

# WWL 2021 Article on violence

Data on violence experienced by Christians in all countries scoring 41+ points in the reporting period 1 October 2019 – 30 September 2020

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## 1. Summary data of Questionnaire Block 6 questions 1-5 and WWL comparisons

| Questions Block 6 Violence   | WWL 2021     | WWL 2020 | WWL 2019 | WWL 2018 | WWL 2017 | WWL 2016 |
|--|--------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>6.1<br/>Christians killed for faith-related reasons</b>                                   | <b>4,761</b> | 2,983    | 4,305    | 3,066    | 1,207    | 7,106    |
| <b>6.2<br/>Churches and other Christian buildings attacked</b>                               | <b>4,488</b> | 9,488    | 1,847    | 793      | 1,329    | 2,425    |
| <b>6.3 and 6.4<br/>Christians detained without trial, arrested, sentenced and imprisoned</b> | <b>4,277</b> | 4,811    | 3,150    | 1,905    | -        | -        |
| <b>6.5<br/>Christians abducted</b>   | <b>1,710</b> | 1,052    | -        | -        | -        | -        |

## 2. Summary statements focusing on all WWL 2021 violence data

The statements below are based on the tables giving detailed violence data per country and region in Section 4 of this document.

- **The total number of Christians killed for their faith rose from 2,983 registered cases (WWL 2020) to 4,761 (WWL 2021).** This is an increase of 60%. Violent killing of Christians for faith-related reasons was much higher in Africa than in Asia. 91% of the killings were in Africa, and 8% in Asia. The main share was from Nigeria.
- **The total number of churches attacked in differing forms of severity, decreased from 9,488 (WWL 2020) to 4,488 (WWL 2021).** This is a decrease of 53%. Attacks on churches happened most often in Asia. 77% of the attacks were in Asia, as compared to 20% in Africa and 3% in Latin America. The main share was from China.

- **The total number of Christians detained for their faith decreased from 3,420 registered cases (WWL 2020) to 2,813 (WWL 2021).** This is a decrease of 18%. The numbers of Christians detained for their faith in Africa (43%) and Asia (55%) were comparable. Eritrea (Africa) and China (Asia) produced the main shares.
- **The total number of Christians sentenced for their faith increased from 1,391 registered cases (WWL 2020) to 1,464 (WWL 2021).** This is an increase of 5%. The number of Christians sentenced for their faith in Asia (89%) was much higher than in Africa (10%). The main share was from NN (for explanation of “NN”, see introductory notes below).
- **The total number of Christians abducted for faith-related reasons increased from 1,052 (WWL 2020) to 1,710 (WWL 2021).** This is an increase of 63%. The number of Christians abducted for faith-related reasons in Africa (90%) was much higher than in Asia (9%). The main share was from Nigeria.
- Christians raped or otherwise sexually harassed for faith-related reasons: The percentages in Africa (49%) and Asia (49%) were (nearly) the same. The main shares were from Nigeria (Africa) and Saudi Arabia (Asia).
- Forced marriages of Christians to non-Christians: The percentage for Asia (72%) was far higher than for Africa (28%). However, the high value for Asia was mainly due to the situation in one country: Pakistan.
- Christians who have been otherwise physically or mentally abused for faith-related reasons (including beatings and death threats): The percentage for Africa (75%) was far higher than for Asia (23%). Nigeria (Africa) has the main share, followed by India (Asia).
- Houses of Christians or other property (excluding shops) that were attacked: The percentages for Africa (69%) was more than twice as high as for Asia (2005; 31%).
- Shops or businesses of Christians that were attacked: The percentages for Africa (75%) was around three times as high as for Asia (562; 25%). Nigeria (Africa) had the highest share, followed by Syria (Asia).
- Christians forced to leave their homes or go into hiding in-country for faith-related reasons: The percentage for Asia, after statistical adjustment (see explanation below), was 21%, against 75% for Africa 75%.
- Christians forced to leave the country for faith-related reasons: The percentage for Asia, after statistical adjustment (see explanation below), was 42%, against 57% for Africa.

### 3. Violence in relation to the second WWL 2021 Trend

The WWL 2021 Trends Article lists five trends. The second trend relates closely to the violence data collated by World Watch Research.

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>Trend 2</b> | <b>Violent Islamist militancy exploits COVID-19 restrictions to spread in sub-Saharan Africa</b> |
|----------------|--|

In sub-Saharan Africa, violent Islamic militants have been exploiting COVID-19 restrictions and spreading. The scope of this increased presence in sub-Saharan Africa is much more than directing hostilities against Christians alone. It often entails the establishment of some form of Caliphate. However, it is to be noted that such militants seem unable to tolerate the existence of Christians or the Church. If this is true, and if violent Islamist militants exploited COVID-19 restrictions, one would expect to see higher numbers of violence, especially Christians killed, in sub-Saharan countries.

The countries that are most closely linked with jihadist violence in sub-Saharan Africa are Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria in Western Africa, Cameroon and Congo DR (DRC) in Middle Africa and Mozambique in Eastern Africa. The total number of Christians killed in those countries rose from 1,584 to 4,216: That is a rise of 2.7 times as much. Without counting Nigeria, the increase is from 234 to 686: 2.9 times as much. (The number taken for Mozambique for WWL 2021 was a symbolic 100; the real number of Christians killed by jihadist violence is higher.)

Although the numbers for some of these countries sometimes seem quite low, it is important to realize that the number of Christians killed is only an indication of what is happening when Christian communities are attacked by jihadist (or related) groups. See Case Study Nigeria below.

There are two major reasons why the COVID-19 crisis enabled violent jihadist groups, and allegedly related groups such as the armed Fulani herdsmen, to extend their influence and terrorize Christians (and others).

- i) The first reason is that the security services (armed forces, police and others) were so busy enforcing lockdowns that there was less attention paid and less capacity available for combating the jihadist groups. Especially when those countries were already systematically plagued by the lack of rule of law and good governance.
- ii) The second reason why violent jihadist groups, and related groups such as the armed Fulani herdsmen, were able to continue to terrorize Christians (and others) was that it was carried out under the alleged protection of the security services. While they kept the Christian population confined in lockdown, the attackers often got a free hand. Arguably this happened in Nigeria (although not in every case where those groups carried out violent attacks). The diagram below shows the monthly data for killings in Nigeria.



The Case Study on Nigeria at the end of this document gives more background information. Here, it suffices to note that there was a spike of killings in the months April till August 2020 under lockdown restrictions. This is surprising given the relatively high quality of the Nigerian security services. In conclusion, the data on Christians killed by violent jihadists groups (and related groups such as the armed Fulani herdsmen) seem to indicate that these groups were able to benefit from the COVID-19 restrictions to extend their influence in sub-Saharan Africa.

## 4. Introductory notes concerning detailed violence data per country and region

The WWL 2021 data given is based wherever possible on direct counting. In several cases, where it is very hard to know exact numbers and it is clear from indirect sources that there have been violent incidents occurring against Christians, numbers have been estimated. In such cases, the World Watch Research team has always estimated conservatively. (In connection with this, please see Section 2 of the WWR document "[WWL – Discussion of key themes](#)", published in October 2020, and the discussion below.)

The tables presented below do not pretend to be complete. The exact details of what is happening to Christians in a country are difficult to obtain: For instance, especially in countries where there is conflict or a high level of secrecy, the media are often seriously curtailed by the regime or influenced by social actors. Please see the individual WWL 2021 country dossiers for more details. These are made publicly available in mid-January 2021 at <http://opendoorsanalytical.org/country-dossiers/> (password: freedom).

The data on violence presented is limited to all countries scoring 41 or more points in the WWL 2021 reporting period. There may be cases of violence in countries scoring 40 points or less, but these are not included here. For each question in Block 6, country and regional data is shown, followed by a set of statements based on the data provided.

For security reasons: There are 5 countries where the data on violence is presented but the names of those countries are not individually revealed. These countries are Afghanistan, Maldives, North Korea, Somalia and Yemen. The data for these countries are indicated with "NN" which stands for the Latin "Nomen Nescio" ("name unknown").

