68
60	Iraq	2		6.1	17	78
61	Uzbekistan	2		4.4	25	73
62	Brunei	1		0.6	48	66
63	Jordan	1		2.4	50	65
64	NN	1				
65	NN	1				
66	Tajikistan	1		1.9	39	68
	TOTAL	7,679				

How many Christians have been detained without trial for faith-related reasons? **TOTAL: 3,604**

Question 6.3 Rank	Country	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2025 Rank	Total WWL 2025 Score
1	India	1629		16.5	11	84
2	NN	400				
3	Eritrea	245		12.2	6	89
4	Bangladesh	151		16.1	24	74
5	Iran	113		10.9	9	86
6	China	100	TRUE	11.1	15	78
7	Myanmar	100	TRUE	16.5	13	81
8	NN	100	TRUE			
9	Pakistan	100	TRUE	16.7	8	87
10	Nicaragua	73		9.6	30	71
11	Cuba	69		9.1	26	73
12	Laos	62		9.8	22	74
13	Egypt	34		6.3	40	68
14	Nigeria	31		16.7	7	88
15	NN	29				
16	Mexico	28		14.6	31	71
17	Burundi	25		14.6	63	59
18	Nepal	19		5.9	54	63
19	Morocco	17		8.3	21	74
20	Tunisia	17		8.1	34	70
21	Belarus	12		3.1	77	47
22	Angola	10	TRUE	8.3	70	53
23	Cameroon	10	TRUE	16.1	43	67
24	Congo DR (DRC)	10	TRUE	16.1	35	70
25	Ethiopia	10	TRUE	15.6	33	70
26	Jordan	10	TRUE	2.4	50	65
27	NN	10	TRUE			
28	Rwanda	10	TRUE	9.4	64	58
29	Sudan	10	TRUE	16.1	5	90
30	Syria	10	TRUE	7.0	18	78
31	Turkmenistan	10	TRUE	1.5	29	71
32	Uganda	10	TRUE	16.1	72	52
33	Uzbekistan	10	TRUE	4.4	25	73

Question 6.3 Rank	Country	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2025 Rank	Total WWL 2025 Score
34	Venezuela	10		9.6	71	52
35	NN	10	TRUE			
36	NN	9				
37	Chad	8		15.9	49	65
38	Sri Lanka	8		7.6	61	60
39	Turkey	8		5.4	45	67
40	Colombia	7		12.6	46	66
41	Kazakhstan	7		4.3	38	68
42	Russian Federation	7		4.4	56	63
43	Mozambique	6		15.9	37	68
44	Iraq	5		6.1	17	78
45	Libya	5		10.6	4	91
46	NN	5				
47	Tajikistan	5		1.9	39	68
48	Ukraine	5		7.2	69	53
49	NN	4				
50	Kyrgyzstan	3		6.9	47	66
51	Philippines	3		8.5	78	43
52	Tanzania	3		15.4	55	63
53	Guinea	2		8.9	68	54
54	Indonesia	2		5.7	59	61
55	Ivory Coast	2		9.6	73	51
56	NN	2				
57	NN	1				
58	Niger	1		15.7	28	72
59	NN	1				
60	Vietnam	1		5.9	44	67
	TOTAL	3,604				

How many Christians have been sentenced to jail, labor camp, sent to psychiatric hospital as punishment, or similar things for faith-related reasons? **TOTAL: 1,140**

Question 6.4 Rank	Country	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2025 Rank	Total WWL 2025 Score
1	India	547		16.5	11	84
2	China	100	TRUE	11.1	15	78
3	Eritrea	100	TRUE	12.2	6	89
4	NN	100	TRUE			
5	Pakistan	100	TRUE	16.7	8	87
6	Iran	43		10.9	9	86
7	Nicaragua	38		9.6	30	71
8	Cuba	28		9.1	26	73
9	Libya	15		10.6	4	91
10	Algeria	10		6.3	19	77
11	Belarus	10		3.1	77	47
12	Myanmar	10	TRUE	16.5	13	81
13	Nigeria	10	TRUE	16.7	7	88
14	Russian Federation	6		4.4	56	63
15	NN	4				
16	Egypt	3		6.3	40	68
17	Bangladesh	2		16.1	24	74
18	Ukraine	2		7.2	69	53
19	Vietnam	2		5.9	44	67
20	NN	1				
21	Burundi	1		14.6	63	59
22	Iraq	1		6.1	17	78
23	NN	1				
24	Nepal	1		5.9	54	63
25	NN	1				
26	NN	1				
27	Sri Lanka	1		7.6	61	60
28	Tunisia	1		8.1	34	70
29	Uzbekistan	1		4.4	25	73
	TOTAL	1,140				

How many Christians have been abducted for faith-related reasons (including Christians missing in a persecution context)? **TOTAL: 3,775**

