**Dear Friends Colleagues and Supporters**

**The October 2019 edition of the Caucus for the Persecuted Church Newsletter is now avialable. After the positive news of last month the situation has reverted to accounts of appalling, and *growing,* attacks on religious minorities cross the world – including Europe.**

**President Trump’s decision to withdraw troops from Syria and President Erdogan’s reflex military response forces many Christians to flee south to avoid another wave of ethnic cleansing. Church leaders in Kurdistan brace themselves to support thousands of new refugees as winter approaches.  Church leaders warn of a further exodus from the Middle East leading to the extinction of Christianity from its heartland and a large number of NGOs appeal to President Trump to reverse his policy. Meanwhile Turkey releases more refugees into Europe - with inevitable consequences.**

**In Iran another pastor is sentenced to 5 years in prison by a corrupt judiciary. European leaders who go on about human rights nonetheless continue to pursue appeasement policies with a government named as the world's leading executioner of children [Iran's Islamic Penal Code allows girls as young as 9 and boys as young as 15 to be executed]. Two 17-year-old boys, whose families did not even did not even know about their death sentences, were flogged before being executed.** **Three more children are currently awaiting execution.**

**And in Algeria Islamic officials close a number of flourishing churches.**

**In Central African Republic thousands have been killed and a million internally displaced because of sectarian violence – whilst in Nigeria two young Christian aid-workers are executed by Boko Haram.**

**The only good news is that the new, Christian, Prime Minister of Ethiopia wins the Nobel Peace Prize for securing a peace with Eritrea. It is hoped that persecution may now ease for believers in Ethiopia.**

**In India the number of hate crimes against Christians by BJP Hindu extremists continues to rise.**

**There is a harrowing Al-Jazeera report on the plight of brick-kiln workers in Pakistan; many of these are Christians, many are children, and many suffer physically and are abused with the connivance of the police – and all to the personal profit of politicians and other influential people.**

# In Sri Lanka worshippers continue to be harassed attacked and beaten by Buddhist extremists.

**There is an important online presentation - the Gresham Lecture - by Sir Geoffrey Nice QC and Professor Martin Elliot on China’s forced organ-harvesting of Falun Gong and other religious ‘dissidents’.**

**Lord Alton also leads an important parliamentary debate on China’s growing – and grotesque - human rights abuses.**

**In the UK, former Archbishop, Lord George** Carey, launches a Judicial R**eview of the Home Office’s discrimination against Christian and Yazidi refugees – whilst Lord Singh resigns from ‘Thought for the Day’ over BBC bias against certain religious groups.**

**Finally, there is an important online interview with two Professors on the issues of antisemitism and islamophobia.**

**Antisemitic incidents continue to increase in Europe and UK synagogues are officially advised to keep their doors closed and locked.**

Please contact Dr Russell Blacker c.v.r.blacker@btinternet.com if you would like to receive the full newsletter

Kind regards

Dr Russell Blacker and colleagues:

The Caucus for the Persecuted Church