In the tables below, where there is an asterisk ("\*") beside the name of the country, this indicates that the number given is understood to be symbolic, meaning that the real number of incidents is possibly (much) higher. In cases where it has been impossible to count exactly, a symbolic round figure (10, 100 or 1000) is given. (A symbolic number of 10 could in reality even be 100 or more but the real number is uncertain. A symbolic number of 100 could go well over 1000 but the real number is uncertain. A symbolic number of 1000 could go well over 10,000 (or even 100,000) but, again, the real number is uncertain.) In cases where it is clear that (many) more Christians are affected, but a concrete number could be given according to the number of incidents reported, the number given has to be understood as being an absolutely minimum figure.

Please note that a statistical adjustment has been made in the statements for 6.11 and 6.12. In each case, the highest number from Asia region and the highest from Africa region have been disregarded when calculating the percentages.

A further disclaimer: Even where it was possible to count exact numbers, it has to be understood that what was counted is very often the absolute minimum. Much violence goes unnoticed.

## 5. Detailed Block 6 violence data per country and region

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 6.1 | How many Christians have been killed for faith-related reasons (including state sanctioned executions)? |
|-----|---|

From high to low:

| Country              | Region        | Sub-region         | Number WWL 2021 | Number WWL 2020 | Sum total |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Nigeria              | Africa        | Western Africa     | 3530            | 1350            | 4880      |
| Congo DR (DRC)       | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 460             | 152             | 612       |
| Pakistan             | Asia          | South Asia         | 307             | 20              | 327       |
| Mozambique*          | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 100             | 12              | 112       |
| Cameroon             | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 53              | 10              | 63        |
| Burkina Faso         | Africa        | Western Africa     | 38              | 50              | 88        |
| NN                   |               |                    | 36              | 10              | 46        |
| Central African Rep. | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 35              | 924             | 959       |
| Mali                 | Africa        | Western Africa     | 33              | 10              | 43        |
| NN                   |               |                    | 20              | 20              | 40        |
| Kenya                | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 17              | 11              | 28        |
| Colombia             | Latin America | South America      | 16              | 16              | 32        |
| India                | Asia          | South Asia         | 12              | 9               | 21        |
| Ethiopia*            | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10              | 6               | 16        |
| Libya*               | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 10              | 10              | 20        |
| South Sudan*         | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10              | 100             | 110       |
| NN                   |               |                    | 9               | 11              | 20        |
| Syria                | Asia          | Western Asia       | 9               | 10              | 19        |
| Egypt                | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 8               | 23              | 31        |
| Mexico               | Latin America | Central America    | 7               | 6               | 13        |
| Honduras             | Latin America | Central America    | 6               | 0               | 6         |
| Tanzania             | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 5               | 0               | 5         |
| Uganda               | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 5               | 9               | 14        |
| El Salvador          | Latin America | Central America    | 4               | 0               | 4         |
| Iraq                 | Asia          | Western Asia       | 3               | 3               | 6         |
| Myanmar              | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 3               | 3               | 6         |
| Bangladesh           | Asia          | South Asia         | 2               | 0               | 2         |
| Guinea               | Africa        | Western Africa     | 2               | 0               | 2         |
| Niger                | Africa        | Western Africa     | 2               | 0               | 2         |
| Turkey               | Asia          | Western Asia       | 2               | 0               | 2         |
| Vietnam              | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 2               | 1               | 3         |
| Chad                 | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 1               | 0               | 1         |
| Indonesia            | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 1               | 0               | 1         |
| Ivory Coast          | Africa        | Western Africa     | 1               | 2               | 3         |
| Nicaragua            | Latin America | Central America    | 1               | 0               | 1         |
| Sudan                | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 1               | 0               | 1         |

|            |               |                |      |      |      |
|------------|---------------|----------------|------|------|------|
| Eritrea    | Africa        | Eastern Africa | 0    | 2    | 2    |
| Nepal      | Asia          | South Asia     | 0    | 1    | 1    |
| Sri Lanka  | Asia          | South Asia     | 0    | 200  | 200  |
| Uzbekistan | Asia          | Central Asia   | 0    | 1    | 1    |
| Venezuela  | Latin America | South America  | 0    | 1    | 1    |
|            |               |                | 4761 | 2983 | 7744 |

Per (sub-)region:

| (Sub-)region         | Number WWL 2021 | Number WWL 2020 | Sum total    |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Eastern Africa       | 156             | 151             | 307          |
| Middle Africa        | 549             | 1086            | 1635         |
| Northern Africa      | 19              | 33              | 52           |
| Western Africa       | 3606            | 1412            | 5018         |
| <b>AFRICA</b>        | <b>4,330</b>    | <b>2,682</b>    | <b>7,012</b> |
| Central Asia         | 0               | 1               | 1            |
| Eastern Asia         | 20              | 20              | 40           |
| South Asia           | 357             | 240             | 597          |
| South-eastern Asia   | 6               | 4               | 10           |
| Western Asia         | 14              | 13              | 27           |
| <b>ASIA</b>          | <b>397</b>      | <b>278</b>      | <b>675</b>   |
| Central America      | 18              | 6               | 24           |
| South America        | 16              | 17              | 33           |
| <b>LATIN AMERICA</b> | <b>34</b>       | <b>23</b>       | <b>57</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL OVERALL</b> | <b>4,761</b>    | <b>2,983</b>    | <b>7,744</b> |

- The total number of Christians killed for their faith rose from 2,983 registered cases (WWL 2020) to 4,761 (WWL 2021). This is an increase of 60%.
- Violent killing of Christians for faith-related reasons was much higher in Africa than in Asia. 91% of the killings were in Africa, and 8% in Asia.
- Within Africa, Western Africa scored the highest number of Christians killed for their faith. 76% of the overall number, and 83% of the number for Africa.
- Within West Africa, Nigeria had the largest share of the number of Christians killed for their faith (3,530 or 74% of the overall number). The number rose for 1,350 (WWL 2020) to 3,530 (WWL 2021). The monthly numbers were highest in the months the country was in lockdown (April - August 2020).
- The countries that are most closely linked with jihadist violence in Sub Saharan Africa are Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria in Western Africa, Cameroon and Congo DR (DRC) in Middle Africa and Mozambique in Eastern Africa. The total number of Christians killed in those countries rose from 1584 to 4216: 2.7 times as much. Without counting Nigeria, the increase is from 234 to 686: 2.9 times as much. (The number taken for Mozambique for WWL 2021 was a symbolic 100; the real number of Christians killed by jihadist violence is higher.)
- Although the numbers for some of these countries sometimes seem (rather) low, it is important to realize that the number of Christians killed is only an indication of what is happening when Christian communities are attacked by jihadist (or related) groups. See Case Study Nigeria below.

- It is also important not to take numbers of Christians killed for one year alone. Take for instance the situation in Burkina Faso. In the WWL 2020 reporting period the number of Christians killed was 50; in the actual reporting period it is 38. This does not mean the situation got better. The attacks in the WWL 2020 reporting period caused many Christians to flee to other, safer parts of the country, out of the areas of action of the jihadist groups. So the 38 Christians additionally killed must not be seen on themselves, but in addition to the 50 killed before.
- The rise in number of Christians killed in Asia (43%) was mainly caused by the number recorded for Pakistan.
- Latin America (1% of the overall number) also saw a rise in the number of Christians killed (48%).

