

Noteworthy

The noteworthy items are structured in three groups: annual reports and global surveys, regional and country reports, and specific issues. Though we apply serious criteria in the selection of items noted, it is beyond our capacity to scrutinize the accuracy of every statement made. We therefore disclaim responsibility for the contents of the items noted. The compilation was produced by Janet Epp Buckingham and Monica Rawlek Elizondo.

Annual reports and global surveys

Religious Freedom Report 2018

Aid to the Church in Need, August 2018

<https://religious-freedom-report.org/>

The ACN includes a map of countries that face discrimination and persecution, ranking them by persecution or discrimination and indicating either their decline or improvement from previous years, along with a detailed summary of their findings.

Commentary on the Current State of Freedom of Religion or Belief

All Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion or Belief (APPGFORB), December 2018

<https://bit.ly/3qw9XGC>

This report provides an overview, by country, regarding violations made against religious freedom. Although not comprehensive, the report places an emphasis on those countries in which freedom of religion is most at stake.

Global Uptick in Government Restrictions on Religion

Pew Forum, 14 August 2018

<http://pewrsr.ch/3baBLK6>

A study of 198 countries, tracking government restrictions on religion and social hostilities against religion and their growth since 2016.

Prisoners Database

Human Rights Without Frontiers, 2018

<https://hrwf.eu/forb-and-blasphemy-prisoners-database-archive/>

Human Rights Without Frontiers compiles a list by country of people who have been imprisoned for seeking to practice their rights to freedom of religion or belief.

United Nations Special Rapporteur reports**Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Ahmed Shaheed,****28 February 2018**<https://undocs.org/A/HRC/37/49>

The UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief issued a report focused on “Relationships between State and religion and their impact on freedom of religion or belief”.

Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Ahmed Shaheed,**5 September 2018**<https://undocs.org/A/73/362>

The UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief issued a report focused on the relationship between freedom of religion or belief and national security.

2018 Report on international religious freedom**US Department of State, 21 June 2019**<https://bit.ly/2ZneFKK>

The US Department of State produces a comprehensive annual report on international religious freedom.

USCIRF Victims List**United States Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)**<https://www.uscirf.gov/victims-list/>

The USCIRF maintains a list of victims of religious persecution.

USCIRF Annual Report**United States Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF),****25 April 2018**<https://www.uscirf.gov/sites/default/files/2018USCIRFAR.pdf>

USCIRF outlines 16 countries of particular concern (CPC) regarding religious freedoms. Also included in this report is an examination of entities that pose a particular threat to religious freedoms.

World Watch List 2018 Compilation Volume 1: All main documents excluding country profiles**Open Doors International, January 2018**<https://bit.ly/3s2u53h>

This detailed report includes all main documents, excluding country profiles, for the World Watch List. Specifics of this report include 2018 statistics regarding countries facing the greatest religious persecution, analyses of violence, and an examination of the trends related to religious persecution.

World Watch List 2018 Compilation Volume 2: Top 50 short and simple persecution profiles**Open Doors International/World Watch Research Unit, January 2018**<https://bit.ly/2ZoUV9N>

This document analyzes the persecution in the fifty most dangerous countries to be a Christian with specific attention to where persecution comes from, how Christians are suffering, and case examples in each of the fifty countries.

Regional and country reports**Algeria: Submission to the United Nations Human Rights Committee****Amnesty International, 28 May 2018**<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde28/8455/2018/en/>

This country review of Algeria presented by the Human Rights Committee outlines the key areas within Algerian law and government that conflict with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The purpose of this report is to promote a change in domestic legislation as well as to highlight key areas in which authorities within Algeria regularly undermine rights, including but not limited to, freedom of religion and peaceful assembly.

Azerbaijan: Religious Freedom Survey**Forum 18, 7 November 2018**<https://www.forum18.org/analyses.php?region=23>

Information provided in this survey includes exploitation of the rule of law, human rights violations permitted by state law, and the total state control of Islamic communities.

China: NGOs Unite Against Religious Freedom Oppression in China**Human Rights Without Frontiers, 2018**<https://bit.ly/2PxnDDx>

The Church of Almighty God is a Chinese Christian religious movement that has amassed wide popularity in China since its formation in 1991. Although not partaking in politics or advocating for revolution, the church has attracted widespread persecution by the Chinese Communist Party. This report compiles submissions from numerous NGOs as well as reports from the United Nations Universal Periodic Review.

