

# WORLD WATCH LIST 2016

## Guide to Global Persecution



35

### BANGLADESH

#### PERSECUTION IN BANGLADESH

Despite declaring war on radical groups, Bangladesh's government is known to give in to Islamic pressure.

Christians remain at risk, particularly in rural areas where they face pressure from families and religious leaders. Violence has increased: a convert to Christianity was killed for her faith, the names of church leaders appeared on a list with death threats, and a pastor was stabbed. Bangladesh's constitution declares that Islam is the state religion, though it is a secular country that allows the practice of religious freedom.

**Leader:** President Abdul Hamid

**Population:** 162.9 million (828,000 Christians)

**Main Religion:** Islam

**Government:** Parliamentary democracy

**World Watch List Rank:** 35

**Source of Persecution:** Islamic extremism/ Religious nationalism



#### PLEASE PRAY...

- ▶ That Christian converts from Islam and Buddhism will not face discrimination in school, work or at home because of their faith
- ▶ That God will protect the vulnerable Christian minority from radical Islamic groups, especially as some groups are now partly allied with Islamic State (IS) militants.
- ▶ For the congregations of nine churches that were closed in 2015 due to security concerns.

### 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](http://www.opendoorsuk.org) or call the Inspire team on 01993 460015



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