

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

2022 Report on international religious freedom

US Office of International Religious Freedom Religious Freedom, 15 May 2023

<https://bit.ly/46YBENk>

This annual survey of the state of religious freedom around the world was produced under the direction of Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Rashad Hussain.

2023 Nairobi Declaration on Freedom of Religion or Belief

IPPFORB, 3 May 2023

<https://bit.ly/46oxYKn>

Statement from the fourth International Parliamentarians' Conference, "Leave No one Behind: The Role of Freedom of Religion or Belief in Advancing Human Flourishing and Just Societies," held on 2-3 May 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Advancing freedom of religion or belief: The impact of IPPFORB's network in 2022

IPPFORB, 9 August 2023

<https://bit.ly/3QUJS48>

This article details the activities carried out in 2022 by IPPFORB, its partners, and individual parliamentarians who have been instrumental in driving positive change.

Landscape of freedom of religion or belief

UN Special Rapporteur on Religious Freedom, 30 January 2023

<https://bit.ly/3OJtG2O>

This first report by newly appointed UN Special Rapporteur for freedom of religion or belief Nazila Ghanea provides an overview of FoRB in the world. It was submitted to the UN Human Rights Council.

Statement on the Persecution of Christians

IRFBA, 17 May 2023

<https://www.state.gov/irfba-statement-on-christians/>

Statement expressing concern about persecution of Christians around the world.

Regional and Country Reports

Europe: Status of freedom of religion or belief in the European Union

USCIRF, 24 July 2023

<https://bit.ly/45SkWOo>

This document presents an overview of the topic. The EU and many of its member states are active in promoting religious freedom abroad, yet some EU countries have nonetheless maintained or implemented laws and policies that restrict the rights of religious minority groups or impact them in a discriminatory manner.

India: Violence in Manipur, north-east India

IRFBA, 21 June 2023

<https://bit.ly/3qj0UHx>

This report details grave abuses against human rights, human dignity and disruption of peaceful relations between people groups seven weeks after communal violence broke out in Manipur, north-east India.

Iran: Rights violations against Christians in Iran

Article 18, Open Doors, MEC, CSW, 19 February 2023

<https://bit.ly/47MAd5t>

This joint report outlines ongoing violations of the rights of the Christian minority in Iran, including churches being closed to Persian-speaking believers. Christians have also faced criminal charges for supporting protests against the death of Mahsa Amini.

Iraq: 2002-2023. The Challenges facing Iraqi Christians: Finding a way forward

Stand with Iraqi Christians and others, May 2023

<https://bit.ly/45GTOCl>

This report is a compilation of articles authored by different institutions and journalists analyzing the history of Iraqi Christians and the current situation.

Iraq: Christians in post-2003 Iraq: Fragmentation dynamics, ethnic and sectarian fault lines

CRFI, 11 August 2023

<https://bit.ly/45HtqYV>

The report examines the aftermath of the US-led war in Iraq and the precipitous drop in the Christian population.

Iraq: Country overview

Religious Freedom Institute, March 2023

<https://religiousfreedominstitute.org/country-overview-iraq/>

An RFI report on Iraq with the goal of understanding issues and recommending policy on religious freedom.

Latin America: Bi-annual report, January-July 2023

Observatory of Religious Freedom in Latin America, 15 August 2023

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

This report documents violent incidents on the basis of religion in the Latin American region.

Latin America: Religious freedom for Indigenous communities in Latin America

USCIRE, June 2023

<https://bit.ly/3YQ8IUx>

This report provides detailed information about recent religious freedom violations against Indigenous communities and individuals; analyzes the international mechanisms intended to protect Indigenous peoples' religious freedom, and assesses domestic legal measures related to the protection of Indigenous peoples' right to manifest their religion.

Mozambique: Escalating military violence impacting peace and stability

Open Doors Canada, 29 June 2023

<https://bit.ly/3QVOx5E>

This report examines the impact of military violence on Mozambican Christians and makes policy recommendations to protect believers.

Nepal country update

USCIRE, 17 August 2023

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

This report provides an overview of religious freedom conditions in Nepal, examining how the country's criminalization of proselytism, blasphemy, and cow slaughter violates protections of the right to freedom of religion or belief under international human rights law.

Nigeria: Unfolding genocide?

APPG FoRB (UK), July 2023

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

A report by the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion or Belief on violence against Christians in Nigeria, following hearings on the topic.

Nigeria: Killings and abductions in Nigeria (10/2019-9/22)

Observatory for Religious Freedom in Africa, 24 February 2023

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

This report documents killings and abductions by region of Nigeria and by type of attack.

Tunisia: Annual report: Religious freedom Tunisia 2022

Attalaki, May 2023

<https://bit.ly/47GfoZD>

This is the annual religious freedom report of the Attalaki Organization's Committee for Religious Freedom, a Tunisian youth organization.

Yemen: Religious freedom in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen

USCIRF, May 2023

<https://bit.ly/3Ebx7uk>

This factsheet explains how Houthi governance justified on religious grounds is putting severe pressure on religious minorities in Yemen, including Christians, Baha'is, Jews, and non-religious persons.

Specific Issues

Coptic Identity: Recognizing the Coptic Indigenous population status for protection from state-sponsored discrimination

Coptic Solidarity, May 2023

<https://bit.ly/47MyEV9>

This report outlines the history and current status of Coptic Christians in Egypt and the Middle East.

Gender-specific persecution: A web of forces

Open Doors International, March 2023

<https://bit.ly/45qjiEg>

Open Doors' third annual report on gender-specific persecution.

Refugees: Report on Zomi-Myanmar refugees in Malaysia and India

Mission of Hope, June 2023

<http://zomirefugee.org/mission-of-hope-report-on-zomi-refugees/>

This report by a fact-finding mission to Malaysia and India seeks to show how Zomi inside and outside Burma have been persecuted.

Sanctions: Assessing the impact of sanctions on humanitarian work

Geneva Graduate Institute, WCC, WEA, CI and ACT Alliance, March 2023

<https://bit.ly/3P8sjfw>

A systematic overview of the challenges that sanctions pose to the humanitarian work of churches, exploring pathways for addressing these challenges.

Violent militancy

Open Doors, May 2023

<https://bit.ly/45FhLKj>

An Open Doors Canada brief on Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Cameroon.

Book reviews

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