



Reports

International Institute for Religious Freedom

**August 2025 Report:
Overview of Violent Incidents
Against Christians in 2024**

2026 / 8

International Institute
for Religious Freedom



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**Internationales Institut für Religionsfreiheit
Institut International pour la Liberté Religieuse
Instituto Internacional para la Libertad Religiosa**

The International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF) was founded in 2007 with the mission to promote religious freedom for all faiths from an academic perspective. The IIRF aspires to be an authoritative voice on religious freedom. We provide reliable and unbiased data on religious freedom—beyond anecdotal evidence—to strengthen academic research on the topic and to inform public policy at all levels. Our research results are disseminated through the *International Journal for Religious Freedom* and other publications. A particular emphasis of the IIRF is to encourage the study of religious freedom in university institutions through its inclusion in educational curricula and by supporting postgraduate students with research projects.

The IIRF has a global presence with academic and advocacy partners on all continents. We perform original research and in collaboration with our partners. The IIRF is also a “meeting place” for all scholars that take an interest in religious freedom.

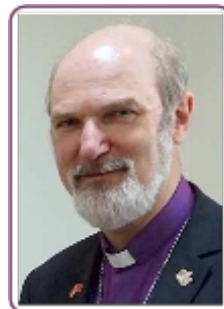
We understand Freedom of Religion and Belief (FoRB) as a fundamental and interdependent human right as described in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. In line with CCPR General Comment No. 22, we view FoRB as a broad and multi-dimensional concept that needs to be protected for all faiths in all spheres of society.



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The 2024 regional and country data from the Violent Incidents Database of the International Institute for Religious Freedom show that violent incidents against Christians were widespread in nearly every continent, with particularly severe impacts in Africa and Asia. Africa recorded the highest number of total killings (294) and forced home departures (13,043), indicating a profound level of violence and displacement.¹ Latin America had the most total incidents (707) and a significant number of church closures (1,092), reflecting varying patterns of harassment and instability. Europe and Asia also saw substantial violence and rights violations, including high numbers of killings, sentences, and attacks on Christian-owned properties. The overall global totals—over 1,600 incidents, nearly 600 killings, and more than 17,000 forced to leave home—highlight the enduring threat Christians continue to face worldwide.

¹ The data from Nigeria, the country with the most violence in Africa, is not included in this count. Data on Nigeria is supplied by the Observatory of Religious Freedom in Africa (ORFA) and lags behind by a year. This summer, ORFA will release its updated data on Nigeria, which will include incidents up to September 2024. This report will be updated as soon as the latest data from ORFA becomes available.

Violent Incidents Against Christians in 2024, by region

Region	Latin America	Asia	Europe	Africa	North America	Oceania	2024 Total
Total Incidents	707	308	268	228	125	3	1639
Total Killings	51	60	181	294	10	1	597
Destroyed Church Buildings	190	106	117	102	85	1	601
Closed Church Buildings	1092	12	5	7704	2	0	8815
Arrests	128	632	105	230	0	0	1095
Sentences	31	155	154	3	5	0	348
Abductions	120	26	1	195	18	0	360
Sexual Assaults	5	3	0	3	0	0	11
Forced Marriages	0	2	0	3	0	0	5
Other Physical/ Mental Abuse	509	329	113	299	20	5	1275
Attacked Christian Houses	83	744	49	1161	9	0	2046
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	15	20	1	52	1	0	89
Forced to Leave Home	1000	3305	1	13043	3	0	17352
Forced to Leave Country	137	16	9	0	0	0	162

Examining the detailed country-level data reveals key hotspots like Nigeria, Russia, Mexico, Mozambique, and Myanmar, which collectively account for significant shares of killings, abductions, and attacks on churches and homes. For example, Russia saw 166 killings and 137 sentences—pointing to both lethal attacks and the use of judicial means to pressure Christian communities. Countries such as Nicaragua and Rwanda showed extremely high numbers of church closures, hinting at broader legal or administrative crackdowns. This granular data underscores that persecution tactics vary greatly: some countries rely more on administrative restrictions and mass evictions, while others see sustained physical violence or state repression. The cumulative impact is evident in the global figures—thousands displaced, hundreds killed, and churches systematically targeted—making this a serious international religious freedom concern.

