From: <u>Dr CVR Blacker</u>
To: <u>"Dr CVR Blacker"</u>

Subject: February 2023 Caucus for the Persecuted Church Newsletter

Date: 13 March 2023 13:59:31

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Dear Friends and Supporters.

Apologies for the delay in this February 2023 issue of the Caucus Newsletter for the Persecuted Church and other religious minorities. I was in India until yesterday where the Govt had suspended the internet for some days.

Jinnah established Pakistan as a state where all religions were free to practice their faith; this edition contains a review of Pakistan's ongoing 'Purification' campaign against its religious minorities which have fallen from 23% in 1947 to, now, 3%. Many of these minorities suffer daily discrimination, arrests under accusations of blasphemy, abduction rape and forced conversion, as well as violence and murder. As an illustration, there is a report concerning another Christian girl kidnapped by a 60-Year-Old Muslim, and a another Christian farm labourer who is beaten to death.

In India the growing persecution of Christians following Modi's anticonversion laws results in large demonstrations in Delhi. There is also a review of last month's report of blatant persecution of tribal Christians in Chhattisgarh.

In Nigeria it is revealed that Jihadists have killed 2,543 Christians - and abduct 1400 others - in Jan-June 2022 alone.

There is a report by Christian Solidarity Worldwide on the worsening situation in Cuba.

In China Police detain more ethnic Christians, UN Special Rapporteurs identify that 1 million Tibetan children are forcibly separated from their parents, and more than 10,000 members of the Church of Almighty God were arrested in 2022. China Aid Association releases its latest report revealing the different mechanisms that the CCP uses to discriminate against, incarcerate, torture and also kill China's religious minorities. This is happening on an industrial scale but, apart from the Uyghurs, Western media turns a blind eye.

In Laos more Christian families are forcibly evicted from their village and in Indonesia the Police arrest a popular Christian radio apologist.

In a presentation to the G20 Religion Forum Archbishop Bashar Warda says it like it is —calling for religious pluralism and warning the world.

There is a short analysis of the current position of the Yadizis – the victims of IS – and whom the western media and politicians seem to have already forgotten.

Some good news from Iran where pastor Zaman Fadaie has been released after five years in prison. Many more – Bahais and Christians - remain behind bars on trumped up charges simply for practising their faith.

There then follows a devastating critique by Professor Mariz Tadros of why western feminists ignore the plight of religious-minority women and girls around the world.

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.

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

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