

Martyrdom situation sources, 2000-2010

General works

Allen, Jr., John, *The Global War on Christians: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Anti-Christian Persecution* (New York: Image, 2013).

Marshall, Paul, Lela Gilbert, and Nina Shea, *Persecuted: The Global Assault on Christians* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2013).

Forum 18 website (www.forum18.org)

Voice of the Martyrs website (www.persecution.com)

Open Doors website (www.opendoors.org)

Christian Persecution info (www.christianpersecution.info)

Christian Solidarity International (<http://csi-usa.org/persecutiontable.html>)

Afghanistan

Persecuted, p. 205-213

- Death of Abdul Latif, convert, by Taliban
- July 1, 15, 23, 28; August 7, 2004: deaths of five Afghan converts by Taliban
- July 19, 2007: kidnapping of 23 South Korean Christians and death of two by Taliban
- August 2010: Taliban kills 10 members of Christian medical team (Assistance Mission)

Global War, p. 117-120

- October 2008: Gayle Williams shot to death on her way to work because she had been working for an organization accused of preaching Christianity

China

Persecuted, p. 25-38

- No explicit martyrdom

Eric Leijenaar, "Report: 3000 Chinese Christians 'Killed' Since 2000," *BosNewsLife*, 3 September 2007, <https://chinaview.wordpress.com/2007/09/04/report-3000-chinese-christians-killed-since-2000/>

- Figure comes from German-based Society for Threatened Peoples

DR Congo

International Rescue Committee report

Jason Stearns, *Dancing in the Glory of Monsters*

"DR Congo-Rwanda-Uganda: UN Report on War Crimes," *Africa Research Bulletin*, 47, no. 9 (2010): 18536A-18537A

- Rwanda troops might have committed genocide in DR Congo in 1997
- Human rights violations in DR Congo from 1993 to 2003

“DR Congo – ICC: War Crimes Acquittal,” *Africa Research Bulletin*, 49, no. 12 (2013): 19541C–19542A

- 2003 massacre in DR Congo’s north-eastern Ituri District
- Attack on the village of Bogoro on February 24, 2003
- Victims burned alive, babies smashed against walls, women raped
- Part of conflict raging in DR Congo following 1994 Rwanda genocide

Eritrea

Persecuted, p. 275-282

- October 2011: Terhase Gebremichel Andu and Ferewine Genzabu Kifly died from starvation after being arrested at a prayer meeting
- August 2011: Angesom Teklom Habtemichel died from malaria after being arrested for refusing to recant his Christian faith
- January 2010: Hana Hagos died from a heart attack after being jailed and beaten for not renouncing Christianity

US State Department International Religious Freedom Report 2012

- Human Rights Watch: one Jehovah’s Witness incarcerated for religious reasons died from heat prostration in an underground cell
- November: a Muslim convert to an unregistered evangelical group died in an underground detention facility where 100 members of unregistered groups were also held

Open doors

- At least 105 Christians were arrested in 2012; 31 died in prison

“Eritrea-Ethiopia: Risk of Conflict Grows,” *Africa Research Bulletin*, 44, no. 9 (2007): 17223A–17223B

- 1998–2000 border war with 70,000 casualties

India

Persecuted, p. 93-109

- January 1999: murder of Graham Staines and his two sons (burnt to death while sleeping for converting tribals to Christianity)

Varghese Varghese Appileyl, “Violence Against Christians in India in the First Decade of the Twenty-First Century,” D.Min diss., Brite Divinity School, December 2009

- p65 a pastor was thrown into a fire after his hands and legs were chopped off refusing to convert to Hinduism
- p68 violence against Christians (including deaths) after the murder of VHP leader Swami Laxamanada and his four associates by Maoist extremists; Christians were murdered; nuns and priests were killed; KP Yohannan reported 500 Christians killed

Melanchthon, Monica. "Persecution of Indian Christians." *dialog: A Journal of Theology*. 41:2 (Summer 2002): 103–113; 104.

- Murder of Franciscan Brother George Kuzhikandam in Navada, Mathura
- June 8th, 2000: time bombs explode in churches in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Goa
- Preacher brutally murdered in Jhalandhar, Punjab (sometime between January and June 2000)

Jehangir Pocha, "India's Calculated Ethnic Violence," *New Perspectives Quarterly* 19, no. 4 (2002): 70–75.

