

## 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.

### *Annual reports and global surveys*

#### **Hatred on the basis of religion or belief**

UN Special Rapporteur on Religious Freedom, 8 January 2024

<http://tinyurl.com/3y35xs7b>

The Special Rapporteur calls for greater efforts to counter hate speech, promote freedom of religion or belief, foster interfaith and intercultural dialogue and understanding and protect religious and belief minorities while upholding all human rights.

#### **Freedom of religion or belief, from the grass-roots level**

UN Special Rapporteur on Religious Freedom, 19 July 2023

<http://tinyurl.com/bdff4f6>

The Special Rapporteur considers the lived reality of freedom of religion or belief and the range of State authorities that carry the obligation for ensuring its enjoyment, and which can be complemented by the contribution of non-State actors.

#### **World Watch List 2024**

World Watch Research, Open Doors International, January 2024

<http://tinyurl.com/59b88a6r>

The WWL 2024 Full Country dossiers provide in-depth information on the situation of Christians in the 78 countries listed. Among the top countries with an extreme degree of persecution are North Korea (96 points), Somalia (93 points), Libya (91 points), Eritrea (89 points), Yemen (89 points), Nigeria (88 points), Pakistan (87 points), Sudan (87 points), Iran (86 points) and Afghanistan (84 points).

### *Regional and Country Reports*

#### **China bans faith for all children**

Jubilee Campaign, June 2023 update

<http://tinyurl.com/426wbhs5>

This report comprehensively explains the ways in which the Chinese state has persecuted Christian, Uyghur, Falun Gong, and Tibetan Buddhist children for their family's or their personal religious or spiritual affiliations.

### **Europe: 2022/23 Annual Report**

Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination Against Christians in Europe, October 2023

<https://tinyurl.com/pk5ztp69>

The OIDAC Europe produces an annual report documenting hate crimes against Christians. The report shows increasing restrictions on Christians' freedom of expression. As well, the conflicts in Ukraine and Armenia have had disproportionate impacts on Christians.

### **Indonesia: Country update**

USCIRE, January 2024

<http://tinyurl.com/mr33c47a>

Blasphemy allegations and convictions continue to be persistent religious freedom violations throughout Indonesia. The new criminal code will further criminalize blasphemy and will expand on other religious freedom violations when implemented in 2026. Additionally, local government initiatives to codify discrimination against minority communities, including religious minorities, continue to gain traction throughout the country.

### **Iran: Faceless victims: Rights violations against Christians in Iran**

Article 18, Open Doors, Middle East Concern, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, 19 February 2024

<http://tinyurl.com/yz9fbdmh>

This 2024 annual report focuses on the many victims whose names and faces remain unknown, due to fear that publication of their cases may worsen their plight.

### **Libya: Religious freedom conditions in Libya**

USCIRE, 19 December 2023

<http://tinyurl.com/2ruush6w>

This factsheet reports on recent religious freedom conditions in Libya, identifying some of the various actors, including successive Tripoli governments and rebel organizations in the east, that have restricted freedom of religion or belief.

### **Nicaragua: Hostile takeover: Tightening reins on freedom of religion or belief in Nicaragua**

Christian Solidarity Worldwide, 13 February 2024

<http://tinyurl.com/2p9ycyp2>

CSW recorded 310 separate FoRB cases during the period covered by this report (November 2022 through January 2024), compared with 156 cases reported in the period covered by its previous report (November 2021 through November 2022). Most cases involved multiple FoRB violations and some affected thousands of people.

### **Pakistan: Assessing blasphemy law in Pakistan**

USCIRF, December 2023

<http://tinyurl.com/za7e8fk5>

Following the mob attack on the Christian community in Jaranwala in August 2023, this report describes the increasing use of Pakistan's blasphemy law during 2023 to target individuals based on their religion or belief, including its disproportionate use against the country's religious minority populations.

### **Sub-Saharan Africa: VID shows sub-Saharan countries are the epicentre of modern martyrdom**

International Institute for Religious Freedom, 29 January 2024

<http://tinyurl.com/bdfa38xa>

In the new Violent Incidents Database, funded by Global Christian Relief and conducted by the International Institute for Religious Freedom, four of the top five countries with the most killings of Christians during the 2022-2023 period are in Africa. Nigeria has by far the greater number, followed by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (second), Mozambique (fourth), and Burkina Faso (fifth).

### **Tunisia**

IPPFoRB and RFI, July 2023

<http://tinyurl.com/yc72ah8a>

Tunisia is one of the less problematic countries in the Middle East and North Africa with regard to treatment of religious communities, and it boasts a long tradition as home to diverse religious communities. However, with the re-emergence of authoritarianism, the decline of democracy and human rights, and the instability created by economic collapse, there is an increased risk of intolerance and persecution of religious communities.

## ***Specific Issues***

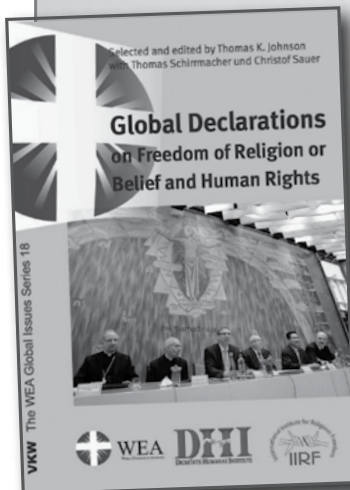
**The right to peaceful assembly and freedom of religion or belief (FoRB)**

Open Doors, 3 November 2023

<http://tinyurl.com/3y6evzfz>

This policy brief outlines some of the most common violations of the right to peaceful assembly that intersect with the right to FoRB. Four countries are covered as case studies: India, Rwanda, Nicaragua and Algeria.

# **Global Declarations on Freedom of Religion or Belief and Human Rights**



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