

Persecution of Christians Today

THE PRICE OF FAITH

*A Review of the active persecution of Christians globally for
submission to United Kingdom Parliamentarians,
Members of the European Parliament, the United Nations
and national & international religious leaders*

The Maranatha Community

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The Price of Faith

1. A growing problem

Christians today are the most persecuted group of people in the world. Increasingly and on a global scale, Christians are being subjected to legalised discrimination and imprisonment, violence, vilification, ridicule, intimidation, assault, torture and murder because of their faith.

2. Systematic assault

In some countries, individual Christians are subjected to forced conversion to other faiths. Many others are severely punished and even killed for transferring their allegiance from another religion to Christianity.

Entire Christian communities and villages have been wiped out as a result of co-ordinated and aggressive anti-Christian actions. Some of these are tolerated or even apparently initiated by central government.

3. A climate of suppression

Persecution of Christians takes many forms ranging from denial of emergency food supplies, intimidation of customers of Christian traders, failure of local police to assist victimised Christians, organised harassment, vandalism and destruction of church buildings, to false charges and biased judicial systems. Lawyers representing Christians have often been threatened and sometimes assaulted or even murdered.

4. Deprivation of basic human rights

Every person, irrespective of belief, has importance and value. Religious persecution constitutes a cruel attack on the worth of individual men and women and is, in fact, a crime against humanity. The brutality and prejudice being shown to Christians in some countries today are incompatible with a civilised society. It contravenes the essence of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948. Article 18 states “*Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance*”. This was produced by the U.N. General Assembly as an authoritative guide on the U.N. Charter.

Every human being, man or woman, adult or child, is of inestimable value and no one has the right to impose upon them religious beliefs and practices of which they do not approve.

The human rights of Christians are being trampled under foot on an alarming scale. The suffering people of the world look to the United Kingdom Government, the European Union and the United Nations to recognise their heavy responsibility in this matter.

The basic freedoms and democratic institutions enjoyed by most Western nations are, in large measure, rooted in Christian teaching about justice and respect for the individual. Because of this, those of other faiths who have settled in the United Kingdom have been able to exercise their religion freely. Sadly, reciprocal freedoms do not exist in many of their countries of origin.

For the Conscience of the World

I. A Crisis Situation

It is now estimated that between 250 million and 300 million Christians are today being persecuted for their faith in at least 76 different countries. In the past 25 years there has been a huge increase in the numbers of Christians being deprived of their religious liberties and the situation is getting worse.

More Christians have been martyred during the past hundred years than in the previous 19 centuries put together.

Besides living with continuous physical harassment, persecution and the real threat of death for their faith, great financial pressure exacerbates and sustains the significant levels of poverty many millions of Christians are subjected to.

2. Repression

For many years Christians have suffered under repressive Marxist regimes, some of which are still in power. Regrettably, much of the persecution of Christians now occurs in countries which are predominately Muslim. This is probably because for many Muslims the separation of state and religion is unacceptable. Islam is seen as encompassing all religious, political, social and cultural activity, but this does not justify ignoring significant abuse of human rights.

Christians are extremely anxious to maintain good relations with Muslims and to ensure peaceful cohabitation in peaceful communities. They cannot, however, remain silent in the face of the gross injustices which are today being perpetrated on a worldwide scale. They cannot turn a blind eye to the fact that in many Muslim countries, Christians have few, if any, human rights, unlike Muslims in the United Kingdom.

3. Evidence

The evidence in this document gives some indication of what is happening globally. The examples presented are typical of the persecution suffered. They are a few selections from thousands of factual reports. They are not exceptional. They indicate the desperate seriousness of the situation. It is believed that this evidence should be more widely known and ought to be brought to the notice of all who are concerned with justice and the dignity of human life.

4. The Christian attitude

Members of all faiths have often fallen short of their professed ideals, but the belligerence now shown to Christians is incompatible with the tenets of a free and caring society.

Although the way of Jesus runs contrary to many beliefs in the modern world, Christians today take a tolerant and loving view towards those of different religious convictions. However, general adherence to beliefs of non-violence, peace, love and forgiveness which are at the heart of the Christian Gospel make them an easy target for assailants.

Evidence (I)

Afghanistan

Despite the fall of the Taliban regime, the strict application of Islamic law means Christians still face severe persecution.

- July 2004 - Taliban spokesman, Abdul Latif Hakimi, confirmed that Maullawi Assudullah's throat was slit by the Taliban in Awdand for propagating Christianity. *Barnabas Fund*, 5/7/2004
- August 2004 - The body of Naveed ul-Rehman discovered in early August near his abandoned car in Awdand. 3 other Afghan Christians stabbed or beaten to death in separate incidents on July 15, July 23 and July 28. *Compass*, 9/9/2004
- July 2004 - 33 foreign aid workers killed by the Taliban during previous 18 months. *Barnabas Fund*, 5/7/2004
- September 2001 - 35 Afghan workers arrested on suspicion of aiding covert Christian missionary work. *Compass*, 21/9/2001
- January 2001 - Taliban Leader Mullah Mohammed Omar issued a decree, "Any Afghan caught professing Christianity or Judaism will be executed. Any 'non-Muslim' found trying to win converts will also be killed". *Compass*, 19/1/2001

Armenia

- April 2003 - From December 2002 Chief of Police no longer employing members of religious minorities, including nonconformist protestants such as Baptists. *Forum 18 News Service*, 25/4/03

Azerbaijan

Despite the Government's claim to allow people to choose their religion, the requirement that religious groups must first be registered means the Religious Affairs Department can exercise selective bias over which groups become legal and persecute those that aren't. www.persecution.com/au/countries

- July 2003 - Local police raided Baptist service in a flat in Gyranja, confiscated Bibles and fined 2 members. *Forum 18 News*, 23/7/2003
- April 2002 - Over Easter Christians fined and deported and church closed. *Barnabas Fund*, 17/4/2002
- April 2002 - Baptist church in Baku liquidated. The pastor of the church accused of 'insulting Islam'. *The Voice of the Martyrs*, 10/4/2002
- April 2002 - Protestant missionary deported after being arrested and forced to sign confession written in Azeri, a language she did not understand. *Catholic World (CW) News*, 5/4/2002
- January 2001 - Police threatened and detained 2 Baptist pastors. *Compass*, 18/2/2001

Bangladesh

The growth in power of Jamaat-e-Islami, which wants to introduce strict Sharia laws, has resulted in the minority Christians being targeted for persecution. *Guardian News*, 23/7/2003

- June 2003 - Bengali evangelist kidnapped by a Muslim terrorist group. His brother; severely beaten after trying to negotiate. *Compass*, 16/6/2003
- April 2003 - Christian evangelist, Hridoy Roy stabbed to death. *International Christian Concern*, 1/6/03
- March 2003 - Christian village, Foiljana, 180 km north east of Dakha, raided twice within 24 hours by 200 men of the National Party of Bangladesh. 25 people injured and 10 houses ransacked. *Offene Grenzen*, 22/3/2002

Belarus

Registration laws of 2003 require all gatherings of 10 or more people to register. It outlaws house churches. Those that do not have their own building have also been prevented from renting halls. www.worthynews.com/christian-persecution/features/free-house-churches-banned-belarus.html

- February 2004 - Pastor Vyacheslav Goncharenko of New Life Church, Minsk, fined the equivalent of 30 times the minimum monthly wage for organising religious services without state permission. *Forum 18 News*, 23/3/2005

Bhutan

After the reigning monarch Jigme Singye Wangchuk encouraged people to declare allegiance to Buddhism in 2000, persecution of Christians steadily increased with all Christians and other non-Buddhists' facing social and political discrimination. www.cswusa.com/Countries/Bhutan.htm

- April 2004 - 3 house churches raided by police in Sarpang district following Easter Sunday services. Members warned not to meet and the elders instructed to report daily to local police station. Police told believers that Bhutanese Government viewed their meetings as 'terrorist activities'. *Compass*, 23/4/2004
- September 2002 - 40 believers from the Gospel for Asia Believers Church arrested and tortured. *Charisma Now*, 28/10/2002

- May 2001 - 3 Salesian Missionaries from Ngarian Hills murdered by militants. *Catholic World News*, 22/5/2001

Bolivia

- March 2004 - Fortunatal Bernal of the Church of God in Chucarsi, beaten unconscious and his church destroyed by animist villagers for not respecting the festival of Carnival. *Charisma Now*, 16/3/2004
- August 2001 - American missionary's appeal against a 17-year prison sentence for alleged sexual abuse failed despite legal errors in the prosecution and new evidence supporting his innocence, including retractions of false testimonies from accusers. *Compass*, 21/9/2001

Brazil

- February 2005 - A nun, Dorothy Stang, 74, shot dead in the Amazon Jungle. *The Great Separation News Front*, 13/2/2005
- April 2004 - Two Christian leaders arrested and fined \$300 for violating Brazil's 'hate crime' law by sharing their faith with spiritists on Sao Paulo beach. *Compass*, 19/5/2003

Brunei

The activities of Christians are severely restricted with the celebration of Christmas banned and the import of Bibles outlawed. www.persecution.net/country/brunei.htm

- March 2001 - Brunei's security services interrogated 25 Christians for allegedly converting Muslims. 12 other Christians under investigation for "threatening religious harmony". *Barnabas Fund*, 3/8/2001
- April 2001 - Yunus Murang, initially accused of evangelism of Muslims, given a 2-year prison sentence for smuggling Indonesian Bibles into the country. 6 other Christians detained for participating in a prayer meeting. *Compass*, 21/4/2001
- December 1999 - Yunus Murang, Freddie Chong and Haji Malai Taufick arrested for sharing their faith with Muslims. *Barnabas Fund*, 31/8/2001

Bulgaria

New laws introduced a registration process that is long, complicated, selective and allows the Government to restrict the activities of non-Orthodox religions. www.usembassy.bg/policy/lrf_03.html

- July 2004 - 250 churches closed down and several priests detained. *Nazarene Mission International*, 14/11/2004

Burma

Military forces are carrying out a deliberate policy of genocide against the Karen, Karenni and Shan ethnic tribes, including summary executions, rape, forced labour and destruction of villages, food stores and crops. About 40% of Karen and 50% of Karenni people are Christians. Over 650,000 Karen, Karenni and Shan alone are internally displaced, up to 200,000 have fled to Thailand. Many are in hiding and are normally killed on sight if discovered. Extreme nationalist views are that good, authentic citizens of Burma should be Buddhists and not followers of non-Buddhist religions such as Christianity. *Jubilee Campaign press release*, 15/10/2004

- February 2005 - Compelling evidence of use of chemical weapons against Karenni in incident on 15th February. *Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW)*, 21/4/2005
- December 2004 - Report published documenting severe abuses of human rights, 1 million internally displaced, 2,500 villages in eastern Burma destroyed since 1996. *CSW/HART November-December Report, 2004*
- March 2004 - Christian children in Chin state between the ages of 5 and 10 abducted to become novice Buddhist monks. *CSW*, 31/3/2004
- June 2004 - Army attacked Gay Lo village near Karen/Karenni border causing many casualties and forcing 1,000 people to flee their homes. *CSW*, 7/7/2004
- August 2003 - Christian groups repeatedly attacked by local police to force them to close churches. In most cities it is virtually impossible for churches to register, forcing them to be subject to raids and closures. *Jubilee Action*
- April 2003 - Dr Salia Tun Than, Christian political prisoner, began a hunger strike in protest at being denied a Bible and Holy Communion. *International Christian Concern*, 27/4/2003

Burundi

- January 2004 - Anti-government rebels issued death threats to Roman Catholic Archbishop Simon Ntamwana, whose predecessor was assassinated in 1996. *Compass*, 4/1/2004
- December 2003 - Vatican ambassador Michael Courtney assassinated allegedly by rebel group FNL. *Compass*, 4/1/2004

Evidence (2)

Cambodia

Militant Buddhist influence in last election led directly to rise in discrimination against Christians.

