
World Watch Research

Central African Republic: Persecution Dynamics

December 2024



OpenDoors

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

Open Doors International / World Watch Research

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World Watch List 2025 – Top 50

Rank	Country	Private life	Family life	Community life	National life	Church life	Violence	Total Score WWL 2025	Total Score WWL 2024	Total Score WWL 2023	Total Score WWL 2022	Total Score WWL 2021
1	North Korea	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	14.4	98	96	98	96	94
2	Somalia	16.5	16.7	16.6	16.6	16.7	11.1	94	93	92	91	92
3	Yemen	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	10.6	94	89	89	88	87
4	Libya	16.0	16.2	15.9	16.2	16.4	10.6	91	91	88	91	92
5	Sudan	14.1	14.2	15.5	14.9	15.3	16.1	90	87	83	79	79
6	Eritrea	14.6	14.9	15.5	15.9	15.9	12.2	89	89	89	88	88
7	Nigeria	13.5	13.9	14.6	14.9	14.5	16.7	88	88	88	87	85
8	Pakistan	13.6	13.9	15.0	15.0	12.9	16.7	87	87	86	87	88
9	Iran	15.0	14.6	13.5	15.9	16.5	10.9	86	86	86	85	86
10	Afghanistan	15.6	15.9	15.9	16.4	16.7	5.0	85	84	84	98	94
11	India	12.2	12.9	13.3	14.9	13.9	16.5	84	83	82	82	83
12	Saudi Arabia	15.2	15.3	14.8	15.8	16.6	3.3	81	81	80	81	78
13	Myanmar	12.6	11.1	13.5	14.1	12.9	16.5	81	79	80	79	74
14	Mali	11.1	10.1	14.7	13.0	15.2	15.6	80	79	76	70	67
15	China	13.2	10.1	12.8	14.6	16.1	11.1	78	78	77	76	74
16	Maldives	15.6	15.3	13.7	15.8	16.5	0.7	78	78	77	77	77
17	Iraq	14.2	14.4	14.3	14.8	13.9	6.1	78	79	76	78	82
18	Syria	13.5	14.4	13.9	14.4	14.3	7.0	78	81	80	78	81
19	Algeria	14.7	14.3	11.5	14.7	16.0	6.3	77	79	73	71	70
20	Burkina Faso	11.7	9.7	13.2	11.5	14.0	15.6	76	75	71	68	67
21	Morocco	13.2	13.8	11.6	12.9	14.3	8.3	74	71	69	69	67
22	Laos	11.8	10.7	13.5	14.1	13.9	9.8	74	75	68	69	71
23	Mauritania	14.6	14.2	13.8	14.2	14.2	2.8	74	72	72	70	71
24	Bangladesh	12.4	10.6	12.7	11.3	10.4	16.1	74	71	69	68	67
25	Uzbekistan	14.6	12.7	13.5	12.4	15.5	4.4	73	71	71	71	71
26	Cuba	13.2	8.5	13.9	13.3	15.1	9.1	73	73	70	66	62
27	CAR	10.3	8.6	13.9	9.6	14.0	15.6	72	70	70	68	66
28	Niger	9.4	9.6	14.5	7.7	14.6	15.7	72	70	70	68	62

December 2024

Rank	Country	Private life	Family life	Community life	National life	Church life	Violence	Total Score WWL 2025	Total Score WWL 2024	Total Score WWL 2023	Total Score WWL 2022	Total Score WWL 2021
29	Turkmenistan	14.3	12.3	13.6	13.9	15.3	1.5	71	70	70	69	70
30	Nicaragua	12.4	7.6	13.7	13.3	14.1	9.6	71	70	65	56	51
31	Mexico	11.7	9.0	12.5	11.8	11.0	14.6	71	68	67	65	64
32	Oman	14.5	14.1	10.9	13.8	14.1	3.0	70	69	65	66	63
33	Ethiopia	9.9	9.7	12.6	10.4	12.1	15.6	70	69	66	66	65
34	Tunisia	12.4	13.2	10.1	12.6	13.8	8.1	70	69	67	66	67
35	DRC	8.0	7.9	12.6	10.8	14.5	16.1	70	67	67	66	64
36	Bhutan	13.2	13.2	12.3	14.1	14.2	2.2	69	68	66	67	64
37	Mozambique	9.3	8.5	13.9	8.4	12.5	15.9	68	68	68	65	63
38	Kazakhstan	13.3	11.6	12.2	12.8	14.2	4.3	68	65	65	64	64
39	Tajikistan	14.1	12.7	12.7	13.2	13.7	1.9	68	66	66	65	66
40	Egypt	12.7	13.7	12.1	12.4	10.9	6.3	68	68	68	71	75
41	Qatar	14.2	14.2	10.5	13.2	14.4	0.7	67	67	68	74	67
42	Comoros	12.7	14.0	11.2	12.4	14.2	2.6	67	66	66	63	62
43	Cameroon	8.8	7.6	12.6	8.4	13.1	16.1	67	66	65	65	64
44	Vietnam	10.8	9.5	12.2	14.1	14.1	5.9	67	68	70	71	72
45	Turkey	13.0	11.7	11.7	13.2	11.5	5.4	67	64	66	65	69
46	Colombia	11.0	7.9	12.7	11.5	10.5	12.6	66	68	71	68	67
47	Kyrgyzstan	13.5	10.3	11.7	11.4	12.4	6.9	66	59	59	58	58
48	Brunei	14.8	14.8	10.8	10.8	14.0	0.6	66	66	65	64	64
49	Chad	11.0	8.2	10.2	9.9	10.3	15.9	65	61	58	55	53
50	Jordan	12.9	14.3	10.4	12.2	12.8	2.4	65	65	65	66	64

World Watch List 2025 – Ranks 51-78

Rank	Country	Private life	Family life	Community life	National life	Church life	Violence	Total Score WWL 2025	Total Score WWL 2024	Total Score WWL 2023	Total Score WWL 2022	Total Score WWL 2021
51	Malaysia	12.8	13.7	11.7	12.4	11.2	3.0	65	64	66	63	63
52	Azerbaijan	13.3	10.2	9.6	12.2	13.7	5.6	65	60	59	60	56
53	Kenya	10.3	9.2	11.4	8.0	11.5	13.9	64	63	64	63	62
54	Nepal	12.2	10.6	9.5	12.6	12.3	5.9	63	62	61	64	66
55	Tanzania	9.3	10.8	10.3	8.6	8.7	15.4	63	62	63	61	58
56	Russian Federation	12.7	7.9	10.7	13.1	14.1	4.4	63	58	57	56	57
57	Djibouti	12.3	12.6	12.7	10.1	12.1	1.7	61	61	60	59	56
58	Kuwait	13.1	13.6	9.4	12.0	12.2	0.9	61	61	64	64	63
59	Indonesia	10.9	11.9	10.9	11.6	10.2	5.7	61	66	68	68	63
60	UAE	13.3	13.4	9.5	11.3	12.8	0.6	61	61	62	62	62
61	Sri Lanka	12.7	8.7	11.5	11.5	8.5	7.6	60	60	57	63	62
62	Palestinian Territories	13.1	13.3	10.3	10.7	12.1	0.2	60	60	60	59	58
63	Burundi	7.6	7.8	9.4	9.8	9.7	14.6	59	57	55	52	48
64	Rwanda	9.4	7.7	9.0	10.4	12.1	9.4	58	58	57	50	42
65	Honduras	7.9	4.7	11.7	7.3	9.9	13.1	55	55	53	48	46
66	Togo	9.2	6.7	10.4	7.1	11.5	9.3	54	52	49	44	43
67	Bahrain	12.0	13.2	8.6	11.3	8.5	0.6	54	55	55	57	56
68	Guinea	10.3	7.5	8.3	8.3	10.5	8.9	54	52	48	43	47
69	Ukraine	6.8	5.0	7.8	12.5	13.5	7.2	53	44	37	37	34
70	Angola	6.8	6.7	8.1	11.5	11.4	8.3	53	52	52	51	46
71	Venezuela	6.3	4.4	11.1	10.0	10.8	9.6	52	53	56	51	39
72	Uganda	8.1	5.0	7.4	6.7	8.8	16.1	52	52	51	48	47
73	Ivory Coast	12.0	6.5	8.7	5.9	8.0	9.6	51	44	44	42	42
74	Lebanon	11.5	10.1	7.0	6.2	6.7	7.2	49	48	40	35	34
75	Gambia	8.3	8.2	8.9	8.8	8.9	4.4	48	47	44	44	43
76	South Sudan	5.7	4.4	7.0	6.3	8.1	15.6	47	46	46	43	43

