**Dear Friends and Supporters.**

A double issue, **April / May** **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 or, indeed, feature in the many political protests and marches of recent times. We owe it to the victims of this global persecution to record and honour their names, and to find ways in which we can help them and their families – through sharing / consciousness-raising, writing to MPs, prayer, and donating 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 reports and you can read about their work via the websites at the foot of this newsletter.

This issue opens with accounts of religiously motivated killing and maiming of Christians in many countries across Africa - Egypt, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo and, now, Mozambique - the latest addition to the terrorist tide spreading across the continent. China now has many of these countries in its thrall but it doesn’t concern itself with persecution of vulnerable faith groups being itself busily occupied doing the same thing within its own borders.

Named Christians are imprisoned in Iran (the number one exporter of terrorism including provision of arms to Hamas, and another country with close links with China).

In Indonesia Christians are injured by bombs as they emerge from Palm Sunday worship.

In Pakistan, the blasphemy laws and police corruption create a climate of impunity in which violent attacks are carried out on Christian nurses by their medical and nursing colleagues - something that would be unthinkable in the UK.

Christians are not the only faith groups under attack; across Europe there has been a massive rise in antisemitic attacks in recent weeks and in Bangladesh religious leaders unite to condemn attacks on Hindu minorities.

There are a series of development concerning Uyghur slave labour in China – western companies who refuse to comply with calls to withdraw face legal action whilst the CCP boycotts companies which *do.* There are continuing efforts by parliamentarians to persuade the UK Govt to stand up to China’s genocide and crimes against humanity; commitments to Human Rights are highlighted in the Queen’ speech but it remains to be seen what priority they will have in the light of the UK’s increasingly close trade links with China.

Lastly, there is a brief review of the situation in North Korea as reported by Christian escapees.

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

Kind regards – and Stay Safe!

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