**The** **November** **2021 Caucus Newsletter for the Persecuted Church** and other religious minorities is now available from c.v.r.blacker@btinternet.com. Sad to say there have been numerous incidents of violence some of which were still developing and needed verification at the time this newsletter would originally have gone out.

In Nigeria there has been a slew of further abductions and killing of Christians by Boko Haram (see above), Fulani herdsmen, and – increasingly – bandits who profiteer from abduction (and then kill their victims). Nigeria is the country where most Christians are being killed for their faith and on a regular and continuing basis; despite this, the Biden administration inexplicably *remove* Nigeria from their list of ‘Countries of Particular Concern’.

In Uganda, although Muslims make up only 20% of the population, there are increasing violent attacks by Muslims on Christians and churches as well as a spate of bombings in Kampala. Converts to Christianity are particularly attacked and killed, tragically sometimes by their own families.

In Ethiopian Tigray at least78 Christian Priests have been massacred.

In Myanmar the Military shells a Catholic cathedral for the second time in 5 months. Christian villages are attacked and many  more are left homeless.

And there are numerous appalling attacks on Christians in Pakistan whose Govt under Imran Khan is showing no signs of responding to international calls to control the Islamist violence. Of particular concern is the abduction rape and murder of Christian boys – and the continuing abduction, rape and forced conversions of *hundreds* of Christian girls. There is an urgent appeal to the UN which you can sign. The stress on the Christian, and increasingly the Hindu, communities in Pakistan is enormous. This is a country to whom the UK hands over £378,000 per *day* in ‘aid’ yet the new educational curriculum appears to be going *backwards* in terms of incitement to religious hatred.

Meanwhile, attacks on Christians in India are rising.New anti-conversion laws spreading across the country are encouraging Hindu nationalists to take the law into their own hands and Indian Christians are justifiably worried about how this will play out. Police are already telling Christians to avoid meeting together to obviate attacks.

But this trend is not confined to distant regimes; this year’s session of the Human Rights Council identifies that last year there were 980 hate crimes towards Christians across Europe … 70% more than in 2019 and more than any other religious group (including Jews and Muslims). France, in particular, has seen numerous attacks on churches, priests and worshippers – but now the problem is growing in *Scotland*.

Media reluctance to report these crimes has kept knowledge of these attacks from the public eye; it is suspected that biases operating within the media contribute to this - as revealed by the coverage of the attack, in Oxford Street, on a bus full of Jews out celebrating Hannukah. Although there was no shred of evidence the BBC editors decided to insert a statement to the effect that the Jews were making anti-Muslim slurs and therefore partly to blame for the attack. Formal complaints have been made but the BBC has yet to apologise for yet another example of blatant anti-Israel anti-Semitic prejudice.

Finally, at a service to celebrate the Coptic New Year messages of encouragement and support are issued by Her Majesty the Queen, the Prince of Wales, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Prime Minister.

As always there are plenty of *positive* stories about outreach, support, aid – and *gratitude ­–* from the victims of persecution and contained in the webpages of the NGOs listed at the foot of the newsletter.

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 we can make a difference.

If a friend or colleague would like to receive this newsletter please invite them to contact me for inclusion in the confidential (GDPR compliant) mailing list.

Wishing you and yours’ a very Happy Christmas

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

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