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The Religious Freedom Report is a monthly update about the persecution of the Church worldwide. It is a joint project of [The Institute on Religion & Democracy](#) in Washington D.C., and the [Acton Institute for the Study of Religion & Liberty](#) in Grand Rapids, Mich. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, simply click the unsubscribe button on the bottom of the page. Thanks for reading.

[Christians Killed for Faith Nearly Doubled in 2013, Group Finds](#)

Rev. Faye Pama Musa knew immediately why suspected Boko Haram militants burst into his home last year as his wife prepared dinner in the family's northeastern Nigeria home. His stance against Christian persecution in the divided African nation had long made him a target.

[Persecution of Christians in the Middle East the Worst Ever in History](#)

The persecution of Christians in the Middle East is accelerating and nobody is paying attention. The rise in Islamic militancy is a byproduct of the Arab Spring and Christian minorities throughout the Islamic world are facing threats that until now, were considered unimaginable.

[Warsi Sounds Warning over Persecution of Christians in Middle East Saying it has Become a 'Global Crisis'](#)

Britain's most senior Muslim politician, Sayeeda Warsi, has warned that the persecution of Christians has become 'a global crisis'.

[Nigeria: Death Toll Rises in Boko Haram Attacks](#)

The number of fatalities resulting from attacks in Nigeria on 26 January has risen to at least 138.

Islamist terror group Boko Haram, officially labelled a 'Foreign Terrorist Organisation' by the US government in November last year, is suspected to have coordinated the violence.

'Boko Haram' translates as 'Western education is sacrilege'. The group has ties to Al-Qaeda and is responsible for over 2,000 deaths in Nigeria since 2009. Its leadership has declared it aims to cleanse the country of Christians, eradicate Nigerian democracy and replace it with an Islamic state guided by Sharia law.

[Junior Jihad: Syrian Rebels Present Four-Year-Old Fighter](#)

In the latest alarming evidence of [child soldiers](#) being used by Syrian rebel forces, an Islamist brigade linked to Al Qaeda released footage of a four year old it claimed as its youngest recruit.

[Hindu Extremists Targeting Indian Christians](#)

Barnabas Aid reports that although the constitution of India guarantees religious freedom for all citizens, radical Hindu fundamentalists have been targeting Christians.

[Pakistan's Christians Facing New Challenges](#)

Pakistan's Christians have been facing severe persecution, and now many are expressing concern about potential new changes in the nation's blasphemy laws.

[Will Christianity Survive in Iraq?](#)

Some church buildings in Iraq were built as far back as the ninth century.

Even though many of these structures have survived, they are now protected by blast walls, barbed wire, police vehicles and security cameras. Worshipers are patted down and checked for explosives before being allowed to enter the buildings.

[Report: Thousands of Syrian Refugees Converting to Christianity](#)

Christian Aid Mission, a Protestant organization based in Virginia, is reporting that thousands of Syrian refugees are converting to Christianity in Turkey, Lebanon, and Iraq.

[Are Persecuted Christians Worthy of Concern in Syria but not North Korea?](#)

The Orwellian persecution of Christians in the world's most brutal dictatorship, North Korea, [can be read about in this chilling report](#).

[Persecution of North Korean Christians Expected To Increase](#)

New guidelines recently released by the North Korean Ministry of People's Security could mean more persecution for Christians.

[Sri Lanka's Christians Protest Buddhist Attacks on Churches](#)

In the wake of two recent Buddhist attacks on Protestant churches, more than 2,000 Sri Lankan Christians joined in a protest in Colombo, the nation's capital, to urge the government to do more to protect religious freedom, according to a UCA News report.