- Christians targeted by BJP; priests killed and churches burned across the country

Indonesia

Persecuted, p. 242-248

- May 2, 2008: Christian village of Horale attacked by Muslims; 4 killed

Aris Ananta, "Changing Ethnic Composition and Potential Violent Conflict in Riau Archipelago, Indonesia: An Early Warning Signal," *Population Review* 45, no. 1 (2006):

- "war between Muslims and Christians"; violent conflict between the Dayak and Madurese between 1999–2002
- "yet, large-scale-violent conflict between Muslims and Christians is actually a rare phenomenon in Indonesia"; several small scale violent conflicts in the 1990s
- 27 Christian buildings were damaged and 14 died in 22 November 1998 resulting from Protestant/Muslim clash in Ketapang, Central Jakarta
- 2000: large number of Laskar Jihad ("Holy war" Muslim forces) came from Java to help Maluku Muslims fight against Christians; second stage of the "war"

Lucien van Liere, "Gestures of the Evil Mind: Interpreting Religion-Related Violence in Indonesia after 9/11," *Exchange* 38 (2009): 244–270.

- Increase of religion-related clashes between Christian and Muslim groups
- June 2008: evangelical bible school attacked by groups of Muslim youths
- Legian Street, Kuta 2002: JI bomb killed 202 people
- Jimbaran 2005: 23 people killed
- Kuningan 2005: Australian embassy bombed
- Poso and Ambon 2005, Christians and Muslims both killed

Iraq

Persecuted, p. 227-237

- October 31, 2010: Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Syrian Catholic Church in Baghdad) sieged by Al-Qaeda; 120 killed/wounded ("Black Sunday")

- Post-2003 overthrow of Baath Party dictator Saddam Hussein; religious cleansing of Christian communities
- Sustained violence against churches began in 2004 with coordinated bombing of several churches
- July 12, 2009: six churches bombed in coordinated attacks; killed 3 Christians and 1 Muslim
- Christian children tortured to death
- Mosel University: young Christian women raped and killed for offending some Muslims by wearing jeans and picnicking with male colleagues
- December 2, 2004: Laith Antar Khanno, beheaded after kidnapping after not being able to pay \$100k (avg) ransom
- 2004: cold-blooded assassinations of Christians begins
 - December 8, 2004: Assyrian surgeon and professor Ra'aad Augustine Qoryaqos shot dead by terrorists
 - Same week: two Christian business from Baghdad abducted from work and murdered (Fawzi Luqa and Haitham Saka)
- 2008: religiously-motivated attacks on Zaya Toma and Ramsin Shmael as they waited for the bus
- July 12, 2009: Aziz Rizko Nissan al-Bidari shot and killed (most senior Christian government official of Kirkuk)
- September 7, 2009: death of Christian businessman Salem Barjjo
- October 3, 2009: death of Christian nurse Imad Elias Abdul Karim
- May 30, 2011: Orthodox Christian Arkan Jihad Yacob killed

2012 International Religious Freedom Report

- “A local human rights organization reported five killings, five kidnappings, 12 unsuccessful assassination attempts, and 17 other attacks against Christians” p14

“Christian Minorities Under Attack in Iraq and Egypt,” Hearing before the Tom Lantos Human Rights commission, House of Representatives, 112th Congress, First Session, January 20, 2011

- p3 November 9–10, 2010: coordinated bomb and mortar attacks on Christian homes in Baghdad, killed at least 4
- p14 December 31, 2010: Bomb detonated on the doorstep of 2 elderly Christians in Baghdad, killing both (7 Christian homes targeted this evening)
- p69 since 2003 over 68 churches have been attacked, bishops and priests killed, student buses bombed and their passengers injured, maimed, and killed

Iran

Persecuted, p. 169-178

- December 5, 2010: Youcef Nadarkhani sentenced to death (at age 32) for converting to Christianity at age 19 (was eventually acquitted)