Question 6.5 Rank	Country	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2025 Rank	Total WWL 2025 Score
1	Nigeria	2830		16.7	7	88
2	Mexico	116		14.6	31	71
3	Central African Republic	100	TRUE	15.6	27	72
4	Congo DR (DRC)	100	TRUE	16.1	35	70
5	Ethiopia	100	TRUE	15.6	33	70
6	Mali	100	TRUE	15.6	14	80
7	Pakistan	100	TRUE	16.7	8	87
8	Myanmar	70		16.5	13	81
9	Chad	18		15.9	49	65
10	Uganda	14		16.1	72	52
11	Mozambique	13		15.9	37	68
12	Morocco	12		8.3	21	74
13	Burkina Faso	10	TRUE	15.6	20	76
14	Burundi	10	TRUE	14.6	63	59
15	Cameroon	10	TRUE	16.1	43	67
16	China	10	TRUE	11.1	15	78
17	Eritrea	10	TRUE	12.2	6	89
18	Iran	10	TRUE	10.9	9	86
19	Iraq	10	TRUE	6.1	17	78
20	Libya	10	TRUE	10.6	4	91
21	Niger	10	TRUE	15.7	28	72
22	NN	10	TRUE			
23	NN	10	TRUE			
24	South Sudan	10	TRUE	15.6	76	47
25	Sudan	10	TRUE	16.1	5	90
26	Tanzania	10	TRUE	15.4	55	63
27	NN	10	TRUE			
28	India	9		16.5	11	84
29	Colombia	8		12.6	46	66
30	Kenya	8		13.9	53	64
31	Tunisia	6		8.1	34	70
32	Togo	5		9.3	66	54
33	Ukraine	3		7.2	69	53
34	Ivory Coast	2		9.6	73	51

Question 6.5 Rank	Country	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2025 Rank	Total WWL 2025 Score
35	Nicaragua	2		9.6	30	71
36	Philippines	2		8.5	78	43
37	Syria	2		7.0	18	78
38	Venezuela	2		9.6	71	52
39	Bangladesh	1		16.1	24	74
40	Cuba	1		9.1	26	73
41	Gambia	1		4.4	75	48
	TOTAL	3,775				

How many Christians have been raped or otherwise sexually harassed for faith-related reasons?

TOTAL: 3,123

Question 6.6 Rank	Country	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2025 Rank	Total WWL 2025 Score
1	Nigeria	1000	TRUE	16.7	7	88
2	Syria	500		7.0	18	78
3	Burkina Faso	100	TRUE	15.6	20	76
4	Cameroon	100	TRUE	16.1	43	67
5	Central African Republic	100	TRUE	15.6	27	72
6	Congo DR (DRC)	100	TRUE	16.1	35	70
7	Ethiopia	100	TRUE	15.6	33	70
8	Mali	100	TRUE	15.6	14	80
9	Mozambique	100	TRUE	15.9	37	68
10	Myanmar	100	TRUE	16.5	13	81
11	Niger	100	TRUE	15.7	28	72
12	NN	100	TRUE			
13	Pakistan	100	TRUE	16.7	8	87
14	NN	100	TRUE			
15	Sudan	100	TRUE	16.1	5	90
16	Libya	25		10.6	4	91
17	Morocco	16		8.3	21	74
18	India	13		16.5	11	84
19	NN	10	TRUE			
20	Algeria	10	TRUE	6.3	19	77
21	Bangladesh	10	TRUE	16.1	24	74
22	Burundi	10	TRUE	14.6	63	59
23	Chad	10	TRUE	15.9	49	65
24	China	10	TRUE	11.1	15	78
25	Comoros	10	TRUE	2.6	42	67
26	Djibouti	10	TRUE	1.7	57	61
27	Egypt	10	TRUE	6.3	40	68
28	Eritrea	10	TRUE	12.2	6	89
29	Gambia	10	TRUE	4.4	75	48
30	Guinea	10	TRUE	8.9	68	54
31	Iraq	10	TRUE	6.1	17	78
32	Ivory Coast	10	TRUE	9.6	73	51
33	Jordan	10	TRUE	2.4	50	65
34	Kazakhstan	10	TRUE	4.3	38	68

Question 6.6 Rank	Country	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2025 Rank	Total WWL 2025 Score
35	Kenya	10	TRUE	13.9	53	64
36	Rwanda	10	TRUE	9.4	64	58
37	NN	10	TRUE			
38	South Sudan	10	TRUE	15.6	76	47
39	Tanzania	10	TRUE	15.4	55	63
40	Togo	10	TRUE	9.3	66	54
41	Tunisia	10	TRUE	8.1	34	70
42	Uganda	10	TRUE	16.1	72	52
43	NN	10	TRUE			
44	Colombia	5		12.6	46	66
45	Cuba	4		9.1	26	73
46	Iran	4		10.9	9	86
47	NN	4				
48	Uzbekistan	2		4.4	25	73
	TOTAL	3,123				

How many cases have there been of forced marriages of Christians to non-Christians? **TOTAL: 821**

Question 6.7 Rank	Country	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2025 Rank	Total WWL 2025 Score
1	Central African Republic	100	TRUE	15.6	27	72
2	Congo DR (DRC)	100	TRUE	16.1	35	70
3	Pakistan	100	TRUE	16.7	8	87
4	India	71		16.5	11	84
5	Nigeria	65		16.7	7	88
6	NN	50				
7	Iran	30		10.9	9	86
8	Mozambique	14		15.9	37	68
9	NN	10	TRUE			
10	Algeria	10	TRUE	6.3	19	77
11	Bangladesh	10	TRUE	16.1	24	74
12	Burkina Faso	10	TRUE	15.6	20	76
13	Burundi	10	TRUE	14.6	63	59
14	Cameroon	10	TRUE	16.1	43	67
15	Chad	10	TRUE	15.9	49	65
16	China	10	TRUE	11.1	15	78
17	Eritrea	10	TRUE	12.2	6	89
18	Ethiopia	10	TRUE	15.6	33	70
19	Gambia	10	TRUE	4.4	75	48
20	Guinea	10	TRUE	8.9	68	54
21	Ivory Coast	10	TRUE	9.6	73	51
22	Kazakhstan	10	TRUE	4.3	38	68
23	Kenya	10	TRUE	13.9	53	64
24	Mali	10	TRUE	15.6	14	80
25	Niger	10	TRUE	15.7	28	72
26	Rwanda	10	TRUE	9.4	64	58
27	NN	10	TRUE			
28	South Sudan	10	TRUE	15.6	76	47
29	Sudan	10	TRUE	16.1	5	90
30	Syria	10	TRUE	7.0	18	78
31	Tanzania	10	TRUE	15.4	55	63
32	Togo	10	TRUE	9.3	66	54
33	Uganda	10	TRUE	16.1	72	52
34	NN	10	TRUE			

