

Yemen

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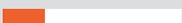
On The World Watch List

“We carry hope that helps us with the certainty that tomorrow will be better... we will pass through this.”

– Nasser*, a believer from Yemen.

Score: 87 / 100

Extreme

| | | |
|-----------------|---|------|
| Violence: |  | 23% |
| Church Life: |  | 100% |
| National Life: |  | 100% |
| Community Life: |  | 99% |
| Family Life: |  | 99% |
| Private Life: |  | 99% |

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Region: | Middle East |
| Leader: | President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi |
| Persecution Level: | Extreme |
| Christian Population: | 3,000 (0%) |
| Main Religion: | Islam |
| Source of Persecution: | Clan Oppression |

Converting to Christianity in Yemen is viewed as a betrayal of one's tribe. Tribal law prohibits members from leaving, the punishment being banishment or death. If the convert is a woman, the clan may force her into a marriage, pressuring her to abandon her faith in Jesus. Extremist groups including al-Qaeda and the Islamic State have also been known to arrest, harass and attack known Christians.

Faith In The Face Of War

In Yemen, the ongoing war, humanitarian crisis and COVID-19 pandemic have impacted all citizens. Christians are additionally vulnerable because emergency relief is often distributed through mosques. There are accounts of Yemeni Christians being refused treatment at under-resourced hospitals. Most migrant Christians have left the country.

Muslim Converts Under Threat

Leaving Islam is forbidden and all Yemenis are considered Muslim, by the state. Christians usually keep their faith secret, as following Jesus is often punished by death. Islamic extremist groups threaten Christians who have converted from Islam, with death. Local tribes may also kill or banish anyone who converts to Christianity. Islamic extremist group, al-Qaeda, also has a strong presence in the south of Yemen, which is particularly dangerous for Muslim converts.

*Name changed for security purposes.

How can we pray for Yemen?

Pray that secret believers and their house churches would be able to operate and support each other.

Many Christian are taking great risks to disciple new believers. Pray God will use them to raise up gifted, sacrificial leaders who are willing to follow Jesus, no matter the cost.

Pray Islamic extremist groups, like al-Qaeda, will be infiltrated by the love of Jesus.

Download the full WWL report at opendoors.org.au/resources or opendoors.org.nz/resources