

Iran

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On The World Watch List

“Non-believing family members changed their views... seeing how the church was taking care of the needy.”

– Iranian pastor during COVID-19.

Score: 86/100

Extreme

Violence:		63%
Church Life:		99%
National Life:		94%
Community Life:		83%
Family Life:		87%
Private Life:		87%

Region:	Middle East
Leader:	Supreme Leader Sayyid Ali Hosseini Khamenei
Persecution Level:	Extreme
Christian Population:	800,000 (1%)
Main Religion:	Islam
Source of Persecution:	Dictatorial Paranoia

Persecution From All Sides

The Iranian government sees Christianity as a Western threat against the Islamic way of life. Secret churches are often raided. Their leaders and church members can be arrested and given long prison sentences for “Crimes against national security.” Those who convert to Christianity, from stricter Muslim families, also face intense persecution at home.

Christians from Armenian and Assyrian communities are protected by the state, but still treated as second-class citizens. They are not allowed to tell others about Jesus or speak in the local language, during church services.

A Tale Of Two Areas

The government’s control of religion is highest in urban areas, while rural areas are monitored less. However, the business of urban areas gives Christians more freedom to organise meetings and activities than in rural areas, where believers are more easily recognised.

How can we pray for Iran?

Pray for Christians who are currently imprisoned for their faith. Pray they will remember the love of Jesus and know He is worth it.

Pray for wisdom for those that advocate for the rights of Christians, both within Iran and outside the country.

Ask God to encourage believers who are isolated from other Christians.

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