- July 2003 – Catholic Church of Kok Pring raided by 100 Buddhists on 14th July. Bibles and the Crucifix destroyed. *ZENIT*, 14/7/03

China

The Government regulates the church by enforcing registration of Christian organisations. Unregistered house church members face torture, imprisonment and 're-education' in labour camps.

- April 2005 – 7 Roman Catholic priests arrested by members of the Security Bureau in Wuqiu Village, Hebei Province, en route to a retreat with Bishop Jia Zhiguo, himself just released from intrusive surveillance. *Asia News*, 4/5/2005
- March 2005 - Mgr Yao Lang, 83, Auxiliary Bishop of Xiwansi, arrested 31st March, released 20th April and taken into custody again for 're-education'. *Asia News*, 4/5/2005
- November 2004 – Peter Xu Yongze, 61 and jailed 5 times for his faith describes one ordeal: "They hung me up across an iron gate, then they yanked open the gate and my whole body lifted until my chest nearly split in two. I hung like that for four hours". *BBC News Online*, 09/11/2004
- November 2004 - Christian worker beaten to death by police. 4 printing presses shut down for printing illegal Christian materials. *Compass*, 9/11/2004
- July 2004 – 100 Christian leaders arrested at retreat in Xinjiang. 5 detained. *CSW*, 20/8/2004
- July 2004 - Christian woman, Jiang Zongxiu, beaten to death in prison for distributing Bibles. *Barnabas Fund*, 8/7/2004
- June 2004 - Pastor Xing Jinfu of China Gospel Fellowship (CGF) arrested, tortured and forced to disclose information about CGF. *CSW*, 15/6/2004
- April 2004 - At a special meeting held at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Chinese Christians testified to beatings, imprisonment, torture and harassment. Female members of the South China Church testified to torture and sexual assault by police officers. Official documents and a video showing the destruction of a church in Zhejiang province supported their evidence. *Compass*, 10/5/2004
- November 2003 - Christian, Zhang Yi-Nan abused after being interned in a re-education camp. *The Voice of the Martyrs*, 11/11/2003
- November 2003 - Appeal for the 'promotion of atheism' made in a 10-point directive drawn up by the State Administration of Radio, Television and Cinema on October 17. *The Voice of the Martyrs*, 11/11/2003
- November 2003 - Bishop Su Zhimin of the underground church of Baoding, who vanished after his arrest 6 years ago, is believed to have been locked in a police cell. He has been arrested 5 times and spent 27 years in prison. *The Cardinal Kung Foundation*, 19/11/2003
- November 2003 - Dr Xu Yong-Hai and his wife Li Shan-Na arrested and interrogated about the activities of their house church. Dr Xu previously spent 2 years in re-education camp for his faith. *The Voice of the Martyrs*, 12/11/2003
- October 2003 - Lui Fengang, 43, arrested on suspicion of carrying out investigation on destruction of churches by local authorities. *The Guardian Review*, 20/10/2003
- September 2003 - 170 Christians arrested by the Public Security Bureau in Nanyang, Henan province. *International Christian Concern*, 25/9/2003
- September 2003 - Christian man beaten for protesting destruction of church building in Wenzhou. 3 other women arrested. *The Voice of the Martyrs*, 17/9/2003
- August 2003 - Fearing intervention from the government, Catholic webmasters are managing their websites from anonymous Internet cafes. *CWNews*, 12/8/03
- July 2003 - Christian, He Man and 12 other members of an underground church arrested and interrogated under torture on suspicion of printing Christian literature. *Open Doors*, 16/7/03
- July 2003 - Fathers Chen Guozhen, Kang Lijun, Pang Guanghao and Yin Joseph arrested in Baoding, Hebei while traveling to visit an underground priest. *Cardinal Kung Foundation*, 7/2003
- June 2003 - 12 members of unregistered house church movement arrested and sentenced to labour camps. *The Voice of the Martyrs*, 18/6/2003
- June 2003 - Father Lu Xiazhou arrested during a Catholic Service in Wenzhou, Zhejiang. *The Voice of the Martyrs*, 9/7/2003
- May 2003 - House church in Anshan, Liaoning raided by the security service. 40 Christians arrested. *The Voice of the Martyrs*, 28/5/2003
- April 2003 - Father Zheng Ruipin and 10 seminarians arrested while praying. *The Cardinal Kung Foundation*, 7/5/2003
- December 2002 - January 2003 - After 3 days' surveillance, officials termed house church meetings in Henan province 'nests of heresy' and arrested all 78 worshippers, including leaders Liu Jiading and Wang Aimei. Police detained over

100 Christians attending services led by Ding Yutang and Wang Yiqin in Qiliping and Xiaguan. *Compass*, 14/3/2003

- December 2002 - Shanghai house church leader Philip Xu Guoxing, arrested for the 4th time for preaching the Gospel. Police confiscated Christian books, videos, a computer and furnishings. *Compass*, 14/3/2003
- June-August 2002 - 182 house church Christians arrested, 8 beaten and tortured with electric shocks. The Committee for Investigation on Persecution of Religion in China reports police torture in 1 district of Tangshan. *Compass*, 13/1/2003
- July 2002 - 3 Catholic priests of the underground Church in Baoding, Hebei sentenced to a labour camp because they 'exercised their profession without the permission of the communist authorities'. *The Voice of the Martyrs*, 31/7/2002
- May 2002 - More than 100 South Korean missionaries arrested by the Chinese authorities for being involved in 'Chinese religious matters'. *The Voice of the Martyrs*, 22/5/2002
- February 2002 - 3 members of Holy Ghost Reformation Church in Xianmen sentenced to 7 years imprisonment for leading a banned Christian movement. *International Religious Freedom Report 62, US State Department*
- February 2002 - 47 Christians detained by the Chinese authorities during the visit of George Bush. *CWNews*, 22/2/2002
- January 2002 - A confidential document, 'Work Plan of the Baoding Municipal Public Security Bureau to Prohibit Christian Illegal Activities', lead by PSB called for action against unregistered house churches 'to protect legal [religious activities]... and to ruthlessly strike down all cult activities masquerading under the banner of Christianity'. *Compass*, 13/1/2003
- January 2002 - Gong Sheng Liang, 46, and niece Li Ying, 36, founding members of South China Church, sentenced to death for "using secret cult to undermine law enforcement". 15 other members facing imprisonment, female members mutilated. *CSW*, 17/1/2002
- May 2001 - 35 house church Christians arrested in Dongsheng, Inner Mongolia. 15 sent to labour camps. Several dozen house church believers detained in mid-April in Zaoyang district, Hubei province, central China. *Compass*, 15/6/2001
- January 2001 - Chinese authorities in southern Zhejiang province closed or destroyed at least 450 churches, temples and shrines since November 2000. *Compass*, 19/1/2001
- October 2000 - Liu Haitao 21, from Henan province, central China died after being beaten by police. *Compass*, 21/4/2001
- August 2000 - Police arrested over 100 members of house church movement headquartered in Fangcheng City. Deported within 48 hours, 3 visiting American Bible teachers from a California Vineyard Fellowship. *Compass*, 22/9/2000
- December 2000 - 6 Protestant house church leaders sentenced to hard labour. 6 leaders of the Roman Catholic underground church arrested. *Compass*, 18/2/2000

Colombia

Marxist guerrilla group, FARC, continue to target the church and have forced the closure of 400 evangelical congregations. *Estimate by Commission of the Evangelical Council of Colombia*.

- January 2005 - Father Francisco Montoya, 33, kidnapped and shot on 8th December while travelling from Quibdó, Chocó, by Guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). *Compass*, 19/1/2005
- September 2004 - 3 worshippers dead and 13 injured after masked gunmen burst into an evening worship service at the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church in Puerto Asis on 4th September. *CSW*, 6/9/2004
- November 2003 - Saulo Carreño, parish priest of Christ the King Church in the town of Saravena, and Jose Rubin Rodriguez kidnapped and killed. *The Voice of the Martyrs*, 12/11/2003
- November 2003 - Mariano Posado, clergyman from Sardis, murdered North of Tierralta. *The Voice of The Martyrs*, 9/5/2003
- February 2003 - Father Carlos Mario Gonzalez, pastor of Church of Our Lady of Carmel and Father Luis Angel Hurtado Henao, parish chaplain, brutally beaten 10km from Medellin. *CCN News and Media*, 6/2/2003
- May 2003 - 56 Catholic Leaders killed, 14 of them in the last 4 years. Hector Pardo, president of the Evangelical Council of Colombia reports the deaths of about 30 evangelical ministers. *Compass*, 19/5/2003
- January 2003 - 4 armed men attacked Catholic Church during mass. 2 people killed and 6 wounded. *ZENIT*, 20/1/2003
- September 2002 - 13 Evangelical ministers murdered in 5 months. *Offene Grenze*, 27/9/2002
- September 2002 - 2 Roman Catholic priests murdered in Medellin. *Compass*, 11/10/2002
- August 2002 - At least 4 evangelical pastors killed in San Vicente del Caguán since February including Rev Adelmo Cabrera Polanco and his son, Luis Carlos. *Compass*, 9/8/2002

Evidence (3)

- April 2002 - Father Juan Ramon Nuñez murdered in Huila. *John Mark Ministries, 10/4/2002*
- April 2002 - Juan Carlos Villegas, an associate church pastor, kidnapped. *Compass 13/5/2002*
- March 2002 - The Archbishop of Cali, Monsignor Iscuías Duarte Cancino assassinated. *CSW, 18/3/2002*
- February 2002 - Hector Peña, pastor of the United Pentecostal Church of San Vicente de Caguán, killed. Bernardo Urrego Osorio of San Vicente Christian and Missionary Alliance Church shot dead. *Compass, 15/3/2002*
- September 2001 - 3 American missionaries captured by FARC revolutionaries in 1993 officially declared dead. *CSW, 25/9/2001*
- August 2001 - Christian pastor Hernández Gutiérrez, shot dead leaving Genesis Christian Church. *Compass, 21/9/2001*
- March 2001 - Onofre Hernández Benítez, pastor of the Panamericana Evangelical Church in Arauca, Colombia, shot dead in front of his family. *Compass, 21/4/2001*
- December 2000 - Sisinio Bernal, a minister from Parsons, Kansas, shot in Medellín. *Compass, 21/1/2000*
- May 2000 - Jorge Aldana, 28, an evangelical minister, shot dead the day after Easter. *Compass, 19/5/2000*
- January 2000 - 2 Pentecostal pastors killed. A pastor of the Nazarene Church in Bogotá kidnapped. *Compass, 18/2/2000*

Central African Republic of Congo

- January 2003 - 30 Catholic missionaries fled after rebels plundered mission stations. *Katholiek Nieuwsblad, 17/1/2003*

Democratic Republic of Congo

- July 2003 - 11 workers of an English Christian organisation in Kinshasa murdered by rebels. *CWNews, 8/8/2003*

Cuba

The Government strongly discourages the practice of the Christian faith making registration of Christian organisations mandatory and requiring state approval before building church premises.

