Christian Suffering Throughout The World

Detailed information on persecution in Africa

Since the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Messiah Yeshua) 2000 years ago,

43,000,000 Christians have become martyrs.

Over 50% of these were in the last century alone.

More than 200 million Christians face persecution each day - 60% are children.

Every day over 300 are killed for their faith in Messiah Yeshua (Jesus Christ).

Source: http://www.christiansincrisis.net


Adopted and proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948

“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.”

Source: http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html

You Can Help

Visit the Following Web Sites To Learn More

- [www.persecution.org](http://www.persecution.org) International Christian Concern (ICC) is an interdenominational human rights organization dedicated to assisting and sustaining Christians who are victims of persecution and discrimination due to practicing their faith.


- [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com) The Voice of the Martyrs is a non-profit, interdenominational organization with a vision for aiding Christians around the world who are being persecuted for their faith in Christ, fulfilling the Great Commission, and educating the world about the ongoing persecution of Christians.

- [www.opendoorsusa.org](http://www.opendoorsusa.org) Working in over 60 countries, and 23 international offices, Open Doors delivers Bibles and assists with pastoral training, literacy training and more, all with
the purpose of strengthening the Persecuted Church so they remain God's light in our world.

- [www.christiansincrisis.net](http://www.christiansincrisis.net)
- [www.jubileecampaign.org](http://www.jubileecampaign.org) Jubilee Campaign USA promotes the human rights and religious liberty of ethnic and religious minorities in countries which imprison, terrorize, or otherwise oppress them. We advocate the release of prisoners of conscience and the change of laws as necessary to affect these purposes. Jubilee also advocates against the exploitation of children with particular attention to the sex industry in Asia. We lobby Congress on behalf of those suffering religious persecution and human rights violations. Furthermore, we actively travel overseas to promote religious tolerance, we handle certain cases involving religious asylum seekers, and we promote and support (financially) childrens rights internationally.

**For Further Exploration**

Visit the Following Web Sites

AFRICA:

Sudan (a1b1)

Religious Atmosphere:

- It is estimated that 70% of this country's people are Sunni Muslims. 9.9% belong to tribal religions and 19% are Christians. The Muslim population is concentrated in the north, while the Christians and animists live in the south or in the Nuba mountain range in central Sudan. A state of civil war has existed between the Muslims and non-Muslims for 14 years. Factions within the government have been making various attempts at Islamicizing the country more and more.

Extremist Groups:

- Popular Defense Force (PDF) - This is a government-sponsored group that is larger and better equipped than the standing army. This group is known to have its ranks filled with the most fanatical Muslim fighters. They often engage in actions against the rebel forces in the South. Since these actions are done with government support or in coordination with government forces, their actions are listed with those of the government.
- It is reported that the government gives weapons to various Muslim tribes to increase their effectiveness in conducting slave and cattle raids against non-Muslim peoples in the South. These Arab militias, which often use the names Mujahadeen (holy warriors) or Murahaleen often fight alongside government forces. Their actions are also listed with those of the government.

Government:

- Though it has been stated by the National Islamic Front (NIF), the current military regime, that religious freedom is respected, Islam is the de facto state religion. The acronym GoS (Government of Sudan) is often used to identify government forces.
- Forced conversions to Islam is a part of government policy.
- Churches are often closed, destroyed, or not allowed to be built.
- Christian home groups are considered to be a public disturbance and Bible teachers are considered to be the leaders of these public disturbances and are arrested.
- Open preaching is prohibited and punishable by beating or a jail sentence.
- Many Islamic principles are accepted as customs, such as giving the testimony of a Christian man half the weight of that given to a Muslim man. Christians are under constant pressure to convert to Islam.
- Christians are commonly discriminated against in the workplace and rarely receive promotions.

Recent Actions:

- **May 22, 2003** - Government of Sudan forces attacked Longochok and nine other villages in Eastern Upper Nile on May 22. Armed government troops burned homes, killed at least 59 villagers, and took several women and children captive. Pastor Jacob Gadet Manyiel
was burned to death in his home, and his wife and children were taken captive. These attacks occurred on the same day that Secretary of State Colin Powell met with the Sudanese Foreign Minister to discuss removing Sudan from the list of state sponsors of terrorism. It was later reported that two of Pastor Manyiel's sons (ages 4 and 6) and another young boy were killed at the regional military headquarters in Adar Yel. (Freedom Now News/Servant's Heart)

- **May 21, 2003** - Rev. Samuel Dobai Arum (see April 7, 2003 below) was released from prison after local believers and an American delegation from Calvary Chapel (Santa Margarita, CA) raised enough money to officially purchase the land on which the St. Matthew's church is built. The church expects to soon have ownership papers changed into their name. (Compass Direct)

- **April 21, 2003** - President George W. Bush stated that the Khartoum government and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army were negotiating in "good faith." Thus, it is not necessary for the US to implement any sanctions, as per the Sudan Peace Act.

