Citations for the Report *In Response to Persecution*

**Introduction**

Brother of two Christian victims of ISIS calls in to SAT-7 live programme ‘We Will Sing,’ Sat-7 UK, (February 18, 2015), YouTube video available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-yCmnyzYeW8&t=184s

“These beheadings accounted for a mere twenty-one of the 7,100 Christians whom Open Doors estimates died for their faith in 2015....”


“Christians have been targeted for harassment in more countries than any other religious group....”

“The Pew Research Center reports that between 2007 and 2013, governmental restrictions on religion increased in 37 out of 43 European countries....”


**The Contexts of Persecution**

“Dr. Charles Tieszen defines religious persecution as...”


“Feeling empowered by Morsi, a group of Egyptian Islamic scholars signed a common letter in August 2012 in which they called for the killing of Christians....”

Syria and Iraq

“In March 2016, the U.S. State Department declared that Christians, as well as Yazidis and Shiites, were victims of genocide at the hands of the Islamic State....”


“In 1987, when Iraq took its most recent census, Christians made up about 8 percent of the population....”


“Christians have been present on the Nineveh Plain for more than sixteen centuries....”

Suha Rassam, Christianity in Iraq, new ed. (Leominster, Australia: Gracewing, 2010), 25-30.

“In the 1920s, they made up some 30 percent of the country's population....”


“Since 2011, an estimated two-thirds of Christians have left Aleppo, their population plummeting from an estimated 110,000 in 2010 to 30,000 today....”


“Nationwide, even before the war, Christians had declined to some 5 to 6 percent of the population due to emigration and lower birth rates, but they are now estimated to make up only about 3 percent of Syria’s population.”


“One Jesuit priest, Paolo dall’Oglio, had run an interreligious monastery for thirty years and sought to carry out interreligious dialogue during the conflict....”

Turkey

“When the Ottoman Empire entered World War I on the side of the Central Powers in late 1914, its Christian population (in the region that later became Turkey) numbered 4.5 million....”


“Today, Turkey's five Christian communities number 1,700-2,000 Greek Orthodox Christians; 60,000 Armenian Orthodox Christians; 15,000-30,000 Armenian Christians; about 3,500 Roman Catholics; and some 4,000 Protestants. The surrounding population is 98 percent Muslim....”

Sources vary on the number of Christians in Turkey today. The U.S. International Religious Freedom Report offers slightly different figures. See:


“During World War I, 1.5 million Armenian Christians were killed in genocidal violence....”


“[T]he 2006 murder of a Roman Catholic priest, Fr. Andrea Santoro, at the hands of a Muslim assassin; the 2007 murder of Armenian journalist Hrant Dink....”


Egypt, Libya, and Gaza

“Various sources estimate that Christians make up between 5 percent and 10 percent of Egypt's population....”


“[O]ne episode in which they assaulted sixty-four Christian places of worship within twelve hours....”


The Christian community in Gaza dates back to the fourth century, but according to a March 2014 estimate, the community today has only about 1,300 people. Bernard Saballa, Palestinian Christians: Historical Demographic Developments, Current Politics and Attitudes Towards Church, Society and Human Rights (Jerusalem: Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center, 2006), 42.

Iran and Saudi Arabia


In Saudi Arabia, the vast majority of Christians are expatriate laborers from South and East Asia; they number between 1.25 million and 3.5 million in a population of about 29 million.


In 2014 alone, Iran arrested about 500 Christians.


Their numbers are not known, but in 2012 Germany granted asylum to 4,384 Iranians, many of whom were Christians.


Sub-Saharan Africa

Kenya, which is 82 percent Christian and 11 percent Muslim.


Boko Haram, it is estimated, has destroyed over 200 churches, internally displaced 1.5 million people, created 200,000 refugees, inflicted 13,000 deaths, and kidnapped and made sex slaves of Christian women.

These statistics are taken from Nigeria’s National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).


India and Sri Lanka

“In India, where Christians are officially estimated to account for 2.3 percent of the population…”


“The Supreme Court has upheld anti-conversion laws that restrain Christians in some six states....”


“The best known examples are the riots in Kandhamal, Odisha, in 2007 and 2008, in which at least fifty Christians were killed, many more suffered assaults, and an estimated 30,000 were forced into refugee camps....”


“Christians, who form 8 percent of the population…”


“An estimated 103 such incidents took place in 2013 and another 111 in 2014....”


“Christians engaged in limited violent retaliation (though not nearly on the scale of the violence they received), destroying some 120 Hindu homes....”


Pakistan and Afghanistan

“Christians in Pakistan, about 2 percent of the population...”

“Though there has been no census since before 2001, it is estimated that there are 500 to 8,000 Christians in the country....”


Indonesia

“Muslims constitute 87.2 percent of Indonesia’s population, while Christians make up almost 9.9 percent (7 percent Protestant and 2.9 percent Catholic)....”


China

“[O]ne 2010 estimate held that some 5.5 million Catholics and 23 million Protestants populated China’s official churches....”


Vietnam and Laos

“Christians are 10 percent of Vietnam’s population of 93 million....”


“less than 3 percent of Laos’s population of seven million....”


Russia

“Suffering as a result are non-Orthodox Christians, who make up less than 5 percent of the Russian population....”

Central Asian Republics

“Meanwhile, ethnic Russians, most of whom identify as Orthodox Christians, are less than 25 percent of the population in Kazakhstan, less than 7.7 percent in Kyrgyzstan, and less than 5 percent in each of the other republics....”

Demographic data comes from several sources, including: U.S. Department of State, International Reports on Religious Freedom (2013-2014); USCIRF Country Reports (2013-2014); CIA World Factbook; and USSR Nationalities Data, found at: https://chnm.gmu.edu/1989/exhibits/nationalities/introduction/item/383

The West

“The Pew Research Center reports that between 2007 and 2013, governmental restrictions on religion increased in 37 out of 43 European countries, as well as in Canada and the United States, while social hostilities increased in 38 out of 43 countries....”