Rank	Country	Private life	Family life	Community life	National life	Church life	Violence	Total Score WWL 2025	Total Score WWL 2024	Total Score WWL 2023	Total Score WWL 2022	Total Score WWL 2021
77	Belarus	9.9	3.7	5.0	10.8	14.1	3.1	47	46	43	33	30
78	Philippines	9.2	6.6	6.6	6.1	5.7	8.5	43	40	32	34	26

Copyright, sources and definitions

World Watch Research has divided up the previously named Full Country Dossier into two separate documents:

- [Background country information](#) (published annually in summer)
- Persecution dynamics (published annually in January).

These documents are the property of World Watch Research (WWR), the research department of Open Doors International. They include data and analysis based around Open Doors World Watch List (WWL) and statistical information on world religions, Christian denominations and people groups prepared by the World Christian Database (WCD). Highlighted links in the text can be found written out in full at the end of each document under the heading “External links”. These documents may be used and distributed free of charge, but please always acknowledge the source as: © Open Doors International.

The definition of persecution used in WWL analysis is: “Any hostility experienced as a result of one’s identification with Christ. This can include hostile attitudes, words and actions towards Christians”. This broad definition includes (but is not limited to) restrictions, pressure, discrimination, opposition, disinformation, injustice, intimidation, mistreatment, marginalization, oppression, intolerance, infringement, violation, ostracism, hostilities, harassment, abuse, violence, ethnic cleansing and genocide.

The latest update of WWL Methodology can be found on the research pages of the Open Doors website: <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/wwl-documentation/>.

Reporting period

The WWL 2025 reporting period was 1 October 2023 - 30 September 2024.

Brief country details

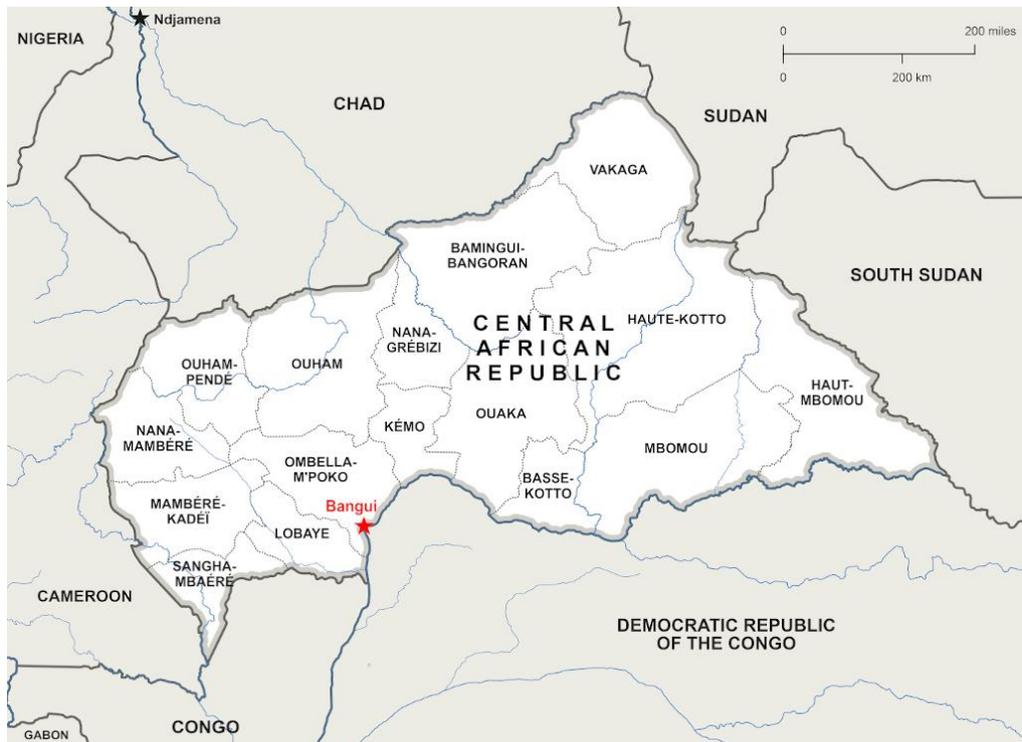
Central African Republic: Population (UN estimate for 2024)	Christians	Chr%
5,916,000	4,433,000	74.9

Zurlo G A and Johnson T M, eds., World Christian Database, Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed May 2024

Central African Republic: Religious context	Number of adherents	%
Christians	4,433,000	74.9
Muslim	800,000	13.5
Hindu	0	0.0
Buddhist	0	0.0
Ethnic religionist	628,000	10.6
Jewish	0	0.0
Bahai	14,300	0.2
Atheist	770	0.0
Agnostic	39,500	0.7
Other	0	0.0
<i>OTHER includes Chinese folk, New religionist, Sikh, Spiritist, Taoist, Confucianist, Jain, Shintoist, Zoroastrian.</i>		

Zurlo G A and Johnson T M, eds., World Christian Database, Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed May 2024

Map of country



Dominant persecution engines and drivers

Central African Republic:	
Main Persecution engines	Main drivers
Islamic oppression	Non-Christian religious leaders, Violent religious groups, Organized crime cartels or networks, Citizens (people from the broader society), including mobs, One's own (extended) family
Organized corruption and crime	Organized crime cartels or networks
Clan oppression	Ethnic group leaders

Engines and Drivers are listed in order of strength. Only Very strong / Strong / Medium are shown here.

Brief description of the persecution situation

The Central African Republic (CAR) has been engulfed in civil conflict since 2013, characterized by religious and ethnic violence. Much of the country is controlled by domestic and foreign armed groups responsible for various human rights abuses. Christian leaders who speak out against the violence face threats, and church buildings have been burned and ransacked. This conflict has displaced thousands of Christians, forcing them into camps and causing them to lose their homes and livelihoods.

In addition to the widespread insecurity and violence affecting all Christians, converts to Christianity face persecution from their immediate family members. Local communities often ostracize Christian converts, sometimes using violence to pressure them to renounce their faith. Christians in CAR also face significant economic challenges, as the country remains one of the poorest in the world. This economic hardship has forced many civilians to migrate in search of better opportunities, which often disrupts their religious practices.

CAR is also experiencing an influx of foreign armed actors from neighboring countries and beyond. There have been reports of armed activity spilling over from Sudan and militia operations within CAR territories near Sudan. Additionally, the Russian "Africa Corps" (previously referred to as the Wagner group) is active in CAR, contributing to violence and human rights violations in the country.

Since 2020, the Central African Republic [has been designated](#) as a Special Watch List country by the US State Department (Religious Freedom Designations, accessed 27 December 2024). This designation reflects significant concerns about violations of religious freedom.