Summary Table of Violent Incidents Against Christians in 2024, by Country

Region	Algeria	Argentina	Australia	Austria	Azerbaijan	Bangladesh	Belarus
Total Incidents	3	26	2	4	9	6	7
Total Killings	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Destroyed Church Buildings	0	23	0	3	11	0	1
Closed Church Buildings	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Arrests	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
Sentences	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abductions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assaults	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Physical/Mental Abuse	0	2	5	0	0	2	0
Attacked Christian Houses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attacked Christian Shops/Businesses	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Forced to Leave Home	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	0	0	0	0	5

Region	Belgium	Benin	Bolivia	Brazil	Bulgaria	Burkina Faso	Burundi
Total Incidents	3	1	6	12	1	4	1
Total Killings	0	0	0	2	0	46	0
Destroyed Church Buildings	1	0	6	2	1	2	0
Closed Church Buildings	0	0	1	7	0	0	0
Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sentences	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abductions	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sexual Assaults	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Physical/ Mental Abuse	0	2	0	5	0	0	1
Attacked Christian Houses	0	0	0	0	0	26	0
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced to Leave Home	0	2	0	0	0	78	0
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Region	Came- roon	Canada	Central African Republic	Chad	Chile	China	Colom- bia
Total Incidents	18	11	2	2	8	53	94
Total Killings	10	0	0	0	0	0	9
Destroyed Church Buildings	5	11	3	0	2	3	54
Closed Church Buildings	0	0	0	0	1	3	5
Arrests	0	0	0	1	0	503	3
Sentences	0	0	0	0	0	18	1
Abductions	41	0	0	0	0	8	7
Sexual Assaults	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Forced Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Physical/ Mental Abuse	9	0	3	0	5	3	103
Attacked Christian Houses	7	0	0	2	0	0	18
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	2	0	0	1	0	0	3
Forced to Leave Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	148
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	0	0	0	0	22

Region	Comoros	Croatia	Cuba	Cyprus	Czech Republic	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Ecuador
Total Incidents	1	1	258	1	1	11	6
Total Killings	0	0	0	0	0	29	1
Destroyed Church Buildings	0	1	9	1	0	10	8
Closed Church Buildings	1	0	10	0	0	1	0
Arrests	0	0	34	0	0	0	0
Sentences	0	0	17	0	0	0	0
Abductions	0	0	1	0	0	3	1
Sexual Assaults	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Physical/ Mental Abuse	0	0	23	0	0	13	3
Attacked Christian Houses	0	0	7	0	0	53	2
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	0	0	1	0	0	5	0
Forced to Leave Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	2	0	1	0	0

Region	Egypt	Eritrea	Estonia	Ethiopia	France	The Gambia	Germany
Total Incidents	9	6	3	21	17	1	12
Total Killings	0	0	0	47	0	0	6
Destroyed Church Buildings	1	0	0	8	14	0	21
Closed Church Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arrests	3	106	0	1	0	0	0
Sentences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abductions	1	0	0	9	0	0	0
Sexual Assaults	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Physical/ Mental Abuse	32	0	0	21	18	0	19
Attacked Christian Houses	36	15	0	0	0	0	1
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Forced to Leave Home	3	18	1	100	0	0	0
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	2	0	1	0	0

Region	Ghana	Greece	Guatemala	Haiti	Honduras	Hong Kong S.A.R.	Hungary
Total Incidents	1	2	2	20	28	3	2
Total Killings	0	0	1	9	13	0	0
Destroyed Church Buildings	1	2	1	11	2	0	1
Closed Church Buildings	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sentences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abductions	0	0	0	18	0	0	0
Sexual Assaults	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Physical/ Mental Abuse	4	0	0	2	88	0	0
Attacked Christian Houses	0	0	0	9	4	0	0
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced to Leave Home	0	0	0	3	9	0	0
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	0	0	12	0	0

Region	India	Indonesia	Iran	Iraq	Ireland	Israel	Italy
Total Incidents	54	6	13	4	6	1	15
Total Killings	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Destroyed Church Buildings	30	0	0	3	5	0	10
Closed Church Buildings	6	1	0	0	0	0	0
Arrests	54	0	10	0	0	0	0
Sentences	2	0	15	0	0	0	1
Abductions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assaults	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Physical/ Mental Abuse	168	3	2	2	1	0	2
Attacked Christian Houses	75	1	1	2	0	0	1
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced to Leave Home	1105	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Region	Jamaica	Japan	Kazakhstan	Kenya	Kosovo	Kyrgyzstan	Laos
Total Incidents	2	8	9	12	4	1	4
Total Killings	0	0	0	5	0	0	1
Destroyed Church Buildings	2	0	4	2	2	1	2
Closed Church Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arrests	0	0	2	95	0	0	6
Sentences	0	0	7	0	0	0	0
Abductions	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
Sexual Assaults	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Physical/ Mental Abuse	0	16	1	12	3	0	0
Attacked Christian Houses	0	0	0	1	0	10	0
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Forced to Leave Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Region	Lebanon	Lithuania	Madagascar	Malawi	Mali	Mauritania	Mexico
Total Incidents	4	1	2	1	3	1	107
Total Killings	5	0	2	0	4	0	22
Destroyed Church Buildings	4	0	0	1	2	0	59
Closed Church Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	146
Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	15	21
Sentences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abductions	0	0	1	0	1	0	111
Sexual Assaults	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Physical/Mental Abuse	0	0	4	3	4	0	223
Attacked Christian Houses	1	0	1	1	3	0	37
Attacked Christian Shops/Businesses	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Forced to Leave Home	0	0	0	0	9	0	825
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	0	0	0	0	11