**Prisoners:**

- It is estimated that there are thousands, or possibly tens of thousands, of women and children who are being held against their will as slaves or as conscripts.

**Suggested Actions You Might Take:**

- Pray for the Christians of Sudan that they may be protected from harm and that the Christian message may be heard and received by all. Pray for a long-term solution to the current civil war and an end to all the atrocities happening there.
- Write a respectful letter to one or more of the government officials listed below. Express your continuing concern for the safety and well being of the Christian community in Sudan. Request information about what steps the government is taking to ensure their protection and freedom to practice their faith as laid out in the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights documents.
- Contact the elected national officials (Senators, Congressman etc.) for your area as well as the U.S. State Department and express concern for the well being of the Christians in Sudan asking them to make an inquiry into their status.

**Official Contacts:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Charge D'Affairs Khidr Haroun</th>
<th>Minister of Foreign Affairs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Embassy of Sudan</td>
<td>Post Office Box 873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2210 Massachusetts Ave. NW</td>
<td>Khartoum, Republic of the Sudan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington, D.C., 20008</td>
<td>Tel: 011 249 11 773-101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: (202) 338-8565</td>
<td>Fax: 011 249 11 778-218 or 779-383 or 777-268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: (202) 667-2406</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Omar Hassan Al-Bashir                    |                                               |
| President of the Republic of Sudan      |                                               |
| People's Palace                         |                                               |
| PO Box 281                              |                                               |
| Khartoum, Sudan                         |                                               |
| Fax: 011 249 11 787676 or 783223        |                                               |
Eritrea

Religious Atmosphere:

- Approximately half of Eritrea's population is Christian and half is Muslim. There doesn't seem to be any significant religious strife in this country.

Government:

- The current draft of the constitution provides for the freedom of religion and the right to practice the religion of one's choice.
- The government has banned any religious organizations from participating in politics.
- Specific guidelines have been issued that govern the role of religious organizations and their relationships with foreign sponsors.

Recent Actions:

- **May 7, 2003** - Two evangelists and 54 members of the Rema Church in Asmara were hauled off to the police station for holding an "illegal prayer meeting." The evangelical believers were reportedly given "severe punishment" by the police. The Rema Church has been harassed by authorities for the past year and has been refused registration. (Compass Direct/VOM)
- **April 18, 2003** - Members of the Mesert Christos Church in Asmara were detained at the church all day by security police. Upon being released they were told not to meet together again. (Compass Direct)
- **April 17, 2003** - Fifteen Christians attending a Bible study in Kushte were attacked by a group of people, which reportedly included four Orthodox priests. All were beaten so badly with sticks that they required hospitalization.
- **March 23, 2003** - Forty people, including three children, from the Philadelphia Church in Asmara were taken to the police station where several of the men were beaten. The church's pastor and three other members were later arrested when they arrived at the police station to check on their friends. The next day the pastor was publicly tortured in front of the congregation and forced to walk on sharp rocks for half an hour. The same morning the three children were beaten and released with a warning not to attend religious meetings. Most of the Christians were released after eight days. However, relatives posting bail for the prisoners had to sign a statement that if a jailed believer was caught meeting at a church or holding a religious gathering at home, he or she would be executed. (Compass Direct)

Suggested Actions You Might Take:

- Pray for the Christians of Eritrea that they may continue to be protected from harm and that the Christian message may be heard and received by all.

Official Contacts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ambassador Girma Asmerom</th>
<th>Minister of Foreign Affairs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Embassy of Eritrea</td>
<td>Post Office Box 190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1708 New Hampshire Ave. NW</td>
<td>Asmara, State of Eritrea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Egypt (a2b1)

Religious Atmosphere:

- Muslims make up 85.4% of this country's people. The government estimates the Christian population at 6%, but other sources put it as high as 14.2%. Ninety-two percent of the Christian population are members of the Coptic Church, which existed before the arrival of Islam. Cairo is currently considered to be the hub of Sunni Islamic publications and scholarship.