Summary of international obligations and rights violations

CAR has committed to respect and protect fundamental rights in the following international treaties:

1. [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#) (ICCPR)
2. [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) (ICESCR)
3. [Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment](#) (CAT)
4. [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#) (CEDAW)
5. [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (CRC)

CAR is not fulfilling its international obligations by regularly violating or failing to protect the following rights of Christians:

- Christian converts in Muslim-majority areas experience pressure and violence from their family and community to renounce their faith (ICCPR Art. 18)
- Christians and their activities are monitored by rebel groups (ICCPR Art. 17)
- Christian female converts run the risk of being abducted and forcibly married to Muslim men (ICCPR Art. 23; CEDAW Art. 16 and ICESCR Art. 10)

Specific examples of violations of rights in the reporting period

- **Targeting of churches and Christian property:** Armed groups increasingly targeted churches and Christian property, leading to the destruction of religious buildings and the looting of Christian-owned assets. This pattern of violence has severely disrupted the lives of many Christian communities, causing widespread fear and displacement.
- **Attacks on women and girls:** In areas controlled by jihadist groups, women and girls faced heightened risks of violence, including abductions, forced marriages and sexual exploitation. The presence of these armed groups has created an environment of extreme insecurity, particularly for female members of the Christian community.
- **Forced displacement of Christians:** Due to the ongoing violence and threats from armed groups, many Christians have been forced to flee their homes. This displacement has resulted in a significant humanitarian crisis, as displaced individuals and families struggle to find safety and basic necessities amidst the chaos.

Christian communities and how they are affected

Communities of expatriate Christians: Since expatriate Christians are not involuntarily isolated in CAR, this category is not included for WWL analysis and scoring.

Historical Christian communities: This category is comprised of Roman Catholic and older Protestant churches. The Roman Catholic Church is the largest denomination in the country with the widest network of churches, clinics and schools. When the Séléka militants were in the ascendancy, cars, computers and other valuable items were looted from church-buildings and other church properties. The Catholic Church and its leadership in CAR, alongside other religious leaders, have been a strong voice calling for peace and reconciliation and have also provided places of refuge for civilians, both Muslim and Christian, fleeing attack. As a result, Catholic churches have often been targeted for attack.

Converts to Christianity: Christians with a Muslim background experience opposition and pressure from family members to renounce Christianity if their conversion becomes known. They also have very limited opportunities to have fellowship with other Christians and worship collectively. Most Christians of Muslim background do not worship in public due to the fear of attacks by Muslim agitators. This is especially the case in the northern Muslim-dominated areas of the country.

Non-traditional Christian communities: Christians belonging to Baptist, Evangelical and Pentecostal congregations (as well as those belonging to historical Christian communities) have been subject to attacks by Ex-Séléka militants. Recently, the number of people joining these Christian congregations has increased dramatically.

Areas where Christians face most difficulties

Rights violations against Christians are most severe in the northern and eastern parts of the country which are dominated by the Muslim population and where Séléka splinter-groups are operating. There are also difficulties for Christians in the eastern part of the country that borders Sudan.

Position on the World Watch List

Central African Republic: World Watch List	Points	WWL Rank
WWL 2025	72	27
WWL 2024	70	28
WWL 2023	70	24
WWL 2022	68	31
WWL 2021	66	35

In WWL 2025, the country scored 72 points, marking a 2-point increase from WWL 2024 and ranked #28. The Central African Republic has been enduring a massive crisis since 2013, during which Christians have frequently been targeted for their faith. Over the past five WWL reporting periods, the country's score has shown a rising tendency from 66 and 72 points, underscoring the persistent struggle for Christian communities to live out their faith in the region. This rise is primarily due to an increase in overall pressure on Christians, with the average pressure reaching 11.3 (up from 10.9 in WWL 2024). The *Church sphere of life* showed a particular increase from 12.2 points to the extreme level of 14.0 points.

Persecution engines

Central African Republic: Persecution engines	Abbreviation	Level of influence
Islamic oppression	IO	Very strong
Religious nationalism	RN	Not at all
Ethno-religious hostility	ERH	Not at all
Clan oppression	CO	Medium
Christian denominational protectionism	CDP	Very weak

(table continues below)

Central African Republic: Persecution engines	Abbreviation	Level of influence
Communist and post-Communist oppression	CPCO	Not at all
Secular intolerance	SI	Not at all
Dictatorial paranoia	DPA	Weak
Organized corruption and crime	OCC	Very strong

The scale for the level of influence of Persecution engines in society is: Not at all / Very weak / Weak / Medium / Strong / Very strong. For more information see WWL Methodology.

Islamic oppression (Very strong)

Besides the violence against Christians perpetrated particularly by the offshoots of the Séléka militia, *Islamic oppression* is also evident in the persecution of Christians by society in general in predominantly Muslim parts of the country.

Organized corruption and crime (Very strong)

This engine is particularly evident where Anti-Balaka militants attack churches and Christians. Although Anti-Balaka began as a collection of vigilante groups, they have morphed into becoming criminal gangs. Particularly in Bangui, they have often targeted Christians and church leaders, especially those who do not subscribe to their ideals or those who oppose their violent activities. While the group claims to protect Christians, it has become evident over the years that this is untrue since they attack Muslims and Christians alike.

Clan oppression (Medium)

There are two dimensions to this Persecution engine in CAR: i) Animism/ATR (religious and/or cultural) and ii) tribal fighting.

According to a country researcher:

- “Both are prevalent in CAR, while ethnic and religious motives often go together.”
- “There is pressure to participate in cultural religious practices, such as rites of passage, rituals and customs at milestones like birth, marriage and death, but also for protection (Anti-Balaka are known for this).”
- “Some ethnic minority groups are specifically targeted, for instance, Ba’aka pygmies, who are forcibly recruited for labor. Anti-Balaka forces are mainly Animists, and they attack Muslims, but often also Christians. Sometimes they force Christians into their ranks.”

Drivers of persecution

CAR: Drivers of Persecution	IO	RN	ERH	CO	CDP	CPCO	SI	DPA	OCC
	VERY STRONG			MEDIUM	VERY WEAK				VERY STRONG
Ethnic group leaders				Medium					
Non-Christian religious leaders	Very strong								
Religious leaders of other churches					Very weak				
Violent religious groups	Very strong								
Citizens (people from the broader society), including mobs	Medium								
One's own (extended) family	Medium								
Organized crime cartels or networks	Very strong								Very strong

The scale for the level of influence of Drivers of persecution in society is: Not at all / Very weak / Weak / Medium / Strong / Very strong. Please note that "-" denotes "not at all". For more information see WWL Methodology.

Drivers of Islamic oppression

- **Violent religious groups (Very strong):** Muslim militant and paramilitary groups (that could be considered Ex-Séléka groups) are significant drivers of persecution. Two of them are the Popular Front for the Renaissance of Central African Republic (FPRC), and the Union for Peace in the Central African Republic (UPC). Although many of these groups can be categorized as violent religious groups, it is also possible to view them as political parties and paramilitary organizations. These rebel groups have inflicted multiple attacks on Christian churches and private Christian property.
- **Organized crime cartels (Very strong):** Some factions of the militant groups mentioned above act as organized criminal gangs and often engage in looting and frequently target churches and church-affiliated entities.
- **Non-Christian religious leaders (Very strong):** Islamic leaders occupy all the market places, control trade and impose a huge tax on Christian businessmen and often loot the shops of Christians to reduce them to poverty. Furthermore, at a national level, figures like Michel Djotodia who was the president of the country, Noureddine Adam who was the second in command to

Michel Djotodia and Ali Darassa, a Fulani ethnic Muslim leader of the Union for Peace in the Central African Republic (UPC) and Ex-Séléka leader, have led the persecution of Christians.

- **Ethnic leaders (Medium):** In the predominantly Muslim parts of the country tribal or ethnic elders also play a role in this process since they reinforce the pressure against converts to Christianity.
- **Family members (Medium), Citizens (Medium):** In the northern part of the country and areas that border Sudan, Muslim family members and communities will persecute known converts to Christianity.

