

Dear Friends and Supporters.

A combined **June and July 2022 Caucus Newsletter for the Persecuted Church** and other religious minorities is now available from Dr CVR Blacker c.v.r.blacker@btinternet.com. There has been a lot of activity and work in connection with the Truro Conference and then the International Freedom of Religion or Belief Conference in London which drew my attention away. It was a privilege to meet so many activists in London, including those of other faiths, and humbling to hear that they valued this Newsletter.

This edition opens with the tragedy of 50 worshippers, including children, massacred in a Church in Owo Nigeria. In the same month another priest was abducted and a pastor's daughter is released by kidnappers as her mother buries and forgives the killers of her two sons.

This is followed by a moving speech by Baroness Caroline Cox on the situation in Nigeria which she has witnessed at first hand. These killings and abductions of Christians continue month after month - seemingly without any effective prevention by the Nigerian Govt, Military or Police.

Concerning Pakistan the National Commission for Human Rights finds that religious minorities are not being assisted into work despite Govt legislation, many are forced to do dangerous underground sewage work whilst receiving low pay, and there is evidence of gross discrimination.

Also in Pakistan more Christians receive death sentences in the Courts for alleged blasphemy – and many are held in prison for years for offences they did not commit.

There is then a reflection by a Pakistani activist regarding the International Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief in London and “Why we must act now on religious freedom before it is too late”.

Despite the clear evidence of Forced Organ Harvesting on prisoners of conscience and religious minorities in China Western Leaders including the US are continuing to act with complicity.

In Afghanistan an attack on a Sikh Temple following previous murders of Sikhs (reported here last month) may signal the end of Afghanistan's Sikhs.

In Egypt under General Sisi the licensing of Churches is going ahead but this often provokes mob attacks on Christians.

The newsletter ends, as always ,with a link to all the previous Caucus newsletters over the past 10 years - and a list of NGOs who provide support and advocacy for Christians and other religious minorities.

Do feel free to pass on this newsletter to friends and colleagues. If anyone would like to receive it in person 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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