Extremist Groups:

- The Supreme Guide Of the Muslim Brotherhood--This illegal political organization is dedicated to the adoption of the Shari'a law in Egypt. They have conducted numerous terrorist actions against government institutions and are known to commit acts of violence against Christians. The leader of this group, Mustafa Mashhour, was quoted in the April 3, 1997 issue of Al-Ahram as saying that Copts would not be allowed to serve in the military under Sharia law which is a standard principle of Islamic law.
- Al-Gamaa Islamiya (Islamic Group)--This is one of Egypt's largest fundamentalist groups. Its members are dedicated to turning Egypt into an Islamic state. They seek to bring this about by destabilizing the government through attacks on Christians, public officials, and foreign tourists.
- Jihad (Holy War/Holy Struggle)--Another one of Egypt's larger fundamentalist groups. They are dedicated to turning Egypt into an Islamic state. They seek to bring this about by destabilizing the government through attacks on Christians, public officials, and foreign tourists.
- In many instances of violence against Christians, the perpetrators are acting for personal gain or acting under a mob mentality and show no political or large-scale organization.

Government:

- The constitution provides for the freedom of belief and the practice of religious rites.
- Islam was declared the state religion in 1980.
- Despite making up 6-14% of the total population, Copts hold only 5 out of 440 seats (1.13%) in the People's Assembly (Maglis El Sha'b). These representatives were
appointed by the President. No Coptic candidate has ever won an election. It is claimed that should any Coptic candidate win an election, a draw is declared. A second vote is taken with the voters being harassed and Christian voters being discouraged from voting.

- An official decree of the Ottoman Empire still in force is a 1856 law requiring non-Muslims to obtain a presidential decree to repair, remodel, or build a place of worship. A 1934 Minister of Interior Decree added ten conditions to the issuing of this decree. They include not allowing a church to be built within 100 meters of a mosque, requiring the permission of any utility official when the construction is near that utility, and requiring that none of the Muslim neighbors object to the buildings construction. It is reported that obtaining permission often takes years. During this delay, it is not uncommon for a mosque to be built near the site, causing the requested construction to be in violation of the above listed condition. This law was recently changed so those governors could issue a decree for repairs. Many see this as a further hindrance as lower officials are more easily influenced by extremist elements.

- All Egyptian citizens are required to have listed on their identity card whether they are Christian or Muslim. This card must be presented whenever a person applies for employment. There are cases of people who are trying to change their listed religion from Muslim to Christian being arrested for falsifying documents. Persons arrested on these charges have been interrogated and physically abused in an attempt to obtain information on other converts and their activities.

- The government-owned television stations broadcast only 2 hours of Christian programming a year on Easter. Most of the tax-supported programming is pro-Islamic, if not anti-Christian.

- While proselytizing is not illegal, some Muslim converts to Christianity have been charged with a provision of the Penal code that prohibits the use of religion to "ignite heavenly strife, degrade any of the heavenly religions or harm national unity or social peace."

- Children with Muslim names are enrolled in Islamic classes regardless of their parent's wishes. This presents a problem because parents are hesitant to give their children traditionally Coptic names as it increases the risk they will be discriminated against. As a result, Coptic parents try to give their children a name that is used by both religious communities.

- The portion of history when the Coptic Christians were the majority (the first six centuries AD) is not taught in Egyptian public schools.

Recent Actions:

- **January 5, 2004** (ASSIST News Service (ANS)) -- One employee was killed and about eight others, including a nun, wounded when the Egyptian army attacked a Christian centre for mentally and physically handicapped children and orphans early Monday, January 5, a human rights watch-dogs said. The Barnabas Fund, claimed the casualties were a result of a military operation involving 500 Egyptian soldiers who "descended upon the Patmos Christian Centre," 30 kilometers east of the capital Cairo, "accompanied by two bulldozers." In a statement to ASSIST News Service (ANS) the organization stressed the troops "blocked the entrance to the compound with a large pile of stones and rubble and then they destroyed seven metres of adjoining wall." The U.S. Copts Association said that soldiers were also seen "setting fire to structures on the premises." When "those working at the centre rushed out en masse to prevent the army from coming onto their property...soldiers threw stones and bottles at the protestors," added Barnabas Fund, which has close contacts with the centre. In addition a nun was beaten by angry troops. Barnabas Fund said. During the protests, a bus reportedly ploughed into a crowd who were protecting Bishop Botros who heads the centre. "The Bishop was not among those injured, but one staff member, Kirilos Daoud, was killed," the organization explained. It reported that seven people were still in hospital, with one listed in a critical condition. "The police have tried to find the bus driver (who drove into
the crowd), but the army appears to have taken him away, Barnabas Fund reported. There was no comment from the Egyptian government, but the U.S. Copts Association quoted army officials as saying the bus driver had simply lost control of his vehicle and denied involvement. The hour long military operation, was reportedly the ninth and most bloodiest attack against the Patmos Christian Centre, violence some have linked to growing Islamic pressure on Egypt's Christian minority. Officially soldiers from the local army unit are seeking to destroy the wall supposedly in order to conform to a new law passed in January last year 2003 which requires all buildings to be at least 100 metres from the Cairo-Suez road. However human rights watchers point out the centre's wall stands 50 metres from the road and was built ten years ago in full accordance with the law at the time, adding that other buildings in the area are much closer to the road, including some 15 mosques. The Barnabas Fund quoted Church leaders as saying the Minister of Defense, who has been opposed to the centre since 1997, ordered "extreme and conservative Muslim officers" from the local army unit to enforce the law on the Patmos Christian Centre. The centre has been serving the local community in Egypt for 15 years and is legally registered with the Egyptian authorities. It receives between 500 and 1000 visitors every day, said Barnabas Fund.


