



Qatar

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On The World Watch List

“Every day, God gives us opportunities to show His love to others.”

– Samuel*, Qatari believer.

Score: 67 / 100

Very High



Region: Middle East
 Leader: Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani
 Persecution Level: Very High
 Christian Population: 367,000 (13.1%)
 Main Religion: Islam
 Source of Persecution: Islamic Oppression

Qatar’s constitution states freedom of association and worship. However, these freedoms are framed within the limits of Sharia (Islamic) law. Sharing the gospel is forbidden and can lead to up to ten years in prison or deportation from the country.

The Ultimate Pressure For Locals

Conversion from Islam is not officially recognised in Qatar and is likely to lead to legal problems regarding family and property matters. Very few locals are turning to Jesus. Christian foreign workers have greater freedom to practise their faith. The government has allowed large worship events in the past. However, sharing the gospel with Muslims is strictly forbidden and can lead to deportation. Although the government provides land for migrant Christians to build churches, they are often monitored and heavily regulated.

Choosing Jesus Over Everything

Those who leave Islam to follow Jesus face the most persecution. For a Muslim family, it is a great disgrace when one of its members leaves Islam. Converts run the risk of violence, being ostracised or even honour killing if their families discover their faith. For this reason, many believers keep their faith a secret.

*Name changed for security purposes.

How can we pray for Qatar?

Pray more will hear the gospel and come to know Jesus.

Pray isolated believers will be encouraged and find opportunities to meet.

Pray existing churches will thrive as places of peace and hope for both Qatari and expatriate Christians.

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