

# Kazakhstan

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On The World Watch List

**“The more brutally they beat me, the more I saw their need for a loving Messiah.”**

– Khan\*, a believer from Central Asia.

Score: 64/100

Very High

Violence:	<div><div style="width: 11%;"></div></div>	11%
Church Life:	<div><div style="width: 80%;"></div></div>	80%
National Life:	<div><div style="width: 75%;"></div></div>	75%
Community Life:	<div><div style="width: 66%;"></div></div>	66%
Family Life:	<div><div style="width: 69%;"></div></div>	69%
Private Life:	<div><div style="width: 79%;"></div></div>	79%

Region:	Central Asia
Leader:	President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev
Persecution Level:	Very High
Christian Population:	4,852,000 (25.8%)
Main Religion:	Islam
Source of Persecution:	Dictatorial Paranoia

Over 70% of the population in Kazakhstan is Muslim. Many Kazakhs believe that “To be a Kazakh is to be a Muslim”. Religious freedom is restricted by the law and the government is constantly increasing control over the whole of society, which means increased surveillance, raids on meetings and arrests.

## Faith Under Surveillance

Government officials suppress all church activity that has not been approved by the state and church registration has been repeatedly denied to several Christian groups. Local police also raid underground, secret Christian meetings. They often interrogate and fine those who are present.

Any religious material must be approved by the government. Owning an unapproved Bible is considered hard evidence of conversion and can result in severe consequences.

## The Most Vulnerable

Converting to Christianity can be dangerous, particularly for indigenous Kazakhs from a Muslim background. Relatives oppress converts, sometimes physically abusing or exiling them to convince them to denounce Jesus. Local Islamic leaders have also condemned known Christians and isolated them from the community.

\*Name changed for security purposes.

## How can we pray for Kazakhstan?

Pray that Kazakh Christians will be bold in living out their faith, despite pressure from their families and communities.

Pray that believers will have the opportunity to meet together for fellowship and encouragement.

Pray that the government and Kazakhstan’s leaders will see Christians as a blessing and not a threat to the nation.

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)