- **12/4/03 Egypt (Barnabas Fund)** Yesterday, 3 December, police decided to release the last of the 22 converts and their supporters who were arrested between 21 and 24 October in Alexandria. Up until then it seemed that police were determined to make an example of Christian convert from Islam, Mariam Girgis Makar. They even employed the services of a scholar from the Al-Azhar Islamic University in Cairo to help them bring charges concerning crimes against Islam. Mariam, who was seriously abused whilst in custody, was bailed for 1000 Egyptian pounds (£94 / $162). All of those released are now on bail, but charges against them still have not been formalised. They were originally arrested on charges related to falsifying their names on documents. A Christian who converts to Islam in Egypt can receive new ID papers with a new Muslim name within 24 hours. However there is no reciprocal arrangement for a Muslim who converts to Christianity. There are a myriad of factors making it virtually impossible for converts to follow their faith freely and safely whilst they retain an official Muslim name. Thus many converts feel compelled to apply for official papers using an assumed Christian name. Converts such as Mariam living in Egypt have recently issued a declaration calling upon the government to make three changes. Firstly they would like Muslims to be able to change their names to Christian ones, to make conversion from Islam less dangerous. Secondly they would like just treatment for Christians who once converted to Islam, but then chose to reconvert to Christianity. Such people would have received Muslim names on their conversion to Islam, but are unable to recover their old Christian names when they return to Christianity. Thirdly the converts would like the office reopened which used to administer conversions to Christianity. Conversions to Islam can be officially performed in an office at Al-Azhar University. A similar office used to be available for Muslims who wished to become Christians; it was based in the headquarters of the Coptic Church, but was closed in 1970.

- **12/02/03 Egypt (Barnabas Fund)** The Christian husband of a Muslim convert to Christianity has been apprehended trying to leave Egypt. He was then held in the custody of a notoriously cruel and vindictive security official. On Friday 28 November Egyptian Christian Bolis Rezek-Allah was arrested trying to leave the country. This was a desperate attempt to escape the mounting persecution he is suffering at the hands of the Egyptian authorities because of his marriage to Enas Badawi, a Christian converted from a Muslim background. After being apprehended at the Libyan border he was held for 12 hours, when a police database identified him, before being released. Yesterday Rezek-Allah was again detained and taken to the HQ of the Security Police in Cairo, known as
the Lazghouly Office, for interrogation. He was put in the custody of Hussein Gohar, a security officer who is notoriously vindictive towards converts from Islam and those close to them. Gohar has threatened Rezek-Allah that he will find his wife Enas (who is still being sought by police) even if she has gone abroad, and that once he has done so he will kill Enas in front of her husband. Rezek-Allah was released but police say they will continue to block him from leaving the country despite the fact that he has obtained the correct documentation to leave for Canada. Bolis Rezek-Allah was originally singled out by police persecution in the summer of 2003, when he was arrested on the charge of marrying a Muslim. In accordance with shari'a (Islamic law), it is illegal in Egypt for a Christian man to marry a Muslim woman. Enas Badawi had actually converted from Islam to Christianity before the marriage, but since the Egyptian authorities do not recognise conversions to Christianity, she was still a Muslim in the eyes of the law. Rezek-Allah was initially held in prison for three months, during which time he was also accused of helping Muslims convert to Christianity. The couple then decided to emigrate to Canada where Rezek-Allah, who is a pharmacist, hoped to find work. On 24 September Rezek-Allah was pulled off a flight bound for that country where he was due to take qualifying exams. On that occasion the police did not detain him, but have kept him under close surveillance since then and continue to prevent him from leaving the country. Please pray for the safety of Rezek and Enas Badawi.