Region	Moldova	Mozam- bique	Myan- mar	Nepal	Nether- lands	New Caledo- nia	Nicara- gua
Total Incidents	1	51	46	6	1	1	119
Total Killings	0	56	32	0	0	0	0
Destroyed Church Buildings	1	44	36	1	1	1	7
Closed Church Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	920
Arrests	0	0	37	5	0	0	58
Sentences	0	0	0	1	0	0	13
Abductions	0	14	3	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assaults	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Physical/ Mental Abuse	0	32	67	2	0	0	33
Attacked Christian Houses	0	959	642	0	0	0	13
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	0	39	3	0	0	0	5
Forced to Leave Home	0	12575	1990	0	0	0	6
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	0	7	0	0	86

Region	Nigeria	North Korea	Norway	Pakistan	Palestinian Territories	Paraguay	Peru
Total Incidents	44	1	1	38	4	1	9
Total Killings	64	0	0	10	0	0	0
Destroyed Church Buildings	17	0	0	1	4	0	7
Closed Church Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arrests	3	3	0	8	0	0	0
Sentences	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
Abductions	113	0	0	4	0	0	0
Sexual Assaults	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Forced Marriages	3	0	0	2	0	0	0
Other Physical/Mental Abuse	22	0	0	14	1	0	2
Attacked Christian Houses	57	0	0	8	3	0	0
Attacked Christian Shops/Businesses	1	0	0	2	1	0	0
Forced to Leave Home	178	0	0	204	3	0	0
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Region	Philip-pines	Poland	Russia	Rwanda	Serbia	Singa-pore	Slovenia
Total Incidents	1	5	119	1	2	2	1
Total Killings	0	0	166	0	0	0	0
Destroyed Church Buildings	1	5	18	0	1	0	1
Closed Church Buildings	0	0	3	7700	0	0	0
Arrests	0	0	78	0	0	0	0
Sentences	0	0	137	0	0	2	0
Abductions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assaults	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Physical/ Mental Abuse	2	4	56	0	2	0	0
Attacked Christian Houses	0	0	39	0	0	0	0
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced to Leave Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Region	Somalia	South Africa	South Sudan	Spain	Sri Lanka	Sudan	Sweden
Total Incidents	2	5	2	17	1	10	1
Total Killings	12	6	1	0	0	4	0
Destroyed Church Buildings	0	1	0	10	0	5	0
Closed Church Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Sentences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abductions	0	0	3	0	0	4	0
Sexual Assaults	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Physical/ Mental Abuse	0	10	20	2	1	101	0
Attacked Christian Houses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Forced to Leave Home	0	0	0	0	0	80	0
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Region	Switzer-land	Syria	Tajikis-tan	Tanzania	Trinidad and Tobago	Turkey	Turkme-nistan
Total Incidents	1	1	1	1	3	10	2
Total Killings	0	1	0	0	0	3	0
Destroyed Church Buildings	0	0	1	0	4	3	0
Closed Church Buildings	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sentences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abductions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assaults	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Physical/ Mental Abuse	0	1	0	0	0	40	0
Attacked Christian Houses	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced to Leave Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	0	0	0	9	0

Region	Uganda	Ukraine	United Kingdom	United States	Uzbekistan	Venezuela	Vietnam
Total Incidents	11	28	12	91	7	29	11
Total Killings	8	9	0	1	0	3	1
Destroyed Church Buildings	0	7	11	59	0	8	0
Closed Church Buildings	0	2	0	0	1	1	0
Arrests	2	20	0	0	0	12	4
Sentences	0	14	0	5	2	0	103
Abductions	0	1	0	0	0	0	11
Sexual Assaults	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Physical/Mental Abuse	6	6	0	18	1	22	0
Attacked Christian Houses	0	8	0	0	0	2	0
Attacked Christian Shops/Businesses	0	1	0	1	0	2	0
Forced to Leave Home	0	0	0	0	0	12	0
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	0	0	0	4	0

Region	Yemen	Zambia
Total Incidents	1	1
Total Killings	0	0
Destroyed Church Buildings	0	0
Closed Church Buildings	0	0
Arrests	0	0
Sentences	0	0
Abductions	0	0
Sexual Assaults	0	0
Forced Marriages	0	0
Other Physical/ Mental Abuse	3	0
Attacked Christian Houses	0	0
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	0	0
Forced to Leave Home	0	0
Forced to Leave Country	0	0

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