Drivers of Organized corruption and crime

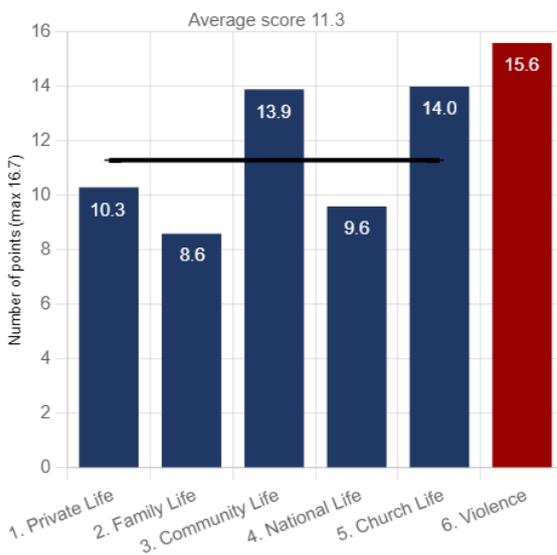
- **Organized crime cartels (Very strong):** Some factions of the militant groups mentioned above act as organized criminal gangs and often engage in looting and frequently target churches and church-affiliated entities. In addition to militants that used to belong to the Séléka, Anti-Balaka fighters also engage in such acts. The state of lawlessness and the inability of the state to impose law and order means that Christians and the wider community have little protection from the criminal acts of these groups.

Drivers of Clan oppression

- **Ethnic group leaders (Medium):** The main drivers of this Persecution engine are ethnic leaders and some community leaders and their members. According to a country researcher: “Tribal pressure is [present in the country] especially since Muslim leaders are from certain tribes, who target Christians for persecution, for instance, Peulh/Fulani and leaders of other movements and tribes.” Within the context of this Persecution engine, there is also an overlap between ethnic leaders and non-Christian religious leaders. Some Islamic leaders are also seen as ethnic leaders and can create an environment of hate and violence around the observance of cultural religious practices.

The Persecution pattern

WWL 2025 Persecution Pattern for Central African Republic



The WWL 2025 Persecution Pattern for CAR shows:

- The score for average pressure on Christians was 11.3 points, up from 10.9 points registered during WWL 2024.
- The *Church sphere* scored the highest with 14.0 points (up from 12.2 points in WWL 2024), followed by the *Community sphere* with 13.9 points. Both spheres reflect the intense challenges faced by Christians, including restrictions and threats within their communities.
- The score for violence remains at an extreme level with 15.6 points, the same as in WWL 2024, highlighting the severe violence Christians continue to face in the country.

Pressure in the 5 spheres of life

In each of the five spheres of life discussed below, four questions have been selected from the WWL 2025 questionnaire for brief commentary and explanation. The selection usually (but not always) reflects the highest scoring elements. In some cases, an additional paragraph per sphere is included to give further information deemed important. To see how individual questions are scored on a scale of 0-4 points, please see the “WWL Scoring example” in the WWL Methodology, available at: <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/wwl-documentation/>.

Pressure in Block 1 / Private sphere

Block 1.3: It has been dangerous to privately own or keep Christian materials. (3.00 points)

Since December 2012, the risks associated with owning or keeping Christian materials have escalated significantly in regions affected by prolonged turmoil. The situation has grown particularly dire in areas dominated by Islamic armed groups and communities with a Muslim majority, where private ownership of Christian materials is not only dangerous but often life-threatening. Armed groups view such materials as symbols of resistance or defiance, leading to targeted threats, confiscations, and violent reprisals. Christians in these areas face compounded challenges due to organized crime, corruption and systemic injustices that amplify their vulnerability.

Block 1.10: Christians have been isolated from other family members or other like-minded Christians (e.g. house arrest). (3.00 points)

Amid ongoing turmoil in the Central African Republic, isolation has become a significant challenge for Christians, compounded by instability and targeted persecution. In regions dominated by Islamic armed groups or affected by intense conflict, believers often find themselves cut off from family and faith communities, leaving them vulnerable to both physical and emotional hardship. Converts to Christianity are particularly affected, as their families often isolate them upon discovering their conversion, viewing it as a betrayal of shared cultural or religious norms. This social ostracism adds another layer of vulnerability, forcing converts to navigate threats not only from external actors but also from within their own households, making their lives especially precarious in such a hostile environment.

Block 1.1: Conversion has been opposed, forbidden, or punishable, including conversion from one type of Christianity to another. (2.75 points)

In the Central African Republic, where prolonged instability and conflict prevail, converting to Christianity is an act fraught with risk and potential punishment. Armed jihadist groups actively target converts, perceiving them as threats to their ideological and territorial dominance, often subjecting them to violence, harassment or even execution. Converts also face rejection and isolation from their families, who may view conversion as a betrayal of deeply ingrained cultural or religious norms, leading to possible ostracism, loss of familial support and physical harm. Societal dynamics further exacerbate these challenges, as communities often pressure converts to renounce their new faith, sometimes through threats or public humiliation. Armed groups exploit this societal hostility, using it to reinforce their control and instill fear within the population. Additionally, the broader environment of corruption, organized crime and lawlessness intensifies the difficulties for converts, who lack institutional or legal protection to defend their rights. This intersection of familial rejection, societal pressure, and the actions of armed jihadists creates a multi-layered environment of persecution. Converts to Christianity must navigate these overlapping threats, enduring not only physical danger but also profound emotional and psychological strain, as they attempt to sustain their faith in a deeply hostile environment. Failure to navigate this can result in dangerous situations such as forced expulsion, the denial of any rights in society and even death.

Block 1.6: It has been risky for Christians to access Christian radio or TV, or Christian material on the Internet. (2.75 points)

For converts, accessing Christian media such as radio, television or online content is highly dangerous not only in conflict zones but also in northern and northeastern parts of the country. In these regions, armed Islamic groups and community actors closely monitor such activities, perceiving them as acts of defiance against dominant religious norms. Converts risk targeted harassment, violence, or social ostracism from both Islamic extremist groups and their own families or communities. Monitoring of communication networks and local reporting mechanisms further increases the danger, making even private engagement with Christian media perilous. Organized crime and corruption add another layer of risk, as individuals can exploit these vulnerabilities to harm or blackmail converts.

Pressure in Block 2 / Family sphere

Block 2.3: Christians have been hindered in celebrating a Christian wedding for faith-related reasons. (3.25 points)

There are risks associated with hosting Christian events and celebrating holidays and ceremonies. Christian wedding celebrations, for instance, often face significant opposition in communities where Muslims are the majority. In such areas, Christian weddings are frequently viewed as a challenge to the dominant cultural or religious norms, provoking hostility from neighbors or community leaders. Public wedding ceremonies may lead to threats or even attempts to disrupt the event, placing the wedding couple and their families under immense pressure. These risks are further exacerbated in conflict zones, where Christian gatherings attract attention from armed groups. In both contexts, many Christians are forced to modify or conceal their wedding traditions to avoid backlash.

Block 2.4: Christian baptisms have been hindered. (3.00 points)

Baptisms are extremely risky in communities where Muslims are the majority. Community members or local leaders often view public baptisms as provocative challenges to the prevailing cultural or religious norms, which can result in harassment, ostracism, or attempts to disrupt the ceremonies. The societal pressure to conform to Islamic expectations forces many Christians to conduct baptisms in secrecy. The risks significantly increase in areas where Muslim armed groups are active, as they closely monitor such gatherings and may invite violent retaliation. These challenges extend beyond baptisms, affecting other key Christian practices such as raising children in the faith or celebrating major religious milestones.