Suggested Actions You Might Take:

- Pray for the Christians of Egypt that they may be protected from harm and that the Christian message may be heard and received by all Egyptians.
- Write a respectful letter to one or more of the government officials listed below. Express your continuing concern for the safety and well being of the Christian community in Egypt. Request information about what steps the government is taking to ensure their protection and freedom to practice their faith as laid out in the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights documents.
- Contact the elected national officials (Senators, Congressman etc.) for your area as well as the U.S. State Department and express concern for the well being of the Christians in Egypt asking them to make an inquiry into their status.

Official Contacts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambassador M. Nabil Fahmy</td>
<td>Embassy of Egypt</td>
<td>3521 International Ct. NW Washington, D.C. 20008</td>
<td>Tel: (202) 895-5400</td>
<td>Fax: (202) 244-4319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohammed Hosni Mubarak, President</td>
<td>Presidential Palace</td>
<td>Abdeen, Cairo, Egypt</td>
<td>or</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the President</td>
<td>Al Etahadia Building</td>
<td>Heliopolis, Cairo, Egypt</td>
<td>e-mail: <a href="mailto:webmaster@presidency.gov.eg">webmaster@presidency.gov.eg</a></td>
<td>WebPage: <a href="http://www.presidency.gov.eg/">http://www.presidency.gov.eg/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Foreign Affairs</td>
<td>Tahrir Square</td>
<td>Cairo 15111, Arab Republic of Egypt</td>
<td>Tel: 011 20 2 574 6861 / 6862</td>
<td>Fax: 011 20 2 574 7822 / 7840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Interior</td>
<td>El-Sheikh Reban Street</td>
<td>Cairo, Egypt</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source (“Egypt’’): http://persecution.org/Countries/egypt.html
Somalia (b2)

Religious Atmosphere:

- 99.95% of this country's people are Sunni Muslims. There is a very small population of Christians.

Extremist Groups:

- ICC is not aware of any extremist groups. However, the various warlords controlling the country use violent means of imposing their rule.

Government:

- This country has no central government. There has been a Transitional National Government in place since October 2000, but it has little power. The country is actually controlled by various warlords. It is reported that the amount of religious freedom varies greatly depending on the region.
- The Republic of Somaliland and Puntland, two local governments, have made Islam the official religion and have imposed shari'a law. Due to old customs and past laws, proselytizing by non-Muslims is considered a crime. Non-Muslims are generally viewed with suspicion though Christian relief agencies are allowed to work in the country.
- There is no constitution and thus no legal protection for religious freedom.

Recent Actions:

- February 3, 2000 - Nine Ethiopian Christians were arrested in Somaliland on charges of proselytizing. They were later released and deported.
- May 1999 - Seven Ethiopian Christians were arrested in Somaliland for proselytizing.

Suggested Actions You Might Take:

- Pray for the Christians of Somalia that they may be protected from harm and that the Christian message may be heard and received by all.

Official Contacts: Due to political instability, no official contacts exist. The effectiveness of the following addresses are uncertain:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collective Chairmanship</th>
<th>Minister of Foreign Affairs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Salvation Council</td>
<td>Hargeisa, Somalia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mogadishu, Somalia</td>
<td>Tel &amp; Fax: 011 252 213 4495</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nigeria (a3b2)

Religious Atmosphere:

- Fifty percent of this country's people are Christians. 40% are Muslims and 10% belong to tribal religions. Tensions are high between Christians and Muslims.

Extremist Groups:

- Violence towards Christians by Muslims has been reported. It is believed that these acts have been incited up by a group of mullahs who studied in Iran. Politicians are also known for stirring up religious passion whenever it is advantageous for them.

Government:

- While freedom of religious belief, practice, and education is generally respected, some measures have been taken in an attempt to reduce religious tension.
- The country is prohibited from adopting a national religion. However, Nigeria recently joined the Organization of Islamic Countries thus defacto declaring itself a Muslim oriented state. Nonetheless, with the rise to power of President Olusegun Obasanjo in May, this may have been greatly diminished.
- Sharia law has long been part of Nigeria’s family law. However, since late 1999 several northern states have instituted Sharia as a part of the penal system. This would allow for floggings, amputations, and beheadings for certain crimes. Though Muslims claim these laws would not apply to Christians, there is evidence that Christians have already been effected.
- Religious organizations are banned from the primary schools.
- Religious publications circulate freely, but published religious advertisements come under an occasionally enforced ban.
- Religious programming on radio and television is closely controlled by the government.
- Open-air meetings away from a place of worship are not allowed.
- Proselytizing is discouraged but not outlawed.
- Multiple parties accuse the government of restricting the entry of certain religious practitioners, especially those suspected of proselytizing.