Cuba: Freedom of Religion or Belief**Christian Solidarity Worldwide, 13 December 2018**<https://www.csw.org.uk/2018/12/13/report/4173/article.htm>

This report deals with negative developments in the government's approach to freedom of religion.

Europe: Report 2018**Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians in Europe**

<https://bit.ly/3gVKWR4>

The Observatory's report provides descriptions of over 500 incidents in 2016 and 2017 affecting Christians and Christian institutions from across Europe. It also explains the terminology used by the Observatory.

**Iran: Rights Denied: Violations Against Ethnic and Religious Minorities in Iran
Minority Rights Group International, 13 March 2018**

<http://bit.ly/3qpROdr>

Iran's constitution recognizes religious freedom, but this right is extended only to Islam, historical Christianity, Judaism and Zoroastrianism. Practitioners of other religions, and at times these religions as well, face a denial of their rights, opportunities, and freedoms promised by law.

Kazakhstan: Religious Freedom Survey**Forum 18, 4 September 2018**

https://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2409

The report documents Kazakhstan's violations of freedom of religion or belief coupled with violations of freedom of expression.

Middle East/North Africa: Annual Report 2017**Middle East Concern, 5 April 2018**

<https://bit.ly/3bhvE6K>

MEC advocates on behalf of people in the Middle East and North Africa who are persecuted and/or imprisoned for their Christian faith. In this annual report, MEC analyzes trends, documents major events, and provides tools for readers to fight for justice within these countries.

Nigeria: Freedom of Religion or Belief**Christian Solidarity Worldwide, 9 July 2018**

<https://www.csw.org.uk/2018/07/09/report/4036/article.htm>

This report documents the worsening situation for religious freedom in central Nigeria since 2015.

Turkey: 2017 human rights violation report**International Institute for Religious Freedom, 2017**

<https://www.iirf.eu/journal-books/iirf-reports-english/iirf-reports-2018-1/>

The Association of Protestant Churches' in Turkey annual report on religious freedom violations.

Special issues

2018 Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedoms

United States Government, 2018

<https://2017-2021.state.gov/2018-ministerial-to-advance-religious-freedom/index.html>

The US government hosted the first-ever Ministerial to advance religious freedom around the world in Washington DC, held 24-26 July 2018.

Minority and Indigenous Trends 2018

Minority Rights Group International, 12 September 2018

<https://bit.ly/3ssKY88>

Focusing on migration and displacement, Minority Rights Group International notes in this report that religious discrimination and prejudice can often play a role in the migration and displacement of minority groups.

Peoples Under Threat 2018

Minority Rights Group International, 13 June 2018

<https://minorityrights.org/publications/peoplesunderthreat2018/>

Peoples Under Threat highlights countries and situations around the world in which people are at the greatest risk for genocide, mass killings, and systematic violent repression. Many of the groups documented as being at the greatest risk of threat are religious minorities in various countries.

Advertisement of editorial position

International Journal for Religious Freedom

Editor of “Noteworthy” section

The IJRF is looking for a volunteer with immediate effect to edit its Noteworthy section. This task includes proactively sourcing, writing and editing short pieces of information mainly about non-book publications regarding religious freedom and persecution. These are to be continuously and promptly published on the IIRF website and Facebook site at a rate of at least one item per week. The best of these need to be selected once or twice a year for printing in IJRF. Requirements: We need someone who will do the final editing independently, self-driven and in time. Good competency in English and thoroughness are necessary. Outsourcing of tasks to interns and other volunteers is possible. This position is not remunerated. Time needed: An hour every week and one day every half year.

Contact: Dr Janet Epp Buckingham, Executive Editor, editor@iirf.eu.




Global Christian Forum

Discrimination, Persecution, Martyrdom: Following Christ Together

Report of the global consultation
Tirana, Albania, 2-4 November 2015



Bonn: VKW, 2018, 294 pp., Paperback ISBN 978-3-86269-155-5
Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2018, ISBN 9781532653650, US\$32.

Free: <https://globalchristianforum.org/important-papers/>