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C - THE PERSECUTION IN  
MUSLIM COUNTRIES

المنقذ الوحيد

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## JEWS AND CHRISTIANS ARE PERSECUTED IN MIDDLE EAST

Yeshua prophesied: *“For many shall come in my name, saying, I am the Messiah; and shall lead many astray. And ye shall hear of **wars and rumors of wars**; (...) Then shall they deliver you up unto tribulation, **and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all the nations for my name`s sake.**”* Mattityahn (Matthew) 24:5,9

### **Iraq**

In the past, Saddam Hussein murdered over 200,000 Kurds (who have different Iraqi Arabs ethnic backgrounds which include many Christian groups). Recently, several thousands of Christians Iraqi Kurds have fled their country under the threat of Shia and Sunni.

### **Iran**

Repressive totalitarian Islamic regime. Anyone who does not follow the strict Islam of the Koran and Sunna are persecuted and punished by the fundamental laws of Sharia. Christians are condemned to death, stoning of the adulteress is still practiced in some villages in Iran.

### **Saudi Arabia**

The conversion of a Muslim to another religion is punishable by death. The Bible is illegal. Easter celebrations are illegal. If a non-Muslim enters to the "saints" cities of Medina and Mecca, he is punished with death.

### **Egypt**

Islam is the religion of the state and the main legislative source. Accordingly, religious practices that conflict with Islamic law are prohibited. Muslims may have legal problems if converted to another faith. Non-Muslims must obtain a presidential decree to create a place of worship. Many Christian families are persecuted by radical Muslims. Coptic churches are burned.

### **Kuwait**

The registration and the (need for approval) (state) of religious groups. Members of religions not authorized in the Koran cannot build places of worship. Religious education is prohibited from the organized religions other than Islam.

## **Malaysia**

Under Malaysian law, its renunciation of Islam and conversion to Christianity must be registered in the Court. Many Christians converted prefer silence rather than go to the sharia courts, where apostasy or conversion from Islam is punishable by lashes, fines, imprisonment up to the implementation of the most extreme penalty, the death penalty. In this country where Muslims are more than half the population, conversion from Islam is punishable by one to five years in prison and a fine of \$ 3,000. A Malaysian Muslim who marries a non-Muslim; NDT Marriage between a Muslim and a non-Muslim is forbidden by Islamic laws; and to convert non-Muslims to Islam is rewarded with an apartment, a car, and \$ 2700 and a monthly reward of \$ 270.

## **Maldiv**

In this island paradise visited annually by thousands of tourists, Christianity is barely tolerated. When local Christians [about 300 in a population of 300,000], practice their religion, they take the risk of imprisonment or worse if discovered by the Muslim authorities. Bibles are banned, and tourists can be arrested if they try to import into this country.

## **Pakistan**

The conversion of a Muslim to another religion is punishable by death. Proselytizing by non-Muslims is forbidden. Christians are often imprisoned for blasphemy. Islam is the official religion of the country, and in court the testimony from a Christian has less importance than the one of a Muslim. Section 295C of the Penal Code provides for the death penalty for anyone who defiles the name of the prophet Muhammad, the testimony of four Muslims is enough. This encourages an environment in which Muslims can feel free to use intimidation and violence against religious minorities for personal gain. Similarly, if a criminal Muslim rapes a Christian woman and then she says she has accepted Islam and marries him, the Muslim is not guilty under the criminal laws of Pakistan.

## **Qatar**

Islamic education is compulsory in schools. The government regulates the publication, importation and distribution of non-Muslim religious literature. The Government prohibits non-Muslim proselytizing.

## **Sudan**

The conversion of a Muslim to another religion is punishable by death.

## **Syria**

The nation requires that the president be Muslim and stipulates that Islamic jurisprudence is the principal source of legislation. Sharing the Christian faith is discouraged (because) is a threat to relations among religious groups, the risk of imprisonment is life imprisonment. A Christian is not allowed to proselytize. Churches that wish to conduct an additional service must obtain a government permit. Sermons are routinely monitored, as well as the raising of funds.

## **Yemen**

The country therefore prohibits proselytizing by non-Muslims as well as conversions. The government does not allow building new places of worship if they are not Muslims.

## CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION DURING APRIL 2013

### **18 Christians in Nigeria Murdered in raid by Muslims**

Eighteen Christians were murdered by raiding Muslim Fulani extremists in the Christian village of Mile Bakwai, located in Nigeria's Plateau State. Thought to be backed by Islamic extremist inside and outside of Nigeria, these Fulani extremists have raided village after Christian village in Nigeria's Middle Belt and Northern regions leaving tragedy and destruction in their wake. *24 April 2013 - Morning Star News.*

### **Pakistan anti-Christian violence injures 18 Christians**

At least 18 people were injured Wednesday, April 3, when angry Muslims attacked a dozen Christian shops and churches in Pakistan's city of Gujranwala, Christians told Bos News Life. *3 April 2013 - Bost New Life.*

### **Pastor told to deny Christ, or stay in prison**

An American pastor sentenced to eight years in an Iranian prison for planting house churches in the Islamic Republic a decade ago recently wrote that prison officials have told him to either deny Christ, or remain

incarcerated indefinitely, according to the Christian News Network. *24 April 2013 - Joseph de Caro, Worthy News Correspondent.*