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 6.2 | How many churches or Christian buildings (schools, hospitals, cemeteries, etc.) have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down, closed or confiscated for faith-related reasons? |
|-----|---|

From high to low:

| Country              | Region        | Sub-region         | Number WWL 2021 | Number WWL 2020 | Sum total |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| China                | Asia          | Eastern Asia       | 3088            | 5576            | 8664      |
| Nigeria              | Africa        | Western Africa     | 270             | 150             | 420       |
| Angola*              | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 100             | 2000            | 2100      |
| Congo DR (DRC)*      | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 100             | 10              | 110       |
| Ethiopia*            | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 100             | 124             | 224       |
| Rwanda*              | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 100             | 700             | 800       |
| Bangladesh           | Asia          | South Asia         | 90              | 14              | 104       |
| India                | Asia          | South Asia         | 76              | 34              | 110       |
| Pakistan             | Asia          | South Asia         | 68              | 58              | 126       |
| Mexico               | Latin America | Central America    | 61              | 8               | 69        |
| Central African Rep. | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 56              | 47              | 103       |
| Nicaragua*           | Latin America | Central America    | 35              | 10              | 45        |
| Eritrea              | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 27              | 21              | 48        |
| Uganda               | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 24              | 7               | 31        |
| Colombia             | Latin America | South America      | 20              | 40              | 60        |
| Sri Lanka            | Asia          | South Asia         | 20              | 16              | 36        |
| Iran                 | Asia          | South Asia         | 17              | 23              | 40        |
| Indonesia            | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 16              | 10              | 26        |
| Cameroon             | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 12              | 15              | 27        |
| Iraq                 | Asia          | Western Asia       | 11              | 1               | 12        |
| Turkey               | Asia          | Western Asia       | 11              | 4               | 15        |
| Burkina Faso*        | Africa        | Western Africa     | 10              | 50              | 60        |
| Burundi*             | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10              | 100             | 110       |
| Egypt                | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 10              | 18              | 28        |
| Mali*                | Africa        | Western Africa     | 10              | 100             | 110       |



|                    |               |                    |    |     |     |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|----|-----|-----|
| Mozambique*        | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10 | 5   | 15  |
| Nepal              | Asia          | South Asia         | 10 | 7   | 17  |
| Niger*             | Africa        | Western Africa     | 10 | 10  | 20  |
| South Sudan*       | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10 | 10  | 20  |
| Vietnam*           | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 10 | 10  | 20  |
| Myanmar            | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 9  | 204 | 213 |
| Sudan              | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 9  | 32  | 41  |
| Laos               | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 8  | 5   | 13  |
| Tanzania           | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 8  | 10  | 18  |
| Kenya              | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 7  | 3   | 10  |
| Guinea             | Africa        | Western Africa     | 6  | 1   | 7   |
| Cuba               | Latin America | Caribbean          | 5  | 3   | 8   |
| Syria              | Asia          | Western Asia       | 5  | 5   | 10  |
| Tunisia            | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 5  | 2   | 7   |
| Algeria            | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 4  | 13  | 17  |
| El Salvador        | Latin America | Central America    | 4  | 0   | 4   |
| Honduras           | Latin America | Central America    | 4  | 0   | 4   |
| Libya              | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 4  | 3   | 7   |
| Russian Federation | Europe        | Eastern Europe     | 4  | 10  | 14  |
| Chad               | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 3  | 4   | 7   |
| NN                 |               |                    | 3  | 2   | 5   |
| Kazakhstan         | Asia          | Central Asia       | 2  | 0   | 2   |
| NN                 |               |                    | 2  | 2   | 4   |
| Gambia             | Africa        | Western Africa     | 1  | 0   | 1   |
| Ivory Coast        | Africa        | Western Africa     | 1  | 1   | 2   |
| Malaysia           | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 1  | 0   | 1   |
| Tajikistan         | Asia          | Central Asia       | 1  | 0   | 1   |
| Jordan             | Asia          | Western Asia       | 0  | 1   | 1   |
| Morocco            | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 0  | 2   | 2   |
| Palestinian Terr.  | Asia          | Western Asia       | 0  | 2   | 2   |
| Qatar              | Asia          | Western Asia       | 0  | 1   | 1   |
| Venezuela          | Latin America | South America      | 0  | 4   | 4   |

4,488

9,488

13,976

Per region:

| (Sub-)region       | Number WWL 2021 | Number WWL 2020 | Sum total    |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Eastern Africa     | 299             | 982             | 1281         |
| Middle Africa      | 271             | 2076            | 2347         |
| Northern Africa    | 32              | 70              | 102          |
| Western Africa     | 308             | 312             | 620          |
| <b>AFRICA</b>      | <b>910</b>      | <b>3,440</b>    | <b>4,350</b> |
| Central Asia       | 3               | 0               | 3            |
| Eastern Asia       | 3090            | 5578            | 8668         |
| South Asia         | 281             | 152             | 433          |
| South-eastern Asia | 44              | 229             | 273          |
| Western Asia       | 27              | 14              | 41           |

|                      |              |              |               |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| <b>ASIA</b>          | <b>3,445</b> | <b>5973</b>  | <b>9,418</b>  |
| Eastern Europe       | 4            | 10           | 14            |
| <b>EUROPE</b>        | <b>4</b>     | <b>10</b>    | <b>14</b>     |
| Caribbean            | 5            | 3            | 8             |
| Central America      | 104          | 18           | 122           |
| South America        | 20           | 44           | 64            |
| <b>LATIN AMERICA</b> | <b>129</b>   | <b>65</b>    | <b>194</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL OVERALL</b> | <b>4,488</b> | <b>9,488</b> | <b>13,976</b> |

- The total number of churches attacked in differing forms of severity, decreased from 9,488 (WWL 2020) to 4,488 (WWL 2021). This is a decrease of 53%.
- Attacks on churches happened most often in Asia. 77% of the attacks were in Asia, as compared to 20% in Africa and 3% in Latin America.
- Within Asia, the number of attacks on churches was highest in Eastern Asia, especially China with 3088 registered cases (90%).
- Church attacks in China varied from removals of crosses to complete church demolitions. The number of cases decreased from 5576 to 3088. It is however important to realize that churches which were affected in the WWL 2020 reporting period, were still affected in the WWL 2021 reporting period. The WWL methodology only counts new cases; it does not add churches that are still affected from the foregoing reporting period. To understand the meaning of church attacks it is thus important to look at foregoing years too. For China the total over the last two reporting periods was at least 8644.
- The number of churches attacked in Africa, decreased from 3440 to 910. This was mainly because the churches which were forced to close in the WWL 2020 reporting period in Angola (2000) and Rwanda (700) were not counted again (even though most of them still remain closed and many church leaders were still actively trying to get their churches reopened). Here too it is important to look at total over the last two reporting periods: 4350 churches attacked or closed.
- The number for Africa is actually too low. In the table, 10 out of the 11 countries that have symbolic numbers are African countries. In situations with high levels of violence it is difficult to get exact numbers for churches attacked or closed, especially because reporting is often focusing on people killed.
- This is especially the case for Nigeria (and other West African countries) where jihadist groups, including armed Fulani herdsmen, are attacking (mainly) Christian villages by the hundreds. When people flee, they leave their houses, fields, shops and **churches** behind. It is difficult to know the exact numbers. The number put for Nigeria is derived from concrete data but is in all probability (far) too low.
- For countries with jihadist violence such as Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Mozambique, it was only realistic to put symbolic numbers which are always (far) too low.
- Latin America (3% of the overall number) also saw a rise in the number of churches attacked (98%).
- All Latin American countries on the list saw an increase, except Colombia which saw a decrease. The increase for Mexico was the highest: From 8 (WWL 2020) to 61 (WWL 2021).

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 6.3 | How many Christians have been detained without trial for faith-related reasons? |
|-----|---|