- October 2003 - Political detainees not permitted to read their Bibles. Ricardo Gonzales Alonso, sentenced to 20 years, mistreated for reading his Bible. *Christian Monitor News, 3/10/2003*
- October 2003 - Juan Carlos Gonzalez Leiva, a blind Christian spent nearly 2 years in prison before being put on trial for "public disorder" offences, with the Government requesting a 6 year prison sentence. *CSW, 30/10/2003*

Egypt

The slow introduction of Sharia (Islamic law) as the principal source of legislation means that the largest Christian body in the Arab world now faces extreme discrimination. www.cswusa.com/Countries/Egypt.htm

- January 2005 - A home for Coptic girls who are being enticed to leave their Christian families and convert to Islam has been closed and Shafik Saleh Shafik, the Christian director detained. *Compass, 13/1/2005*
- November 2004 - 2 teenage sisters raised as Christians by their mother are contesting the forced change of their official religious identity to Islam by their estranged father. *Compass, 8/11/2004*
- June 2004 - 17-year-old girl abducted and abused for the 2nd time. Her 'Cross' tattoo forcibly removed and forcible conversion to Islam attempted. *Barnabas Fund, 2/7/2004*
- January 2004 - The Patmos Christian Centre attacked for 9th time by 500 soldiers. 1 employee killed, 7 including a nun beaten and hospitalised. *Barnabas Fund, 5/1/2004*
- December 2003 - Coptic Christian, Bolis Rezek-Allah, stopped whilst trying to leave Egypt. Policeman, Hussein Gohar described how he would kill the wife of Bolis, who fled successfully, if she returned. *Barnabas Fund, 2/12/2003*
- November 2003 - Coptic Christian teenager kidnapped by Muslims. *Compass, 14/11/2003*
- October 2003 - Mariam Makar and husband arrested and abused for falsifying Christian identity papers for herself and others, an act Christians are forced to do if they change their religion. *Jubilee Campaign, 24/10/2003*
- September 2003 - Father Abanoub forced to close St George's Church in Assiut after police attack. *The Voice of the Martyrs, 24/9/2003*
- May 2003 - Christian couple Naglaa and Malak detained for 4 months in order to forcibly convert them back to Islam. *Barnabas Fund, 7/5/2003*
- April 2003 - Church in Assiut prohibited from rebuilding church despite being initially given permission to demolish and rebuild. www.dommini.org/openbook/egy20030403

- February 2002 - Christians gathering to celebrate 1st mass attacked with rocks and firebombs by Muslim mob. *CSW, 18/2/2002*
- July 2001 - 21 Christians murdered in violence in El-Kosheh. Security forces actively involved in the attack. Despite the naming of several suspects, authorities have so far refused to prosecute any of the murderers *CSW, 15/6/2004*
- June 2000 - The State Security Intelligence (SSI) detained and brutally tortured a Coptic Christian in El Mahalla el-Kubra for the 4th time in early June accusing him of preaching Christianity to Muslims. *Compass, 21/7/2000*

Eritrea

The Government is putting pressure on new charismatic churches labeling them 'heretic denominations'. Approximately half the population are Christian, and half Muslim. www.cswusa.com/Countries/Eritrea.htm

- April 2005 - 16 pastors are among 900 Christians imprisoned in Eritrea. *Compass, 20/4/2005*
- March 2005 - Leading Evangelical Pastor, Kidane Weldou, disappeared from Asmara on 18th March, presumably taken by Security Forces *International Christian Concern, 4/2005*
- March 2005 - Christian publisher closed down by National Security Office in Asmara. *Compass, 1/4/2005*
- March 2005 - Demoze Afweki, vice manager of the Housing and Commerce Bank of Eritrea and member of the Full Gospel Church arrested 18th March and jailed at Wongel Mermera. *Compass, 1/4/2005*
- March 2005 - Police raid private home in Assab on 9th March arrest 10 members of Word of Life Church. *Compass, 1/4/2005*
- February 2005 - 131 Christian children rounded up by police whilst attending classes at Eritrean Orthodox Church in Asmara. 30 detained. *CSW, 23/2/2005*
- January 2005 - Since New Year's Eve 150 Christians arrested including 60 members of the Rema Charismatic Church. *CSW, 26/1/2005*
- January 2005 - Eritrean authorities extend crackdown on religion to include Roman Catholic citizens, detaining 25 during a wedding rehearsal in Asmara on 9th January, including the bride and groom. *'Witness', Release International, March 2005*
- January 2005 - 67 evangelical Christians arrested at a wedding ceremony in Barentu, including the wedding couple. *'Witness', Release International, March 2005*
- September 2004 - 5 evangelical Christians arrested for holding a prayer meeting in their church office in Asmara. *Compass, 15/9/2004*
- May 2004 - 3 prominent pastors jailed. Popular Christian singer Helen Berhane incarcerated in shipping container since 13th May. *'Frontline', Open Doors, August 2004*
- March 2004 - 20 members of the Kale Hiwot Church arrested during a home cell meeting in Assab. *Compass, 1/4/2004*
- March 2004 - Rema church leader, wife and 5 children arrested, for trying to "start a new religion". *CSW, 2/4/2004*
- March 2004 - Kelete, lay leader in the Rema Church, Asmara arrested with wife, 6 children and father-in-law for praying together. *CSW, 2/4/2004*
- February 2004 - 51 Protestant Christians worshipping in secret in Asmara imprisoned. *CSW, 2/4/2004*
- November 2003 - Protestant evangelical pastor and 7 church members arrested in Mendefera. *Compass, 15/12/2003*
- November 2003 - 14 evangelical Christian women soldiers and 63 men held at Assab, where the authorities use torture and isolation to force retraction of evangelical beliefs. *Compass, 15/12/2003*
- November 2003 - 10 Christian women arrested in Sawa. *The Voice of the Martyrs, 26/11/2003*
- September 2003 - 12 evangelical Christians arrested and food rations withheld after refusing to sign a pledge denouncing their faith. *The Voice of the Martyrs, 17/9/2003*
- August 2003 - 32 students tortured for having Bibles. *World Evangelical Alliance, 22/8/2003*
- May 2003 - 2 full-time evangelists and 54 members of the Rema Church arrested. *The Voice of the Martyrs, 9/5/2003*
- April 2003 - 56 church members taken for 'conscripted for military service'. Fellow church members say most had already completed their mandatory military service. *Compass, 19/5/2003*
- April 2003 - Evangelical Christian Bible group meeting attacked by 4 Orthodox priests. *The Voice of the Martyrs, 23/4/2003*
- February/March 2003 - 170 Christians imprisoned, beaten and threatened with death by security forces after raids on 5 churches. *The Voice of the Martyrs, 9/4/2003*
- May 2002 - US Embassy in Eritrea reported the Eritrean Government had recently closed all Christian churches other than those of the Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Mekane Yesus (Lutheran) denominations. *The Voice of the Martyrs, 29/5/2002*

Evidence (4)

Ethiopia

Christians are targeted in rural areas where the population is mainly Muslim. The Constitution allows traditional courts to resolve disputes sometimes resulting in Christians being tried under Sharia law.

- March 2003 - 11 homes of evangelical Christians burnt down. *The Voice of the Martyrs*, 26/3/2003
- March 2003 - 2 evangelical church leaders, Kiros Meles and Abebayeh Desalegn, released after imprisonment without trial for 10 months. *International Christian Concern*, 4/2003
- August 2002 - Homes of 8 evangelical families destroyed and church pastor murdered by mob led by Orthodox priests in Merawi. *Compass*, 9/8/2002
- June 2002 - Christians of 4 different evangelical denominations attacked. Their churches in Maychew damaged. *The Voice of the Martyrs*, 12/6/2002
- 1999-2001 - A protestant leader reports "Churches ordered to stop singing or praying together, leaders whipped and beaten, and in some areas mission work provoked violent reactions". *Compass*, 14/12/2001

Ghana

Rev Tiwayi Dukulo reports Islam dominates local radio station broadcasting, asking people to come forward to condemn the Bible. *Compass*, 22/9/2000

India

Minority Christians face persecution from the majority Hindus. Persecution ranges from propaganda against Christians to extreme acts of violence.

