

**Dear Friends and Supporters.**

The **September 2023 issue of the Caucus Newsletter for the Persecuted Church** and other religious minorities is now available from [c.v.r.blacker@btinternet.com](mailto:c.v.r.blacker@btinternet.com).

It's been a difficult month for religious minorities around the world as their persecutors become emboldened by the seeming weakness, and also the silence, of Western nations in the pursuit of trade deals.

This includes the USA who have pulled back on providing asylum places for persecuted Christians.

The United Nations again denounce China for its crimes against humanity in XinJiang but the Chinese Communist Party launches a further raft of laws to control and suppress Churches. China courts Islamic radicals in Pakistan in a deal in which they are invited not to criticise China's treatment of its Muslim population in return for which China will turn a blind eye to the radicals killing of Christians and other religious minorities.

In Pakistan a pastor is shot by Islamists and hundreds of churches and Christian homes and businesses are destroyed by orchestrated mob violence. Various NGOs are supporting the victims and the newsletter contains several appeals for funds.

Meanwhile, UN experts express alarm at the continuing abuses towards thousands of Christians in Manipur, India.

There is a review of the predicament for the dwindling Christians in Iraq and an appeal on behalf of them and Armenians by the Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organisation.

In Mozambique 11 Christians are massacred by jihadists and a Seminary student is burned to death by Islamists in Nigeria. There is an appeal by Aid to the Church in Need on behalf of thousands of displaced Christians in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

There is an appeal by Release International on behalf of Christians who are paying a heavy price for trying to stand up against the drug gangs.

Finally, the situation for ethnic Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh deteriorates badly: Starvation is now being used as a weapon of 'invisible' genocide – itself a continuation of serial waves of genocide against Armenian Christians whilst the mainstream media in the West looks away.

The newsletter ends with a list of heroic NGOs who provide important aid and advocacy for persecuted religious minorities; clicking on their websites will reveal the many positive things they do to combat the suffering and which represents a welcome antidote to the descriptions of discrimination and violence within the main report.

Thank you for your interest and letters of support. Do use this information to bring these matters to the attention of your MP or other political representative.

Do feel free, also, to pass on this newsletter to friends and colleagues.

If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter just reply with a simple 'No thank you'.

**Dr Russell Blacker / Caucus for the Persecuted Church - TR17 0AF**