Block 2.9: Children of Christians have been harassed or discriminated against because of their parents' faith. (2.75 points)

In the Central African Republic, either due to the ongoing conflict or the increasing growth of radical Islamic influence within society, children from Christian families face significant challenges, particularly in the northern and northwestern regions of the country. Harassment and discrimination in schools, often fueled by societal hostility toward Christian beliefs, create a hostile environment that affects their emotional and psychological well-being. In these regions, targeted bullying and social ostracization not only undermine their sense of security but also complicate their parents' efforts to raise them in accordance with their Christian faith. The societal pressure reflects broader issues of marginalization, as Christian families struggle to navigate an environment where their faith is met with resistance and hostility.

Block 2.10: Christian spouses and/or children of Christians have been subject to separation for prolonged periods of time by circumstances relating to persecution. (2.50 points)

Persecution in the Central African Republic takes many forms, with Christian families often subjected to imprisonment, abductions, family house arrest, or the forced expulsion of family members due to conversion. The ongoing violence and instability in conflict zones exacerbate these challenges, creating additional risks for Christian families trying to stay together. Armed groups operating in these areas often target Christians for their faith, intensifying the frequency of separations and further destabilizing already vulnerable households. The combination of persecution and conflict severely disrupts the ability of Christian families to practice their religion, raise children in the faith, and observe religious holidays. These conditions impose immense emotional and spiritual strain, making it nearly impossible to preserve family cohesion or pass on their beliefs to future generations.

Pressure in Block 3 / Community sphere***Block 3.1: Christians have been harassed, threatened or obstructed in their daily lives for faith-related reasons (e.g. for not meeting majority religion or traditional dress codes, beard codes etc.). (3.75 points)***

Christians face different forms of persecution at the community level in the Central African Republic, and persecutors use various tools to target them. These tools include social ostracism, where Christians are excluded from community events and interactions, as well as threats of violence and intimidation. Additionally, Christians in some areas face pressure to conform to Islamic cultural and religious norms.

This atmosphere of hostility severely impact the ability of Christians to express their faith freely, limiting their participation in broader societal functions.

Block 3.2: Christians have been monitored by their local communities or by private groups (this includes reporting to police, being shadowed, telephone lines listened to, emails read/censored, etc.). (3.50 points)

Christians in the Central African Republic also face extensive monitoring within their communities, often carried out by local leaders, youth groups, or individuals supporting armed groups. This monitoring includes listening to conversations, observing interactions, and reporting any signs of Christian activity to the authorities or extremist groups. The influence of Islamic extremism, organized crime and corruption intensifies the pressure, making it difficult for Christians to live freely. This constant surveillance disrupts religious practices, community involvement, and even personal activities, subjecting every aspect of their lives to scrutiny. The pervasive monitoring creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation.

Block 3.4: Christians been hindered in sharing community resources because of their faith (e.g. clean drinking water). (3.50 points)

Among the many challenges Christians face in the Central African Republic, one of the most significant is the difficulty in accessing essential community resources, such as clean drinking water. In a country where conflict has wreaked havoc, these obstacles are further intensified by factors like Islamic extremism, organized crime and systemic corruption. In rural areas, Christians (particularly converts) are often excluded from shared communal resources. They face discrimination, as local leaders and communities, influenced by prevailing religious or cultural pressure, restrict their access to vital necessities. This issue is especially harsh for converts, who are further marginalized for abandoning traditional beliefs. The inability to obtain basic resources not only threatens their health and well-being but also reinforces their social ostracization.

Block 3.5: Christians have been put under pressure to take part in non-Christian religious ceremonies or community events. (3.50 points)

In Muslim-dominated areas, particularly for converts, Christians face intense pressure to participate in non-Christian religious ceremonies and community events. This coercion creates a significant ethical dilemma, as not participating can lead to severe consequences. For Christians, especially converts, refusing to take part in such activities can provoke violent retaliation, social ostracism, or even death-threats. This pressure not only infringes upon their religious freedom but also exposes them to heightened vulnerability, as their refusal can lead to further marginalization within their communities.

Pressure in Block 4 / National sphere

Block 4.4: Christians have been hindered in travelling for faith-related reasons. (3.25 points)

The Central African Republic has become a symbol of chaos and communal violence, with years of conflict and instability impacting all facets of life. Amidst this turmoil, Christians face routine persecution and retaliation due to their faith. Many Christians find themselves confined to their local communities, unable to travel freely or fully engage in their faith. Travel for religious purposes, such as attending religious conferences or visiting other Christian communities, has become extremely difficult

and dangerous. Traveling carries an ever-present risk of attack and can lead to the targeting of churches and Christian communities.

Block 4.5: Christians have been discriminated against when engaging with the authorities (local administration, government, army, etc.) for faith-related reasons. (3.25 points)

In the Central African Republic, Christians face systemic discrimination when interacting with authorities, particularly when reporting issues or seeking support. When Christians approach local administrations or government bodies for protection or for dealing with issues concerning land or religious properties, they are often met with biased treatment, resulting in delayed responses, denials, or unequal opportunities compared to others. In some areas, local officials discriminate based on religious affiliation, rejecting applications for permits or land ownership from Christian individuals or communities. Christians are also at times treated unfairly for faith-related reasons by being excluded from access to essential services.

Block 4.8: Christians have been hindered in expressing their views or opinions in public. (3.25 points)

Christians in the Central African Republic face significant barriers to expressing their views publicly, with these challenges leading to serious repercussions from both the government and armed groups. The suppression of their ability to speak out against injustice or express their beliefs publicly places Christians in a vulnerable position, as such actions can attract intense scrutiny, retaliation, and further persecution. This repression prevents Christians from calling for justice, as speaking out against social or political injustices could lead to legal action, social exclusion, or violent reprisal from both state authorities and armed groups. As a result, many Christians are forced into silence, unable to address the issues affecting their communities or advocate for their rights.

Block 4.14: Those who caused harm to Christians have deliberately been left unpunished. (3.25 points)

In regions enduring prolonged national crises, the perpetrators of violence and discrimination against Christians are rarely held accountable, creating a climate where harassment, violence and religious persecution can persist without consequence. This lack of justice is deeply intertwined with broader issues of discrimination, rights violations and systemic corruption. The impunity for these actions not only allows the cycle of violence and fear to continue unchecked but also demonstrates a systemic failure to uphold the rule of law and protect citizens' rights.

Pressure in Block 5 / Church sphere

Block 5.1: Church activities have been monitored, hindered, disturbed, or obstructed. (3.50 points)

In many parts of the Central African Republic churches endure monitoring, disturbance, hindrance and even violence. A prolonged national crisis has severely obstructed the activities of churches in these regions, posing significant barriers to congregations and institutions to function freely. This crisis, now ongoing for over a decade, has caused widespread instability, with many churches either destroyed or unable to establish themselves. Churches that once provided sanctuary to those fleeing violence have themselves become targets, further compounding the difficulties for Christian communities. These obstacles highlight a broader erosion of religious freedoms, reflecting the severe restrictions on the ability to express, assemble and practice faith openly.

Block 5.3: Christian communities have been hindered in building or renovating church buildings or in claiming historical religious premises and places of worship which had been taken from them earlier. (3.50 points)

The ongoing crisis, which has persisted for over a decade, has severely impacted the Christian community's ability to practice their faith openly. The country's violence and instability have left many churches in ruins, and both the destruction and the complex political and social conditions hinder the process of rebuilding or reclaiming historical religious sites.

Block 5.4: Churches have been hindered from organizing Christian activities inside their place of worship. (3.50 points)

Churches have faced significant challenges in organizing Christian activities within their places of worship, reflecting the broader difficulties encountered by the Christian community. The destruction of many churches and the pervasive insecurity have disrupted not only the physical spaces but also the ability of congregations to assemble for prayer, fellowship, and hold religious ceremonies. Inside the church, Christians face the threat of attacks, as well as constant monitoring by local authorities or armed groups. This surveillance creates an atmosphere of fear.

