

# Maldives

15

## On The World Watch List

Score: 77 / 100

Very High

Violence:	<div style="width: 2%;"><div style="width: 2%;"></div></div>	2%
Church Life:	<div style="width: 99%;"><div style="width: 99%;"></div></div>	99%
National Life:	<div style="width: 95%;"><div style="width: 95%;"></div></div>	95%
Community Life:	<div style="width: 83%;"><div style="width: 83%;"></div></div>	83%
Family Life:	<div style="width: 93%;"><div style="width: 93%;"></div></div>	93%
Private Life:	<div style="width: 92%;"><div style="width: 92%;"></div></div>	92%

Region:	Asia
Leader:	President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih
Persecution Level:	Very High
Christian Population:	1,000 (0.2%)
Main Religion:	Islam
Source of Persecution:	Islamic Oppression

Maldivian Christians must keep their faith completely secret. Authorities have declared the country to be 100% Muslim. Leaving Islam to follow Jesus is not tolerated, and those discovered to be Christian are stripped of their citizenship and risk being arrested, harassed or ostracised from the community.

### Persecution Masked By Luxury

The Maldives is largely seen as a luxury holiday destination. But behind the beauty of the islands lies a strict Islamic regime. The close-knit communities keep a watch for any signs of change, including straying from strict Islamic values.

### Reported And Imprisoned

Christians risk being reported or even imprisoned if discovered by community leaders or authorities. Expatriate Christians, most of whom work in the tourist sector and come from India and Sri Lanka, are also closely watched. Meeting together with other Christians is nearly impossible.

## How can we pray for the Maldives?

Pray for the Lord to provide opportunities for believers to gather safely and grow in faith together.

Pray God will use the Bible to powerfully strengthen, encourage and nurture the lives of believers.

Pray the Lord will be transforming the hearts of government officials, especially President Solih.

Download the full WWL report at [opendoors.org.au/resources](https://opendoors.org.au/resources) or [opendoors.org.nz/resources](https://opendoors.org.nz/resources)