From high to low:

| Country            | Region        | Sub-region         | Number WWL 2021 |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| China*             | Asia          | Eastern Asia       | 1000            |
| Eritrea            | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 930             |
| Iran               | Asia          | South Asia         | 110             |
| NN*                |               |                    | 100             |
| Pakistan*          | Asia          | South Asia         | 100             |
| Algeria            | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 97              |
| India              | Asia          | South Asia         | 72              |
| Cameroon           | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 32              |
| Turkmenistan       | Asia          | Central Asia       | 31              |
| Egypt              | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 26              |
| Nigeria            | Africa        | Western Africa     | 25              |
| Russian Federation | Europe        | Eastern Europe     | 19              |
| Vietnam            | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 18              |
| Laos               | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 17              |
| Nepal              | Asia          | South Asia         | 17              |
| Tunisia            | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 17              |
| Rwanda             | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 16              |
| Mexico             | Latin America | Central America    | 15              |
| Cuba               | Latin America | Caribbean          | 13              |
| Morocco            | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 12              |
| Myanmar            | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 12              |
| NN*                |               |                    | 10              |
| Angola*            | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 10              |
| Burundi*           | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| Ethiopia*          | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| Kazakhstan         | Asia          | Central Asia       | 10              |
| Libya*             | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 10              |
| Mozambique*        | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| NN                 |               |                    | 10              |
| Iraq               | Asia          | Western Asia       | 6               |
| Uzbekistan         | Asia          | Central Asia       | 6               |
| Jordan             | Asia          | Western Asia       | 5               |
| Mauritania         | Africa        | Western Africa     | 4               |
| Tanzania           | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 4               |
| Syria              | Asia          | Western Asia       | 3               |
| Tajikistan         | Asia          | Central Asia       | 3               |
| Turkey             | Asia          | Western Asia       | 3               |
| Colombia           | Latin America | South America      | 2               |
| Comoros            | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 2               |

|                   |               |                    |   |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|---|
| Indonesia         | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 2 |
| Kenya             | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 2 |
| Malaysia          | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 2 |
| Nicaragua         | Latin America | Central America    | 2 |
| Somalia           | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 2 |
| Bahrain           | Asia          | Western Asia       | 1 |
| Bangladesh        | Asia          | South Asia         | 1 |
| Brunei            | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 1 |
| NN                |               |                    | 1 |
| Palestinian Terr. | Asia          | Western Asia       | 1 |
| Saudi Arabia      | Asia          | Western Asia       | 1 |

2,813

Per region:

| (Sub-)region         | Number<br>WWL 2021 |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Eastern Africa       | 986                |
| Middle Africa        | 42                 |
| Northern Africa      | 162                |
| Western Africa       | 29                 |
| <b>AFRICA</b>        | <b>1,219</b>       |
| Central Asia         | 50                 |
| Eastern Asia         | 1100               |
| South Asia           | 311                |
| South-eastern Asia   | 52                 |
| Western Asia         | 30                 |
| <b>ASIA</b>          | <b>1,543</b>       |
| Eastern Europe       | 19                 |
| <b>EUROPE</b>        | <b>19</b>          |
| Caribbean            | 13                 |
| Central America      | 17                 |
| South America        | 2                  |
| <b>LATIN AMERICA</b> | <b>32</b>          |
| <b>TOTAL OVERALL</b> | <b>2,813</b>       |

- The total number of Christians detained for their faith decreased from 3,420 registered cases (WWL 2020) to 2,813 (WWL 2021). This is a decrease of 18%.
- The numbers of Christians detained in Africa (43%) and Asia (55%) were comparable.
- Within Africa, Eastern Africa has by far the most Christians detained for their faith. 930 out of the 986 were detained in Eritrea.
- Within Asia, China takes the largest part, although it was difficult to come up with an exact number. Therefore a symbolic 1000 was chosen.

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 6.4 | How many Christians have been sentenced to jail, labor camp, sent to psychiatric hospital as punishment, or similar things for faith-related reasons? |
|-----|---|

From high to low:

| Country         | Region        | Sub-region         | Number WWL 2021 |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| NN*             |               |                    | 1000            |
| Bangladesh      | Asia          | South Asia         | 143             |
| Eritrea*        | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 100             |
| Pakistan        | Asia          | South Asia         | 62              |
| Iran            | Asia          | South Asia         | 44              |
| Nigeria         | Africa        | Western Africa     | 25              |
| Myanmar         | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 13              |
| China*          | Asia          | Eastern Asia       | 10              |
| Congo DR (DRC)* | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 10              |
| NN*             |               |                    | 10              |
| Vietnam*        | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 10              |
| Colombia        | Latin America | South America      | 6               |
| India           | Asia          | South Asia         | 5               |
| Tunisia         | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 5               |
| Cuba            | Latin America | Caribbean          | 4               |
| Kazakhstan      | Asia          | Central Asia       | 3               |
| Mauritania      | Africa        | Western Africa     | 3               |
| Indonesia       | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 2               |
| Ivory Coast     | Africa        | Western Africa     | 2               |
| Nepal           | Asia          | South Asia         | 2               |
| Saudi Arabia    | Asia          | Western Asia       | 2               |
| Laos            | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 1               |
| Libya           | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 1               |
| Tajikistan      | Asia          | Central Asia       | 1               |

1,464

Per region:

| (Sub-)region    | Number WWL 2021 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Eastern Africa  | 100             |
| Middle Africa   | 10              |
| Northern Africa | 6               |
| Western Africa  | 30              |
| <b>AFRICA</b>   | <b>146</b>      |
| Central Asia    | 4               |
| Eastern Asia    | 1,010           |

|                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| South Asia           | 266          |
| South-eastern Asia   | 26           |
| Western Asia         | 2            |
| <b>ASIA</b>          | <b>1,308</b> |
| South America        | 6            |
| Caribbean            | 4            |
| <b>LATIN AMERICA</b> | <b>10</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL OVERALL</b> | <b>1,464</b> |

- The total number of Christians sentenced for their faith increased from 1,391 registered cases (WWL 2020) to 1,464 (WWL 2021). This is an increase of 5%.
- The number of Christians sentenced for their faith in Asia (89%) was much higher than in Africa (10%).
- Eastern Asia had by far the highest number of Christians sentenced for their faith: 1010 or 77% out of the total for Asia, and 69% out of the overall total.
- Within Africa, Eastern Africa or Eritrea had the highest number: 100 or 68% out of the total for Africa, and 7% out of the global total. Eritrea's number (100) was a symbolic number.

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 6.5 | How many Christians have been abducted for faith-related reasons (including Christians missing in a persecution context)? |
|-----|---|

From high to low:

| Country               | Region        | Sub-region         | Number WWL 2021 |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Nigeria               | Africa        | Western Africa     | 990             |
| Congo DR (DRC)        | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 250             |
| Central African Rep.* | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 100             |
| Pakistan*             | Asia          | South Asia         | 100             |
| Libya                 | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 50              |
| Mozambique            | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 50              |
| Myanmar               | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 12              |
| Cameroon*             | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 10              |
| China*                | Asia          | Eastern Asia       | 10              |
| Egypt                 | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 10              |
| Eritrea*              | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| Mali*                 | Africa        | Western Africa     | 10              |
| Niger*                | Africa        | Western Africa     | 10              |
| NN                    |               |                    | 10              |
| NN*                   |               |                    | 10              |
| South Sudan*          | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| Mexico                | Latin America | Central America    | 8               |
| Burkina Faso          | Africa        | Western Africa     | 7               |
| NN                    |               |                    | 7               |

|             |               |                    |   |
|-------------|---------------|--------------------|---|
| Uganda      | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 5 |
| Bangladesh  | Asia          | South Asia         | 4 |
| Iraq        | Asia          | Western Asia       | 4 |
| Kenya       | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 4 |
| Colombia    | Latin America | South America      | 3 |
| Honduras    | Latin America | Central America    | 3 |
| Malaysia    | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 3 |
| Morocco     | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 3 |
| El Salvador | Latin America | Central America    | 2 |
| India       | Asia          | South Asia         | 2 |
| Nicaragua   | Latin America | Central America    | 2 |
| Sudan       | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 2 |
| Syria       | Asia          | Western Asia       | 2 |
| Tanzania    | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 2 |
| Tunisia     | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 2 |
| Turkey      | Asia          | Western Asia       | 2 |
| Cuba        | Latin America | Caribbean          | 1 |

1,710

Per region:

| <b>(Sub-)region</b>  | <b>Number<br/>WWL 2021</b> |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Eastern Africa       | 88                         |
| Middle Africa        | 360                        |
| Northern Africa      | 67                         |
| Western Africa       | 1,017                      |
| <b>AFRICA</b>        | <b>1,532</b>               |
| Eastern Asia         | 10                         |
| South Asia           | 116                        |
| South-eastern Asia   | 15                         |
| Western Asia         | 18                         |
| <b>ASIA</b>          | <b>159</b>                 |
| Caribbean            | 1                          |
| Central America      | 15                         |
| South America        | 3                          |
| <b>LATIN AMERICA</b> | <b>19</b>                  |
| <b>TOTAL OVERALL</b> | <b>1,710</b>               |

- The total number of Christians abducted for faith-related reasons increased from 1,052 (WWL 2020) to 1,710 (WWL 2021). This is an increase of 63%.
- The number of Christians abducted for faith-related reasons in Africa (90%) was much higher than in Asia (9%).
- Western Africa had the highest number of Christians abducted for faith-related reasons: 1017 or 66% out of the total for Africa, and 59% out of the overall total.
- Middle Africa followed with 360 or 23% out of the total for Africa, and 21% out of the overall total.