Question 6.7 Rank	Country	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2025 Rank	Total WWL 2025 Score
35	Myanmar	5		16.5	13	81
36	Morocco	4		8.3	21	74
37	Kyrgyzstan	3		6.9	47	66
38	Libya	3		10.6	4	91
39	Sri Lanka	3		7.6	61	60
40	Tunisia	3		8.1	34	70
41	Uzbekistan	3		4.4	25	73
42	Comoros	2		2.6	42	67
43	Djibouti	2		1.7	57	61
44	Egypt	2		6.3	40	68
45	NN	1				
	TOTAL	821				

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: 54,780

Question 6.8 Rank	Country	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2025 Rank	Total WWL 2025 Score
1	India	10000	TRUE	16.5	11	84
2	Myanmar	10000	TRUE	16.5	13	81
3	Nigeria	10000	TRUE	16.7	7	88
4	Pakistan	10000	TRUE	16.7	8	87
5	Burkina Faso	1000	TRUE	15.6	20	76
6	Central African Republic	1000	TRUE	15.6	27	72
7	Congo DR (DRC)	1000	TRUE	16.1	35	70
8	Eritrea	1000	TRUE	12.2	6	89
9	Ethiopia	1000	TRUE	15.6	33	70
10	Mali	1000	TRUE	15.6	14	80
11	Niger	1000	TRUE	15.7	28	72
12	NN	1000	TRUE			
13	Rwanda	1000	TRUE	9.4	64	58
14	Uganda	1000	TRUE	16.1	72	52
15	Bangladesh	701		16.1	24	74
16	Turkmenistan	500		1.5	29	71
17	Iran	452		10.9	9	86
18	Guinea	266		8.9	68	54
19	Mexico	230		14.6	31	71
20	Vietnam	200		5.9	44	67
21	Laos	196		9.8	22	74
22	Togo	129		9.3	66	54
23	Colombia	121		12.6	46	66
24	Angola	100	TRUE	8.3	70	53
25	Burundi	100	TRUE	14.6	63	59
26	Cameroon	100	TRUE	16.1	43	67
27	Chad	100	TRUE	15.9	49	65
28	China	100	TRUE	11.1	15	78
29	Honduras	100	TRUE	13.1	65	55
30	Kenya	100	TRUE	13.9	53	64
31	Libya	100	TRUE	10.6	4	91

Question 6.8 Rank	Country	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2025 Rank	Total WWL 2025 Score
32	Mozambique	100	TRUE	15.9	37	68
33	NN	100	TRUE			
34	South Sudan	100	TRUE	15.6	76	47
35	Sudan	100	TRUE	16.1	5	90
36	Tanzania	100	TRUE	15.4	55	63
37	Morocco	75		8.3	21	74
38	Indonesia	50		5.7	59	61
39	Tunisia	47		8.1	34	70
40	Egypt	46		6.3	40	68
41	Sri Lanka	43		7.6	61	60
42	Iraq	40		6.1	17	78
43	Nicaragua	37		9.6	30	71
44	Venezuela	26		9.6	71	52
45	NN	25				
46	Algeria	20		6.3	19	77
47	Tajikistan	20		1.9	39	68
48	Cuba	19		9.1	26	73
49	Kazakhstan	19		4.3	38	68
50	Philippines	14		8.5	78	43
51	NN	10	TRUE			
52	NN	10	TRUE			
53	Belarus	10	TRUE	3.1	77	47
54	NN	10	TRUE			
55	Gambia	10	TRUE	4.4	75	48
56	Ivory Coast	10	TRUE	9.6	73	51
57	Jordan	10	TRUE	2.4	50	65
58	NN	10	TRUE			
59	Lebanon	10	TRUE	7.2	74	49
60	NN	10	TRUE			
61	Nepal	10	TRUE	5.9	54	63
62	NN	10	TRUE			
63	NN	10	TRUE			
64	NN	10	TRUE			
65	Syria	10	TRUE	7.0	18	78
66	Turkey	10	TRUE	5.4	45	67
67	NN	10	TRUE			
68	Uzbekistan	10	TRUE	4.4	25	73
69	NN	10	TRUE			
70	Comoros	6		2.6	42	67
71	Djibouti	4		1.7	57	61
72	Russian Federation	2		4.4	56	63

Question 6.8 Rank	Country	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2025 Rank	Total WWL 2025 Score
73	Ukraine	2		7.2	69	53
	TOTAL	54,780				