Recent Actions:

- April 22, 2003 - A pastor and six of his family members were killed in Kano in a house fire which was believed to have been set by Muslim militants. Pastor Sunday Madumere was known as a powerful preacher who even converted many Muslims. Madumere's wife and three children were killed in the fire as well as two other men believed to be relatives. (Compass Direct)
- April 4, 2003 - A group of armed Muslims attacked the village of Fobur in Langtang. One woman was killed and several homes were set on fire. The same group is also believed to have burned down 30 homes in the village of Zambwar. (CSW/ANS)
- March 18, 2003 - Up to 2,000 white clad jihad warriors attacked the town of Kardako in Wase Local Government Area (LGA) shouting "Allahu Akbar." Using sophisticated weaponry, the Hausa Fulani Muslims killed at least 22 people and injured 16. Over two dozen others were reported missing after the deadly attack. (CSW/ANS)

Suggested Actions You Might Take:
• Pray for the Christians of Nigeria that they may be allowed to practice and share their faith freely and without the threat of violence from the Muslim population. Pray also that the Christian message may be heard and received by all Nigerians.
• Contact the elected national officials (Senators, Congressman etc.) for your area as well as the U.S. State Department and express concern for the well being of the Christians in Nigeria asking them to make an inquiry into their status.
• Write a respectful letter to one or more government officials at the address listed below. Express your continuing concern for the safety and well being of the Christian community in Nigeria as well as for their right to practice their faith freely.

Official Contacts:

Ambassador Jibril Aminu  
Embassy of Nigeria  
1333 16th St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Tel: (202) 986-8400  
Fax: (202) 775-1385

Minister of External Relations  
Private Mail Bag 130  
Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria  
Tel: 011 234 9 600 2096  
Fax: 011 234 9 552 3025

Olusegun Obasanjo, President  
Presidential Villa  
State House, Aso Rock  
Abuja, Nigeria  
Fax: 234-95-232-138


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**Libya (a2)**

**Religious Atmosphere:**

• 96% of this country's people are Muslim. Only 3% are Christian and these are mostly foreigners

**Government:**

• The current government is a totalitarian regime and does not support the freedom of religion. Even Muslim opposition groups are severely restricted.
• Missionaries are not allowed to enter the country and proselytizing is illegal. The last missionary outpost was closed in 1960.
• There is a government limit of one church per denomination per city.

**Recent Actions:**

• August 2002 - It was reported that 14 students from the Nasser University in Tripoli were arrested for converting to Christianity. They were seen being transferred from one prison to another blindfolded and tied together. (Intercessors Network)

**Suggested Actions You Might Take:**
• Pray for any Christians in Libya that they may be protected from harm and that the Christian message may be heard and received by all.
• Write a respectful letter to one or more of the government officials listed below. Express your continuing concern for the safety and well being of the Christian community in Libya. Request information about what steps the government is taking to ensure their protection and freedom to practice their faith as laid out in the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights documents.
• Contact the elected national officials (Senators, Congressman etc.) for your area as well as the U.S. State Department and express concern for the well being of the Christians in Libya asking them to make an inquiry into their status.

Official Contacts: *note: Libya does not have an embassy in the US

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colonel Muammar al-Qaddafi</th>
<th>General People’s Committee of Foreign Liaison &amp; International Cooperation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office of the President</td>
<td>Tripoli, Great Socialist Libyan Arab People's Jumuhuriya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tripoli, Libya</td>
<td>Tel: 011 218 21 333 4061 to 4069 or 360 0034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohammed al Zanati</td>
<td>Fax: 011 218 21 333 3825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Secretary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Peoples Congress</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tripoli, Libya</td>
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Morocco (a2)

Religious Atmosphere:

• 99.8% of this country's people are Sunni Muslim. Most Christians in this country are foreign nationals.

Government:

• Islam is the state religion.
• The practice of Christianity and Judaism are tolerated.
• Law and tradition call for severe punishments for anyone who converts from Islam.
• Proselytizing by non-Muslims is often punished even when it does not violate Articles 220 and 221 of the Penal Code, which make proselytizing a crime only if seductive or coercive means are employed. Convictions of such actions usually result in deportation.

