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Audit Statement on the outcomes of the Open Doors World Watch List 2024

Wednesday, 17 January, 2024

Audit Coordinator: Dr Dennis P. Petri (International Director, IIRF)

The 2024 edition of the World Watch List (WWL), audited by the International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF), attests to the continued adherence to quality standards by the World Watch Research team, upholding the precedent set in previous years.

Conducted in two parts, the audit first examined the correct application of the WWL methodology. The findings revealed that the WWL 2024 complies with all methodological requirements, drawing from diverse sources and appropriately substantiating conclusions. The clarity regarding the engines of persecution used for analyzing different scenarios was crucial to the analysis of sources used and the scoring of the WWL questionnaire. The scoring also provided a valid and accurate reflection of the reality on the ground. The IIRF team of auditors observes that scores are consistent with past practices in the countries evaluated but are also adjusted based on contemporary changes identified by the sources.

The second part of the audit assessed whether the scores and write-ups accurately portrayed the country situations based on auditor knowledge and experience. The overall conclusion is that WWL 2024 offers a precise, well-balanced, and detailed overview of discrimination and persecution of Christians worldwide. Among the contributions of the auditors, it is noteworthy that they recognized the reliability and accuracy of the information. The facts detailed in the reports align with their knowledge of the country, underlining the credibility and thoroughness of the scores.



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The IIRF audit team comprised six esteemed academics with diverse backgrounds and nationalities, each possessing active expertise in religious freedom in their audited countries or regions.

Carefully selecting six countries from the WWL Top 50, none of which had undergone previous audits, ensured a comprehensive evaluation. The audit encompassed the work of all World Watch Research persecution analysts.

Audit materials included final questionnaires (including underlying questionnaires by external experts, field researchers and field contributors individually or through focus groups), accompanying country dossiers, and additional information provided by World Watch Research. Any other statements, documents, or interpretations from Open Doors International or its affiliates related to the WWL 2024 publication were outside the audit's scope.

A comprehensive audit report, with recommendations for potential improvements, has been submitted to World Watch Research and will be discussed with the persecution analysts.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dennis P. Petri', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Dr. Dennis P. Petri

International Director of the IIRF