### **Moroccan council calls for death to Islamic apostates**

This week the Supreme Ulema Council in Morocco published a fatwa calling for the death penalty for all apostates to Islam. According to Agence France-Presse, the Ulema Council published the religious ruling in the Arabic-language daily Akhbar al-Youm Tuesday; the ruling stated that Muslims who renounce their faith "should be condemned to death". *24 April 2013 - Joseph de Caro, Worthy News Correspondent.*

### **Kazakhstan court orders destruction of Bibles**

A court in Kazakhstan has ordered the destruction of Christian literature, including Bibles, seized from a street evangelist. Vyacheslav Cherkasov was detained by police in October for offering Christian literature to passers-by; officers later confiscated his suitcase containing Bibles and other religious books and leaflets. *21 April 2013 - Joseph de Caro, Worthy News Correspondent.*

### **Syria's Christians face the threat of annihilation**

"What is currently happening in Syria is a humanitarian disaster. I am in a close contact with the leaders of the Orthodox Church of Antioch. They stressed that the Christians face crimes of genocide through expelling of Christians from the areas dominated by the Free Syrian Army or killing them," Hilarion said during a speech at the Greek University of Ersutalis, according to a report in Russia Today. *18 April 2013 - Mid East Christian News.*

### **Christian tortured by Islamists in Egypt Mosque**

Washington, D.C. (International Christian Concern). A mosque in suburban Cairo was used by Islamic hardliners to terrorize a Christian and anti-Islamist protestors in suburban Cairo in March, activists said. Christians and liberals are growing increasingly concerned with the Muslim Brotherhood's failure to protect religious minorities. Amir Ayad was on his way to join protestors near the headquarters of the ruling Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party in suburban Cairo on March 22 when he was stopped by a group of civilians who were checking vehicles for weapons. *24 April 2013 - Fox News.*

## **Egyptian Muslims murdering Christians with impunity**

Recent violence that resulted in the deaths of at least six Coptic Christians is just one more indication that nothing has changed in the 'new' Egypt, which many hoped would bring justice and equality, as perpetrators of anti-Christian violence continue to go unpunished. The rights of Christians are now practically nonexistent in Egypt while Muslim perpetrators are granted impunity. *25 April 2013 - Catholic Online.*

## **Malaysia: Government wants to discourage Christians**

Christians in Malaysia face an environment that, while not open to outright persecution, often makes life difficult. Malaysian Christians were recently informed that they could not use the word "Allah" to refer to God and leaving Islam to convert to Christianity is illegal. In addition the government chooses to hold elections on Sunday, making it difficult for some Christians to get out and vote. *19 April 2013 - CSW News.*

## **Indonesia Church Woes Attract US Attention**

It appears that the forced closure and demolition of churches in Indonesia is beginning to attract international attention. Over the Easter weekend religious leaders from the United States, including Christians, Muslims, and Jews, wrote a letter of support to the churches of Indonesia that have been forced from their places of worship by radical groups. *4 April 2013 - From UCA News.*

## **Christian Convert Captured and Tortured by Al-Shabaab in Somalia**

Washington D.C. International Christian Concern (ICC) has learned that al-Shabaab, an al-Qaeda-linked terrorist network in Somalia, has captured and tortured a Christian convert. Missing for several weeks, Hassan Gulled, age 25, is thought to be held at an al-Shabaab base in Bulo Marer, Somalia. *19 April 2013 - International Christian Concern.*

## **Pakistan, more than 100 Christian homes burned**

This morning, an angry mob set fire to over 100 homes in the Joseph Colony Christian settlement, near Badami Bah (Lahore). Residents were forced to flee and at least 35 people were injured. The attack resulted from an accusation of blasphemy registered against one of the settlement residents, Sawan Masih, who yesterday afternoon had an altercation with a Muslim. *9 April 2013 - Asianews.it.*

## **Christians crucified in south Sudan**

Sudan's Christians are now urging for international help after seven believers were crucified by a rebel group close to the Ugandan border. Villagers found the bodies of the Christians near the town of Nzara in south Sudan. *From CBN News.*

## **Christians living in Mali continue to suffer**

As they are displaced by the conflict currently raging through central Mali. Many of these displaced Christians had to choose between homelessness and persecution at the hands of Jihadists. According to some of these Christians, if they had not fled they would have been killed by the Islamists currently in control of half the country. Now these Christians face a daily struggle for food and water. When will the suffering for these Christians end? *From CBN News.*

## **Easter threats, rise of Islam fueling attacks on Tanzanian Christians**

Threats of violence have been made by Islamic extremists in Tanzania against Christians during the Easter holiday. After a recent increase in violence against Christians, many Christians are beginning to fear for the future of religious freedom in Tanzania. Radical Islam seems to be spreading to the coastal areas of Tanzania, centering on the Island of Zanzibar. Zanzibar has a Muslim majority population and has been where most violence against Christians has taken place. Will Christians have a peaceful Easter or will the extremists make good on their threats? *April 2013 - Mission Network News.*

## **Church in Kenya Endures the Trauma of Persecution**

Christians in Garissa, Kenya want to go to church every week, but are scare to do so because of the potential of being attacked. On July 1, 2012, the African Inland Church of Garissa was attacked when gunmen tossed grenades into a church service and shot victims as they attempted to flee the explosions. Christians in Garissa are still traumatized by this event and struggle to feel safe in their places of worship. Anxiety has grown so intense that some families have moved out of Garissa. Will there be a church in Garissa at this time next year? *15 April 2013 - Mission Network News*