Recent Actions:

• **June 1999** – Five American citizens were detained and deported after being accused of distributing Christian literature on a train from Rabat to Tangier.
• **March 1, 1999** - It was reported that four foreigners (British and Korean) were arrested on proselytization charges in the town of Tata. Bibles and Christian pamphlets were seized in the process.
• **July 15, 1998**--A Moroccan appeals court upheld a lower court's sentence against four Western Christians that was passed on June 5, 1998. The court reportedly charged Graham Hutt (British), Serge Dechoz (French), Kelly Viinikka (Canadian), and Antero Ylikangas (Canadian) with "intent to introduce merchandise into the country without a
customs declaration." The men were fined $42,000, given a suspended two-month prison term, and Hutt's yacht and motorcycle were confiscated (valued at $253,000). The merchandise in question involved 1200 New Testaments and 500 Bibles and would have required a $65 customs charge had they been declared. All the men except Graham Hutt have been allowed to leave the country with no punishment. It was found that a multi-page confession that was written in Arabic and signed by the men contained other charges. The confession was signed by the men after they had been questioned for fourteen hours, been denied food and water, and were promised they would be released if they signed it, which they weren't. The statement said the signers confessed to the following: illegal entry into Morocco, being missionaries in Morocco as well as other countries, being involved in a conspiracy to subvert the Islamic faith, being involved in a conspiracy to subvert Morocco, planning to distribute materials during the night to convert Muslims, and smuggling the religious materials found in Serge Dechoz's apartment into the country.

Suggested Actions You Might Take:

- Pray for the Christians of Morocco that they may allowed to practice and share their faith freely and that the Christian message may be heard and received by all Moroccans.
- Contact the elected national officials (Senators, Congressman etc.) for your area as well as the U.S. State Department and express concern for the well being of the Christians in Morocco asking them to make an inquiry into their status.
- Write a respectful letter to one or more government officials at the address listed below.* Express your continuing concern for the safety and well-being of the Christian community in Morocco as well as for their right to practice their faith freely.

Official Contacts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Embassy of Morocco</th>
<th>Ministere Royale des Affaires Etrangeres &amp; Cooperation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1601 21st St. NW</td>
<td>Avenue Franklin Roosevelt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington, D.C. 20009</td>
<td>Rabat, Royaume du Mauroc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: (202) 462-7979</td>
<td>Tel: 011 212 7 762-841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: (202) 265-0161</td>
<td>Fax: 011 212 7 764-679 or 765-508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Mohammed VI</td>
<td>M. Abderahmane El Youssoufi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palais Royal</td>
<td>Premier Ministre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabat, Morocco</td>
<td>Palais Royal, Le Mechouar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rabat, Morocco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tel: 212-7-76-38-04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source ("Morocco"): [http://persecution.org/Countries/morocco.html](http://persecution.org/Countries/morocco.html)

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**Tunisia (a3)**

**Religious Atmosphere:**

- 99.5% of this country’s people are Sunni Muslim. The Christian community is estimated to be around 20,000 people and is mostly comprised of nominal Catholic expatriates.

**Extremist Groups:**
The government considers the An-Nahda group to be an Islamic fundamentalist group and has arrested people believed to be affiliated with the group.

Government:

- Islam is the state religion but the government permits the practice of other religions.
- Proselytizing is considered an action, which threatens "public order." Foreigners suspected of proselytizing are asked to leave the country and not allowed to return.
- Islamic religious education is mandatory in public schools.

Recent Actions:

- December 1998 – Police officials interrogated a Christian convert as well as searching his home.
- 1998 – A Christian convert was beaten and held in police custody for five days. He was also subjected to police harassment at various times throughout the year.

Suggested Actions You Might Take:

- Pray for the Christians of Tunisia that they may continue to be protected from harm and that the Christian message may be heard and received by all.

Official Contacts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Embassy of Tunisia</th>
<th>Ministere des Affairs Etrangeres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1515 Massachusetts Ave. NW</td>
<td>Place du Gouvernente</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington, D.C., 20005</td>
<td>1005 Tunis, Republique du Tunisie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: (202) 862-1850</td>
<td>Tel: 011 216 1 660-088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: (202) 862-1858</td>
<td>Fax: 011 216 1 567-382 / -386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presidence de la Republique, Palais de Carthage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Carthage, Tunisia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WebPage: <a href="http://www.ministeres.tn/">http://www.ministeres.tn/</a></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source (“Tunisia”): [http://persecution.org/Countries/tunisia.html](http://persecution.org/Countries/tunisia.html)

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**Djibouti**

Religious Atmosphere:

- It is estimated that of the country’s people, 94% are Muslims, and 6% are Christians. An unemployment rate of 50% continues to be a major problem. Per capita consumption dropped an estimated 35% over the last seven years because of recession, civil war, and a high population growth rate.