- January 2005 - Catholic school attacked by mob of 70 Hindu arsonists. *Compass*, 26/1/2005
- January 2005 - An Indian priest attacked by 3 men in Banswara, Rajasthan. *Catholic Times*, 23/1/2005
- November 2004 - Church in Mangalore attacked by mob and warned against converting Hindus. *Compass*, 29/11/2004
- November 2004 - 5 Christians charged with 'wounding the religious feelings of Hindus' in the state of Orissa. *Compass*, 2/11/2004
- October 2004 - 2 Indian missionary pastors, Tulsiram and Vijay, of Gospel For Asia (GFA) kidnapped and beaten in Chattisgarh state. *CSW*, 14/10/2004
- October 2004 - 4 Nuns and 3 Brothers of Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity attacked in Kerala. *Compass*, 4/10/2004
- August 2004 - Kerala Church Minister Job Chittilappilly brutally knifed to death while praying. *Barnabas Fund* No 97, 11/2004
- August 2004 - 4 young Christian women attacked whilst distributing Gospel tracts in Orissa. *CSW*, 14/10/2004
- July 2004 - Hindu militants with knives attacked a pastor and his family. *Compass*, 2/7/2004
- February 2004 - 6 female Hindu converts to Christianity, 2 aged 15, stripped, beaten, tortured and tonsured by group of up to 35 Hindu extremists in Kilipala, Jagatsinghpur. *Barnabas Fund*, 25/2/2004
- February 2004 - 8 Christian women stripped, their heads shaved and made to walk through a village in Orissa after refusing to denounce their faith. *Compass*, 17/2/2004
- October 2003 - 100's of BJP party members burned Bibles and evangelistic tracts. *Compass*, 10/10/2003
- September 2003 - 15 People injured when militants fired a grenade into mission school in New Colony, Palwama. *Christian Monitor News*, 21/11/2003
- September 2003 - Indian Federal High court ruled there is "no fundamental right to convert to another religion" and that the "government can impose restrictions on conversions in the public interest". *Press Trust of India*, 16/9/2003
- August 2003 - Church and Bible school in Haryana attacked by 250 Hindus led by a local BJP politician. *Compass*, 15/8/2003
- August 2003 - 1 missionary and 4 church leaders arrested and charged with forcibly converting people to Christianity. *Compass*, 15/8/2003
- August 2003 - Brother of a Capuchin Father attacked and threatened with crucifixion by Hindu fundamentalists. *Assist News Service*, 18/3/2003
- July 2003 - In run-up to state elections in India the ruling VJP party is believed to have inspired attacks against Christian groups as a way of raising 'ideological issues' higher up the election agenda. This has resulted in disruptions, assaults on priests and damage to church properties. *Compass*, 14/7/2003
- March 2003 - The Gujarat state outlawed change of religion, except in exceptional circumstances, subject to a penalty of 3 years imprisonment and 1000 Euro fine. *Katholieke Nieuwsblad* 3/2003
- March 2003 - Capuchin Monk killed and a Catholic chapel destroyed by Hindu activists in Karnataka. *CWNNews* 10/3/2003

- February 2003 - Christian Evangelist driven out of a village in the North by local police and Hindu activists. *Violence Against Christians 2003, Aid to Church in Need*.
- January 2003 - Head of the Pondicherry Central Jail, G. David targeted by Hindus over Christian conversions. *The Voice of the Martyrs*, 8/1/2003
- December 2002 - Father T.J Abraham and Christian Church in Maliapota robbed of \$5,000 and jewellery by armed gang. *CWNNews*, 26/12/2002
- December 2002 - Convent in Tamil Nadu attacked and robbed by gang. *Compass*, 14/12/2002
- November 2002 - 8 Korean missionaries in Bihar State beaten by members of Bajrang Dal. *International Christian Concern*, 11/2002
- June 2002 - A family with mixed Indian and British ancestry have been refused refuge in the UK, as persecution of Christians in India is 'an aberration'. *Compass*, 21/6/2002
- June 2002 - Australian Missionary, Graham Staines and his 2 sons burned alive by Hindu fundamentalists on 12th June. *VOANews*, 22/9/2003
- May 2002 - Hindu extremists in the capital of Gujarat state have written slogans on walls calling for the ethnic cleansing of Christians 'after Muslims have been wiped out'. Gujarat has suffered communal riots that have claimed 2,000 lives - mainly of minorities. *Compass*, 13/5/2002
- May 2002 - Protestant Charismatic Church in Karnataka state attacked by armed Hindu fundamentalists. *Compass*, 13/5/2002
- March 2002 - 4 Christians, trying to report attacks on school in Khurda, assaulted and 1 hospitalised. Church buildings damaged, at least 1 burnt down. *Barnabas Fund*, 7/3/2002
- February 2002 - Catholic Church attacked by 50 Hindu fundamentalists from the Bajrang Dal organisation. *The Washington Post Online*, 17/2/2002
- July 2001 - A militant Hindu website displays the names of evangelists, secular and Christian scholars from India and other 'enemies of Hinduism' on its 'hit list'. *Compass*, 20/7/2001
- February 2000 - Christian nephew of a prominent Indian journalist beaten by members of Vishwa Hindu Parishad. *Compass*, 18/2/2000

Indonesia

The aftermath of the Muslim Laskar Jihad attacks on the Christian community in the Moluccas is still being felt. Over 400 churches were destroyed. Scores of Christian villages were wiped out. Thousands of Christians were murdered. Terrible atrocities were carried out. Hundreds of thousands were displaced. Tension is present throughout Indonesia, and Muslims continue to receive preferential treatment over Christians and often go unpunished for assaults on Christians.

- December 2004 - 2 churches in Central Sulawesi attacked during Sunday services. 3 people injured. *Compass*, 14/12/2004
- July 2004 - Rev. Susianty Tinulele shot dead by 4 masked men whilst preaching. *Barnabas Fund*, 19/7/2004
- April 2004 - Monsignor Mandagi, Catholic Bishop of Muluku, reports at least 36 Christians killed and more than 159 injured by Islamic militants in Ambon city. *CSW*, 30/4/2004
- December 2003 - A protestant synod treasurer, his nephew and another Christian murdered in Central Sulawesi. *Compass*, 15/12/2003
- November 2003 - 10 Christians killed and 30 homes damaged after raids in Paso in Sulawesi. *Christian Monitor News*, 17/10/2003
- October 2003 - 5 Christian villages attacked by masked gunmen crying "allahu akbar". 11 Christians, including a woman 7 months pregnant and a 6 year-old girl, killed. *Barnabas Fund*, 20/10/2003
- July 2003 - 2 pastors killed and 11 churches destroyed in attacks by Indonesian military in Wamena, in the Central Highlands of West Papua. *Compass*, 14/7/2003
- July 2003 - 2 Christian men shot and Christian restaurant destroyed by bomb. *The Voice of the Martyrs*, 23/7/2003
- June 2003 - Central Sulawesi's leading Protestant church leader, Rinaidy Damanik imprisoned. His family and lawyers regularly threatened. *The Voice of the Martyrs*, 23/7/2003
- September 2002 - 2 Christian villages in Tentana, Central Sulawesi, attacked by Muslim extremists, 4 people killed including a 3-year-old child. *International Christian Concern*, 9/2002
- September 2002 - 3 Christian villages attacked by armed gangs on the island of Morotai. *CWNNews*, 18/9/2002
- April 2002 - Protestant Church in Ambon City burned. 6 people stabbed to death, including a 6-month old baby. *De Volkskrant*, 29/4/2002.
- November 2001 - Christians attacked in Soya village near Ambon, in Maluku. 12 dead, 6 injured and 30 homes burned. *Barnabas Fund*, 30/4/2002
- June 2001 - 6 Ambon Christians killed and 5 churches damaged by Muslims protesting against the attempts to impeach President Wahid. *Barnabas Fund*, 20/6/2001

Evidence (5)

Iran

Christians continue to suffer severe discrimination in employment and education. Conversion from Islam to Christianity is forbidden and can be punished under Islamic law by execution. Church leaders, including some Muslim converts, have been assassinated by agents of the Iranian Government. *Jubilee Campaign*

- April 2005 – Rev Hamid Pourmand sentenced to 3 years imprisonment for 'deceiving Iranian armed forces' by not declaring his faith when he became a Christian, despite being a Christian for 25 years and documents proved that his superiors had always known. *International Christian Concern Website, April 2005*
- February 2005 – Rev Hamid Pourmand, a Christian lay pastor who was an Army colonel, lost his job after converting to Christianity and was put on trial for deception, apostasy and proselytising Muslims. *www.Christiantoday.com, 7/4/2005*
- September 2004 - 80 pastors from the Assemblies of God church arrested at their Annual General Meeting in Karaj. *Compass, 10/9/2004*
- May 2004 - A Christian Iranian pastor, his wife and 2 teenage girls arrested and held without charges in Northern Iran. *World Evangelical Alliance, 27/5/2004*

Iraq

Since the war Christians have faced escalating persecution from Muslim fundamentalists who seek to forcibly Islamicise Iraq, and from Kurds who wish to misappropriate Christian land. Iraq is home to one of the oldest Christian groups, the Chaldo-Assyrian Church. *World EA Religious Liberty Prayer List 216, 23/4/2003*

- January 2005 - Catholic Bishop of Mosul kidnapped and ransomed for \$200,000 after refusing militia demands for Christians to leave the city. *Catholic Times, 23/1/2005*
- November 2004 – Bombs exploded at 2 churches in Baghdad within 10 minutes of each other. 3 people killed, and 40 injured. *Jubilee Campaign*
- August 2004 - Islamic extremists conducted lethal terrorist bombings against 5 churches in Baghdad and the northern city of Mosul, killing 12, and causing thousands to flee. *Jubilee Campaign*
- March 2004 - 4 American Christians killed and a 5th critically injured by gunmen in Mosul. *www.christiantoday.com, 24/3/2004*
- August 2003 - Christian woman, Sabheha Anis kidnapped raped and murdered by group of Muslims. Christian Jeweller, Slaim Mohi Jezani shot dead in Alsha'ab. 2 Christian men, Ihasan and Yahya Berdan attacked and killed in Ba'qoba. Hakhmet Fouad murdered in the Mechanic districts. Christian Woman Fakhira Khather Al-Kamisi murdered by Muslims in A-Dowra district. *Sabian Mandaean Association, 25/8/2003*
- February 2003 - Kurdish Christian taxi driver, Ziwar Mohammed, shot 28 times for refusing to deny he was a Christian. *Southern Cross, 4/2003*
- April 2003 - In Baghdad 21 Christians murdered after the city fell. 20 killed in Nasiriyah. *Press Release, The Sabian Association, 14/4/2003*
- May 2003 - 2 Christians from the Armenian and Syrian Catholic Churches murdered for selling alcohol in Basra. *Weekly Telegraph, 14-20/5/2003*

Israel

Christians suffer persecution by Muslims in the Palestinian areas and by some Jewish fundamentalists in Israel who perceive Christians as a threat to Israel's Jewish identity.

- July 2003 - Muslim convert to Christianity slaughtered and cut into 4 pieces by Islamic extremists after returning to his family. *Barnabas Fund, 29/7/2003*
- October 2001 - Several Christians murdered in past 2 months by Palestinian militants terrorising Bethlehem's Christian community. *Barnabas Fund, 22/10/2001*
- July 2001 - Greek Orthodox Monk, Father Gerasimos' car ambushed and shot at by Palestinian gunmen. *Barnabas Fund, 22/6/2001*

Jordan

Encouraging conversion of Muslims to Christianity is forbidden and the children of converts are considered Muslim in the eyes of the law.

- January 2003 - Court ruled the 2 children of a Christian widow, Siham Qandah, should be handed over to her Muslim brother after he told the court "they would otherwise receive a Christian upbringing". *Open Doors, 18/2/2003*

Kenya

- July 2003 - 5 churches set on fire by Muslim youth angered by the arrest of a 'travelling Imam'. *Open Doors, 16/7/2003*
- April 2003 - Bishop Benjamin Lele of Kitui reported over the past few weeks 15 parishes and 4 convents have been robbed, resulting in the closure of a Catholic School. *CWNNews, 25/4/2003*

Kosovo

Orthodox Serbian Christians now face systematic destruction of their Churches and monuments by Albanians. *Associated Press, 17/7/2000*

- September 2003 - Most of the members of the Protestant Churches who are ethnic Albanians are afraid to declare themselves Christian fearing persecution from local Albanians. *Forum 18 News Service Religious Freedom Survey, 9/2003*
- May 2000 - The Fellowship of the Lord's People Church compound attacked by armed and masked men. 1 youth told at gunpoint to deny Jesus. *www.worthynews.com/news-features/newsroom-kosovo.html*

Laos

Laos Peoples Revolution State on gaining power are repressing Christianity and labeling Christians 'enemies of the state'. Christians regularly face violence for not renouncing their faith. *CSW USA*.

