



## Islam's War on Christianity



Christians are the most persecuted religious group in the world according to a study by the Pew Forum released in 2010. There are reports of Christians being persecuted in 131 of the world's 193+ nations, and of the top [50 countries](#) listed as the worst persecutors of Christians by Open Doors, 38 of those nations are predominantly Muslim.

**Saudi Arabia is a Sharia Law nation and a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council.**

On March 16, 2012 there was a compelling editorial in the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#). In the article it stated:

*If the pope called for the destruction of all the mosques in Europe, the uproar would be cataclysmic. Pundits would lambaste the church, the White House would rush out a statement of deep concern, and rioters in the Middle East would kill each other in their grief. But when the most influential leader in the Muslim world issues a fatwa to destroy Christian churches, the silence is deafening.*

*On March 12, Sheik Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah, the grand mufti of Saudi Arabia, declared that it is 'necessary to destroy all the churches of the region.' The ruling came in response to a query from a Kuwaiti delegation over proposed*

*legislation to prevent construction of churches in the emirate. The mufti based his decision on a story (in the Hadith 45:17) that on his deathbed, Muhammad declared, "There are not to be two religions in the [Arabian] Peninsula" [Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Yemen, United Arab Emirates]. This passage has long been used to justify intolerance in the kingdom. Churches have always been banned in Saudi Arabia, and until recently Jews were not even allowed in the country. Those wishing to worship in the manner of their choosing must do so hidden away in private, and even then the morality police have been known to show up unexpectedly and halt proceedings.*

*This is not a small-time radical imam trying to stir up his followers with fiery hate speech. This was a considered, deliberate and specific ruling from one of the most important leaders in the Muslim world. It does not just create a religious obligation for those over whom the mufti has direct authority; it is also a signal to others in the Muslim world that destroying churches is not only permitted but mandatory.*

Many in the western world have heard and followed the plight of Iranian Pastor Yousef Nadarkhani who has been imprisoned and is to be executed for converting from Islam to Christianity. Even as Westerners learned of him, most were unaware that [129 Christians in Sudan](#) were imprisoned and a [Christian in Somalia](#) was beheaded for converting to Christianity.



Pastor Yousef Nadarkhani

[Figures](#) released at the International Conference on Inter-religious Dialogue between Christians, Jews and Muslims held in Hungary reveal that a Christian is killed every five

minutes somewhere in the world because of his or her faith. Earlier this year former French President [Nicolas Sarkozy](#) declared, "We cannot accept and thereby facilitate what looks more and more like a particularly perverse program of religious cleansing in the Middle East."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) reported that since the removal of Saddam Hussein in 2003, "at least 54 Iraqi churches have been bombed and at least 905 Christians killed in various acts of violence." And despite the overthrow of the Taliban in Afghanistan by Western forces, the [last public church](#) in the nation was destroyed in March of 2010. Former Lebanese President [Amine Gemayal](#), said, "Massacres are taking place for no reason and without any justification against Christians...What is happening to Christians is genocide." In October of 2011, the [Egyptian military](#) opened fire and used armored vehicles to run over Christians who were protesting the attacks on their churches in Cairo. At least 35 Christians were killed and over 300 wounded.



The persecution and systematic removal of other religions by Islam is not limited to the Arabian Peninsula. Religious cleansing is underway in nations around the world.

- [Nigeria](#): The Islamist group Boko Haram killed at least 510 people, mostly Christians, and burned down or destroyed over 350 churches in ten northern states in 2011. At the beginning of 2012, the group issued an ultimatum giving Christians living in the northern region three days to evacuate or die.
- [Sudan](#): Hundreds of thousands of Christians in Sudan were forced to either leave the nation or be treated as foreigners when the government stripped Christians of their citizenship because the government desires an Islamic state.
- [Indonesia](#): After the election of an Islamic governor in Indonesia's Aceh Province, seventeen churches were forced to close under an agreement signed in 2001 allowing only one church and four chapels in the province. Many of the region's 12,000 Christians continue to worship in houses and other buildings.
- [Other nations](#): In one month, April 2012, there have been attacks on churches in Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan and Tunisia. Islamists murdered two pastors in the Philippines, and other

Christians have been beaten or imprisoned for their faith in Algeria, Egypt, Iran, and Pakistan.

The violence extends to Christian children too. A [12-year-old Christian](#) girl was kidnapped and gang raped by a militant Muslim group for eight months in Pakistan. She was forcibly converted to Islam and married to one of the rapists. After escaping, the girl returned home. When her family attempted to file charges against her rapists, the police informed her parents to hand her over to her "legal" Muslim husband or criminal charges would be filed against them. The Christian family is in hiding. In another case in Pakistan, a [2-year-old Christian](#) girl was raped because her father refused to convert to Islam.

The persecution of Christians within Islamic nations is largely ignored by much of western media, and it is reaching epidemic proportions. Roughly only one out of every few hundred or so cases of Christian persecution receives any attention.

#### Ways we, as Christians, can respond:

- Guard our hearts from fear and anger - just as the Apostle Paul when he was imprisoned in Acts 16. His attitude culminated in the salvation of the jailer and his family.
- The majority of believers are not aware that Christians are still persecuted in our world today. By becoming informed we can help raise awareness and advocate for the persecuted church. (An informative website is [The Voice of the Martyrs](#)).
- Use social network sites such as Facebook and Twitter to raise awareness.
- Contact your political and government leaders; urging them to use their influence to help persecuted Christians.
- PRAY that while our brothers and sisters are persecuted, God's overwhelming grace and His protection will be with them.
- PRAY as believers sit in a cold, dark cell they can rejoice in the Lord and be a powerful witness to all.
- PRAY their persecutors will fall on their faces in awe of the glory of God.

**Remember those in prison, as if  
you were there yourself.  
Remember also those being  
mistreated, as if you felt their  
pain in your own bodies.**

*Hebrews 13:3 (NLT)*