- The biggest contributors to the total of Christians abducted for faith-related reasons were Nigeria (990), Congo DR (250), Central Africa Republic (symbolic 100) and Pakistan (symbolic 100). These were all countries confronted with aggressive jihadist groups.
- The registered number of Christians abducted in Latin America was low (19); although 4 countries out of the 6 in the table were seriously affected by organized crime. Some cases may have been missed. Still, it turns out that the abduction of Christians for faith-related reasons is not the main way for organized crime to try to oppress the Church.

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 6.6 | How many Christians have been raped or otherwise sexually harassed for faith-related reasons? |
|-----|---|

From high to low:

| Country               | Region        | Sub-region         | Number WWL 2021 |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Nigeria               | Africa        | Western Africa     | 1000            |
| Saudi Arabia*         | Asia          | Western Asia       | 1000            |
| Cameroon*             | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 100             |
| Central African Rep.* | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 100             |
| Congo DR (DRC)*       | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 100             |
| Jordan*               | Asia          | Western Asia       | 100             |
| NN*                   |               |                    | 100             |
| Pakistan*             | Asia          | South Asia         | 100             |
| Honduras              | Latin America | Central America    | 37              |
| Myanmar               | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 25              |
| Iran                  | Asia          | South Asia         | 21              |
| Libya                 | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 20              |
| India                 | Asia          | South Asia         | 15              |
| Mexico                | Latin America | Central America    | 15              |
| Oman                  | Asia          | Western Asia       | 11              |
| Algeria*              | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 10              |
| Bahrain*              | Asia          | Western Asia       | 10              |
| Burkina Faso*         | Africa        | Western Africa     | 10              |
| Burundi*              | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| China*                | Asia          | Eastern Asia       | 10              |
| Egypt                 | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 10              |
| El Salvador*          | Latin America | Central America    | 10              |
| Eritrea*              | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| Ethiopia*             | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| Iraq                  | Asia          | Western Asia       | 10              |
| Kuwait*               | Asia          | Western Asia       | 10              |
| Mali*                 | Africa        | Western Africa     | 10              |
| Morocco               | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 10              |
| Mozambique*           | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| Niger*                | Africa        | Western Africa     | 10              |



|                       |               |                 |    |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------|----|
| NN                    |               |                 | 10 |
| Qatar*                | Asia          | Western Asia    | 10 |
| South Sudan*          | Africa        | Eastern Africa  | 10 |
| Sudan*                | Africa        | Northern Africa | 10 |
| Syria                 | Asia          | Western Asia    | 10 |
| Tunisia*              | Africa        | Northern Africa | 10 |
| Uganda*               | Africa        | Eastern Africa  | 10 |
| United Arab Emirates* | Asia          | Western Asia    | 10 |
| Colombia              | Latin America | South America   | 9  |
| Bangladesh            | Asia          | South Asia      | 6  |
| NN                    |               |                 | 5  |
| Sri Lanka             | Asia          | South Asia      | 4  |
| Kenya                 | Africa        | Eastern Africa  | 2  |
| Tanzania              | Africa        | Eastern Africa  | 2  |
| Chad                  | Africa        | Middle Africa   | 1  |
| Nepal                 | Asia          | South Asia      | 1  |
| NN                    |               |                 | 1  |

Per region:

| (Sub-)region         | Number<br>WWL 2021 |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Eastern Africa       | 69                 |
| Middle Africa        | 301                |
| Northern Africa      | 70                 |
| Western Africa       | 1,030              |
| <b>AFRICA</b>        | <b>1,470</b>       |
| Eastern Asia         | 110                |
| South Asia           | 148                |
| South-eastern Asia   | 25                 |
| Western Asia         | 1,181              |
| <b>ASIA</b>          | <b>1,464</b>       |
| Central America      | 62                 |
| South America        | 9                  |
| <b>LATIN AMERICA</b> | <b>71</b>          |

- No total is given for the number of Christians raped or otherwise sexually harassed for faith-related reasons. The reason is that 25 numbers in the table are symbolic numbers. As such, this table can only be used to get an idea about the severity of the situation in the different countries.
- Using symbolic number always means a gross underestimation of the reality.
- With all this in mind, the comparison between the regions shows that the numbers in Africa (1,470; 49%) and Asia (1,464; 49%) are nearly the same.
- The highest number in Africa is for Nigeria (1000; not presented as symbolic number) and for Asia in Saudi Arabia (symbolic 1000; esp. Christian housemaids).

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 6.7 | How many cases have there been of forced marriages of Christians to non-Christians? |
|-----|---|

From high to low:

| Country               | Region | Sub-region         | Number WWL 2021 |
|-----------------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Pakistan*             | Asia   | South Asia         | 1000            |
| Central African Rep.* | Africa | Middle Africa      | 100             |
| Congo DR (DRC)*       | Africa | Middle Africa      | 100             |
| Nigeria*              | Africa | Western Africa     | 100             |
| Burundi*              | Africa | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| Cameroon*             | Africa | Middle Africa      | 10              |
| China*                | Asia   | Eastern Asia       | 10              |
| Eritrea               | Africa | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| Iran*                 | Asia   | South Asia         | 10              |
| Mozambique*           | Africa | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| Niger*                | Africa | Western Africa     | 10              |
| NN*                   |        |                    | 10              |
| NN                    |        |                    | 10              |
| South Sudan*          | Africa | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| Sudan*                | Africa | Northern Africa    | 10              |
| Uganda*               | Africa | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| Morocco               | Africa | Northern Africa    | 5               |
| NN                    |        |                    | 5               |
| Tunisia               | Africa | Northern Africa    | 5               |
| Myanmar               | Asia   | South-eastern Asia | 4               |
| Tanzania              | Africa | Eastern Africa     | 4               |
| Libya                 | Africa | Northern Africa    | 3               |
| Bangladesh            | Asia   | South Asia         | 2               |
| India                 | Asia   | South Asia         | 2               |
| Iraq                  | Asia   | Western Asia       | 2               |
| Ivory Coast           | Africa | Western Africa     | 2               |
| Mali                  | Africa | Western Africa     | 2               |
| Comoros               | Africa | Eastern Africa     | 1               |
| Egypt                 | Africa | Northern Africa    | 1               |
| Guinea                | Africa | Western Africa     | 1               |
| Nepal                 | Asia   | South Asia         | 1               |
| Syria                 | Asia   | Western Asia       | 1               |
| Togo                  | Africa | Western Africa     | 1               |

Per region:

| Sub-region     | Number WWL 2021 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Eastern Africa | 60              |

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Middle Africa      | 210          |
| Northern Africa    | 24           |
| Western Africa     | 116          |
| <b>AFRICA</b>      | <b>410</b>   |
| Eastern Asia       | 10           |
| South Asia         | 1,025        |
| South-eastern Asia | 4            |
| Western Asia       | 13           |
| <b>ASIA</b>        | <b>1,052</b> |

- No total is given for the number of forced marriages of Christians to non-Christians. The reason is that the 14 symbolic numbers account for 95% of the overall total. As such this table can only be used to get an idea about the severity of the situation in the different countries.
- Using symbolic numbers always means a gross underestimation of the reality.
- With all this in mind, the comparison between the regions shows that the number for Asia (1,052; 72%) is far higher than the number for Africa (410; 28%). However, the high number for Asia is mainly due to the situation in one country: Pakistan.
- Forced marriage of Christians to non-Christians is not an issue in Latin America.