Mexico

Global War, p. 104-108

- September 2011: Catholic lay movement leader Maria Elizabeth Macias Castro killed for using her blog to expose activities of local drug cartel
- February 2011: Mexican priest Fr. Santos Sanchez Hernandez murdered in rectory during attempted robbery
- April 2011: Fr. Francisco Sanchez Duran beaten to death for being critical of local bands of thieves
- May 2011: Fr. Salvador Ruiz Encisco killed for persuading young people to stay away from gangs
- July 2011: Fr. Marco Antonio Duran Romero killed in gunfight between Mexican soldiers and armed guerrilla group
- Conflicts between Protestants and Catholics: 50,000 Protestants dislodged from their homes, injuries, dozens killed
- 2007: Lorenzo Lopez killed (evangelical) by Catholics
- 2001: Mexican Pentecostal pastor, Filberto Tomas Pizo, killed on his way to attend services (Protestant convert)

Myanmar

Persecuted, p. 260-270

- November/December 2010: shelling outskirts of Palu village in Karen State
- 2009: persecution of Karen, Chin, Kachin by government
- 2011: Burmese military targets Roman Catholic Church
- May 2008: Cyclone Nargis killed more than 80,000; government refused aid to the Karen
- March 2011: 7.0 earthquake affected 40 Christian (and other) villages; Burmese government deliberately neglected Christian villages; "death toll of such deprivations is not known but is likely to be in the thousands"

Edward Wong, "Villagers Flee as Ethnic War Jars Myanmar," *The New York Times*, January 20, 2012, Section A, Column 0.

- Burmese soldiers have burned and looted homes, planted mines, forcibly recruited villagers as porters and guides, and raped, tortured, and executed civilians (of Kachin ethnic group)
- Lazum Bulu, 107 years old, died in a displacement camp after being run out of her village
- at least 140 Kachin soldiers have been killed; no accurate numbers for civilians killed or wounded

Benedict Rogers, "Burma's Almost Forgotten," *Christianity Today*, March 2004

- p55 since 1999 30,000 Karen and thousands more from other ethnic groups, have been killed
- p55 Free Burma Rangers: missionary group that aims to bring help, hope, and love to the internally displaced people in conflict-ridden jungles

Nigeria

Persecuted, p. 237-242

- February 2006: 20 Christians killed in Bauchi State after a student accused a Christian teacher of blasphemy
- September 2007: 9 killed in clashes after Christian teacher posted caricature of the prophet in his classroom
- October 2007: 9 Christians killed when buildings were torched in reaction to a cartoon of the prophet
- August 2011: 130 Christians killed by Boko Haram
- December 2011: Bombing of St. Theresa Catholic Church in Madalla (suburb of Abuja) by Boko Haram killed 35
- June 2012: Consecutive Sunday attacks by Boko Haram on churches, killing Christians
- 2011: Boko Haram had killed around 500 people in total

Oren Gruenbaum, "Commonwealth Update," *The Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs* 99:407 (April 2010): 109–123.

- January 2010: 400 people died and 17,000 displaced in clashes between Christians and Muslims at a cemetery near Jos

US State Department International Religious Freedom Report 2012

- August 2011: 100 people died in communal violence in Jos
- Boko Haram killed hundreds of Christians and Muslims during the year; targets churches and other organizations
- Boko Haram claimed responsibility for many of the 15 church attacks that killed more than 150 people, including "scores of Christians during worship services"
- Unconfirmed reports that Boko Haram burned down dozens of churches, often at night without casualties
- Several Christian leaders reported church attendance rates in the North decline by 30–70%; fear of Boko Haram
- Members of a convert to Christianity's family were killed in her home after she did not convert back to Islam (harassed by Boko Haram)
- June: 50 people died in reprisal attacks after a series of church bombings in Kaduna (Christians killing Muslims? Doesn't say how many Christians killed in bombing)
- October suicide bombing of a church in the Middle Belt

Yushau Sodiq, "Can Muslims and Christians Live Together Peacefully in Nigeria?" *The Muslim World* 99 (October 2009): 646–688.

