



PRAY FOR PERSECUTED BROTHERS & SISTERS

Pray for the Persecuted Christians in AFGHANISTAN

Remember the prisoners as if chained with them - those who are mistreated - since you yourselves are in the Body also.

(Hebrews 13:3)



Total Population: 38,928,346

Self-Proclaimed Christian Population: 0,1% – **Evangelical Witness: 0,0%**

Death Rate: 12.7/1000 per year: Just today: 1,354

Report Claims Taliban Carrying Out Door-To-Door Manhunt

08/20/2021 Afghanistan (International Christian Concern) - According to the BBC, the Taliban in Afghanistan has stepped up its effort to find individuals who worked with NATO forces and the previous government. Afghan Christians, a persecuted religious minority, fears similar efforts to discover members of their community are also under way.

In a document recently prepared for the United Nations by the RHIPTO Norwegian Center for Global Analyses, the group warned the Taliban were targeting "collaborators" despite promising there would be "no revenge". "There are a high number of individuals currently being targeted by the Taliban and the threat is crystal clear," Christian Nellemann, who heads the RHIPTO Norwegian Center for Global Analyses, told the BBC. "It is in writing that, unless they give themselves in, the Taliban will arrest and prosecute,

interrogate and punish family members on behalf of those individuals."

For Afghanistan's Christian community, similar fears have been expressed. "We are telling people to stay in their houses because going out now is too dangerous," a Christian leader in Afghanistan, whose name is being withheld for security reasons, told International Christian Concern (ICC) earlier this week. While a general amnesty has been announced by the Taliban, this leader feared Christians would still be targeted by Taliban fighters patrolling Kabul and other cities.

"Some known Christians are already receiving threatening phone calls," the Christian leader told ICC. "In these phone calls, unknown people say, 'We are coming for you'."

Afghanistan's Christian community is almost exclusively comprised of converts from Islam. Some estimate the Christian population to be between 8,000 and 12,000, making it one of the country's largest religious minority groups. However, due to extreme persecution, the Christian community remains largely closeted and hidden from the public eye.

Their status as converts makes Afghan Christians direct targets for persecution by both extremist groups and society in general. In Afghanistan, leaving Islam is considered extremely shameful and converts can face dire consequences if their conversion is discovered.

In many cases, known Christians must flee Afghanistan or risk being killed. According to the Taliban's ideology, Afghanistan is a Muslim country and non-Muslims must leave Afghanistan or accept second class status. For Christians, coming from convert backgrounds, the Taliban will consider them apostate and subject to Sharia's deadliest consequences.

Fear and Uncertainty Dominate Thoughts of Afghanistan's Christians Living Under Taliban Rule

By William Stark

08/17/2021 Washington, D.C. (International Christian Concern) - On Sunday, August 15, Taliban fighters captured Kabul, effectively asserting complete control over Afghanistan. For the country's secretive underground church, the return to Taliban rule has filled many with fear and uncertainty.

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dangerous," a Christian leader in Afghanistan, whose name is being withheld for security reasons, told International Christian Concern (ICC). While a general amnesty has been announced by the Taliban, this leader fears that Christians will still be targeted by Taliban fighters patrolling the streets of Kabul and other cities.

Afghanistan's Christian community is almost exclusively comprised of converts from Islam. Some estimate the Christian population to be between 10,000 and 12,000, making it the country's largest religious minority group. However, due to extreme persecution, the Christian community remains largely closeted and hidden from the public eye. . .

Following the Taliban's victory, there have been no targeted killings of Christians reported in Afghanistan. However, Christian leaders fear that it is only a matter of time before killings are reported.

"It will be done mafia style," the Christian leader explained. "The Taliban will never take responsibility for the killings."

In addition to death threats, many Christian families fear for the safety of their children.

"Many Christians fear the Taliban will take their children, both girls and boys, like in Nigeria and Syria," the Christian leader explained. "The girls will be forced to marry Taliban fighters and the boys will be forced to become soldiers. Both will be sent to madrassas to be brainwashed."

To evidence this concern, the Christian leader shared a written declaration by the Cultural Commission of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, another name of the Taliban, declaring their intention to marry girls and young widows to Taliban fighters. The declaration said:

"In order to eradicate the ignorance of irreligion and also social problems of the youth in these provinces in general, the officials of the Islamic Emirate are ordering all the people of these provinces, especially tribal elders, village khans and mullahs, mosques to list young girls. They are over 15 years old, and widows should be handed over to the Mojahedin Cultural Commission of the Islamic Emirate under the age of 45. God willing, these sisters will come to the religious marriage of the Mujahideen in order to learn pure Islamic lessons and accept Islam."

With all civilian flights out of Afghanistan cancelled indefinitely and the borders controlled by the Taliban, many Christians in Afghanistan find themselves stuck in a dangerous situation. Uncertainty and fear of discovery dominate the thoughts of many Afghan Christians.

Prior to the Taliban retaking the country, Open Doors ranked Afghanistan second on its World Watch List. The only country to outrank Afghanistan in Christian persecution is North Korea. According to Open Doors, persecution in Afghanistan "is only very slightly less oppressive than in North Korea."