Block 5.9: Christians have experienced interference when choosing their own religious leaders. (3.50 points)

Christians in the Central African Republic struggle to choose their own leaders due to interference from various groups, including armed factions, organized crime, and even the government. These groups, engaged in the ongoing conflict, seek to co-opt the church and its leadership for their own political or ideological purposes. One of the primary tools they use is manipulation of the church's leadership selection process, attempting to exert control over who leads Christian communities. Whether through coercion, bribery or direct pressure, these groups aim to install leaders who align with their interests.

Violence

Violence is defined in WWL Methodology as the deprivation of physical freedom or as bodily harm to Christians or damage to their property. It includes severe threats (mental abuse). The table is based on reported cases as much as possible, but since many incidents go unreported, the numbers must be understood as being minimum figures. The following points should be considered when using the data provided in the Block 6 table:

1. Some incidents go unreported because the Christians involved choose not to speak about the hostility being faced. Possible reasons for this may be:

- *Doing so would expose them to more attacks. For example, if a family member is killed because of his/her faith, the survivors might decide to keep silent about the circumstances of the killing to avoid provoking any further attacks.*
- *In some circumstances, the reticence to pass on information may be due to the danger of exposure caused by converts returning to their previous faith.*
- *If persecution is related to sexual violence - due to stigma, survivors often do not tell even their closest relatives.*
- *In some cultural settings, if your loved one is killed, you might be under the obligation to take revenge. Christians not wishing to do that, may decide to keep quiet about it.*

2. Other incidents go unreported for the following possible reasons:

- *Some incidents never reach the public consciousness, because no one really knows about it; or the incident is simply not considered worth reporting; or media coverage is deliberately blocked or distorted; or media coverage is not deliberately blocked, but the information somehow gets lost; or the incidents are deliberately not reported widely for security reasons (e.g. for the protection of local church leaders).*
- *In situations where Christians have been discriminated against for many years, armed conflict can make them additionally vulnerable. Christians killed in areas where fighting regularly takes place are unlikely to be reported separately. Examples in recent years have been Sudan, Syria and Myanmar.*
- *Christians who die through the deprivation of basic necessities such as clean water and medical care (due to long-term discrimination) are unlikely to be reported separately. Christians are not always killed directly; they can be so squeezed by regulations and other oppressive factors that they die – not at once, but in the course of years. This often includes the deprivation of basic necessities such as clean water and medical care, or exclusion from government assisted socio-economic development projects. These numbers could be immense.*

3. The use of symbolic numbers:

- *In cases where it has been impossible to count exactly, a symbolic round figure (10*, 100* etc.) is given and indicated with an asterisk. A symbolic number of 10* could in reality even be 100 or more but the real number is uncertain. A symbolic number of 100* could go well over 1000 but the real number is uncertain. A symbolic number of 1,000* could go well over 10,000 but, again, the real number is uncertain. The same applies for symbolic numbers 10,000*, 100,000* and 1,000,000*: Each could indicate much higher numbers, but WWR chooses to be cautious because the real number is uncertain.*

CAR: Violence scores per Block 6 question in questionnaire	WWL 2025	WWL 2024
6.1 How many Christians have been killed for faith-related reasons (including state sanctioned executions)?	67	23
6.2 How many churches or public Christian properties (schools, hospitals, cemeteries, etc.) have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down, closed or confiscated for faith-related reasons?	100 *	14
6.3 How many Christians have been detained for faith-related reasons?	0	0
6.4 How many Christians have been sentenced to jail, labor camp, sent to psychiatric hospital as punishment, or similar things for faith-related reasons?	0	0
6.5 How many Christians have been abducted for faith-related reasons (including Christians missing in a persecution context)?	100 *	100 *
6.6 How many Christians have been raped or otherwise sexually harassed for faith-related reasons?	100 *	100 *
6.7 How many cases have there been of forced marriages of Christians to non-Christians?	100 *	10 *

CAR: Violence scores per Block 6 question in questionnaire	WWL 2025	WWL 2024
6.8 How many Christians have been otherwise physically or mentally abused for faith-related reasons (including beatings and death threats)?	1000 *	1000 *
6.9 How many houses of Christians or other property (excluding shops) have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down or confiscated for faith-related reasons?	100 *	1000 *
6.10 How many shops or businesses of Christians have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down, closed or confiscated for faith-related reasons?	1000 *	1000 *
6.11 How many Christians have been forced to leave their homes or go into hiding in-country for faith-related reasons?	1000	1000 *
6.12 How many Christians have been forced to leave the country for faith-related reasons?	100 *	100 *

In the WWL 2025 reporting period:

- **Christians killed:** 67 Christians killed for faith-related reasons (WWL 2025), up from 23 in WWL 2024.
- **Churches attacked:** At least 100 churches or Christian properties (schools, hospitals, cemeteries, etc.) were attacked, damaged or destroyed, up from 14 in WWL 2024.
- **Abducted Christians:** At least 100 Christians abducted for faith-related reasons, the same as in WWL 2024.
- **Christians fled their homes within the country:** At least 1,000 Christians were forced to leave their homes or go into hiding within the country for faith-related reasons , the same as in WWL 2024.

5 Year trends

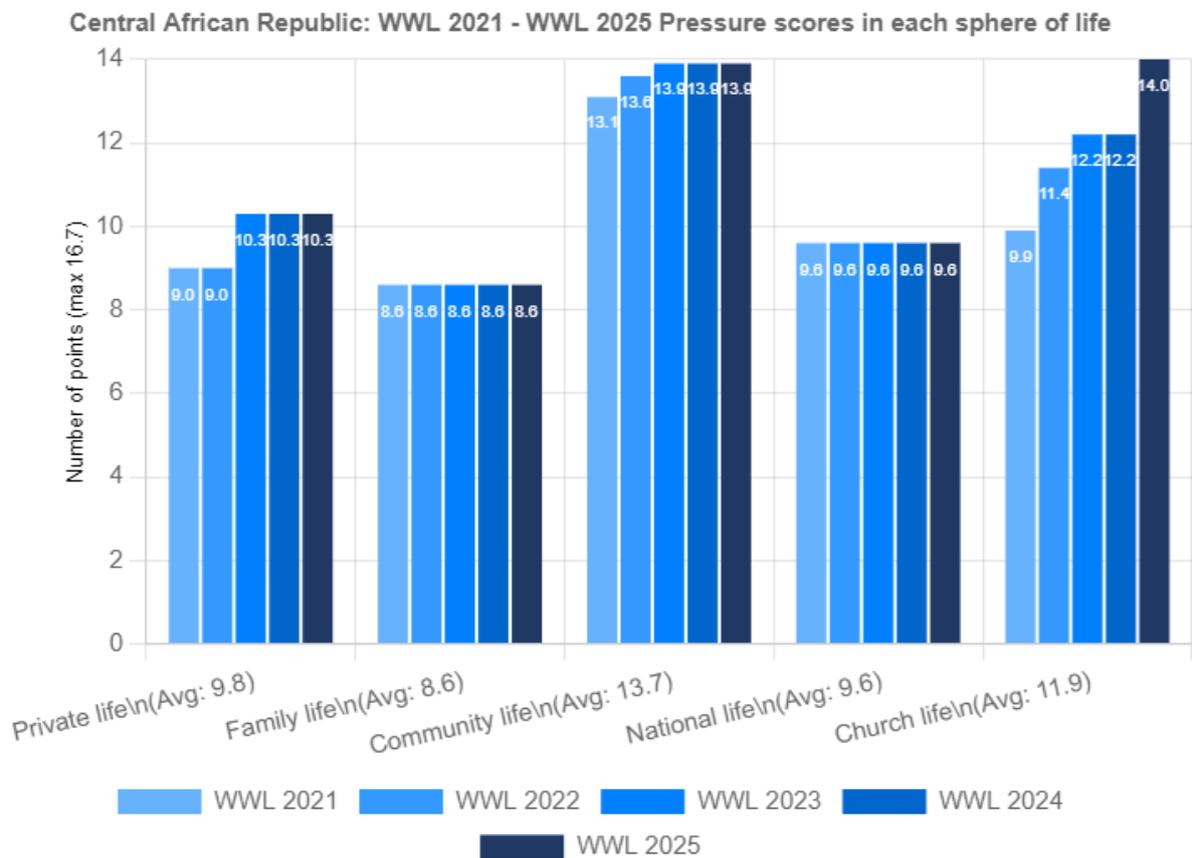
The following three charts show the levels of pressure and violence faced by Christians in the country over the last five WWL reporting periods.