- February 2004 – Christian villagers from the southern province of Attapeu told at a meeting with village officials they face death if they did not either abandon their Christian faith or leave the village. *www.christiantoday.com, 11/3/2004*
- September 2003 - 12 Christians from the Bru minority tribe arrested in May 2003 still held in prison, under pressure to abandon their faith. *Compass, 12/9/2003*
- June 2003 - 5 Christian men, Mr Boukeo, Mr Khamsouka, Mr Tongswat, Mr Nuang and Mr Keopong ordered to leave their village accused of causing "disorder and disharmony". *Radio Free Asia, 2003*
- June 2003 - 3 Churches ordered to close in Hin Houa Seua, Hang Keng and Pha Poun. *Radio Free Asia 2003*
- May 2003 - 20 Christians arrested for not renouncing their faith. *Radio Free Asia, 2003*
- July 2001 - 7 church leaders from Savannakhet imprisoned for a month, held in stocks and handcuffs, and forced at gunpoint to renounce their faith. *CSW, 10/7/2001*

Lebanon

Lebanese Christians suffer extreme persecution at the hands of pro-Syrian forces and their sympathisers.

- August 2003 – Canadian Christian, Bruce Balfour, arrested and imprisoned for 'collaborating with the enemy'. *Assist News Service, 13/8/2003*
- May 2000 – Missionary Jacob Jakarta and wife attacked. Their neighbour and Arab convert killed trying to disarm one of the bombs. *International Christian Concern, 6/5/2003*
- January 2000 - 3 Christian women suffered violent deaths over New Year's weekend in Lebanon in two separate attacks. *Compass, 21/1/2000*

Libya

- August 2002 - 2 female and 2 male students at Nasser University in Tripoli convicted for converting to Christianity. *The Voice of the Martyrs, 21/8/2002*

Malawi

Since September 11th 2001 the minority Muslims have repeatedly attacked Christians and churches.

- June 2003 - 200 Muslims attacked several churches in Mangochi, breaking windows and doors. *Barnabas Fund, 3/7/03*
- December 2001 - Mission church burned south of Lake Malawi. *Compass, 14/12/01*
- December 2001 - 2 Christian school teachers working in the southern area of Lake Malawi stoned, threatened with machetes if they continue to hold meetings in their houses. *Compass, 14/12/01*

Malaysia

The Federal Government follows a practice of religious tolerance but legal restrictions exist prohibiting propagation of other faiths among the Muslim community and other faiths are increasingly discriminated against.

- April 2003 - The Minister for Home Affairs added the Iban language Bible to the list of banned books. *CWNNews, 28/4/2003*
- October 2001 - Christ Community Centre church in Subang Jaya completely destroyed by fire. 4th Church burnt in 4 weeks. *Barnabas Fund, 1/11/2001*
- July 2001 - The State Government of Terengganu approved bill introducing 'hudud', the criminal code based on Sharia Islamic law, under which, Muslims who renounce Islam are guilty of apostasy, which under the bill is punishable by death and confiscation of the offender's property. *Barnabas Fund, 9/7/2002*

Mali

Aid for the poorest villages comes from neighbouring Islamic countries with more promised to those who convert to Islam, resulting in some villages refusing to allow Christians to stay in the area.

- August 2001 - Muslims who own property are frightened to rent to Christians, fearing criticism from Muslim religious leaders influenced by a growing fundamentalism. *Compass, 24/8/01*

Evidence (6)

Mexico

Caciques (community bosses) have used violent tactics to discourage the spread of Christianity in indigenous regions. *Christian Persecution Information*

- July 2004 - 7 Protestant families from the village of 20 de Noviembre in Chiapas attacked by an armed mob and forced to flee their homes. *Nazarene Missions, 14/11/2004*
- August 2004 - 50 believers from La Palizada threatened with expulsion by caciques. *Open Doors, 22/8/2004*
- November 2003 - Evangelical Christian pastor assassinated near the town of San Juan Chamulas. 2nd Evangelical pastor to die in the space of 2 weeks. *Compass, 14/11/2003*
- June 2003 - 3 Christian men tortured and jailed for 3 days, the pastor threatened with death. *Compass, 12/9/2003*
- September 2002 - Native Pastor of San Juan Chamula jailed with 10 other evangelical Christians for celebrating a public worship service. *Compass, 15/11/2002*
- June 2001 - Pentecostal pastor shot dead by unknown assailants near Villa Hidalgo Yalalog in Oaxaca state. *Compass, 15/6/2001*
- December 1997- March 1998 - 35 Evangelicals arrested and convicted without evidence for massacre in Acteal. Some sentenced to 35 years. *www.worthynews.com*

Moldova

Despite the constitution guaranteeing religious freedom the law requires registration for some religious groups that is not easy to obtain and is often abused. *Christiantoday.com*

- April 2003 - Police confiscated books and arrested 3 Christians, Vyacheslav Bachu, Vladimir Boligar and Dimitry Masterov in Bendery. *The Voice of the Martyrs, 30/4/2003*

Mongolia

The growth of Christianity has led to Buddhists backing proposals to ban unregistered religious activities that are mainly Christian and churches face immense opposition to registration by officials.

- April 2000 - Mongolian medical doctor of ethnic Kazakh descent sentenced to 13 years in prison labour camp in western Mongolia on charges of "distribution of wrong religious propaganda", and forced to sign a statement renouncing any further contact with Christians. *Compass, 21/4/2000*

Nepal

The recent move by King Gyanendra to dissolve the government has concerned Christians as The Monarchy has a poor history of allowing freedom for Christians. *Operation Mobilisation Nepal*

- July 2003 - Christians in the north attacked by Buddhist and Hindu villagers, houses and cornfields destroyed, for refusing to give up their faith. *Compass, 15/8/2003*

Nigeria

In 12 of the 36 states that make up the country's federation Sharia law is in place. This results in Christians in those states being unable to receive fair treatment in the courts, at work or in general in society. Extremists are using violence to try to implement Sharia law in all states.

- January 2005 - Muslim militants in northern Nigeria killed nearly 3,000 Christians during 2004. *Compass, 18/1/2005*
- December 2004 - Christian architectural student in the northern city of Bauchi murdered. Earlier university representatives expelled 4 students for distributing a Christian leaflet. *Compass, 20/12/2004*
- November 2004 - Missionary team in Dutse, Jigawa, attacked by 10 heavily armed extremists. *Compass, 30/11/2004*
- October 2004 - Christian nurses of the Federal Medical Centre in Keffi threatened with death unless they stop conducting Christian worship services. *CSW, 22/10/2004*
- September 2004 - Dozens of Christians killed in raid by Islamic militant group, Al Sunna Wal Jamma, in Bama and Gwoza. *CSW, 28/9/2004*
- April 2004 - 9 Christian churches in Makarfi, Kaduna, burned down by Muslims. *Barnabas Fund, 5/4/2004*
- April 2004 - 1000 Christians killed and 63 churches destroyed this year. *Barnabas Fund, 21/4/2004*
- February 2004 - 41 Christians murdered and burnt in church in Yelwa by armed Muslims, 38 murdered outside. Reports state at least 1,500 Christians killed in February. *CSW, 13/5/2004*
- November 2003 - University of Maiduguri attacked by Muslims. 3 Christian students killed and at least 20 injured. *Compass, 15/12/2003*
- November 2003 - 13 Churches, Christian homes and businesses burned down by Muslim fundamentalists in Kazaure, Jigawa. *Barnabas Fund, 21/11/2003*
- October 2003 - Muslim gang torched 11 churches, destroyed 100 Christian homes,

displaced 1000's and killed an undisclosed number in Kazaure, Jigawa State. *CSW, 7/4/2004*

- October 2003 - 5 Christian women sentenced to 2 years in jail for prostitution. 75 Christians held by police for the consumption and sale of alcohol. *Compass, 10/10/2003*
- September 2003 - Female Christian student at Ahmed Bello University, Kaduna, attacked and seriously injured. *CSW, 7/4/2004*
- September 2003 - 12 Nurses fired for refusing to replace their white uniforms with the hijab. *Persecuted Church News, 17/9/2003*
- September 2003 - 22 Christians killed, 16 injured and 28 missing following attack on Kadarko, Wase by 2,000 armed Hausa Fulani Muslims. *CSW, 19/5/2004*
- July 2003 - Foursquare Gospel pastor, Matthew Omodion's 4 young children killed by being thrown into burning building by members of the Ijaw. *Compass, 14/7/2003*
- July 2003 - Christian communities, Galadum and Wahim in Plateau state attacked by Muslim militia. 1 dead and several injured. *Compass, 14/7/2003*
- June 2000 - 200 Muslim terrorists invaded the Christian villages of Shirlur and Dadinkowa in Plateau state, raping women, setting houses ablaze and leaving 4 people dead. *Compass, 16/6/2003*
- April 2003 - Christian preacher and 6 family members killed in a house fire in Kano. *Compass, 19/5/2003*
- February 2003 - Christian school in Ibdan attacked by extremists from the National Council of Muslim Youth Organisation injuring teachers and students. *International Christian Concern, 19/2/2003*
- February 2003 - Emmanuel Ljewere, President of Nigerian Red Cross reported 110 Christians dead and 500 injured after group of Muslims attacked community in Dumme. *Project Open Book, 14/3/2003*
- January 2003 - Bus returning from prayer vigil fired on by police for refusing to pay a bribe. 4 Catholic Christians killed, 8 others injured. *Compass, 13/1/2003*
- 2002 - 120 Christian schools closed in Kano state. *International Christian Concern, April 2002.*
- December 2002 - Celestial Church of Christ burned by armed militants. *Compass, 13/1/2003*
- November 2002 - Muslim protestors killed 200 Christians in Kaduna city and burned down 20 churches. *Barnabas Fund, 22/11/2002*
- September 2002 - Church of Christ in Laranto suburb, Jos bombed. *CSW, 17/9/2002*
- August 2002 - 1 state Government has demolished more than 20 church buildings since the implementation of Sharia law 3 years ago. *Compass, 13/9/2002*
- July 2002 - Hausa Fulani Muslims attacked Tarok, largest Christian tribe, in Wase area. 88 Christian villages destroyed, 5000 killed, 100,000 displaced. *CSW, 19/5/2002*
- May 2002 - The Government of Katsina state has cancelled the teaching of Christian Religious Knowledge, while making the teaching of Islamic Religious Knowledge compulsory. *Compass, 13/5/2002*
- May 2002 - 2 Christian converts in Mada village, Zamfara state arrested by an Islamic monitoring group, insisting they must be sentenced to death. *Compass, 13/5/2002*
- March 2002 - Armed Muslims attacked Christian prayer meeting in Enugu killing at least 12 Christians. *International Christian Concern, 7/3/2002*
- February 2002 - 50 heavily armed Hausa-Fulani men attacked Christian village, Dagwom Turu, Plateau State. 20 people killed. *Barnabas Fund, 2/1/2002*
- February 2002 - Christian student, Esther Bulus kidnapped and abandoned, her throat cut by 4 Muslims in Gombi. *International Christian Concern, 24/2/2002*
- November 2001 - 1,000 Muslims rampaged for 5 hours in Osogbo. 2 Christians killed and 9 churches vandalised. *CSW, 4/12/2001*
- September 2001 - The Government of Bauchi state in northern Nigeria accused of using Muslim mercenaries to attack Christians in Tafawa Balewa and Bogoro. *Compass, 21/9/2001*
- August 2001 - Christian convert killed by suspected Muslim fundamentalists in Abuja. *Compass, 24/8/2001*
- December 2000 - A group of Muslim leaders warned German evangelist to "be prepared to die" if he comes to northern Nigeria. *Compass, 15/12/2000*
- April 2000 - 15 Christians dead, 4 churches burned and 8 Christian-owned houses and shops looted in the Christian-Muslim disturbances in Damboa. *Compass, 21/4/2000*
- July 2000 - 2 Christian soldiers shot dead by a Muslim soldier. *Compass, 21/7/2000*
- December 1999 - More than 2000 Muslims attacked 18 churches in central Nigeria, destroying property worth \$40 million. *Compass, 21/1/2000*

