

Dear Friends and Supporters.

The **APRIL 2023** issue of the **Caucus Newsletter for the Persecuted Church and other religious minorities** is now available from **Dr CVR Blacker** [**c.v.r.blacker@btinternet.com**](mailto:c.v.r.blacker@btinternet.com). Here is a brief summary of the articles...

1. In Nigeria genocidal killing continues as gunmen open fire on a primary school within a displaced persons' camp, killing 34 – and in Benue state another 60 Christians are murdered by Fulani Islamists. Nigeria leads the world in Christians killed for their faith - and abducted, sexually assaulted, and forcibly married. Militants conduct raids on Christian communities killing, maiming, raping and kidnapping for ransom or sexual slavery. This violence is now spreading into the south but Nigeria's government continues to deny that this is religious persecution so the killing continues with impunity.

2. In Eritrea where many Christians remain in prison, often in brutal conditions, 103 young believers are arrested for trying to download Christian music.

3. A released aid worker speaks of brutal treatment in captivity in Niger.

4. During Ramadan in Pakistan 4 members of religious minorities are gunned down whilst MPs in parliament insult these minorities with impunity.

5. In Myanmar the military drop bombs on ethnic Christian villages killing many including children.

6. In Thailand police arrest and beat 63 Chinese Christians refugees as the UK and US fight to deter deportations.

7. In Israel attacks on Christians are on the rise but Christians face persecution also in Gaza.

8. In Iran more Christians – and Bahais – are arrested and given harsh prison sentences for merely practising their faith.

9. In Russia an evangelical pastor is arrested and his church shut down.

10. In the UK a growing proportion of voters believe that religious faith should be a bar to appointment as prime minister whilst Lord Alton calls attention to the discrimination that Christians face in the workplace.

The newsletter ends with a link to previous newsletters and a list of NGOs who provide valuable aid and advocacy and to whom you can make donations. Clicking on their websites will reveal the positive responses and developments which represent an antidote to the discrimination and violence in the main report.

Do feel free to pass on this newsletter to friends and colleagues. If any would like to receive it themselves please invite them to contact me for inclusion in the confidential (GDPR compliant) mailing list.

Dr Russell Blacker / The Caucus for the Persecuted Church

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