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

TOTAL: 20,084

Question 6.9 Rank	Country	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2025 Rank	Total WWL 2025 Score
1	Nigeria	10000	TRUE	16.7	7	88
2	India	1632		16.5	11	84
3	Cameroon	1000	TRUE	16.1	43	67
4	Congo DR (DRC)	1000	TRUE	16.1	35	70
5	Ethiopia	1000	TRUE	15.6	33	70
6	Mali	1000	TRUE	15.6	14	80
7	Myanmar	1000	TRUE	16.5	13	81
8	Niger	1000	TRUE	15.7	28	72
9	Pakistan	1000	TRUE	16.7	8	87
10	Chad	167		15.9	49	65
11	Azerbaijan	100	TRUE	5.6	52	65
12	Burkina Faso	100	TRUE	15.6	20	76
13	Central African Republic	100	TRUE	15.6	27	72
14	Eritrea	100	TRUE	12.2	6	89
15	Mozambique	100	TRUE	15.9	37	68
16	South Sudan	100	TRUE	15.6	76	47
17	Sudan	100	TRUE	16.1	5	90
18	NN	75				
19	Bangladesh	64		16.1	24	74
20	Kenya	54		13.9	53	64
21	Egypt	51		6.3	40	68
22	Mexico	50		14.6	31	71
23	Iran	42		10.9	9	86
24	Uganda	22		16.1	72	52
25	Colombia	18		12.6	46	66

Question 6.9 Rank	Country	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2025 Rank	Total WWL 2025 Score
26	Guinea	18		8.9	68	54
27	Laos	16		9.8	22	74
28	Nicaragua	14		9.6	30	71
29	Angola	10	TRUE	8.3	70	53
30	Burundi	10	TRUE	14.6	63	59
31	China	10	TRUE	11.1	15	78
32	Iraq	10	TRUE	6.1	17	78
33	Ivory Coast	10	TRUE	9.6	73	51
34	Lebanon	10	TRUE	7.2	74	49
35	Nepal	10	TRUE	5.9	54	63
36	NN	10	TRUE			
37	Syria	10	TRUE	7.0	18	78
38	Tanzania	10	TRUE	15.4	55	63
39	Togo	10	TRUE	9.3	66	54
40	Honduras	7		13.1	65	55
41	Sri Lanka	7		7.6	61	60
42	Libya	6		10.6	4	91
43	Cuba	5		9.1	26	73
44	Morocco	5		8.3	21	74
45	Vietnam	5		5.9	44	67
46	Tunisia	4		8.1	34	70
47	NN	3				
48	Venezuela	3		9.6	71	52
49	Uzbekistan	2	_	4.4	25	73
50	Comoros	1		2.6	42	67
51	NN	1				
52	NN	1				
53	Philippines	1		8.5	78	43
	TOTAL	20,084				

How many shops or businesses of Christians have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down, closed or confiscated for faith-related reasons? **TOTAL: 8,284**

Question 6.10 Rank	Country	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2025 Rank	Total WWL 2025 Score
1	Burkina Faso	1000	TRUE	15.6	20	76
2	Cameroon	1000	TRUE	16.1	43	67
3	Central African Republic	1000	TRUE	15.6	27	72
4	Congo DR (DRC)	1000	TRUE	16.1	35	70
5	Ethiopia	1000	TRUE	15.6	33	70
6	Mali	1000	TRUE	15.6	14	80
7	Nigeria	1000	TRUE	16.7	7	88
8	India	196		16.5	11	84
9	Angola	100	TRUE	8.3	70	53
10	Azerbaijan	100	TRUE	5.6	52	65
11	Mozambique	100	TRUE	15.9	37	68
12	Myanmar	100	TRUE	16.5	13	81
13	Niger	100	TRUE	15.7	28	72
14	Pakistan	100	TRUE	16.7	8	87
15	South Sudan	100	TRUE	15.6	76	47
16	Sudan	100	TRUE	16.1	5	90
17	Iran	45		10.9	9	86
18	Kenya	30		13.9	53	64
19	Chad	15		15.9	49	65
20	Libya	11		10.6	4	91
21	Bangladesh	10	TRUE	16.1	24	74
22	Burundi	10	TRUE	14.6	63	59
23	China	10	TRUE	11.1	15	78
24	Eritrea	10	TRUE	12.2	6	89
25	Iraq	10	TRUE	6.1	17	78
26	Ivory Coast	10	TRUE	9.6	73	51
27	Lebanon	10	TRUE	7.2	74	49
28	NN	10	TRUE			
29	Philippines	10	TRUE	8.5	78	43
30	Rwanda	10	TRUE	9.4	64	58
31	NN	10	TRUE			
32	Syria	10	TRUE	7.0	18	78
33	Tanzania	10	TRUE	15.4	55	63

Question 6.10 Rank	Country	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2025 Rank	Total WWL 2025 Score
34	Togo	10	TRUE	9.3	66	54
35	Uganda	10	TRUE	16.1	72	52
36	Nicaragua	7		9.6	30	71
37	Egypt	4		6.3	40	68
38	NN	4				
39	Colombia	3	3		46	66
40	Indonesia	2		5.7	59	61
41	Laos	2		9.8	22	74
42	NN	2				
43	Morocco	2		8.3	21	74
44	Tunisia	2		8.1	34	70
45	Algeria	1		6.3	19	77
46	Cuba	1		9.1	26	73
47	Guinea	1		8.9	68	54
48	Mexico	1		14.6	31	71
49	Nepal	1		5.9	54	63
50	Sri Lanka	1		7.6	61	60
51	Turkmenistan	1		1.5	29	71
52	Venezuela	1		9.6	71	52
53	53 NN					
	TOTAL	8,284				

How many Christians have been forced to leave their homes or go into hiding in-country for faith-related reasons? **TOTAL: 183,709**