North Korea

All religious activities are ruthlessly repressed. Christians are by definition relegated to a lower social category, receiving fewer opportunities in education and employment.

- Ongoing - North Korean refugees continue to report horrible abuse of Christian prisoners. 1 report of Christians killed by molten steel poured on them. Prisoners denied clothes and treated like animals. *International Christian Concern April 2005*
- 2003 - Christians in prison camps suffer extreme human rights violations each year.

Evidence (7)

25% die due to living conditions, starvation, and inhumane working at the hands of the guards. "They are held for the duration of their faith and suffer the most extreme human rights violations" Lord Alton reported. *CSW, 2003, 'Brutality and viciousness of the North Korean regime highlighted in the House of Lords Debate' 13/3/2003.*

- Since 1953, 300,000 Christians have disappeared. It is estimated that 400 Christians were executed in 1999 alone. *International Christian Concern*

Pakistan

The blasphemy laws amended in 1986 require a mandatory death penalty for those convicted of making derogatory remarks against the Muslim prophet, Mohammed. Amnesty International has urged the Prime Minister to change this law that is being widely used unjustly to terrorise Christians. *Chicago Tribune, 28/7/1994*

- September 2004 - Mentally handicapped Christian received life sentence for blasphemy after pressure from Muslim clergy, despite Pakistan penal code prohibiting conviction of one who suffers "unsoundness of mind." *Compass, 27/9/2004*
- September 2004 - 2 children snatched from their Christian mother by Muslim father. *Compass, 16/9/2004*
- May 2004 - Christian, Javed Anjum, from Toba Tek Singh District, died after 5 days of torture by extremists from local 'madrassa' (Islamic school). *CSW, 5/5/2004*
- May 2004 - Samuel Masih bludgeoned to death by police officer who declared he "wanted to earn a place in paradise". *'Frontline', Open Doors, August 2004*
- May 2004 - Pastor Wilson Fazal abducted, tonsured, severely beaten, given electric shocks and stabbed through tongue. *'Frontline', Open Doors, August 2004*
- January 2004 - Pakistani Christian teenager Zeeshan Gill in hiding after being kidnapped, forced to recite the creed to make him a Muslim and told to fight in Kashmir as a newly-converted Muslim jihadi (holy warrior). *Compass, 23/1/2004*
- January 2004 - A Protestant pastor of the local Church of God in Pakistan's Punjab province murdered, minutes after he left his home. *Compass, 8/1/2004*
- December 2003 - Christian boy, 15, from the province of Punjab kidnapped, beaten and forced to convert to Islam. *Barnabas Fund, 16/12/2003*
- September 2003 - Christian woman, Violet Cheema, abducted and raped by a group of Muslim men. *Christian Monitor Newsletter, 19/9/2003*
- September 2003 - Christian employee of a hotel in Hyderabad burned alive. *Christian Monitor Newsletter, 19/9/2003*
- July 2003 - Rev Fr George Ibrahim, 38, brutally gunned down by 5 armed assailants at his home in Renala Khurd. *CSW, 16/7/2003*
- June 2003 - Aslam Masih acquitted, after serving 4 years of a life sentence for blasphemy. *FIDES, 17/6/2003*
- June 2003 - Christian Salamat Mish's home attacked by intruders in Kasur and his children terrorised. *Catholic Online, 11/8/2003*
- April 2003 - Christian convert, Sandeeq, beaten and his family threatened if they did not renounce their faith. *The Voice of the Martyrs, 16/4/2003*
- January 2003 - Children's Christmas program at a small Presbyterian chapel in remote Chianwali attacked by Islamic militants with grenades. 3 girls dead, 13 more children and parents injured. *Compass, 13/1/2003*
- December 2002 - Mohammed Afzal, leader of a mosque in Chianwala, called for Muslims "not to eat until you see the corpses of Christians". *CSW, 26/8/2003.*
- September 2002 - 7 members of Christian charity in Karachi shot dead by 2 gunmen. *Barnabas Fund, 25/9/2002*
- September 2002 - 4 Christian nurses killed and 20 other staff wounded after grenade attack on the Taxila Christian Hospital. *Compass, 13/9/2002*
- August 2002 - Muree Christian School attacked by Muslim fundamentalists. 6 people dead. *The Voice of the Martyrs, 7/8/2002*
- June 2002 - 2 lawyers, P.C. and K.T., received death threats and attempts on their lives for their work defending Christians accused of blasphemy. *CSW, 20/6/2002*
- June 2002 - 15 year old boy, Yaqoob Masih resident of Christian Kachi Abadi, nr. Shardoor died 27 June 2002, from torture inflicted by police after witnessing corruption at customs department *Christian League of Pakistan, 1/7/2002*
- April 2002 - Pentecostal Church near the border with Kashmir attacked by 7 Muslims aged 14 to 25. *CSW, 26/4/2002*
- March 2002 - 5 Christians killed and 40 wounded after grenade attack on a protestant worship service in Islamabad. *Barnabas Fund, 18/3/2002*
- February 2002 - Christian woman, Shakeela Siddique, from Fatewala village, Gujranwala district, raped by influential local Muslim landlord. *CSW, 4/7/2002*
- February 2002 - Catholic priest and 16 other religious rights activists jailed in Karachi. *Compass, 16/2/2002*
- August 2001 - The Multan High Court rejected the death-sentence appeal of Christian prisoner, for alleged blasphemy against Mohammed. Refused bail for 5 years, his "guilty" verdict in 1998 rests solely on the verbal accusation of his Muslim neighbour. *Compass, 24/8/2001*
- January 2001 - Khalid Masih and Nasir Masih arrested for distributing Christian

literature and the 'Jesus' film. *CSW, 26/1/2001*

Peru

- March 2000 - The mayor of Ramal de Aspuzana, an evangelical Peruvian village leader, executed by Marxist guerrillas *Compass, 21/4/2000*

Philippines

In 1996 Islamic Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) signed a peace agreement with the Government. In spite of this splinter groups of the MNLF, MILF and ASG are still using violence against Christians in order to establish an Islamic state.

- November 2004 - Christian man, 24, shot in Zamboanga City by Muslim activists. *Compass, 3/12/2004*
- February/March 2003 - 50 Rebels shot 14 Christians in a village in Zamboanga peninsula, on southern island of Mindanao. *Barnabas Fund, 3/3/2003*
- March 2003 - Rebels stopped and shot Christian lorry driver and his assistant. *Open Book Project, 9/4/2003*

Qatar

Christians face severe civil and religious restrictions on their activities including a ban on public worship.

- May 2003 - Pastor Nemencio Bonton of the Qatar International Christian Ministry deported with no explanation. *The Voice of the Martyrs, 28/5/2003*
- February 2003 - Indian Christian hospital technician who pastored a small congregation of Tamil-speaking Christians in Doha, deported after 22 years employment. *Compass, 11/2/2003*

Russia

In many parts of Russia Christian gatherings continue to be disrupted and their members harassed by secret police.

- March 2003 - Primorsky Krai regional court ruled closure of charismatic Bible college for "conducting educational activity without a license". *Forum 18 News Service, 21/4/2003*
- January 2003 - Government document outlining recommendations for countering "religious extremism" has listed the Catholic Church and Protestant churches as the number one and two threats to national security. *Compass, 13/1/2003*

Saudi Arabia

By law citizens must be Muslims and even permitted private Christian worship services are often raided by Religious Police who confiscate materials and arrest members.

- November 2004 - Indian national Brian O'Connor deported 7 months after his arrest and torture on charges of "spreading Christianity". *Compass, 2/11/2004*
- November 2003 - A-Muhaya residence bombed. Statements from Al-Qaeda say the target was Christians not Muslims. *Barnabas Fund, 28/11/2003*
- May 2003 - Michael Young, vice-president of US Commission on International Freedom recommended the addition of Saudi Arabia to the list of countries of 'particular concern' due to the treatment of Christians. *Violence against Christians in the year 2003: Aid to the Church in Need*
- May 2003 - Residence permits of 2 African men jailed in Saudi Arabia's port of Jeddah for "Christian activities" revoked and deportation ordered. *Compass, 19/5/2003*
- March 2003 - Prince Sultan told journalists "Christian churches may not be built in this country- in the past, present or future". *The Voice of the Martyrs, 12/3/2003*
- January 2002 - 2 Christians held in the Bremen detention centre subjected to serious abuse including 80 lashes with a metal rod. *International Christian Concern, 28/1/2002*

Sierra Leone

Christians and Churches are targets for rebel soldiers. Churches are vandalised and Christians violently attacked and maimed.

- July 2000 - At least 20 churches in Freetown and an unconfirmed number in the countryside burned by rebel soldiers. *Compass, 21/7/2000*

Solomon Islands

- August 2003 - 6 missionaries dead after kidnap by warlord Harold Keke. *Christian Monitor 18/8/2003*

Somalia

Christians suffer rampant and severe persecution by the almost exclusively Sunni Muslim population.

