



Reports

International Institute for Religious Freedom

September 2025 Report: Quarterly Report on Violence Against Christians

Q1 & Q2, 2025

2026 / 9

International Institute
for Religious Freedom



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for Religious Freedom

**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.

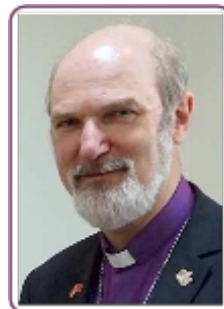
We understand Freedom of Religion and Belief (FoRB) as a fundamental and interdependent human right as described in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. In line with CCPR General Comment No. 22, we view FoRB as a broad and multi-dimensional concept that needs to be protected for all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



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International Institute for Religious Freedom

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Quarterly Report on Violence Against Christians**

Q1 & Q2, 2025

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Violent Incidents Against Christians in Q1 & Q2, 2025, by Country

Country	Argentina	Azerbaijan	Bolivia	Brazil	Burkina Faso	Cameroon	Central African Republic
Killings	0	0	0	1	2	7	0
Destroyed Church Buildings	12	1	1	1	0	3	2
Closed Church Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sentences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abductions	0	0	0	0	0	8	5
Sexual Assaults	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Physical/ Mental Abuse	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Attacked Christian Houses	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Forced to Leave Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Country	Chile	China	Colombia	Cuba	Cyprus	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Dominican Republic
Killings	0	0	1	0	0	73	0
Destroyed Church Buildings	3	1	3	3	2	3	1
Closed Church Buildings	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Arrests	0	30	0	28	0	0	0
Sentences	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Abductions	0	0	1	0	0	71	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	7	1	0	1	0
Attacked Christian Houses	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Forced to Leave Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Country	Ecuador	El Salvador	Ethiopia	Haiti	India	Indonesia	Israel
Killings	4	0	17	33	0	0	0
Destroyed Church Buildings	1	0	2	5	0	1	1
Closed Church Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arrests	0	1	3	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	0	25	3	8	4	0
Attacked Christian Houses	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	0	0	3	4	0	0	0
Forced to Leave Home	0	0	10	0	0	0	0
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Country	Italy	Jamaica	Kenya	Lebanon	Lithuania	Madagascar	Mauritius
Killings	0	1	2	0	0	2	0
Destroyed Church Buildings	0	0	6	1	1	0	0
Closed Church Buildings	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sentences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abductions	0	0	2	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	0	8	0	0	0	4
Attacked Christian Houses	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Forced to Leave Home	0	0	100	0	0	0	0
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Country	Mexico	Monte-negro	Mozam-bique	Myan-mar	Nicara-gua	Nigeria ¹	Peru
Killings	14	0	1	1	0	n/a	1
Destroyed Church Buildings	19	0	3	14	5	n/a	3
Closed Church Buildings	0	0	0	0	30	n/a	0
Arrests	2	0	0	0	1	n/a	0
Sentences	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	0
Abductions	0	0	2	30	0	n/a	0
Sexual As-saults	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	0
Forced Mar-riages	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	0
Other Phys-ical/ Mental Ab-use	4	1	3	13	0	n/a	0
Attacked Christian Houses	0	1	73	32	0	n/a	0
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	0	0	1	1	0	n/a	0
Forced to Leave Home	0	0	6	3	90	n/a	0
Forced to Leave Coun-try	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	0

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.

Country	Russia	South Sudan	Syria	Tanzania	Uganda	Ukraine	United Kingdom
Killings	0	3	28	0	1	0	0
Destroyed Church Buildings	11	2	2	0	1	20	0
Closed Church Buildings	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Arrests	2	0	0	86	0	0	0
Sentences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abductions	0	4	0	1	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	4	60	1	0	0	1
Attacked Christian Houses	0	0	1	0	0	8	1
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	0	1	0	0	0	3	0
Forced to Leave Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Country	United States	Venezuela
Killings	0	0
Destroyed Church Buildings	2	0
Closed Church Buildings	0	0
Arrests	0	1
Sentences	0	0
Abductions	0	0
Sexual Assaults	0	0
Forced Marriages	0	0
Other Physical/ Mental Abuse	1	0
Attacked Christian Houses	0	0
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	0	0
Forced to Leave Home	0	0
Forced to Leave Country	0	0

During the first half of 2025, violence against Christians was recorded across a wide range of countries, with the most severe cases in Africa, Latin America, and parts of Asia. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported the highest number of killings (73), alongside mass abductions. Syria and Haiti also saw very high death tolls (28 and 33 respectively). Ethiopia stood out for widespread assaults and forced displacement, while Mexico combined high levels of killings

(14) with extensive destruction of church property (19 incidents). Nicaragua showed systematic government repression, including 30 church closures and the forced displacement of 90 individuals. Overall, the country-level data highlight both violent attacks from armed groups and structural repression by governments.