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 6.8 | How many Christians have been otherwise physically or mentally abused for faith-related reasons (including beatings and death threats)? (Under mental we only include death threats.) |
|-----|---|

From high to low:

| Country               | Region        | Sub-region      | Number WWL 2021 |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Nigeria               | Africa        | Western Africa  | 10000           |
| India                 | Asia          | South Asia      | 1500            |
| Central African Rep.* | Africa        | Middle Africa   | 1000            |
| China*                | Asia          | Eastern Asia    | 1000            |
| Congo DR (DRC)*       | Africa        | Middle Africa   | 1000            |
| Eritrea*              | Africa        | Eastern Africa  | 1000            |
| Mozambique*           | Africa        | Eastern Africa  | 1000            |
| Pakistan*             | Asia          | South Asia      | 1000            |
| Bangladesh            | Asia          | South Asia      | 284             |
| Libya                 | Africa        | Northern Africa | 250             |
| Iran                  | Asia          | South Asia      | 240             |
| Angola*               | Africa        | Middle Africa   | 100             |
| Burkina Faso*         | Africa        | Western Africa  | 100             |
| Burundi*              | Africa        | Eastern Africa  | 100             |
| Cameroon*             | Africa        | Middle Africa   | 100             |
| El Salvador*          | Latin America | Central America | 100             |

|                         |               |                    |     |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----|
| Ethiopia*               | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 100 |
| Honduras*               | Latin America | Central America    | 100 |
| Kenya*                  | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 100 |
| Niger*                  | Africa        | Western Africa     | 100 |
| NN*                     |               |                    | 100 |
| NN*                     |               |                    | 100 |
| Saudi Arabia*           | Asia          | Western Asia       | 100 |
| Sudan*                  | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 100 |
| Uganda*                 | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 100 |
| Syria                   | Asia          | Western Asia       | 83  |
| Myanmar                 | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 78  |
| Kyrgyzstan              | Asia          | Central Asia       | 73  |
| Colombia                | Latin America | South America      | 62  |
| Nicaragua               | Latin America | Central America    | 62  |
| Mexico                  | Latin America | Central America    | 61  |
| Nepal                   | Asia          | South Asia         | 60  |
| Algeria                 | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 50  |
| Turkmenistan            | Asia          | Central Asia       | 47  |
| Sri Lanka               | Asia          | South Asia         | 40  |
| Laos                    | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 30  |
| NN                      |               |                    | 30  |
| Vietnam                 | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 29  |
| NN                      |               |                    | 25  |
| Tanzania                | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 23  |
| Turkey                  | Asia          | Western Asia       | 22  |
| Mali                    | Africa        | Western Africa     | 21  |
| Morocco                 | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 21  |
| Uzbekistan              | Asia          | Central Asia       | 21  |
| Egypt                   | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 19  |
| Tajikistan              | Asia          | Central Asia       | 18  |
| Guinea                  | Africa        | Western Africa     | 15  |
| Cuba                    | Latin America | Caribbean          | 12  |
| Tunisia                 | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 12  |
| Chad*                   | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 10  |
| Comoros                 | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10  |
| Ivory Coast             | Africa        | Western Africa     | 10  |
| Iraq*                   | Asia          | Western Asia       | 10  |
| Jordan                  | Asia          | Western Asia       | 10  |
| Kuwait*                 | Asia          | Western Asia       | 10  |
| Mauritania*             | Africa        | Western Africa     | 10  |
| Qatar*                  | Asia          | Western Asia       | 10  |
| Rwanda*                 | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10  |
| South Sudan*            | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10  |
| Togo                    | Africa        | Western Africa     | 10  |
| United Arab Emirates*   | Asia          | Western Asia       | 10  |
| Palestinian Territories | Asia          | Western Asia       | 3   |

|                    |        |                    |   |
|--------------------|--------|--------------------|---|
| Russian Federation | Europe | Eastern Europe     | 2 |
| Bahrain            | Asia   | Western Asia       | 1 |
| Indonesia          | Asia   | South-eastern Asia | 1 |
| Malaysia           | Asia   | South-eastern Asia | 1 |
| NN                 |        |                    | 1 |
| Oman               | Asia   | Western Asia       | 1 |

Per region:

| <b>Sub-region</b>    | <b>Number<br/>WWL 2021</b> |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Eastern Africa       | 2,553                      |
| Middle Africa        | 2,210                      |
| Northern Africa      | 452                        |
| Western Africa       | 10,266                     |
| <b>AFRICA</b>        | <b>15,481</b>              |
| Central Asia         | 159                        |
| Eastern Asia         | 1,100                      |
| South Asia           | 3,150                      |
| South-eastern Asia   | 139                        |
| Western Asia         | 290                        |
| <b>ASIA</b>          | <b>4,838</b>               |
| Eastern Europe       | 2                          |
| <b>EUROPE</b>        | <b>2</b>                   |
| Caribbean            | 12                         |
| Central America      | 323                        |
| South America        | 62                         |
| <b>LATIN AMERICA</b> | <b>397</b>                 |

- No total is given for the number of Christians who have been otherwise physically or mentally abused for faith-related reasons (including beatings and death threats). The reason is that there are 28 symbolic numbers: 6 times the symbolic 1000, and 14 times the symbolic 100. As such this table can only be used to get an idea about the severity of the situation in the different countries.
- Using symbolic numbers always means a gross underestimation of the reality.
- With all this in mind, the comparison between the regions shows that the number for Africa (15,481; 75%) is far higher than the number for Asia (4,838; 23%), although the number for Asia is also substantial.
- The highest number in the list is for Western Africa, where Nigeria took the overwhelming majority. The number for Nigeria is not a symbolic number but was derived from the number of attacks on Christian communities, and related violence. Incidents where Christian communities are attacked, and Christians are killed, often have (in average) twice or three times the number of people (seriously) wounded. In other words, the 10,000 for Nigeria is a conservative number.
- Eastern Africa (2,553), Middle Africa (2,210) and South Asia (3,150) also have relatively high numbers of Christians physically or mentally abused for faith-related reasons.

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 6.9 | How many houses of Christians or other property (excluding shops) have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down or confiscated for faith-related reasons? |
|-----|---|

From high to low:

| Country              | Region        | Sub-region         | Number WWL 2021 |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Congo DR (DRC)*      | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 1000            |
| Mozambique*          | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 1000            |
| Nigeria*             | Africa        | Western Africa     | 1000            |
| Pakistan*            | Asia          | South Asia         | 1000            |
| Sudan                | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 525             |
| Syria                | Asia          | Western Asia       | 480             |
| Central African Rep. | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 412             |
| Cameroon*            | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 100             |
| China*               | Asia          | Eastern Asia       | 100             |
| Ethiopia*            | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 100             |
| Iraq                 | Asia          | Western Asia       | 100             |
| Mali*                | Africa        | Western Africa     | 100             |
| Bangladesh           | Asia          | South Asia         | 78              |
| Iran                 | Asia          | South Asia         | 75              |
| Uganda               | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 54              |
| India                | Asia          | South Asia         | 45              |
| Indonesia            | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 38              |
| Laos                 | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 30              |
| Tunisia              | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 17              |
| Libya                | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 15              |
| Vietnam              | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 13              |
| Myanmar              | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 12              |
| Burkina Faso*        | Africa        | Western Africa     | 10              |
| Eritrea*             | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| Kenya*               | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| Niger*               | Africa        | Western Africa     | 10              |
| NN*                  |               |                    | 10              |
| NN*                  |               |                    | 10              |
| Rwanda*              | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| South Sudan*         | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| Egypt                | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 9               |
| Sri Lanka            | Asia          | South Asia         | 5               |
| Tanzania             | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 5               |
| NN                   |               |                    | 4               |
| Cuba                 | Latin America | Caribbean          | 3               |
| El Salvador          | Latin America | Central America    | 3               |
| Mexico               | Latin America | Central America    | 3               |

|              |               |                 |   |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|---|
| Turkmenistan | Asia          | Central Asia    | 3 |
| Guinea       | Africa        | Western Africa  | 2 |
| Ivory Coast  | Africa        | Western Africa  | 2 |
| Morocco      | Africa        | Northern Africa | 2 |
| Nepal        | Asia          | South Asia      | 2 |
| Turkey       | Asia          | Western Asia    | 2 |
| Chad         | Africa        | Middle Africa   | 1 |
| Colombia     | Latin America | South America   | 1 |
| Kyrgyzstan   | Asia          | Central Asia    | 1 |
| Saudi Arabia | Asia          | Western Asia    | 1 |

