

NORTH KOREA (Nr 1 on World Watch List 2024)

Population: 26,3 mil; Religion: North Korea is a state atheist country. Leader: President Kim Jong Un

DID YOU KNOW? Being discovered to be a Christian in North Korea is effectively a death sentence. Either believers will be sent to labour camps as political criminals – where they face a life of hard labour, which few survive – or they are killed on the spot. The same fate awaits family members. There are believed to be tens of thousands of Christians held in labour camps across the country.

The deplorable treatment of believers is driven by the authoritarian regime's view that Christians are a particular threat to the country's leadership and society. The "Anti-reactionary thought law" (enacted in December 2020) makes it amply clear that being a Christian or possessing a Bible is a serious crime and will be severely punished. The churches shown to visitors in Pyongyang serve mere propaganda purposes. (Open Doors)

Please pray :

- Pray that believers imprisoned for their faith will always know God's love and presence.
- Pray that secret believers will be protected from the scrutiny of the authorities as they meet.
- Pray that Kim Jong Un's regime will become more open to the help of the international community.

Don't go after false gods; they cannot help you or save you, (1Sam 12:21)



Taken from CIA World Fact Book



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SOMALIA (Nr 2 on World Watch List 2024)

Population: 13 mil; Religion: Muslims 99.9%; Ethbic religionist 0.1%; Official language: Somali, Arabic; Literacy 41%

DID YOU KNOW? The dangers of being a Christian in Somalia are extreme. Most are converts from Muslim back-grounds, and are high-value targets for al-Shabaab, a militant group that has repeatedly expressed its desire to eradicate Christians from the country. If discovered, believers could be killed on the spot. Somali society is overwhelmingly conservative, and leaving Islam is regarded in many places as a betrayal of the Somali culture and clan. Christian converts face intense pressure from their family and local community, which can lead to harassment, intimidation and even death. Even being suspected of converting from Islam to Christianity can lead to life-threatening danger.

Church life in Somalia is non-existent, and in recent years, the dangers facing Christians have worsened as Islamic militants have intensified their hunt for Christian leaders. Attempts to establish or re-open churches have been met with fierce resistance. (Open Doors)

Please pray :

- that believers who risk everything to follow Jesus will have strength to persevere.
- for protection for Christians who face persecution from Islamic militants, their families and communities.
- that isolated believers will have opportunities for fellowship with one another.....

From every part of the world they will turn to him; (Ps 22:27)



Taken from CIA World Fact Book



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LIBYA (Nr 3 on World Watch List 2024)

Population: 7,1 mil

Religion: Muslims 99%; Christians 0,5%

Official language: Arabic; Literacy 76%

DID YOU KNOW? Libya continues to be a place with very little political stability. Much of the country exists in a sort of perpetual anarchy, ruled over by militias linked to the official government (in the West of the country) or by the Libyan National Army (in the East), with strong Islamist influences in both cases. Due to lawlessness, Christians can easily be targets for violence and death.

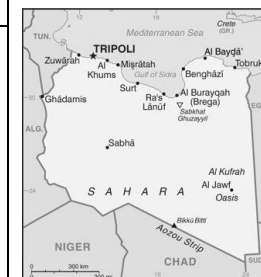
Converts from Islam face the most intense and violent pressure from their family and community. They risk house arrest, attack, abduction, sexual violence and murder. It's incredibly dangerous for converts to meet together to worship, and church life is almost non-existent.

Even Christians from other parts of Africa are targeted by extremist groups. Christians have been kidnapped and, in a few high-profile incidents, brutally murdered. Christians from Sub-Saharan Africa face additional risk. Because of their lack of official status, they can be kidnapped and trafficked.

Please pray :

- Pray for stability and that order will come to Libya.
- Ask God to protect migrant Christians so that they would be protected from militant extremists.
- Pray that God would help His people be able to find fellowship with one another.

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit,.... (Col 2:8 ESV)



Taken from CIA World Fact Book



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ERITREA (Nr 4 on World Watch List 2024)

Population: 9,6 mil; Religion: Muslims 96,6%; Christians 0,16%;

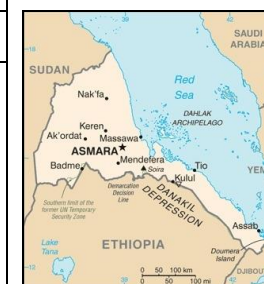
Official language: Farsi; Literacy 88,9%

DID YOU KNOW? Eritrea has an intense authoritarian government. Eritrea only recognises three denominations (Eritrean Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Lutheran). The government closely monitors every congregation. Christians caught in raids on unrecognised denominations can be sent into Eritrea's notorious prison network. Current estimates suggest around 1 000 Eritrean Christians are imprisoned – and they haven't been charged with any crime. Members of some house churches have been in prison for more than 10 years, enduring shocking conditions, including solitary confinement in tiny cells. The government watches every citizen of Eritrea, promoting a stigma against Christians. . (Open Doors)

Please pray:

- Pray for grace for prisoners and those forced into the military against their will.
- Pray that God's Holy Spirit will comfort and be a companion to imprisoned believers.
- Pray that God will change the heart of President Afwerki and his government to allow Christians to follow Jesus freely.

I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me: ... (Is 65:1)



Taken from CIA World Fact Book



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