



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

Saving Faith: The Gospel Amid the Afghanistan Crisis

10/18/2021 Washington D.C. (Adapted from International Christian Concern)
The world watched in horror as Afghanistan succumbed to Taliban control this past August. Of special interest at International Christian Concern (ICC) was the well-being of Afghan Christians under the new regime. Various leaders in the new government have remarked that they will show no mercy toward Christians, with some even highlighting a possible return to stadium-style executions. The new situation is deeply unsafe for Christians, and, unsurprisingly, many Afghan Christians have fled to neighboring countries in the hopes of securing a better future.

Thanks to the generous support of donors, ICC has been able to work directly on the ground with Afghan Christian refugees who have fled to Country X

(unnamed for security reasons), assisting them with resettlement. Country X is a Muslim country that is one of the top persecutor countries for Christians in the Middle East. As such, Afghan Christians are travelling from one danger to another as they flee the Taliban into this nation. . .

ICC has been working with a fellowship network in the greater region of Country X which has the largest (albeit still small) ministry serving Afghans.

This ministry includes 40 Afghan Christians, in addition to a number of Afghan seekers. The ministry expects to grow with the new influx of Afghan refugees, but ICC projects unfortunately that this growth will be accompanied by increased persecution, since the authorities actively target Christians who conduct outreach-related work. Nonetheless, the ministry continues to do good work serving Afghan refugees.

ICC's project with this ministry has been providing tailored assistance to Afghan Christian refugee families, helping them to remain safely in Country X and encouraging them to build relationships with new Afghan arrivals for further Gospel outreach.

Experts Report Afghanistan is on the Brink of a Humanitarian Catastrophe

10/21/2021 Afghanistan (International Christian Concern) – According to Christianity Daily, Afghanistan is on the brink of humanitarian collapse following the country's fall to the Taliban in August. Without significant international aid, experts estimate at least 14 million Afghans are at risk of acute food insecurity.

On August 15, the Taliban entered Kabul in a lightning-fast victory over the former government's forces. In September, the group formed an interim government filled with religious hardliners from the Taliban's oppressive rule in the 1990s.

"We will have a humanitarian catastrophe," Omar Abdi, Deputy Executive Director of Programs at UNICEF, warned earlier this month. "There are millions of people who are going to starve. And there is winter coming, there is COVID raging, and the whole social system collapsed."

Abdi warned that there are food and medical shortages in Afghanistan in addition to a fuel shortage. A recent survey conducted by the World Food Program revealed that an estimated 95% of households in Afghanistan are failing to consume enough food to survive, with parents often skipping meals to keep their children fed.

Unfortunately, the Taliban government seems more concerned with enforcing its harsh rule than staving off the oncoming humanitarian disaster. According to a report by Amnesty International, the Taliban has engaged in a broad and brutal crackdown seeking to settle old scores and stamp out any opposition.

"The current situation in Afghanistan is a moment of reckoning," Amnesty International reported in September. "A moment where the human rights gains that the Afghan people have built over two decades is at risk of collapse."

"This is not just some sort of narrow settling of scores with political or armed enemies," Daniel Balson, Amnesty International USA's Advocacy Director for Europe and Central Asia, told NBC. "This is quite broad. Anybody who is seen to be potentially not entirely in accord with this new order has a target on their backs."

Since the Taliban retook power in Afghanistan, Afghan Christians have been under direct threat of persecution.

"Some known Christians are already receiving threatening phone calls," an Afghan Christian leader told ICC days after the Taliban entered Kabul. "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. Their status as converts, however, makes Afghan Christians direct targets for persecution.

According to the Taliban's strict interpretation of Shariah, Afghan Christians are apostates due to their conversions from Islam. As apostates, Afghan Christians will be subject to Shariah's deadliest consequences under the Taliban's rule.