



IDOP¹⁴



DON'T STAND IN SILENCE

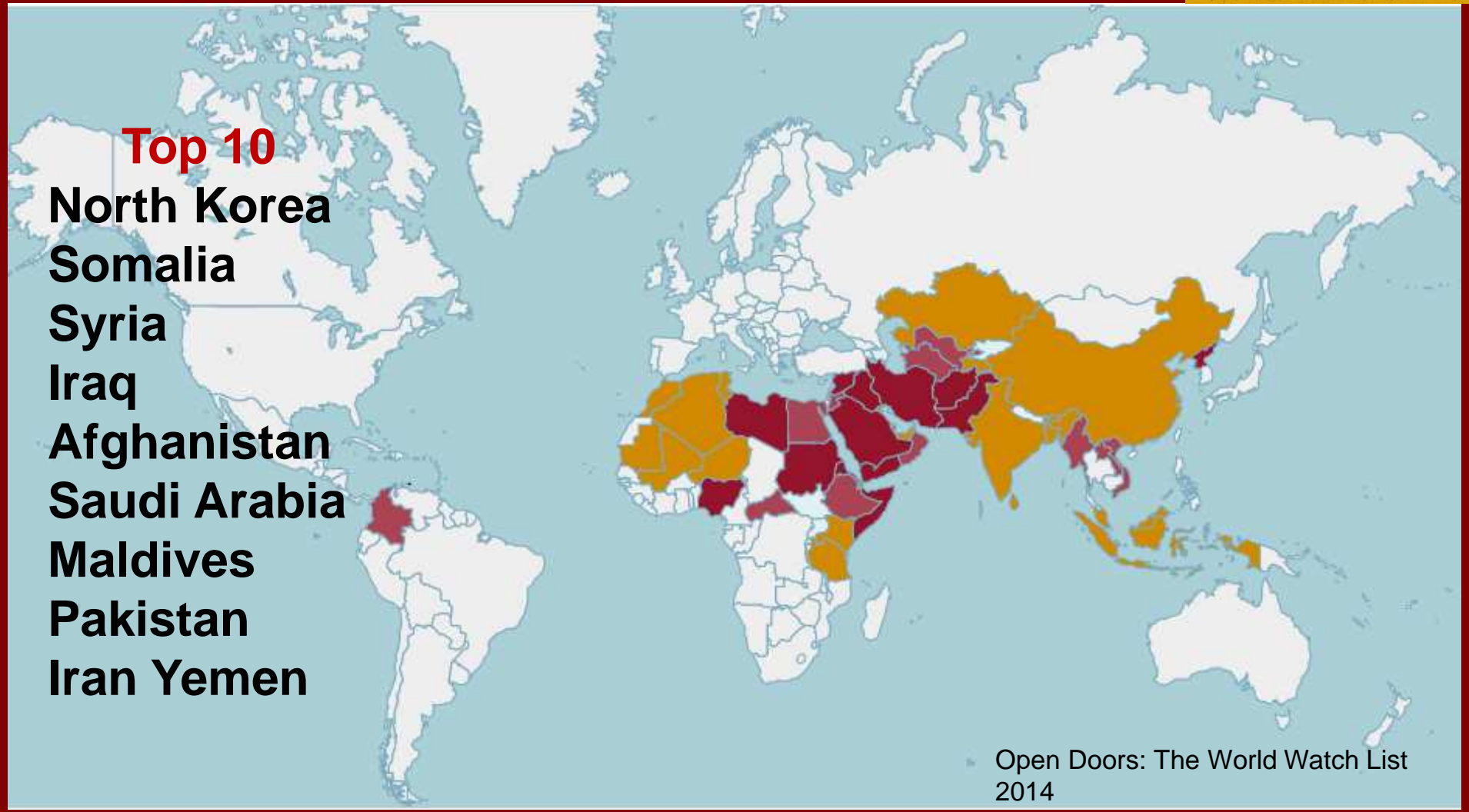
*Remember the
prisoners, as
though in prison
with them, and
those who are ill-
treated, since you
yourselves also are
in the body.*

**Hebrews 13:3
(NASB)**

Persecution facts

- **2,123 Christians were killed for their faith during 2013**
- **That compares to 1,201 during 2012**
- **Number of Christians killed during 2013 in,**
 - **Syria - 1,213**
 - **Nigeria – 612**
 - **Pakistan – 88**
 - **Egypt – 83**

The World's Worst Persecutors



EXTREME PERSECUTION

SEVERE PERSECUTION

MODERATE PERSECUTION

SPARSE PERSECUTION



80%


of all religious persecution is **against Christians**

International Society for Human Rights, Frankfurt, Germany

A woman with her mouth open in prayer or shouting, with a lit candle on a crucifix in the foreground.