- April 2004 - Pastor Shueb Maalim Madkheyr murdered and his body burned. *CSW, 4/2004*

Evidence (8)

Sri Lanka

Hostility whipped up by media misinformation has resulted in criminal expression of hatred towards Christians, who are relegated to 2nd class citizenship. Anti-conversion legislation that targets Christians and any organisation or church engaged in social action is currently before parliament. In 2004, 140 churches were forced to close due to attacks by Buddhist extremists. *Release International, January 2005*

- November 2004 - Assemblies of God church in Yakkala, 26km north east of Colombo, attacked repeatedly. *CSW, 6/12/2004*
- April 2004 - 300 Buddhist villagers attacked the Christian Fellowship Church in Kalutara district on Easter Sunday. 10 people injured. *CSW, 12/5/2004*
- March 2004 - Mob of 100 people completely demolished Apostolic Church in Boraluwewa setting fire to personal belongings. *CSW, 1/3/2004*
- February 2004 - Gethsemane Church and the Apostolic Church in Boraluwewa, Kuliypata and the Calvary Church in Kurundugha Hathapma Anuruddhagama attacked and burned by armed Buddhist militants. *CSW, 1/3/2004*
- December 2003 - Death of popular Buddhist monk Ven Soma Thero from heart failure prompted a hate campaign against Christians, wrongly blamed for his murder. 20 churches attacked or torched at Christmas. *Release International, January 2005*
- September 2003 - Sister Ayeshur and 3 other Christian women attacked by 30 men, dragged to police station, assaulted and accused of being prostitutes on 17th September, in Kotadeniwaya. *Release International, January 2005*
- September 2003 - Church in Kesbewa burned down. *The Voice of the Martyrs, 25/9/2003*
- August 2003 - 2 church workers beaten by a mob, who attacked a church in Rathgama. *The Voice of the Martyrs, 15/8/2003*
- July 2003 - Heavenly Harvest Church in Kaluvenkerni vandalised and the pastor beaten. *Compass, 14/7/2003*
- March 2003 - Evangelical pastor Sumith Gunasekera of the Margaya Church in Embilipitiya stabbed by Police officers. *The Voice of the Martyrs, 26/3/2003*
- December 2002 - Christian worship leader Indrani Abeysinghe, 49, and children assaulted by men who broke into their home. *The Voice of the Martyrs, 15/1/2003*
- April 2001 - 3 Christians attacked by 50 Hindu extremists in Hanguranketha. *Compass, 21/4/2001*
- February 2001 - 8 explosions damaged newly built Roman Catholic Church in Hulandawa, in southern Sri Lanka. *Compass, 16/2/2001*

Sudan

The Khartoum Government is brutally targeting the southern Christian population. Former US Secretary of State Colin Powell has declared the situation as one of genocide. An estimated 300,000, mainly Christian, have died in Darfur. Nearly 2.5 million need urgent humanitarian assistance *Parliamentary Select Committee Report, April 2005*

- March 2005 - Episcopal Church of Sudan HQ illegally re-occupied by company despite court injunction, after confiscation at gunpoint May 2004 *Compass 24/03/2005*
- September 2004 - 10,000 killed in September, mainly Christians *Jubilee Campaign, 12/10/2004*
- April 2004 - Christian woman lashed and fined for failing to wear a headscarf in public. *Barnabas Fund, 15/6/2004*
- December 2003 - 10 Christian churches and a church-run vocational training centre at the Wad el Bashier camp in West Omdurman, demolished within the past two months. *Compass, 29/12/2003*
- June 2003 - Pastor burned to death. 59 civilians murdered. *WorldNetDaily, 4/6/2003*
- May 2003 - A Sudanese court jailed an Episcopal priest "indefinitely" for refusing to demolish a church he had built himself 11 years ago on the outskirts of Khartoum. *Compass, 19/5/2003*
- March 2002 - Christian woman, Abok Alfa Akok accused of adultery has death sentence amended to 75 lashes. *Barnabas Fund, 4/3/2002*
- January 2002 - Christian man arrested and his right arm amputated after conviction, with no legal representation, for theft. *Compass, 15/3/2002*
- September 2001 - Christian Convert Mohamed Saeed's fingernails pulled out and forced to sit on broken glass during torture by local police. *Barnabas Fund, 22/10/2001*
- April 2001 - Christians gathered in central Green Square attacked by police. 2 Southern Sudanese students arrested and flogged every morning and night for 6 weeks. *Barnabas Fund, 22/6/2001*
- April 2001 - Christian man arrested and his hands burned for preaching in a public place. *Compass, 21/4/2001*

Tajikistan

Certain districts follow strict Sharia law banning the selling of alcohol and opposing any Christian missionary work.

- January 2004 - Pastor and missionary shot dead while praying in chapel. *Barnabas Fund, 16/1/2004*
- October 2000 - 10 Christians killed, 39 injured by bomb at Sonmin Grace Church. *Compass, 20/10/2000*

Tanzania

Extremist Muslim factions on the Island of Zanzibar are reacting violently towards minority Christians.

- October 2004 - 2 Catholic churches destroyed and a small Protestant church set ablaze. *Compass, 29/10/2004*
- March 2004 - Roman Catholic Church set on fire by suspected Islamic Group UAMSHO. *Compass, 5/4/2004*

Turkey

Despite constitutional guarantees, the activities of Christians are restricted and individuals viewed with suspicion.

- June 2004 - Christians' request for the Diyarbakir Evangelical Church to be legally recognised as a place of worship denied, days after being acquitted of building an illegal church. *Compass, 14/6/2004*
- November 2003 - Christian convert Yakup Cindilli beaten into a 9-month coma by ultra nationalists. *Compass, 14/11/2003*
- January 2003 - Italian preacher's visa revoked after baptizing a 26-year-old man. *Katholiek Nieuwsblad, 17/1/2003*
- July 2002 - Pastor Yusuf Yasmin, 71, told by Turkish security police to close his church after 7 years, as it had "no legal basis". *Compass, 18/7/2002*
- April 2002 - Sunday service of Agape Protestant Church disrupted by 100 nationalist supporters rallied in the Kocamustafapasa district chanting: "Every missionary is a spy". *Compass, 13/5/2002*
- February 2002 - Turkish Interior Ministry launched judicial proceedings questioning legality of Protestant designated places of worship. Head of Turkey's Religious Affairs Directorate admitted 81% of mosques under construction had obtained no license, and 55% had not drawn up an architectural plan. *Compass, 15/2/2002*
- April 2001 - Christian convert, Kemal Timur, 32, facing trial accused of slander against Mohammed, while distributing Christian literature in Diyarbakir. *CSW, 21/12/2001*
- November 2000 - 40 Christians murdered in southeast Turkey by Kurdish Islamic extremists since 1998. *Barnabas Fund, 28/11/2000*
- March 2000 - Christians Ercan Sengul, 38, and Necati Aydin, 28, arrested while selling and distributing Christian literature near the southern port city of Izmir for allegedly insulting Islam and forcing people to accept Bibles. *Compass, 17/3/2000*

Turkmenistan

President-for-life Niyazov has built his own cult of personality, making citizens read his own so-called 'holy book' and overseeing one of the most repressive regimes in the former Soviet Union. *Release International, January 2005*

- May 2003 - 2 Baptist churches raided. Congregation taken to the police station and assaulted. *The Voice of the Martyrs, 28/5/2003*
- March 2003 - Baptist Community of Balkanabad worship service interrupted by 8 officers of The National Security Committee claiming the church to be unregistered. *Forum 18 News Service, 11/4/2003*
- May 2002 - 5 Christians in Deinau forced by police to renounce their faith. 3 banished from their village for refusing. *The Voice of the Martyrs, 22/5/2002*
- April 2002 - Baptist Minister released after 4 years, and after refusing the early release condition to leave the country. *Christian Solidarity, 26/4/2002*
- February 2002 - 6 Christians arrested and each fined \$150 by police for holding an 'illegal meeting'. *The Voice of the Martyrs, 20/2/2002*
- June 2001 - Baptist Shageldy Atakov, 38, imprisoned and severely beaten, his Bible confiscated and burnt. *CSW, 4/4/2001*
- November 2000 - 4 Christians severely tortured during interrogation after officers of the National Security Committee near Ashgabad discovered Christian videos dubbed in Turkmen. *Compass, 15/12/2000*
- January 2000 - Baptist Pastor Vladimir Chernov and wife Olga, legal residents and Aleksandr Yefremov and wife, deported without explanation. *Compass, 21/1/2000*

Uganda

The predominantly Christian people of the North of Uganda suffer extreme persecution under the rebel group Lords Resistance Army (LRA).

- June 2003 - Roman Catholic priest killed and several nuns injured in attack in northern Uganda. *Violence Against Christians in the year 2003, Aid to the Church in Need*
- June 2003 - Rebels in the LRA declare they will kill all Christian Clergy. *The Voice of the Martyrs, 18/6/2003*
- May 2003 - 44 seminarians of the minor seminary in the Archdiocese of Gulu abducted by the LRA. *ZENIT News Agency 14/5/2003*
- April 2003 - Catholic mission in Kampala attacked by LRA. One priest injured. *CWNNews, 28/4/2003*

Evidence (9)

Ukraine

- December 2003 - Stanislav Kasprov, director of a Christian book publishing house brutally beaten outside his office in Cherkassy. *Compass*; 9/12/2004
- February 2000 – Baptist church in Sumy suffered several arson attacks from 27th of December. *Compass*; 18/2/2000

United Arab Emirates

There are severe religious restrictions imposed on nationals and only foreigners are free to worship and witness.

- July 2003 - Fernando Alconga deported despite a series of appeals. *Compass*, 18/8/2003
- May 2003 – A pastor, previously arrested for teaching a Bible course, convicted of 'abusing Islam'. www.charismanews.com
- December 2002 - Baptist pastor Fernando Alconga arrested for presenting Christian material to an Arab. *Middle East Concern*, 24/12/2002

Uzbekistan

Harsh restrictions have been placed on Christian communities and in some areas Uzbek Christians have been told to stop preaching. *Religion Today* editing I C Press, 26/6/2002

- July 2004 - 2 Baptist Christians interrogated and beaten by Uzbek secret police in Urgench, Khorezm. *Barnabas Fund*, 14/7/2004
- March 2003 – Kuralbai Asanbayev and Rashid Keulimjayev of the Pentecostal church in Muinak had their homes raided. In December of the previous year both had been arrested and tortured by the police. *The Voice of the Martyrs*, 19/3/2003
- December 2002 – The court of Gulistan ordered the burning of Christian books and videos. *Open Doors*, 18/2/2003
- August 2002- 13 Christians arrested and the house destroyed for meeting as a 'non-registered religious group' in Khodzahali. *The Voice of the Martyrs*, 28/8/2002
- March 2000 – Pastor Stanislav Kim of the Chirchik Christian Church, jailed since February 1999 on contrived fraud charges, is reportedly being severely beaten for witnessing to his cellmates. *Compass*, 17/3/2000

Venezuela

Supporters of President Hugo Chavez are believed to be targeting the Church due to its outspoken criticism of the Government.