5 Year trends: Average pressure

The table below shows that over the past five WWL reporting periods, the average pressure on Christians has progressively increased over these years, except for WWL 2023 and WWL 2024, where it leveled off at 10.9 points.

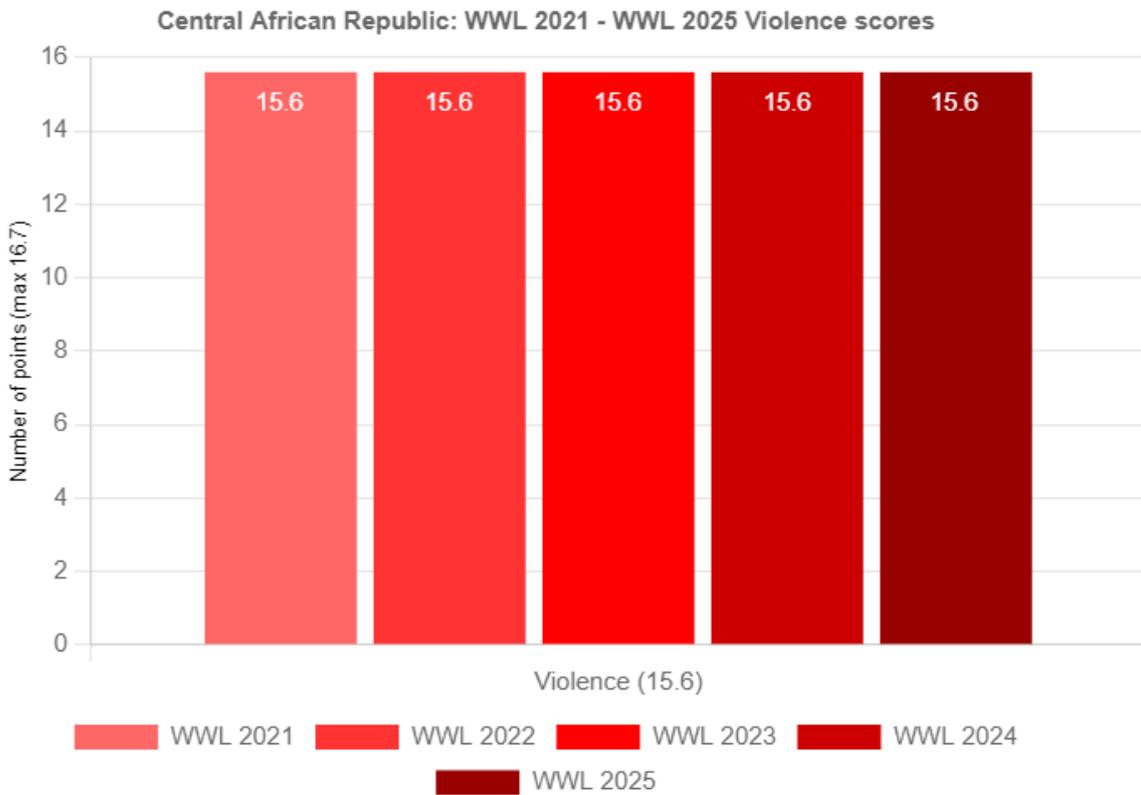
CAR: WWL 2021 - WWL 2025	Average pressure over 5 Spheres of life
2025	11.3
2024	10.9
2023	10.9
2022	10.4
2021	10.0

5 Year trends: Pressure in each sphere of life



The chart above indicates that pressure on Christians across all spheres of life has generally been high or very high. The highest overall pressure has been observed in the *Community sphere*, with an average score of 13.7 points, followed by the *Church sphere*, averaging 11.9 points. The only sphere with a five-year average score below 9 points is the *Family sphere*.

5 Year trends: Violence against Christians



Over the past five WWL reporting periods the violence directed at Christians has remained consistently extreme. Each reporting period from WWL 2021 to WWL 2025 recorded a score of 15.6 points for violence. This extreme score reflects the brutal and multifaceted nature of the violence endured, which includes not only killings but also abductions, rape, the destruction of property, and attacks on churches and other community services crucial to Christian life. These acts of violence highlight the sustained threat to Christian communities, leaving little hope for immediate improvement in their security and freedom.

Gender-specific religious persecution / Female

CAR	Female Pressure Points Most frequently recorded PPs: WWL 2019 - WWL 2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abduction Discrimination/harassment via education Economic harassment via fines Enforced religious dress code Forced marriage Targeted Seduction Trafficking Violence – psychological Violence - sexual Violence – verbal

The many years of violence and instability in CAR has left Christian women and girls vulnerable to various forms of religious persecution, particularly, rape, abduction, trafficking, and forced marriage. Some girls who are abducted are subjected to sexual slavery; sexual abuse is a source of shame for women and girls, and they can struggle to move on from the trauma, particularly if they become pregnant. “Rape is an interminable part of the lives of Christian girls and women in the country,” a country expert asserted, observing that sexual violence against women in CAR remains a “weapon of war used by rebel groups to terrorize, traumatize and demoralize Christians in their faith [...] According to the leaders, there is not a percentage of women and girls who have experienced rape or harassment, rather it is all women and girls”. Many stay quiet about their experiences, fearing that their husbands might find out and divorce them. Pastor’s wives in particular stay silent to maintain the credibility and dignity of their church. However, false accusations against the wives of religious leaders are weaponized to attack the church community and its leaders.

The recruitment and use of children in the Central African Republic’s conflict has caused increased fear and serious trauma. The Human Rights Division has recorded 647 children who were the victims of child rights violations in 2022, noting that girls especially were subjected to horrific acts of sexual violence linked to the conflict. Further, while boys are the most affected, girls are also violently recruited into the conflict ([VOA, 3 April 2023](#)).

Conflict-related insecurity has left women and girls vulnerable to forced marriage, abduction and sexual and gender based violence. Militia leaders and soldiers will forcefully marry girls without their consent. This has led parents and some men to send their daughters and wives to neighboring countries to protect them from such violent risks. However, within the context of high poverty rates, parents are sometimes enticed into giving their Christian girls in marriage in exchange for significant gifts. 26% of all girls are married by the age of 15, and 61% by the age of 18. "Unlike global trends, household wealth and level of education does not significantly affect child marriage rates in Central African Republic, which has seen one of the slowest declines in child marriage rates in West and Central Africa" ([Girls Not Brides CAR](#), accessed 27 December 2024). In other cases, Christian girls who thought they would be free to practice their faith once married to a Muslim discover that they are instead forced to convert. Female students in particular face the risk of abduction and sexual violence while on the way to and from school. This has discouraged parents living in high-risk areas from sending their daughters to school. Girls who are abused and become pregnant are likely to drop out of school.

In CAR, women are generally more dependent on their families than men, so family-driven persecution affects them more. Because CAR is one of the poorest countries in Africa, ranking near the bottom of almost every indicator, financial need can drive Christian women with many children to agree to convert to Islam in order to survive. Converts to Christianity face further pressures from family members. They can be put under house arrest to prevent them from meeting with other Christians or forcibly married to a much older Muslim men. There are reports that sometimes a Christian mother is only allowed to attend Christian gatherings on condition that her children are sent to the mosque. Mothers have been separated from their children because of their faith.