Violent Incidents Against Christians in Q1 & Q2, 2025, by Region and by Perpetrator

Region	Latin America	Africa	Europe	Asia	North America	2025 Q1 + Q2 Total
Incidents	183	71	36	29	12	331
Killings	22	117	0	29	38	206
Destroyed Church Buildings	55	24	32	23	9	143
Closed Church Buildings	31	3	0	0	0	32
Arrests	33	89	2	30	0	154
Sentences	0	0	0	2	0	2
Abductions	2	153	0	30	0	185
Sexual Assaults	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Physical/ Mental Abuse	19	60	6	86	4	175
Attacked Christian Houses	4	80	10	34	1	129
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	0	8	4	1	4	17
Forced to Leave Home	90	116	0	3	0	209
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	0	0	0	0

Africa

Perpetrator	Revolutionaries or paramilitary groups	Organized crime	Unknown	Government officials	Violent religious groups	Normal citizens	Ethnic group leaders	Total
Incidents	19	13	11	10	9	6	3	71
Killings	82	4	3	22	5	0	1	117
Destroyed Church Buildings	2	4	5	4	5	4	0	24
Closed Church Buildings	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	3
Arrests	0	0	0	89	0	0	0	89
Sentences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abductions	107	11	6	3	23	0	3	153
Sexual Assaults	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Physical/ Mental Abuse	5	5	16	14	7	8	5	60
Attacked Christian Houses	1	6	0	0	73	0	0	80
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	0	2	2	3	0	1	0	8
Forced to Leave Home	10	100	0	0	6	0	0	116
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Asia

Perpetrator	Revolutionaries or paramilitary groups	Organized crime	Unknown	Government officials	Violent religious groups	Normal citizens	Ethnic group leaders	Ideological pressure groups	Total
Incidents	3	1	2	17	1	1	1	3	29
Killings	1	0	0	0	28	0	0	0	29
Destroyed Church Buildings	1	1	2	15	1	1	1	1	23
Closed Church Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arrests	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	30
Sentences	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Abductions	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
Sexual Assaults	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Physical/ Mental Abuse	0	0	0	15	60	0	3	8	86
Attacked Christian Houses	1	0	1	31	0	0	1	0	34
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Forced to Leave Home	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Europe

Perpetrator	Ideological pressure groups	Unknown	Government officials	Total
Incidents	1	3	32	36
Killings	0	0	0	0
Destroyed Church Buildings	0	1	31	32
Closed Church Buildings	0	0	0	0
Arrests	0	0	2	2
Sentences	0	0	0	0
Abductions	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assaults	0	0	0	0
Forced Marriages	0	0	0	0
Other Physical/ Mental Abuse	1	1	4	6
Attacked Christian Houses	1	1	8	10
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	0	1	3	4
Forced to Leave Home	0	0	0	0
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	0	0

Latin America

Perpetrator	Ideological pressure groups	Organized crime	Unknown	Government officials	Religious leaders	Normal citizens	Ethnic group leaders	Total
Incidents	2	28	19	126	1	4	3	183
Killings	0	20	1	0	1	0	0	22
Destroyed Church Buildings	6	23	16	6	0	3	1	55
Closed Church Buildings	0	1	0	30	0	0	0	31
Arrests	0	0	0	31	0	0	2	33
Sentences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abductions	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Sexual Assaults	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Physical/ Mental Abuse	0	16	2	1	0	0	0	19
Attacked Christian Houses	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	4
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forced to Leave Home	0	0	0	90	0	0	0	90
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

North America

Perpetrator	Organized crime	Unknown	Normal citizens	Total
Incidents	10	1	1	12
Killings	38	0	0	38
Destroyed Church Buildings	7	1	1	9
Closed Church Buildings	0	0	0	0
Arrests	0	0	0	0
Sentences	0	0	0	0
Abductions	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assaults	0	0	0	0
Forced Marriages	0	0	0	0
Other Physical/ Mental Abuse	3	0	1	4
Attacked Christian Houses	1	0	0	1
Attacked Christian Shops/ Businesses	4	0	0	4
Forced to Leave Home	0	0	0	0
Forced to Leave Country	0	0	0	0

When grouped by region, Africa emerges as the deadliest context, with 117 killings and 153 abductions, much of it attributed to paramilitary groups, violent religious actors, and organized crime. Asia reported 29 killings and 86 cases of abuse and harassment, often linked to state officials. Latin America recorded the highest number of incidents overall (183), driven by large-scale church closures in Nicaragua and criminal violence in Mexico and Colombia. Europe and North America reported fewer killings but multiple incidents of harassment, church destruction, and government restrictions. The breakdown by perpetrator shows that violence against Christians comes from many directions—state repression, organized crime, radical groups, and local communities—underscoring the complexity and diversity of threats faced by Christian communities worldwide.

Imprint

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