

WORLD WATCH LIST 2016

Guide to Global Persecution



48

BAHRAIN

PERSECUTION IN BAHRAIN

Society is very conservative, the influence of radical Islam is rising in the region, and the government is becoming more authoritarian as a result.

Freedom of assembly and other fundamental rights are constantly violated by the government. Publicly expressing the Christian faith in written form carries serious risks. There is no open violence, but pressure is increasing on Christians. Sharing the gospel with Muslims is illegal. For Muslim-background believers, worshipping, displaying crosses and owning Christian materials can bring serious persecution from their families.

Leader: Sheikh Hamad

Population: 1.4 million (179,000 Christians)

Main Religion: Islam

Government: Constitutional monarchy

World Watch List Rank: 48

Source of Persecution: Islamic extremism/ Dictatorial paranoia



PLEASE PRAY...

- ▶ For God's wisdom for Christians in government and others in leadership - courage, too, in standing up to the threat of violent Islamic extremists
- ▶ Praise God for Christian hospitals, churches and bookstores in the Arabian Peninsula - pray that these ministries will have freedom to shine the light of Christ
- ▶ Give thanks that expat believers can meet freely, and that gatherings are so popular that they need extra room!

THE WORLD WATCH GUIDE 2016

The World Watch Guide 2016 highlights the 50 countries where it is most difficult to live as a Christian. Based on the World Watch List, the most rigorous and detailed report of its kind uses data from Open Doors field workers and independent experts to track the deep structures of persecution, measuring the degree of freedom Christians have to live out their faith in five spheres of life : private, family, community, national and church life. It's an ideal resource for individuals wanting to discover more about the world of the persecuted church.

The World Watch Church Pack is the perfect way to introduce the persecuted church to your church. It includes: a step-by-step Church Service Guide, with prayers, readings, talk outline and discussion questions; a DVD featuring the World Watch film, with testimony from North Korean Christians; and a poster-sized World Watch Map, perfect for displaying in your church.

To order our World Watch resources, go to www.opendoorsuk.org or call the Inspire team on 01993 460015



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