

Dear Friends and Supporters.

A somewhat extended **December 2024** issue of the **Caucus Newsletter for the Persecuted Church is now available from c.v.r.blacker@btinternet.com** which begins with a focus of countries where Christmas is banned, including Bethlehem. At this time of Christmas when we remember the birth of Jesus, a Jew, a descendant of David, in “Judea” there is a focus on the rising tide of global antisemitism - where it is coming from and what is driving it and what it signals for the future of all religious minorities and human rights generally. There is also a focus on the developments in Syria where Christians are cautiously hopeful concerning the new regime although cracks are beginning to appear.

Continuing the theme of Middle Eastern politics, the Vatican removes the keffiyeh from the baby Jesus in the nativity scene amid a backlash of protests.

There is a review of the continuing problem of Egypt’s disappearing women whilst a 14 yr old Ismaili boy is shot dead in Afghanistan and an Ahmadi man killed in Pakistan.

At Least 95 more Christians are slain in Nigeria’s Benue and Taraba States whilst Fulani herdsmen kill two Christians and kidnap another pastor.

In California two young Christian boys are shot in revenge for the Gaza 'genocide'.

Further to the previous two Caucus Newsletters the Canadian Senate hears of rising antisemitism across the country whilst Jews continue to feel Europe.

A German church is investigated over the sale of pro-Hamas gifts at a Christmas market

In Australia a synagogue is firebombed in ‘clear act of anti-Semitism’

There is also a review of antisemitism in Ireland which forms the background to the recent decision by Israel to withdraw its embassy.

In the UK, Jewish students in Oxford speak out after the 'shocking' union debate as a report shows that antisemitic abuse at UK universities hits a record high. Also in the UK a report reveals an ‘antisemitic silent boycott’ in the publishing industry, Jewish Doctors face abuse from their colleagues, and the Royal College of Art is accused of creating a ‘hostile environment for Jews’

These will necessarily be issues to be addressed by the newly-appointed Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief.

Regarding China we are now 3 years on from the Uyghur Tribunal Verdict: Where Do We Go from There?

The newsletter ends with the usual list of NGOs who provide vitally important aid advocacy plus spiritual and practical support for persecuted Christians and other minorities; clicking on their websites reveals the tremendous things they do, and which is a welcome antidote to the catalogue of discrimination and violence in the main report.

Thank you for your continuing interest and support. Do use this information to bring these matters to the attention of your MP, friends and families, churches mosques temples and synagogues.

Dr Russell Blacker / Caucus for the Persecuted Church - TR17 – December 2024