Per region:

| Sub-region           | Number<br>WVL 2021 |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Eastern Africa       | 1,203              |
| Middle Africa        | 1,513              |
| Northern Africa      | 568                |
| Western Africa       | 1,124              |
| <b>AFRICA</b>        | <b>4,408</b>       |
| Central Asia         | 4                  |
| Eastern Asia         | 110                |
| South Asia           | 1,215              |
| South-eastern Asia   | 93                 |
| Western Asia         | 583                |
| <b>ASIA</b>          | <b>2,005</b>       |
| Caribbean            | 3                  |
| Central America      | 6                  |
| South America        | 1                  |
| <b>LATIN AMERICA</b> | <b>10</b>          |

- No total is given for the number of houses of Christians or other property (excluding shops) that were attacked. This is partly due to the use of 16 symbolic numbers, 4 of which are symbolic 1000's.
- Using symbolic numbers always means a gross underestimation of the reality.
- Apart from the use of symbolic numbers, it is extremely difficult to know how many houses (and other property) were destroyed in small-scale and larger attacks by jihadists and other violent religious groups or citizen mobs. As such, this table can only be used to get an idea about the severity of the situation in the different countries.
- This is for example the case in the top 4 of the table: Congo DR, Mozambique, Nigeria and Pakistan. In Nigeria alone the number of houses attacked and vacated because of attacks on (mainly) Christian communities could easily be in the thousands.
- Attacks on houses or other property of Christians in the form of raids on (mainly) Christian communities, also include destruction of harvests and occupation of fields. In other words, deprivation of Christian families from their ancestral lands and livelihoods. This is one of the hidden dimensions of the numbers given in these violence categories.

- With all this in mind, the comparison between the regions shows that the number for Africa (4,408; 69% ) is more than twice as high as the number for Asia (2,005; 31%).
- Attacks on houses (and other property) of Christians is not typical for the persecution and violence context in Latin America.

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 6.10 | How many shops or businesses of Christians have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down, closed or confiscated for faith-related reasons? |
|------|--|

From high to low:

| Country               | Region        | Sub-region         | Number WWL 2021 |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Nigeria*              | Africa        | Western Africa     | 1000            |
| Syria                 | Asia          | Western Asia       | 395             |
| Cameroon*             | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 100             |
| Central African Rep.* | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 100             |
| Congo DR (DRC)*       | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 100             |
| Ethiopia*             | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 100             |
| Kenya*                | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 100             |
| Mozambique*           | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 100             |
| Pakistan*             | Asia          | South Asia         | 100             |
| Iran                  | Asia          | South Asia         | 28              |
| Burkina Faso*         | Africa        | Western Africa     | 10              |
| China*                | Asia          | Eastern Asia       | 10              |
| Eritrea*              | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| Mali*                 | Africa        | Western Africa     | 10              |
| Niger*                | Africa        | Western Africa     | 10              |
| NN*                   |               |                    | 10              |
| South Sudan*          | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| Uganda                | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| El Salvador           | Latin America | Central America    | 6               |
| Myanmar               | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 5               |
| Bangladesh            | Asia          | South Asia         | 4               |
| India                 | Asia          | South Asia         | 4               |
| Egypt                 | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 3               |
| Morocco               | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 3               |
| Sudan                 | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 3               |
| Iraq                  | Asia          | Western Asia       | 2               |
| Tunisia               | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 2               |
| Cuba                  | Latin America | Caribbean          | 1               |
| Libya                 | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 1               |
| Mexico                | Latin America | Central America    | 1               |
| NN                    |               |                    | 1               |
| Oman                  | Asia          | Western Asia       | 1               |



|           |        |                |   |
|-----------|--------|----------------|---|
| Sri Lanka | Asia   | South Asia     | 1 |
| Tanzania  | Africa | Eastern Africa | 1 |
| Turkey    | Asia   | Western Asia   | 1 |

Per region:

| Sub-region           | Number<br>WWL 2021 |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Eastern Africa       | 331                |
| Middle Africa        | 300                |
| Northern Africa      | 12                 |
| Western Africa       | 1,030              |
| <b>AFRICA</b>        | <b>1,673</b>       |
| Eastern Asia         | 20                 |
| South Asia           | 137                |
| South-eastern Asia   | 5                  |
| Western Asia         | 400                |
| <b>ASIA</b>          | <b>562</b>         |
| Caribbean            | 1                  |
| Central America      | 7                  |
| <b>LATIN AMERICA</b> | <b>8</b>           |

- No total is given for the number of shops or businesses of Christians that were attacked. This is partly due to the use of 15 symbolic numbers.
- Using symbolic numbers always means a gross underestimation of the reality.
- Apart from the use of symbolic numbers, it is extremely difficult to know how many shops and businesses were destroyed in small-scale and larger attacks by jihadists and other violent religious groups or citizen mobs. As such, this table can only be used to get an idea about the severity of the situation in the different countries.
- Shops (or businesses) in the context of most of the persecution contexts covered by this overview, are often village stalls selling such products as Nescafé, sugar, biscuits, soap and shampoo in small quantities. Together with houses and other properties, these stalls are robbed and destroyed during attacks.
- With all this in mind, the comparison between the regions shows that the number for Africa (1,673; 75%) is around three times as high as the number for Asia (562; 25%).
- Attacks on shops and business of Christians is not typical for the persecution and violence context in Latin America.

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 6.11 | How many Christians have been forced to leave their homes or go into hiding in-country for faith-related reasons? |
|------|---|

From high to low:

| Country              | Region        | Sub-region         | Number WWL 2021 |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Myanmar              | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 120,000         |
| Burkina Faso*        | Africa        | Western Africa     | 1000            |
| Cameroon*            | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 1000            |
| Central African Rep. | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 1000            |
| Congo DR (DRC)*      | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 1000            |
| Mali*                | Africa        | Western Africa     | 1000            |
| Mozambique*          | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 1000            |
| Nigeria*             | Africa        | Western Africa     | 1000            |
| Syria                | Asia          | Western Asia       | 600             |
| India                | Asia          | South Asia         | 422             |
| Ethiopia             | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 255             |
| Colombia             | Latin America | South America      | 247             |
| Iraq                 | Asia          | Western Asia       | 200             |
| Kenya                | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 100             |
| Niger                | Africa        | Western Africa     | 100             |
| Pakistan*            | Asia          | South Asia         | 100             |
| Vietnam*             | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 100             |
| Bangladesh           | Asia          | South Asia         | 91              |
| Mexico               | Latin America | Central America    | 71              |
| Iran                 | Asia          | South Asia         | 60              |
| Indonesia            | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 56              |
| Laos                 | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 40              |
| Honduras             | Latin America | Central America    | 35              |
| Kyrgyzstan           | Asia          | Central Asia       | 32              |
| NN                   |               |                    | 25              |
| Nepal                | Asia          | South Asia         | 16              |
| Libya                | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 15              |
| Tajikistan           | Asia          | Central Asia       | 13              |
| Morocco              | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 12              |
| NN                   |               |                    | 12              |
| Angola               | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 10              |
| Burundi*             | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| Chad*                | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 10              |
| China*               | Asia          | Eastern Asia       | 10              |
| Egypt                | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 10              |
| El Salvador*         | Latin America | Central America    | 10              |
| Eritrea*             | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| Ivory Coast          | Africa        | Western Africa     | 10              |
| Malaysia             | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 10              |

|                         |               |                 |    |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------|----|
| NN                      |               |                 | 10 |
| South Sudan*            | Africa        | Eastern Africa  | 10 |
| Tunisia*                | Africa        | Northern Africa | 10 |
| Uganda                  | Africa        | Eastern Africa  | 10 |
| NN                      |               |                 | 9  |
| Jordan                  | Asia          | Western Asia    | 6  |
| Nicaragua               | Latin America | Central America | 5  |
| Russian Federation      | Europe        | Eastern Europe  | 5  |
| Rwanda                  | Africa        | Eastern Africa  | 5  |
| Uzbekistan              | Asia          | Central Asia    | 4  |
| Mauritania              | Africa        | Western Africa  | 3  |
| Tanzania                | Africa        | Eastern Africa  | 3  |
| Comoros                 | Africa        | Eastern Africa  | 2  |
| Palestinian Territories | Asia          | Western Asia    | 2  |
| Turkey                  | Asia          | Western Asia    | 1  |