Government:
• Republic
• Legal system based on French civil law system, traditional practices, and Islamic law


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Algeria (b2)

Religious Atmosphere:

• Approximately 99% of the population is Sunni Muslim. The Muslims seem to be split into factions of extremist versus moderate depending on their interpretation of Islam. There are also small numbers of Christians and Jews.

Extremist Groups:

• The Armed Islamic Group (GIA)–This group seeks to install an "Islamic Republic" similar to those found in Iran and Saudi Arabia. In 1994, this group declared it intention to eliminate Jews, Christians, and polytheists from Algeria.

Government:

• The constitution establishes Islam to be the state religion and prohibits religious discrimination. The government does allow small Christian and Jewish groups to practice their faith.
• The Family Code prohibits Muslim women from marrying non-Muslim men but places no restrictions on who Muslim men can marry.
• Non-Islamic proselytizing is illegal. Conversions from Islam to another faith are not illegal, but the government does not recognize them.
• Converts from Islam often experience other security worries and legal and social problems

Recent actions:

• December 30, 1997 - Perpetrators not known - Four hundred people in isolated villages in the Relizane region were killed by Islamic extremists on the first night of Ramadan. Most of the victims had their throats slit or were decapitated. The BBC reported that 100+ were killed in other incidents over that weekend.
• October 1996 - Armed Islamic Group - Bishop Pierre Clavier of Oran was killed.
• May 20, 1996 - Armed Islamic Group - Seven French Trappist monks were beheaded after being held captive for two months.

Suggested Actions You Might Take:

• Pray for the Christians of Algeria that they may allowed to practice and share their faith freely and without the threat of violence from the Islamic community and in particular, militant Islamic groups. Pray also that the Christian message may be heard and received by all Algerians.
• Contact the elected national officials (Senators, Congressman etc.) for your area as well as the U.S. State Department and express concern for the well being of the Christians in Algeria asking them to make an inquiry into their status.
• Write a respectful letter to one or more government officials at the address listed below. * Express your continuing concern for the safety and well being of the Christian community in Algeria as well as for their right to practice their faith freely.

Official Contacts:

| Embassy Of Algeria-Chancery | President:  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2118 Kalorama Rd. NW</td>
<td>Abdel-Aziz Bouteflika</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington D.C. 20008</td>
<td>Presence de la Republique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: (202) 265-2800</td>
<td>Place Mohamed Seddik Benyahya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: (202) 667-2174</td>
<td>El Mouradia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs:</td>
<td>16000 Algiers, Algeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministere des Affaires Etrangeres</td>
<td>Tel: 213-2-60-03-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, rue Ibn Badran</td>
<td>Fax: 213-2-69-15-95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El-Mouradia</td>
<td>Prime Minister:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16050 Algeria</td>
<td>Ahmed Benbitour, Premier Ministère</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: 011 213 260 8050 / 8499</td>
<td>Palais du Gouvernement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: 011 213 260 5161 / 5210</td>
<td>Rue du Docteur Saadane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16000 Algiers, Algeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tel: 213-2-73-23-40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fax: 213-2-71-79-27</td>
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Source (“Algeria”): [http://persecution.org/Countries/algeria.html](http://persecution.org/Countries/algeria.html)

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Mauritania (a3)

Religious Atmosphere:

• 99.7% of this country's people are Sunni Muslim. The small Christian population is composed mainly of expatriates.

Government:

• This nation is an Islamic Republic. Islam is the religion of the State and its people.
• Proselytizing by non-Muslims is prohibited.
• Authorities have arrested and detained individuals who have passed on Christian religious materials to Muslim citizens.
• Converting from Islam can result in the death penalty.

Suggested Actions You Might Take:

• Pray for any Christians in Mauritania that they may be protected from harm and that the Christian message may be heard and received by all.
• Write a respectful letter to one or more of the government officials listed below. Express your continuing concern for the safety and well being of the Christian community in Mauritania. Request information about what steps the government is taking to ensure their protection and freedom to practice their faith as laid out in the UN’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights documents.
• Contact the elected national officials (Senators, Congressman etc.) for your area as well as the U.S. State Department and express concern for the well being of the Christians in Mauritania asking them to make an inquiry into their status.

Official Contacts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Embassy of Mauritania</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2129 Leroy Pl., N.W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington, DC 20008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: (202) 232-5700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: (202) 319-2623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maaouya Ould Sidi Ahmed Taya, President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presidence de la Republique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.P. 184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nouakchott, Mauritania</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Ministere des Affaires Etrangeres et du Cooperation |
| Boite Postale 230 |
| Nouakchott, Republique Islamique du Mauritanie |
| Tel: 011 222 2 52020 |
| Fax: 011 222 2 52860 |