

## **Dear Friends Colleagues and Supporters.**

The June 2020 Newsletter for the Persecuted Church which also draws attention to the plight of other religious minorities is now available – please contact Dr Russell Blacker [c.v.r.blacker@btinternet.com](mailto:c.v.r.blacker@btinternet.com) if you would like a copy.

The long-awaited report on persecution in Nigeria by the All Party Parliamentary Group for Freedom of Religion and Belief is published amidst a wave of further sectarian violence displacement and murders which are now being referred to as ‘genocide’. The #BLM demonstrations in the West have turned a blind eye to these and other serious issues which affect BAME communities worldwide including the continuing slavery in the African continent. Meanwhile 10 Aid workers are kidnapped in adjoining Niger.

As the world reels from the shock of China’s ‘take-over’ of Hong Kong there are further revelations of gross human rights abuses within mainland China: elderly Christians are forced to choose between faith or survival, and another 48 Churches are shut down and religious symbols purged from believers’ homes. It is also revealed that the detained Uyghar Muslims – having been forced into slave labour – are also being subject to forced sterilisation. One human rights activist asks “*Will feminists support them?*”; indeed: so far feminists in the West have remained remarkably quiet about gross abuses towards women and girls in ethnic and religious spheres outside of the US.

There is an update on relief work for migrant workers affected by the Covid-19 shut-down in India. And in Pakistan a Christian accused of blasphemy has had his case postponed 70 times in 11 years.

There is a valuable ‘CSW’ fact-finding report on the state of religious minorities in Northern Iraq whilst dangerous political and military developments are identified in adjoining Turkey (including the providing of state-of-the-art weaponry to murderous Islamist groups across Africa).

An interview with a Bishop reveals the plight of Christians in Iran whilst a Jehovah’s Witness is sentenced to 6 years imprisonment in Russia.

Do feel free to pass on this newsletter to friends and colleagues or use the material for presentations, fund-raising, prayer groups, and writing to your political representatives.

Kind regards – and Stay Safe!

**Dr Russell Blacker and colleagues:**

**The Caucus for the Persecuted Church**