Question 6.11 Rank	Country	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2025 Rank	Total WWL 2025 Score
1	Nigeria	100000	TRUE	16.7	7	88
2	Myanmar	40000		16.5	13	81
3	Burkina Faso	10000	TRUE	15.6	20	76
4	Congo DR (DRC)	10000	TRUE	16.1	35	70
5	India	9251		16.5	11	84
6	NN	1000	TRUE			
7	Bangladesh	1000	TRUE	16.1	24	74
8	Cameroon	1000	TRUE	16.1	43	67
9	Central African Republic	1000	TRUE	15.6	27	72
10	Chad	1000	TRUE	15.9	49	65
11	Ethiopia	1000	TRUE	15.6	33	70
12	Mali	1000	TRUE	15.6	14	80
13	Mozambique	1000	TRUE	15.9	37	68
14	Niger	1000	TRUE	15.7	28	72
15	Pakistan	1000	TRUE	16.7	8	87
16	South Sudan	1000	TRUE	15.6	76	47
17	Sudan	1000	TRUE	16.1	5	90
18	Mexico	852		14.6	31	71
19	Colombia	262		12.6	46	66
20	Nepal	232		5.9	54	63
21	Burundi	100	TRUE	14.6	63	59
22	Eritrea	100	TRUE	12.2	6	89
23	Iran	100	TRUE	10.9	9	86
24	NN	100	TRUE			
25	Philippines	100	TRUE	8.5	78	43
26	Uganda	100	TRUE	16.1	72	52
27	Laos	93		9.8	22	74
28	Togo	38		9.3	66	54
29	Morocco	24		8.3	21	74
30	Nicaragua	21		9.6	30	71
31	Tunisia	21		8.1	34	70
32	Vietnam	20		5.9	44	67
33	Kazakhstan	19		4.3	38	68
34	Venezuela	19		9.6	71	52

Question 6.11 Rank	Country	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2025 Rank	Total WWL 2025 Score
35	Libya	16		10.6	4	91
36	Algeria	15		6.3	19	77
37	NN	15				
38	NN	15				
39	Honduras	13		13.1	65	55
40	Sri Lanka	13		7.6	61	60
41	NN	11				
42	Angola	10	TRUE	8.3	70	53
43	China	10	TRUE	11.1	15	78
44	Guinea	10	TRUE	8.9	68	54
45	Indonesia	10	TRUE	5.7	59	61
46	Iraq	10	TRUE	6.1	17	78
47	Ivory Coast	10	TRUE	9.6	73	51
48	Kenya	10	TRUE	13.9	53	64
49	Kyrgyzstan	10	TRUE	6.9	47	66
50	Rwanda	10	TRUE	9.4	64	58
51	NN	10	TRUE			
52	Syria	10	TRUE	7.0	18	78
53	Tanzania	10	TRUE	15.4	55	63
54	Turkey	10	TRUE	5.4	45	67
55	NN	10	TRUE			
56	Cuba	5		9.1	26	73
57	Egypt	5		6.3	40	68
58	Uzbekistan	5		4.4	25	73
59	Gambia	2		4.4	75	48
60	Djibouti	1		1.7	57	61
61	Palestinian Territories	1		0.2	62	60
	TOTAL	183,709				

How many Christians have been forced to leave the country for faith-related reasons? **TOTAL: 26,062**

Question 6.12 Rank	Country	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2025 Rank	Total WWL 2025 Score
1	Azerbaijan	10000	TRUE	5.6	52	65
2	Bangladesh	5000		16.1	24	74
3	NN	1000	TRUE			
4	Burkina Faso	1000	TRUE	15.6	20	76
5	China	1000	TRUE	11.1	15	78
6	Congo DR (DRC)	1000	TRUE	16.1	35	70
7	Eritrea	1000	TRUE	12.2	6	89
8	Iran	1000	TRUE	10.9	9	86
9	Myanmar	1000	TRUE	16.5	13	81
10	Nigeria	1000	TRUE	16.7	7	88
11	South Sudan	1000	TRUE	15.6	76	47
12	Sudan	1000	TRUE	16.1	5	90
13	Burundi	100	TRUE	14.6	63	59
14	Cameroon	100	TRUE	16.1	43	67
15	Central African Republic	100	TRUE	15.6	27	72
16	Mali	100	TRUE	15.6	14	80
17	Niger	100	TRUE	15.7	28	72
18	Pakistan	100	TRUE	16.7	8	87
19	Nicaragua	94		9.6	30	71
20	India	50		16.5	11	84
21	NN	50				
22	Colombia	22		12.6	46	66
23	Libya	21		10.6	4	91
24	Algeria	15		6.3	19	77
25	Iraq	15		6.1	17	78
26	Morocco	12		8.3	21	74
27	Nepal	12		5.9	54	63
28	Honduras	11		13.1	65	55
29	Mexico	11		14.6	31	71
30	Chad	10	TRUE	15.9	49	65
31	NN	10	TRUE			
32	NN	10	TRUE			
33	Mozambique	10	TRUE	15.9	37	68
34	Rwanda	10	TRUE	9.4	64	58

Question 6.12 Rank	Country	Number	Symbolic Round Number	Block 6 Score in total	WWL 2025 Rank	Total WWL 2025 Score
35	NN	10	TRUE			
36	NN	10	TRUE			
37	Syria	10	TRUE	7.0	18	78
38	Turkey	10	TRUE	5.4	45	67
39	Uganda	10	TRUE	16.1	72	52
40	NN	10	TRUE			
41	Tunisia	9		8.1	34	70
42	Philippines	7		8.5	78	43
43	Cuba	6		9.1	26	73
44	Venezuela	4		9.6	71	52
45	Belarus	2		3.1	77	47
46	Egypt	2		6.3	40	68
47	NN	2				
48	Tajikistan	2		1.9	39	68
49	Djibouti	1		1.7	57	61
50	Jordan	1		2.4	50	65
51	Kenya	1		13.9	53	64
52	Turkmenistan	1		1.5	29	71
53	Ukraine	1		7.2	69	53
	TOTAL	26,062				

8. WWL 2025 Ranking according to pressure score

The columns on the right give a comparison to the total pressure score in WWL 2024. For more detailed comparisons of scores in spheres of life for WWL 2021 – WWL 2025, see tables in section "5 Year trends" in each country's Persecution Dynamics.