- July 2001 - Pipe bomb exploded in the Church of San Francisco in Caracas. More pipe bombs found by police at the Cathedral of Caracas and the Church of Santa Capilla. *Compass*, 24/8/2001

Vietnam

The President has referred to the Catholic Church as "an obstacle to the revolution". In recent years 900,000 Christians including 500,000 Catholics have fled to avoid persecution.

- February 2005 – Tuan Rla Yang, 32 from Buon Dak Ndrung village, Dak Nong Province died 26 February from injuries sustained from torture whilst in police custody. *International Christian Concern (ICC) 18/04/2005*
- February 2005 – Ksor Phuok, 31, from Plei Ring Village in Gia Lai Province died 21st February from severe internal injuries sustained whilst in prison 10 months previously. *International Christian Concern 18/04/2005*
- December 2004 – Boxing day: Vietnamese officials arrested all Degar Christians attending Christmas services, filmed by security forces to prove religious tolerance to the world. Prisoners have been tortured to renounce their faith. *ICC 18/04/2005*.
- November 2004 – Rev Nguyen Hong Quang, General Secretary of Vietnam Mennonite Church arrested 8th June, sentenced to 3 years imprisonment. *Release International, March 2005*
- August 2004 - Rev Tran Mai, house church leader, arrested. *Compass*, 7/9/2004
- August 2004 – 16 Christian men from Dak Lak and Gia Lai province arrested and severely beaten. *Compass*, 16/8/2004
- June 2004 – Le Thi Hong Lien, children's worker in Mennonite Church arrested, abused and traumatised to extent of failing to recognise her own father. *Witness, Release International, March 2005*
- May 2004 – Catholic Priest Father Ngyen Van Ly, sentenced to 15 years for campaigning for religious freedom. *Jubilee Campaign Prayer Diary*, 26/5/04
- April 2004 – An estimated 400 Degar tribal Christians, of the Central Highlands murdered after police brutally repressed peaceful demonstrations calling for land rights and religious liberty. *Jubilee Campaign, June 2004*
- March 2004 - Evangelists Pham Ngoc Thach, Nguyen Van Phoung and Nguyen Thanh Nhan arrested trying to visit Nguyen Hieu Nghia. Thach and Nhan beaten unconscious then all 3 charged with resisting police officers. *Witness, Release International, March 2005*

- March 2004 - Mennonite Church Elder Nguyen Hieu Nghia arrested after confronting undercover police officers who were harassing and physically abusing church members outside the church offices. *Witness, Release International, March 2005*
- January 2004 - 20 members of a house church in Kunming imprisoned, 12 church leaders in Gu La Town arrested and sentenced to 3 years in labour camps. *Release International, January 2004*
- December 2003 - Ma Van Bay, a Christian leader escaped police custody after severe beatings. Recaptured in November. *Compass*, 15/12/2003
- December 2003 - 18 Christians detained by security police, several others missing over the distribution of Christian tracts and literature. *Compass*, 12/12/2003
- October 2003 - Pastor A En of the Chu Pa Evangelical Church beaten and forced to stand "like Christ was hung on the cross" for 3 hours by local police. *Charisma News*, 4/11/2003
- August 2003 - Pastor Bui Van Ba, general secretary of the Full Gospel House Church, attacked by local public security. Pastor Nguyen Nhu Hanh and other Christians beaten and arrested with Ba's wife. *CWNews*, 18/8/2003
- August 2003 - Montagnard Christians robbed and their Bibles confiscated by Major Nguyen Vihn Chinh and 10 soldiers. *Forum 18 News Service*, 18/8/2003.
- July 2003 - Hmong Christian, Vang Seo Giao beaten to death by police. *Freedom House*, 1/10/2003
- July 2003 - Construction of church building halted and materials seized by authorities in Thu Thiem district of Ho Chi Minh City. *Open Doors*, 16/7/2003
- May 2003 - Ksor To from Buon Gha arrested and imprisoned for spreading the Gospel. *Montagnard Foundation*, May 2003
- April 2003 - Y-Tlut Kbour from Buon Wing arrested and severely tortured for helping other Christians. www.montagnard-foundation.org/SPR_03-0522.htm
- April 2003 - February 2003 – Monsignor Diem stabbed several times in the Trung Giang Hotel. *CWNews*, 7/2/2003
- March 2003 - Y-Bling Nie and Y-He Eban, arrested and imprisoned in Buonmathout for running a church in the village of Buon Kdun. www.montagnard-foundation.org/MRelease-03-0313.htm
- January 2003 - 40 Churches closed in the last year. *The Voice of the Martyrs 29/1/2003*
- December 2002 - 7 Montagnard Christians sentenced to 8 years imprisonment. *The Voice of the Martyrs*, 31/12/2002
- December 2002 - Church leaders informed that all religious activity, prayer meetings, Bible teaching and worship, weddings, funerals and baptisms are illegal from September. *Compass*, 14/12/2002
- July 2002 - Pastor Nguyen Dang Chi of Phy Ly, arrested, held without water and refused bathroom requests for 24 hours. *Compass*, 9/8/2002
- August 2001 – Pastor Quang of Bin Thanh's 26th Ward, Ho Chi Minh City severely beaten, 3 colleagues arrested. *CSW*, 2/10/2001
- December 2000 – House church leader Rev. Nguyen Ngoc (Henry) Hien's identification card taken during house raid. House church members threatened and Bibles confiscated. *Compass*, 15/12/2000

Yemen

This Islamic state forbids conversion from Islam or proselytising by non-Muslims.

- December 2002 – Martha Myers, William Koehn and Kathleen Gariety, US missionaries, killed after hospital attack by lone gunman for 'his religion'. *BBC News*, 30/12/2002
- January 2001 – 1 of 5 explosions detonated on New Year's Day exploded at Aden's historic Christchurch in southern Yemen destroying sections of the church. *Compass*, 19/1/2001
- July 2001- Somali refugee Mohammed Omer Haji, a convert to Christianity, given 7 days to return to Islam or face the death penalty for committing apostasy. *Compass*, 21/7/2001

Zimbabwe

The tightening control exercised by The President has limited some of the Church work and witnessing in the country.

- July 2003 - Rev. Sony Chimbuya of Church of Christ in Masvingo, a former member of Zimbabwe Council of Churches, forced to have his prayers scrutinised for political content. *Zimbabwe Daily News*, 20/7/03
- February 2003 – 20 clergymen arrested for protesting about Christian persecution and violence against the church. *BBC News*, 28/2/2003
- February 2002 - Eleven church leaders arrested after a series of prayer meetings in the Hillside suburb of Bulawayo. *CSW*, 21/2/2002
- November 2001- Canon Tim Neill, Harare's former vicar general and rector of St. Luke's, Greendale, forced to leave church due to death threats. *Compass*, 16/11/2001

Final Note: Additional Evidence

There are now signs of a new intolerance towards Christian faith and practice in unexpected territories, where we are beginning to see Christians being victimised or punished for their religious convictions.

Australia

- 2005 - An Australian court found Pastors Daniel Scot and Daniel Nalliah 'guilty' of religious vilification after they criticised Islam in a church seminar *International Christian Concern, 17/12/2004*

Belgium

- February 2002 - 29 American volunteers of the Assemblies of God questioned by police for allegedly violating a work permit law. 4 detained and deported, despite years working in Belgium without any trouble. *Compass, 15/3/2002*
- 1997 - A parliamentary report listed a number of the country's free churches including Pentecostals as sects, who should be under surveillance, increasing their risk of persecution. www.nccg.org/W-News-002.html

France

- The National Assembly adopted an 'anti-sect law' in May 2001. Human Rights Groups and prominent Christian leaders have criticised it as a blow to religious freedom. *Compass, 15/6/2001*
- June 2000 - The French Government's list of 173 'dangerous sects' included an evangelical church. *CSW USA, 21/1/2001*

United Kingdom

- 2005 - In Bradford, Nissar Hussein and family, converts to Christianity from Islam, were assaulted, his car torched, bricks thrown through a window and dogs set on his children. An estimated 3,000 converts to Christianity in the UK are routinely abused, harassed and persecuted by Muslims in their own communities and have to flee. *The Times, 5/2/2005*
- 2003 - Stephen Copsey sacked by WBB Devon Clays after refusing to work on Sundays on religious grounds. *Daily Telegraph, 10/2/2004*
- 1996 - Stephen Clark, a scientist from Manchester sacked after refusal to monitor emissions from hospital incinerators burning foetuses. *Alton, D., 2002, Life After Death*
- 1995 - Journalist Simon Caldwell forced to resign after his analysis of official abortion statistics used the words "kill" and "perish". *Alton, D., 2002, Life After Death*
- 1995 - Barbara Hanaway, medical secretary, sacked from Salford Health Authority for refusing to deal with an abortion. *Alton, D., 2002, Life After Death*
- 1995 - Patrick McCrystal sacked as a pharmacist in Belfast after being told to dispense the abortifacient morning-after pill. Although able to dispense 98% of daily prescriptions, he could not get another job. *Alton, D., 2002, Life After Death*
- 1991 - Andy Croal, Director of a Nottingham local Social Services Department publicly stated, "Abortion is the greatest form of child abuse". He was suspended and threatened with dismissal. *Alton, D., 2002, Life After Death*

Conclusion

1. Irrefutable evidence

Those who value the dignity of the individual cannot remain silent in the face of irrefutable evidence of degrading and inhuman treatment and gross injustice.

We have a moral responsibility to speak out against this intolerable situation.

2. Abuse

Christians in many lands now face torture for their faith and are subjected to the worst human rights abuse including enforced prostitution, slavery and the selling of children.

We must stand against everything which violates the integrity of the individual.

3. Martyrdom

In some countries Christians are harassed and victimised in a variety of different ways. In other countries they have to make a straightforward decision – are they prepared to die for their faith? Martyrdom is a reality for many Christian communities today.

There can never be any justification for people to be punished and killed for their faith.

4. Action

It is a matter of the utmost urgency that men and women of goodwill and of every religious and political persuasion should seek an end, universally, to all religious persecution and discrimination. It is imperative that all political and religious leaders commit themselves to end religious discrimination and persecution wherever it occurs without any further delay.

The strongest international pressure must now be brought to bear on those who deliberately violate the dignity of innocent people.

This document is compiled and published by the Maranatha Community.

Maranatha is a nationwide movement of many thousands of Christians in all the churches and has strong links in territories throughout the world. It is actively engaged in issues of human rights and responsibilities and in various humanitarian projects. Maranatha members are deeply involved both professionally and voluntarily in work for peace, healing and reconciliation and are responsible for aid initiatives throughout the world.

The Community seeks justice for all, irrespective of their religious or political convictions and practices.

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