



PRAY FOR PERSECUTED BROTHERS & SISTERS

Pray for the Persecuted Christians in North Korea

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: 1,439,323,776

Self-Proclaimed Christian Population: 1% – **Evangelical Witness: 0.5%**

Non-Religious: 69%

Sending the Gospel into North Korea

02/08/2021 North Korea (International Christian Concern) - For many years, North Korea has been widely recognized as the most dangerous nation in the world to be a Christian. Those who practice their faith openly risk the threat of prison camps, torture, and sometimes even execution. However, despite the nation's closed borders, we have seen hearts open to the Gospel in North Korea at astounding rates. Therefore, we have teamed up with local partners to broadcast the Good News into North Korea for two hours each day, bringing hope to those hungry for truth.

One local North Korean reported, "These days, we keep the secret to each other, but there are rumors among the people here that those who were expelled from Pyongyang are gathering together to have a secret worship

service and they close their eyes and [are] murmuring (presumably in prayer) at the market when they face difficulties."

Persecution in North Korea

(Variety of sources listed in Wikipedia)

In North Korea, the Constitution guarantees "freedom of religious beliefs". However, in reality there is no freedom of religion in the country. According to one report at least 200,000 Christians have gone missing since 1953. Christians in North Korea are said to be the most persecuted in the world.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is officially an atheist state,[6][7] but government policy continues to interfere with the individual's ability to choose and to manifest a religious belief. The regime continues to repress the religious activities of unauthorized religious groups. Recent refugee, defector, missionary, and nongovernmental organizations (NGO) reports indicate that religious persons engaging in proselytizing in the country, those who have ties to overseas evangelical groups operating across the border in the People's Republic of China, and specifically, those repatriated from China and found to have been in contact with foreigners or missionaries, have been arrested and subjected to harsh penalties. People found with Christian Bibles, which are considered to be a symbol of the West, can be executed or tortured. Refugees and defectors continued to allege that they witnessed the arrests and execution of members of underground Christian churches by the regime in prior years. Due to the country's inaccessibility and the inability to gain timely information, this activity remains difficult to verify.

Status of Religious Freedom

North Korea sees organised religious activity, except that which is supervised by officially recognized groups linked to the Government, as a potential pretext to challenging the leadership and social order. Religion many times is practiced in secret. Genuine religious freedom does not exist.

The government deals harshly with all opponents, and those engaged in unsanctioned religious activities often face the harshest of treatment. In particular, those of Christian faith are persecuted the most, and North Korea is ranked as the worst country in the world in terms of Christian persecution by international Catholic aid organization Aid to the Church in Need.

As of 2012, an estimated 150,000 to 200,000 persons are believed to be held in political prison camps (Kwalliso) which are located in remote areas of North Korea, many for religious and political reasons.[14] The number of Christians in prison camps is estimated to be in the tens of thousands. Family members of believers are considered guilty by association and sent to labor camps or prisons.

Punishable religious activities include propagating religion, possessing religious items, praying, singing hymns, and having contact with religious persons.

In March 2006, the Government reportedly sentenced Son Jong-nam to death for espionage. However, some NGOs claimed that the sentence against Son was based on his contacts with Christian groups in China, his proselytizing activities, and his alleged sharing of information with his brother in South Korea. Son's brother reported that information indicated that Son was alive as of spring 2007. Because the country effectively bars outside observers from investigating such reports, it was not possible to verify the Government's claims about Son Jong-nam's activities or determine whether he had been executed. A fellow inmate of the Pyongyang prison where Son was held states that he died there in December 2008.] In 2013, the South Korean newspaper JoongAng Ilbo reported that North Koreans in Wonsan discovered in possession of a Bible were among a group of 80 North Koreans killed in a wave of mass executions in the country. Others in the group were executed for other "relatively light transgressions such as watching South Korean movies or distributing pornography." However, others have testified in interviews that North Korean citizens have full rights to own and use religious texts and worship at church, although there may not be many young believers.

**PRAY for Your Brothers and Sisters Who
ARE Suffering for Their Faith Right Now!**