WWL 2025 Rank	Country	1. Private Life Score	2. Family Life Score	3. Community Life Score	4. National Life Score	5. Church Life Score	WWL 2025 Total Pressure		WWL 2024 Total Pressure
1	North Korea	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	83.3	North Korea	83.3
3	Yemen	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	83.3	Yemen	83.3
2	Somalia	16.5	16.7	16.6	16.6	16.7	83.0	Somalia	82.9
4	Libya	16.0	16.2	15.9	16.2	16.4	80.7	Libya	80.4
10	Afghanistan	15.6	15.9	15.9	16.4		80.4	Afghanistan	79.7
12	Saudi Arabia	15.2	15.3	14.8	15.8	16.6	77.7	Saudi Arabia	77.6
16	Maldives	15.6	15.3	13.7	15.8		77.1	Maldives	77.0
6	Eritrea	14.6	14.9	15.5	15.9		76.7	Eritrea	76.6
9	Iran	15.0	14.6	13.5	15.9		75.4	Iran	75.4
5	Sudan	14.1	14.2	15.5	14.9		73.9	Sudan	73.6
17 7	Iraq	14.2	14.4		14.8		71.5	Iraq	71.4
-	Nigeria	13.5	13.9	14.6	14.9		71.4	Nigeria	71.2
19	Algeria	14.7	14.3	11.5	14.7	16.0	71.2 70.9	Algeria	69.5
23	Mauritania	14.6 13.6	14.2 13.9	13.8	14.2	14.2 12.9	70.5	Mauritania	70.9 70.3
8 18	Pakistan Syria	13.5	13.9	15.0 13.9	15.0 14.4		70.5	Pakistan	70.3
29	Turkmenistan	14.3	12.3	13.6	13.9		69.4	Syria Turkmenistan	69.5
25	Uzbekistan	14.5	12.3	13.5	12.4		68.7	Uzbekistan	69.3
		14.5	14.1	10.9	13.8	-	67.3		
32 11	Oman India	14.5	14.1	10.9	13.8		67.2	Oman India	66.1 66.1
36	Bhutan	13.2	13.2	13.3	14.9		67.0	Bhutan	66.0
15	China	13.2	10.1	12.3	14.1	1	66.8	China	66.4
41	Qatar	14.2	14.2	10.5	13.2	14.4	66.5	Qatar	66.5
39	Tajikistan	14.2	12.7	10.5	13.2		66.4	Tajikistan	65.0
21	Morocco	13.2	13.8	11.6	12.9		65.9	Morocco	66.0
48	Brunei	14.8	14.8	10.8	10.8		65.3	Brunei	64.5
42	Comoros	12.7	14.0		12.4		64.5	Comoros	64.5
13	Myanmar	12.6	11.1	13.5	14.1	12.9	64.2	Myanmar	62.9
38	Kazakhstan	13.3	11.6		12.8		64.1	Kazakhstan	64.3
14	Mali	11.1	10.1	14.7	13.0		64.1	Mali	63.8
26	Cuba	13.2	8.5	13.9	13.3		64.0	Cuba	64.0
22	Laos	11.8	10.7	13.5	14.1	13.9	63.9	Laos	63.6
50	Jordan	12.9	14.3	10.4	12.2	12.8	62.6	Jordan	62.8
34	Tunisia	12.4	13.2	10.1	12.6		62.0	Tunisia	61.8
40	Egypt	12.7	13.7	12.1	12.4	10.9	61.9	Egypt	60.4
51	Malaysia	12.8	13.7	11.7	12.4		61.8	Malaysia	61.9
30	Nicaragua	12.4	7.6	13.7	13.3		61.2	Nicaragua	60.2
45	Turkey	13.0	11.7	11.7	13.2	-	61.1	Turkey	60.8
44	Vietnam	10.8	9.5	12.2	14.1	14.1	60.7	Vietnam	61.1
58	Kuwait	13.1	13.6		12.0		60.3	Kuwait	60.3
60	United Arab Emirates	13.3	13.4	9.5	11.3		60.2	United Arab Emirates	60.2
20	Burkina Faso	11.7	9.7	13.2	11.5		60.1	Burkina Faso	59.8
57	Djibouti	12.3	12.6	12.7	10.1	12.1	59.8	Djibouti	59.9
62	Palestinian Territories	13.1	13.3	10.3	10.7	12.1	59.5	Palestinian Territories	58.9
47	Kyrgyzstan	13.5	10.3	11.7	11.4	12.4	59.4	Kyrgyzstan	57.5
52	Azerbaijan	13.3	10.2	9.6	12.2	13.7	59.0	Azerbaijan	58.3
56	Russian Federation	12.7	7.9	10.7	13.1	14.1	58.4	Russian Federation	56.7
24	Bangladesh	12.4	10.6	12.7	11.3	10.4	57.5	Bangladesh	56.6
54	Nepal	12.2	10.6	9.5	12.6	12.3	57.3	Nepal	57.5
27	Central African Republic	10.3	8.6	13.9	9.6	14.0	56.4	Central African Republic	54.6
31	Mexico	11.7	9.0	12.5	11.8	11.0	56.0	Mexico	54.2
28	Niger	9.4	9.6	14.5	7.7	14.6	55.8	Niger	54.3
59	Indonesia	10.9	11.9		11.6		55.4	Indonesia	54.6
33	Ethiopia	9.9	9.7	12.6	10.4		54.7	Ethiopia	54.7
35	Congo DR (DRC)	8.0	7.9	12.6	10.8		53.8	Congo DR (DRC)	51.1
46	Colombia	11.0	7.9	12.7	11.5		53.7	Colombia	54.3
67	Bahrain	12.0	13.2	8.6		8.5	53.6	Bahrain	53.6
61	Sri Lanka	12.7	8.7	11.5			52.9	Sri Lanka	54.1
37	Mozambique	9.3	8.5				52.6	Mozambique	52.6
43	Cameroon	8.8	7.6				50.5	Cameroon	50.0
53	Kenya	10.3	9.2				50.3	Kenya	50.3
49	Chad	11.0	8.2	10.2	9.9		49.5	Chad	50.4
64	Rwanda	9.4		9.0			48.6	Rwanda	48.2
55	Tanzania	9.3	10.8		8.6		47.6	Tanzania	47.6
69	Ukraine	6.8					45.6	Ukraine	41.5
66	Togo	9.2	6.7	10.4			44.9	Togo	43.3
68	Guinea	10.3	7.5				44.9	Guinea	44.9
70	Angola	6.8		8.1			44.5	Angola	44.5
63	Burundi	7.6	7.8				44.3	Burundi	44.3
77	Belarus	9.9					43.4	Belarus	42.2
75	Gambia	8.3	8.2	8.9			43.1	Gambia	43.1
71	Venezuela	6.3	4.4		10.0		42.5	Venezuela	42.3
65	Honduras	7.9		11.7	7.3		41.6	Honduras	42.0
74	Lebanon	11.5	10.1	7.0			41.4	Lebanon	40.9
73	Ivory Coast	12.0					41.1	Ivory Coast	41.1
72	Uganda	8.1	5.0				35.9	Uganda	35.9
78	Philippines	9.2	6.6				34.1	Philippines	34.2
76	South Sudan	5.7	4.4	7.0	6.3	8.1	31.4	South Sudan	30.9