**100
million**

**Christians
worldwide are
facing
persecution...**

A lit candle is mounted on a wooden crucifix. The candle is melting, with wax dripping down the sides. The background is dark and out of focus, showing a woman with her mouth wide open as if shouting or crying. The overall mood is one of intense emotion or protest.

Consider
4 of the
worst
nations...

Syria



- Pray for peace and an end to bloodshed and violence
- Pray for Christians to have the strength to remain in Syria and be a light to their nation
- Pray for God's protection over all Christians and His comfort over all those traumatised by violence and mourning the loss of loved ones

Nigeria



- Pray for an end to the violence and for desperate communities to know hope, peace and restoration
- Pray for God to comfort those who mourn and to bless those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness
- Pray for all working tirelessly to support communities affected by violence, may God guide, sustain and strengthen them as they repair broken walls.

North Korea



- Pray that Christians languishing in detention camps will keep their eyes on Jesus, persevere, and not grow weary or lose heart
- Pray that North Korean Christians will not be fearful but would trust God
- Pray that God will continue to give the church boldness to witness in secret

Central African Republic



- Pray for the Church and their efforts of reconciliation and peace building
- Pray for an end to the suffering of the people in CAR, so that they can live side by side without fear and discrimination
- Pray for efforts to start rebuilding their beloved country

Preparing For
Persecution,
John 15:18-16:6

"If the world hates you,
you know that it has hated Me
before *it hated* you.

"If you were of the world,
the world would love its own;
but because you are not of the world,
but I chose you out of the world,
because of this the world hates you.

"Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.'

If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

"But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me.

"If I had not come and spoken to them,
they would not have sin, but now
they have no excuse for their sin.

"He who hates Me
hates My Father also.

"If I had not done among them the
works which no one else did,
they would not have sin;
but now they have both seen and
hated Me and My Father as well.

"But *they have done this* to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, 'THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.'

"When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, *that is* the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me,

and you *will* testify also,
because you have been with Me
from the beginning.

"These things I have spoken to you so
that you may be kept from stumbling.

"They will make you outcasts from
the synagogue,

but an hour is coming for everyone
who kills you to think
that he is offering service to God.

"These things they will do
because they have not known
the Father or Me.

"But these things I have spoken to
you, so that when their hour comes,
you may remember that
I told you of them.

These things I did not say to you
at the beginning,
because I was with you.

"But now I am going
to Him who sent Me;
and none of you asks Me,
'Where are You going?'

"But because I have said
these things to you,
sorrow has filled your heart."

Preparing For
Persecution,
John 15:18-16:6

Preparing For Persecution, John 15:18-16:6

What Should We Expect?

- Hatred, 15:18-19
- Persecution, 15:20
- Being made outcasts, 16:2
- Even being killed, 16:2

Preparing For Persecution, John 15:18-16:6

Why Will We Be Persecuted?

- Because we are not “of the world, 15:19
- Jesus chose us out of the world, 15:19

Preparing For Persecution, John 15:18-16:6

Why Will We Be Persecuted?

- Because they hated and persecuted Jesus, and we belong to Him, 20.
- Because they hate Jesus' Name, 15:21

Preparing For Persecution, John 15:18-16:6

Why Will We Be Persecuted?

- Because they do not know the Father, 15:21; 16:3.
- Because of Jesus' words, 15:22, 24; 12:47-49
- Because of Jesus' works, 15:24.

Preparing For Persecution, John 15:18-16:6

Why Will We Be Persecuted?

- Because they think they are offering service to God, 16:2.
- Because it is their “hour,” 16:4.
- Without a cause!, 15:25

Preparing For Persecution, John 15:18-16:6

HOW Do We Deal With The Persecution?

- Continue to abide in Christ and let His Word abide in you, 15:7!
- Continue to love one another, 15:17.

Preparing For Persecution, John 15:18-16:6

HOW Do We Deal With The Persecution?

- Continue to live “differently,”
15:18-21!
- Let the Helper...the Comforter...
the Spirit of Truth, comfort you!,
15:26

Preparing For Persecution, John 15:18-16:6

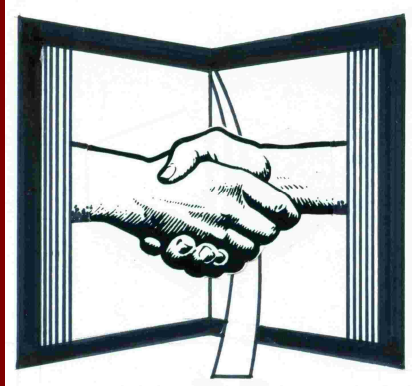
HOW Do We Deal With The Persecution?

- Continue to witness, 15:27!
- Don't Stumble!, 16:1
- Remember Jesus' words, 16:4
- It is okay to grieve!, 16:6

PRAY FOR
OUR BROTHERS
AND SISTERS...

AND...

PREPARE YOURSELF.
PERSECUTION IS COMING!



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