- p659 survey found that 80% of interreligious conflicts in the North over the past 10 years have taken place at either secondary schools or universities and were instigated by students in the majority of cases

- p674 between 2001–8, clashes and riots between Muslims and Christians in Kano, Kaduna, Jos and other parts of the country, claiming hundreds of lives and the destruction of both churches and mosques

Frieder Ludwig, “Christian-Muslim Relations in Northern Nigeria since the Introduction of Shari’ah in 1999,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 76, no. 3 (September 2008): 602–637.

- Instances of tension and violence: Kaduna (February 2000 and November 2002); Bauchi (June 2001); Jos (September 2001); Yelwa (February 2004)
 - All of these accelerated by the lingering debate on the implementation of Shari’ah
 - Over 1,000 people died in the clashes in Kaduna (Sept 2000; Nov 2002); Jos (Sept 2001; May 2002), both Muslims and Christians; both mosques and churches destroyed
- Yelwa, February 2004: at least 78 Christians were killed and several churches destroyed
 - Christians retaliated and targeted Muslims; 600 Muslims killed

Pakistan

Persecuted, p. 194-205

- 2011: Assassination of two prominent Pakistani leaders (one Muslim, one Christian) who sought to defend Christians and other minorities
- Hundreds of people accused of blasphemy put to death by hands of vigilantes, local thugs, mobs, police
- March 2, 2011: Shahbaz Bhatti, Roman Catholic minister of minorities affairs (only Christian member of Pakistan’s cabinet) murdered by gunmen
- November 27, 2011: 18 year old Amaraih Masih, Catholic, shot dead after resisting when abducted by a Muslim man

US State Department International Religious Freedom Report 2012

- National Commission for Justice and Peace claimed there were 30 blasphemy cases between January and November, 11 of which were against Christians

The Lancet, Vol. 360, October 5, 2002, p.1081

- 2002 killing of 7 workers of a Karachi-based Christian charity allegedly by pro-Taliban Pakistani militants
- Part of a series of violent attacks on westerners and Christians

Shaun Gregory, “Under the Shadow of Islam: The Plight of the Christian Minority in Pakistan,” *Contemporary South Asia* 20, no. 2 (June 2012): 195–212.

- March 2, 2011: Roman Catholic Federal Minister for Minorities Affairs of the Pakistan People’s Party, Clement Shahbaz Bhatti, was shot dead
- Throughout 2010 and 2011 Taliban militants have carried out violent attacks on Christian communities in Karachi, killing at least 8 Christians and injuring many others

- At least one Christian boy, aged 11, Ifran Masih, was killed in one incident where Christians were dragged from their homes and ordered to convert
- UN's Commission for Human Rights and Amnesty International: between 2001 and 2010 between 30 and 50 Christians were "subjected, for reasons of faith" to violent death and many more suffer serious injury; many hundreds are falsely imprisoned, many thousands subject to serious physical abuse, intimidating, and threat
- September 20, 2001: 13 year old Christian Riaz beaten to death in Rawalpindi
- August 5, 2002: Christian church at Muree attacked; seven killed
- August 9, 2002: grenades thrown at Christian worshippers in Taxila, killing 4 and injuring 20
- September 25, 2002: gunmen executed seven workers in a Christian welfare organization
- January 5, 2004: Father Mukhtar Masih Barkat shot dead in Multan
- May 2004: Samuel Masih became seventh person accused of blasphemy to be murdered (by a police officer with an iron bar)
- April 2005: Christian NGO worker and his driver murdered in Peshawar
- August 2009: mob burned down more than 40 Christian homes and a church in Gojra (Punjab), killed eight, including seven members of a single family
- July 2010: two Christians (one a pastor) shot dead in Faisalabad

Palestine

Persecuted, p. 149-152

- January 2004: Christian convert from Islam, Ahmad, El-Achwal, shot dead by masked gunmen
- October 2007: Rami Ayyad, Christian bookstore owner, abducted and murdered

Seymour Spilerman and Guy Stecklove, "The Dislocations of Terror: Assessments of Risk During the Second Intifada," *Social Science Research* 42 (2013): 926-941.