9. WWL 2025 Ranking according to violence score

The columns on the right give a comparison to the violence score in WWL 2024 and the difference in score. For violence score comparisons for the reporting periods WWL 2021 – WWL 2025, see table in section "5 Year trends" in each country's Persecution Dynamics.

			Т						
WWL 2025	Country	Region	Sub-Region	WWL 2025			WWL 2024		WWL 2025 -
Rank	▼	▼	▼	Violence scorp	~	▼	Violence scor	¥	WWL 2024
7	Nigeria	Africa	Western Africa	16.7		Nigeria	16.7		0.0
8	Pakistan	Asia	South Asia	16.7		Pakistan	16.7		0.0
11	India	Asia	South Asia	16.5		India	16.5		0.0
13 5	Myanmar Sudan	Asia Africa	Northern Africa	16.5 16.1		Myanmar Sudan	16.1 13.3		0.4 2.8
24	Bangladesh	Asia	South Asia	16.1		Bangladesh	14.1		2.0
35	Congo DR (DRC)	Africa	Middle Africa	16.1		Congo DR (DRC)	15.9		0.2
43	Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	16.1		Cameroon	15.9		0.2
72	Uganda	Africa	Eastern Africa	16.1		Uganda	15.9		0.2
37	Mozambique	Africa	Eastern Africa	15.9		Mozambique	15.0		0.9
49	Chad	Africa	Middle Africa	15.9		Chad	10.6		5.3
28	Niger	Africa	Western Africa Western Africa	15.7		Niger	15.9		-0.2
14 20	Mali Burkina Faso	Africa Africa	Western Africa	15.6 15.6		Mali Burkina Faso	15.6 15.6		0.0
27	Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	15.6		Central African Republic	15.6		0.0
33	Ethiopia	Africa	Eastern Africa	15.6		Ethiopia	14.4		1.2
76	South Sudan	Africa	Eastern Africa	15.6		South Sudan	15.6		0.0
55	Tanzania	Africa	Eastern Africa	15.4		Tanzania	14.4		1.0
31	Mexico	Latin America	Central America	14.6		Mexico	14.1		0.5
63	Burundi	Africa	Eastern Africa	14.6		Burundi	12.8		1.8
1	North Korea	Asia	Eastern Asia	14.4		North Korea	12.8		1.6
53	Kenya	Africa	Eastern Africa	13.9		Kenya	12.4		1.5
65 46	Honduras Colombia	Latin America Latin America	Central America South America	13.1 12.6		Honduras Colombia	12.6 14.1		0.5 -1.5
6	Eritrea	Africa Africa	Eastern Africa	12.6		Eritrea	14.1		-0.6
2	Somalia	Africa	Eastern Africa	11.1		Somalia	10.6		0.5
15	China	Asia	Eastern Asia	11.1		China	11.1		0.0
9	Iran	Asia	South Asia	10.9		Iran	10.9		0.0
3	Yemen	Asia	Western Asia	10.6		Yemen	5.9		4.7
4	Libya	Africa	Northern Africa	10.6		Libya	10.2		0.4
22	Laos	Asia	Southeastern Asia	9.8		Laos	11.3		-0.5
30	Nicaragua	Latin America	Central America	9.6		Nicaragua	9.6		0.0
71 73	Venezuela	Latin America	South America	9.6 9.6		Venezuela	10.7		-0.9 6.6
64	Ivory Coast Rwanda	Africa Africa	Western Africa Eastern Africa	9.6		Ivory Coast Rwanda	3.3 9.4		0.0
66	Togo	Africa	Western Africa	9.4		Togo	8.9		0.0
26	Cuba	Latin America	Caribbean	9.1		Cuba	8.7		0.4
68	Guinea	Africa	Western Africa	8.9		Guinea	7.2		1.7
78	Philippines	Asia	Southeastern Asia	8.5		Philippines	6.1		2.4
21	Morocco	Africa	Northern Africa	8.3		Morocco	5.4		2.9
70	Angola	Africa	Middle Africa	8.3		Angola	7.2		1.1
34	Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	8.1		Tunisia	6.9		1.2
61	Sri Lanka	Asia	South Asia	7.6		Sri Lanka	5.9		1.7
69 74	Ukraine Lebanon	Europe Asia	Eastern Europe Western Asia	7.2 7.2		Ukraine Lebanon	2.8 7.2		4.4 0.0
18	Syria	Asia	Western Asia	7.0		Syria	11.1		-4.1
47	Kyrgyzstan	Asia	Central Asia	6.9		Kyrgyzstan	1.3		5.6
19	Algeria	Africa	Northern Africa	6.3		Algeria	9.8		-3.5
40	Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	6.3		Egypt	7.8		-1.5
17	Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	6.1		Iraq	7.8		-1.7
44	Vietnam	Asia	Southeastern Asia	5.9		Vietnam	7.2		-1.3
54	Nepal	Asia	South Asia	5.9		Nepal	4.4		1.5
