**Dear Friends and Supporters.**

The April 2022 Caucus Newsletter for the Persecuted Church and other Religious Minorities is now available from c.v.r.blacker@btinternet.com.

The newsletter opens with notice of two important conferences – the first in Truro on June 6th at which leading experts will respond to the annually-increasing epidemic of persecution worldwide, critically examining what more could be done, what works and what doesn’t, and what more the churches and general public could do to assist?

The second is an International Ministerial Conference being held in London on 5/6 July. Details are provided.

There then follows an overview of religious freedoms globally by MEP Carlo Fidanza.

Attacks and the killing of Christians across India continues to spiral upwards facilitated by the new anti-conversion laws; a number of recent incidents are reported.

In Nigeria numerous attacks on Christians by Fulani extremists in the last month result in the deaths of dozens of Christians including women and children. 13,000 - 19,000 killings have now occurred since 2009, with countless others suffering life-changing injuries. The violence has displaced millions of people. This section closes with a summary of Baroness Cox’s Nigeria report which makes a number of recommendations to address what is fast becoming a genocide.

In China, the atheist Communist Party now bans all religious material on the internet unless government permission is obtained. And two new reports documenting the persecution of *all* religions in China are reviewed and concluding, contrary to what one might glean from our own media, that the most persecuted groups are not the Uyghur but the Falun Gong and the Church of Almighty God.

In Egypt: a Coptic Archbishop is stabbed to death whilst handing out Ramadan gifts in Alexandria, and in Minya 3 other Copts are killed and their bodies mutilated.

There are some more positive developments as shown in a Middle-East briefing by SAT-7.

In Iran two Christian leaders – both women - are sentenced to 2 years imprisonment.

In Iraq a 20-year-old human rights activist is killed by her family for converting to Christianity.

Finally, we come to Ukraine where Jewish Christian and Muslim leaders unite in protest against the invasion – plus reports and views of how Christians continued to celebrate Easter amongst the ruins of their churches.

Do feel free to pass on this newsletter to friends and colleagues. If anyone not yet in receipt of the newsletter and who would like to receive it, please invite them to contact me for inclusion in the confidential (GDPR compliant) mailing list.

All best wishes

**Dr Russell Blacker / The Caucus for the Persecuted Church**

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