**Dear Friends and Supporters.**

The **June** **2021** Caucus Newsletter for the Persecuted Church is now available from c.v.r.blacker@btinternet.com. It contains reports of atrocities that never make it to the airwaves of our mainstream media nor feature in the political protests and marches of recent times. We owe it to the victims to record and honour their names and to find ways in which we can help them and their families – by prayer, sharing, consciousness-raising, writing to our political representatives, and making donations to the heroic NGOs who support them. Who these NGOs are, and the exacting and often dangerous work they do, is the “positive news” which lies behind these stories and you can read about their work via the websites at the foot of the newsletter.

This issue opens with accounts of religiously motivated attacks on Christians across Africa where Islamist militias and attacks are on the increase; this month examples from Uganda, South Sudan, and Burkina Faso are reported.

The UN, for too long dominated by powerful states with gross human rights abuse records, is at long last beginning to wake up to the genocides and crimes against humanity in Communist-controlled China. Whether any action, as opposed to rhetoric, will follow remains to be seen. Efforts are being made to persuade more countries to call for an investigation into these terrible crimes and only a few more are required to enable a vote to take place.  Attached are links to documentaries and reports on which this evidence is based.

Meanwhile, undercover Chinese doctors and police, plus Uyghur survivors, describe rapes, infanticide, forced sterilisation, and use of torture and murder in a series of alarming reports. Meanwhile, the much-publicised ‘Belt and Road’ initiative proceeds apace using forced labour. Why our mainstream media fail to address these issues – the greatest threat to the world order and world peace – whilst focussing on comparative irrelevancies is hard to explain. Social Media and Political silence confers impunity. As theologian Bonhoeffer memorably said – “*Not to act is to act” -* and historian Toynbee wrote “*Civilizations die from suicide not murder”*

There are continuing reports of violence against religious minorities in India and Pakistan including the rape and killing of children - both Commonwealth countries with whom the UK has close ties.

### Christians and other minorities fear for the future in Iran following the election of President Raisi, previously known as *The Butcher of Tehran –* whilst in Algeria Christians continue to be arrested, fined and have their churches closed because their mere existence offends others. This is not so very different from the ‘cancel culture’ which exists in the West.

### There are some positive – but also negative - developments with regard to antisemitism which is on the increase across the liberal West and which is known to have close links with the ‘cancel culture’ and its adherents including, sad to say, some churches.

### There is a report of the excellent work of ‘Aid to the Church in Need’ in supporting minorities who are sidestepped globally by authorities in the Covid pandemic. Other faith-based NGOs are doing the same work, trying to plug the gap in medical provision in a number of countries.

### Finally, there is a detailed report of the little-known and under-reported situation in Ngorno-Karabakh by expert Baroness Caroline Cox.  I have just heard from a friend who is an aid worker there and he confirms that the situation is truly dire.

### Do feel free to pass on this newsletter to friends and colleagues, and to use the material for presentations, fund-raising, prayer groups, and writing to your MP. This is how ordinary people can make a difference. If a friend or colleague would like to receive this newsletter please invite them to contact c.v.r.blacker@btinternet.com for inclusion in the confidential (GDPR compliant) mailing list.

Kind regards – and Stay Safe!

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