59 52	Indonesia Azerbaijan	Asia Asia	Southeastern Asia Western Asia	5.7 5.6		Indonesia Azerbaijan	11.5 1.7		-5.8 3.9
45	Turkey	Asia	Western Asia	5.6		Turkey	3.1		2.3
10	Afghanistan	Asia	South Asia	5.0		Afghanistan	4.6		0.4
25	Uzbekistan	Asia	Central Asia	4.4		Uzbekistan	1.7		2.7
56	Russian Federation	Europe	Eastern Europe	4.4		Russian Federation	1.7		2.7
75	Gambia	Africa	Western Africa	4.4		Gambia	3.7		0.7
38	Kazakhstan	Asia	Central Asia	4.3		Kazakhstan	1.1		3.2
12	Saudi Arabia	Asia	Western Asia	3.3		Saudi Arabia	3.3		0.0
77 32	Belarus Oman	Europe Asia	Eastern Europe Western Asia	3.1 3.0		Belarus Oman	3.3 3.1		-0.2 -0.1
51	Malaysia	Asia	Southeastern Asia	3.0		Malaysia	2.4		0.6
23	Mauritania	Africa	Western Africa	2.8		Mauritania	1.3		1.5
42	Comoros	Africa	Eastern Africa	2.6		Comoros	1.1		1.5
50	Jordan	Asia	Western Asia	2.4		Jordan	2.2		0.2
36	Bhutan	Asia	South Asia	2.2		Bhutan	2.2		0.0
39	Tajikistan	Asia	Central Asia	1.9		Tajikistan	0.6		1.3
57	Djibouti	Africa	Eastern Africa	1.7		Djibouti	1.1		0.6
29	Turkmenistan	Asia	Central Asia	1.5		Turkmenistan	0.6		0.9
58	Kuwait	Asia	Western Asia South Asia	0.9		Kuwait	0.9		-0.2
16 41	Maldives Qatar	Asia Asia	Western Asia	0.7 0.7		Maldives Qatar	0.9 0.6		0.1
41	Brunei	Asia	Southeastern Asia	0.7		Brunei	1.3		-0.7
									-0.1
60	United Arab Emirates	Asia	Western Asia	0.6		United Arab Emirates	0.7		-0.1
	United Arab Emirates Bahrain	Asia Asia	Western Asia Western Asia	0.6		Bahrain	0.7 1.1		-0.1

10. WWL 2025: Audit Statement from IIRF



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Audit Statement

on the outcomes of the Open Doors World Watch List 2025

Wednesday 15 January 2025

The audit of the 2025 World Watch List (WWL), conducted by the International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF) for the 11th consecutive year, confirms the World Watch Research team's continued adherence to quality standards, maintaining the benchmark set in previous years.

The audit, conducted in two parts, first examined the correct application of the WWL methodology. The findings revealed that the WWL 2025 largely complies with all methodological requirements, drawing from diverse sources and generally adequately substantiating its conclusions.

The second part of the audit evaluated whether the scores and write-ups accurately reflected the country situations based on the auditors' knowledge and expertise. The overall conclusion is that WWL 2025 provides a precise, well-balanced, and detailed account of the discrimination and persecution faced by Christians worldwide.

A team of five scholars with active expertise in religious freedom across the audited regions and countries carried out the audit. To ensure a comprehensive evaluation, five countries from the WWL Top 50, none of which had been previously audited, were selected. The audit encompassed the work of both junior and senior World Watch Research persecution analysts.

Audit materials included final questionnaires (along with underlying questionnaires completed by external experts, field researchers and field contributors) and accompanying country dos-

siers. Statements, documents, or interpretations from Open Doors International or its affiliates related to the WWL 2025 publication were outside the audit's scope.

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

Dr Dennis P. Petri International Director, IIRF Dr Kyle Wisdom

Deputy Director, IIRF

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