Gender-specific religious persecution / Male

CAR	Male Pressure Points Most frequently recorded PPs: WWL 2019 - WWL 2024
	Abduction Denied inheritance or possessions Military/militia conscription/service against conscience Violence – death Violence – physical Violence – psychological

When Christian families are targeted by violent Islamic militants, Christian women in CAR face sexual assault, while men are mostly killed for their faith or detained. Others are abducted and either incorporated into the ranks of the rebel group or used as forced labor to extract gold and diamonds in the mines. There are reports of young men and children being kidnapped by Russian "Africa Corps" (previously referred to as "Wagner") mercenaries and forced to work in the mines. In January of 2023, Russian mercenaries, accompanied by personnel from CAR government forces, killed at least 70 people in the mining communities of Aigbado and Yanga before setting fire to some of the homes there. The "Africa Corps" has killed dozens of miners across different states as the mercenaries seek to control mines across the country ([ADF, 20 September 2022](#)).

Pastors are especially targeted on account of their perceived efforts to convert members of the community, and sometimes, false accusations revolving around espionage are used as a pretext. Pastors have even been attacked during church services. Maintaining church life and leadership positions amidst the ongoing crisis creates an environment where individuals are not only responsible for spiritual guidance but also serve as visible symbols of the Christian community. As such, they become targets of harassment and persecution, reflecting the broader challenges Christians encounter in openly practicing their faith. There have been reports of pastors being beaten, kidnapped, and murdered by Muslim rebel groups, who have additionally destroyed churches and fostered an environment of fear and distrust.

Christian men also experience discrimination in the workplace. The Islamic population occupy all the marketplaces, control trade and impose large taxes on Christian businessmen or even loot the shops of Christians to keep them in poverty. Boys and men are at times forcibly recruited into rebel militant groups and they are also targeted for torture and assault. Within national military service, too, they can experience discrimination on the grounds of their faith. Forced disappearance, killing, threats and the tactical impoverishment of men is greatly affecting Christian families.

Persecution of other religious minorities

Christianity is the overall majority religion in the country but a minority in some parts of the country. This has created a complex dynamic of persecution.

As reported by the US State Department ([IRFR 2023 CAR](#)): "The UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) said government forces targeted Muslims, including Fulani pastoralists, carrying out arbitrary arrests and mistreating detainees." Citing MINUSCA, the reports adds that: "members of the Russia-backed Wagner Group detained and reportedly tortured an imam and his cousin in Bangui, leading to a general strike by the Muslim community. In January, the Wagner Group unjustly detained 15 Muslim civilians in Nana-Grebizi Prefecture."

In the context of the ongoing conflict, religious minorities are not the main targets. However, adherents of small religious minorities do face challenges in the communities where they live.

Trends Summary

1) Instability and impunity are rampant

The conflict that erupted in 2013 in the Central African Republic has created massive humanitarian suffering, fundamentally altering the relationship between Christians and Muslims. Despite elections in 2015, 2016 and 2020 that many hoped would bring reconciliation, there are no effective state structures to restore peace and accountability. Church leaders have condemned violence by armed groups against civilians, but President Faustin-Archange Touadéra (re-elected in December 2020) has been unable to extend government control beyond the capital, Bangui. Multiple armed groups control large portions of the country, with traffickers, organized crime cartels and foreign fighters active in the region. The UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and government forces have not exerted effective control beyond Bangui. In October 2021, the government acknowledged human rights violations by rebel militants, government troops and Russian forces, but nothing has been done to address rampant impunity.

The involvement of multiple foreign actors, including Chad and Rwanda, further complicates the security situation and challenges efforts to hold perpetrators accountable. To date, the government does not control all borders of the country as pointed out in a [June 2024 UN Security Council briefing](#) in the following terms: "The limited to no State presence in border areas has historically provided a fertile ground for cross-border insecurity. ... [R]estoring State authority and border control are crucial to anchor security of border areas as the bedrock for the full restoration and consolidation of durable security." According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) [Situation Report for Central African Republic](#): Out of a total population of 6.4 million, 2.8 million are in need of humanitarian assistance; there are about half a million internally displaced persons in the country; and there are about 800,000 refugees from CAR. This illustrates the volatile security situation.

2) Risks behind a constitutional amendment

On 30 July 2023, a referendum resulted in a constitutional amendment eliminating presidential term limits. The Constitutional Court validated the results in August 2023, solidifying changes that significantly impact the country's democratic governance. Removing term limits has raised concerns among factions that view this amendment as a threat to democratic principles and the country's future stability. This decision has heightened fears of further conflict, adding complexity to the intersecting crises that have plagued CAR for over a decade.

3) Changing nature of the conflict

The conflict in CAR has evolved, shifting towards power and resource control. Emerging alliances, deeply rooted criminal activities and corruption signal a transformation in the conflict's dynamics. Despite this shift, elements of Islamic jihadism persist. The struggle for control over resources and power underscores the ongoing volatility in the region, with armed groups exploiting these dynamics for their gain.

4) Presence of foreign forces

The presence of foreign forces, including jihadist elements, the Russian "Africa Corps" mercenaries and the Rwandan army, continues to profoundly impact civilian lives. Despite a ceasefire announced by President Touadéra in October 2021, armed clashes between national forces, Russian mercenaries, Rwandan troops, and Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) factions persist. These conflicts result in human rights violations, disrupt humanitarian aid efforts, and cause substantial displacement. The involvement of these foreign entities shapes the conflict's trajectory, influencing persecution and instability within CAR.

5) Complex security landscape

CAR faces a complex security landscape with over 14 factions fighting against the government and each other. Some groups aim to establish a Sharia state, while others are motivated by greed and power, showing no mercy to opponents. The involvement of the Rwandan and Russian troops exacerbates the situation for Christians. Numerous reports indicate atrocities committed by various fighting groups, including government security forces. Christians are unable to speak out against the injustice due to the powerful criminal gangs and militant factions. The government controls only Bangui, with the rest of the country divided among different factions, making tracking persecution complex.

Further useful reports

Further background information per country and a selection of in-depth reports and smaller articles are available on the Research & Reports pages of the Open Doors website:

- <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/wwl-background/>
- <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/>.

External Links

- Copyright, sources and definitions: Background country information - <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/wwl-background/>
- Brief description of the persecution situation: has been designated - <https://www.state.gov/countries-of-particular-concern-special-watch-list-countries-entities-of-particular-concern/>
- Summary of international obligations and rights violations: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx>
- Summary of international obligations and rights violations: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cescr.aspx>
- Summary of international obligations and rights violations: Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cat.aspx>
- Summary of international obligations and rights violations: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women - <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>
- Summary of international obligations and rights violations: Convention on the Rights of the Child - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>
- Gender-specific religious persecution Female description: VOA, 3 April 2023 - <https://www.voanews.com/a/un-children-in-central-african-republic-are-victims-of-appalling-abuse-brutality-7033694.html>
- Gender-specific religious persecution Female description: Girls Not Brides CAR - <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/learning-resources/child-marriage-atlas/regions-and-countries/central-african-republic/>
- Gender-specific religious persecution Male description: ADF, 20 September 2022 - <https://adf-magazine.com/2022/09/report-wagner-kidnapping-children-to-work-in-car-mines/>
- Persecution of other religious minorities: IRFR 2023 CAR - <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-report-on-international-religious-freedom/central-african-republic/>
- Trends Summary: June 2024 UN Security Council briefing - <https://reliefweb.int/report/central-african-republic/security-council-situation-central-african-republic-27-june-2024>
- Trends Summary: Situation Report for Central African Republic - <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/car/>