- Second intifada broke out in September 2000 (until 2005)
- Most violent confrontation to date during this period; 104 terror attacks with at least one fatality that took place within the '67 borders of Israel; 575 deaths in total

Saudi Arabia

Persecuted, p. 155-169

- August 2004: Irish Roman Catholic layman Tony Higgins gunned down

Sri Lanka

Persecuted, p. 111-118

- January 13, 2007: Rev. Nallathamby Gnanaseelan shot dead by government security forces

- January 2, 2007: 16 Tamil Christians killed by government bombing at Padahu Thurai
- 2007: Father Thiruchelvam Nihal Jim Brown and his assistant Wenceslaus Vincent Vimalan kidnapped and killed
- February 17, 2008: Samson Neil Edirisinghe, pastor, shot and killed

Sudan

Persecuted, p. 213-222

- Attacks on Christians tantamount to ethnic cleansing

Francis M. Deng, "Sudan – Civil War and Genocide: Disappear Christians of the Middle East," *The Middle East Quarterly* (Winter 2001): 13–21

- Two million people have died as result of war and genocide since 1955
- Five million people have been displaced
- Half a million have fled across international borders
- Religious persecution of non-Muslims has the effect of promoting Christianity; Christianity is seen as the most effective means of counteracting imposition of Islam

Simon Caldwell, "Sudan: Christians are 'crucified' in Guerrilla Raids," *The Catholic Herald*, September 25, 2009

- Seven Christians killed in crucifixion fashion during a series of raids in Sudanese villages

Naomi Pendle, "Interrupting the Balance: Reconsidering the Complexities of Conflict in South Sudan," *Disasters* 38, no. 2 (2014): 227–248.

- Violent conflict erupted across much of South Sudan at the beginning of 2014 after violence in Juba after 15 December 2013

"Sudan: Violence Belies Peace Efforts," *Africa Research Bulletin* 44, no. 1 (2007): 16947C–16948B.

- At least 200,000 have been killed at least 2 million others displaced in Darfur

"South Sudan: Jonglei State Violence," *Africa Research Bulletin* 48, no. 11 (2011): 19062C.

- Inter-ethnic violence in South Sudan's Jonglei state; thousands displaced in violence between Lou Nuer, Dinka, and Murle groups
- At least 3,000 people have been killed

"South Sudan: Chronology of Violence," *Africa Research Bulletin* 51, no. 1 (2014): 19980A–19980B.

- January 2014: 200 South Sudanese drowned in ferry accident while fleeing fighting in the northern city of Malakal
- "Rising number of fatalities" in the fighting

- Child soldiers are fighting; mass killing and extra judicial killings are taking place

<http://www.persecution.org/category/countries/africa/sudan/>

Other

Algeria

Persecuted, p. 145-146

Global War, p. 151-153

Armenia

Persecuted, p. 86-87

Azerbaijan

Persecuted, p. 76-77

Global War, p. 41

Bangladesh

Persecuted, p. 248-251

Compass Direct

- Two Christian men working with an NGO were killed on July 27, 2005

Belarus

Persecuted, p. 79-83

Bhutan

Persecuted, p. 118-121

Cuba

Persecuted, p. 49-52

Cyprus

Persecuted, p. 141-144

Egypt

Persecuted, p. 182-205

Ethiopia

Persecuted, p. 270-275

Georgia

Persecuted, p. 86-87

Jordan

Persecuted, p. 147-148

Kazakhstan

Persecuted, p. 83-84

Kenya

Persecuted, p. 224

Kyrgyzstan

Persecuted, p. 84-86

Laos

Persecuted, p. 47-48

Libya

Persecuted, p. 152

Malaysia

Persecuted, p. 124-129

Morocco
Persecuted, p. 144-145

Nepal
Persecuted, p. 109-111

North Korea
Persecuted, p. 52-61

Qatar
Persecuted, p. 166-169

Russia
Persecuted, p. 64-71

Somalia
Persecuted, p. 251-256

Syria
Persecuted, p. 152

Tajikistan
Persecuted, p. 78-79

Turkey
Persecuted, p. 129-141

Turkmenistan
Persecuted, p. 74-76

Uganda
Persecuted, p. 300-301

Uzbekistan
Persecuted, p. 71-74

Vietnam
Persecuted, p. 38-46

Yemen
Persecuted, p. 148-149