Per region:

| Sub-region           | Number WWL 2021 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Eastern Africa       | 1,414           |
| Middle Africa        | 3,020           |
| Northern Africa      | 47              |
| Western Africa       | 3,113           |
| <b>AFRICA</b>        | <b>7,594</b>    |
| Central Asia         | 49              |
| Eastern Asia         | 20              |
| South Asia           | 701             |
| South-eastern Asia   | 120,206         |
| Western Asia         | 834             |
| <b>ASIA</b>          | <b>121,810</b>  |
| Eastern Europe       | 5               |
| <b>EUROPE</b>        | <b>5</b>        |
| Central America      | 121             |
| South America        | 247             |
| <b>LATIN AMERICA</b> | <b>368</b>      |

- No total is given for the number of Christians who have been forced to leave their homes or go into hiding in-country for faith-related reasons. This is partly due to the use of 15 symbolic numbers, 6 of which are symbolic 1000's. As such this table can only be used to get an idea about the severity of the situation in the different countries.
- Using symbolic numbers always means a gross underestimation of the reality.
- In this case the situation is problematic, because the biggest number is from Myanmar in Asia, while all six symbolic 1000's are from countries in sub-Saharan Africa. In reality, several of them could have higher numbers than in Myanmar.

- As for the number of Christians who have been forced to leave their homes or go into hiding in-country for faith-related reasons, the bigger numbers very often concern Christians who became Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) for an extended period of time. That period can even be as much as one or more years. It is difficult to count that properly and to know up to what point one should continue counting them. Some will have resettled. That depends on the specific contexts and is not easy to capture in numbers.
- Living as IDPs is a difficult life. Sometimes Christians resettle with family members, or find their way to other parts of the country. At other times, they stay in formal or informal IDP camps. Informal camps are often situated around primary schools but can also be located close to a church or health center. Taking care of one's family is often difficult in such situations. Education, health-care and employment are problematic. Women and girls might be vulnerable to abuse and human trafficking.
- With all this in mind, the comparison between the regions shows that the number for Asia (121,810) is much higher than the number for Africa (7,594). However, after statistical adjustment for the highest number in both regions, Asia has 21% (1,810 out of 8,777) and Africa 75% (6,594 out of 8,777).

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 6.12 | How many Christians have been forced to leave the country for faith-related reasons? |
|------|--|

From high to low:

| Country               | Region        | Sub-region         | Number WWL 2021 |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Myanmar               | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 10,000          |
| Congo DR (DRC)*       | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 1,000           |
| Eritrea*              | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 1,000           |
| Iran*                 | Asia          | South Asia         | 1,000           |
| Nigeria*              | Africa        | Western Africa     | 1,000           |
| Syria                 | Asia          | Western Asia       | 263             |
| Central African Rep.* | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 100             |
| NN*                   |               |                    | 100             |
| Turkey                | Asia          | Western Asia       | 100             |
| Vietnam*              | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 100             |
| Mali                  | Africa        | Western Africa     | 40              |
| Libya                 | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 20              |
| Pakistan              | Asia          | South Asia         | 20              |
| El Salvador           | Latin America | Central America    | 13              |
| Brunei                | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 10              |
| Burundi               | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| China*                | Asia          | Eastern Asia       | 10              |
| Iraq                  | Asia          | Western Asia       | 10              |
| Mozambique*           | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10              |
| NN*                   |               |                    | 10              |
| Rwanda*               | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 10              |

|                    |               |                    |    |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|----|
| Sudan              | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 10 |
| Malaysia           | Asia          | South-eastern Asia | 8  |
| Egypt              | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 7  |
| Cuba               | Latin America | Caribbean          | 4  |
| NN                 |               |                    | 4  |
| Tunisia            | Africa        | Northern Africa    | 4  |
| Kazakhstan         | Asia          | Central Asia       | 3  |
| Nicaragua          | Latin America | Central America    | 3  |
| Comoros            | Africa        | Eastern Africa     | 2  |
| Guinea             | Africa        | Western Africa     | 2  |
| NN                 |               |                    | 2  |
| Qatar              | Asia          | Western Asia       | 2  |
| Russian Federation | Europe        | Eastern Europe     | 2  |
| Saudi Arabia       | Asia          | Western Asia       | 2  |
| Cameroon           | Africa        | Middle Africa      | 1  |
| Jordan             | Asia          | Western Asia       | 1  |
| Mauritania         | Africa        | Western Africa     | 1  |
| Nepal              | Asia          | South Asia         | 1  |

Per region:

| Sub-region           | Number WWL 2021 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Eastern Africa       | 1,034           |
| Middle Africa        | 1,101           |
| Northern Africa      | 41              |
| Western Africa       | 1,043           |
| <b>AFRICA</b>        | <b>3,219</b>    |
| Central Asia         | 3               |
| Eastern Asia         | 20              |
| South Asia           | 1,121           |
| South-eastern Asia   | 10,118          |
| Western Asia         | 382             |
| <b>ASIA</b>          | <b>11,644</b>   |
| Eastern Europe       | 2               |
| <b>EUROPE</b>        | <b>2</b>        |
| Caribbean            | 4               |
| Central America      | 16              |
| <b>LATIN AMERICA</b> | <b>20</b>       |

- No total is given for the number of Christians who have been forced to leave the country for faith-related reasons. This is partly due to the use of 11 symbolic numbers, 4 of which are symbolic 1000's. As such, this table can only be used to get an idea about the severity of the situation in the different countries.
- Using symbolic numbers always means a gross underestimation of the reality.

- This case is comparable to the case concerning short or longer term IDPs. The biggest number is from Myanmar in Asia, while all 4 symbolic 1000's are from countries in other regions. In reality, several of them could be higher than Myanmar, especially when one considers that refugees from foregoing years are theoretically part of these numbers.
- Living as refugees is equally difficult. Especially when Christians have to stay in refugee camps outside their countries where they might encounter potential persecutors. Outside such formal refugee camps it might be difficult to survive without proper humanitarian help. Even if education and health care are provided, employment is nearly always problematic. As refugees, women and girls might even be more vulnerable to abuse and human trafficking than as IDPs, living outside their home countries, although this depends on the specific context.
- With all this in mind, the comparison between the regions shows that the number for Asia (11,644) is higher than the number for Africa (3,219). However, after statistical adjustment (i.e. taking away the highest number in both regions), Asia has 42% (1,644) and Africa 57% (2,219).

## 6. Case studies – The reality behind the numbers

### NIGERIA - Violent attacks

*More details will be given on violence in Nigeria in a special document to be produced soon. There are several countries in sub-Saharan Africa that are confronted with violent actions from jihadist groups and other religiously motivated persecutors. Nigeria is one of them, and a country in which the scale of the problem is big. In that sense, a more detailed description of violence in Nigeria can serve as a mirror for what Christians in other countries have to go through.*

#### **Christians and others killed:**

WWR collaborated with two Nigerian partner organizations to obtain data on the number of people killed in the WWL 2021 reporting period (1 October 2019 – 30 September 2020). The total number is 5,678 people killed.

The people killed were categorized in 6 ways:

1. Christians killed for their faith by Boko Haram, ISWAP, armed Fulani herdsmen or 'bandits'.
2. Muslims killed; mostly by Boko Haram, ISWAP, armed Fulani herdsmen or 'bandits' (considered 'kafir').
3. People killed by Boko Haram, ISWAP, armed Fulani herdsmen or 'bandits', but religious background not clear (Christians, Muslims or traditional religionists).
4. People killed by diverse perpetrators but not in the context of the violence of Boko Haram, ISWAP, armed Fulani herdsmen or 'bandits'.
5. Security personnel killed (soldiers, police, immigration officers) by Boko Haram, ISWAP, armed Fulani herdsmen or 'bandits'.
6. Members of Boko Haram, ISWAP, armed Fulani herdsmen and 'bandits' killed, mostly by security personnel.

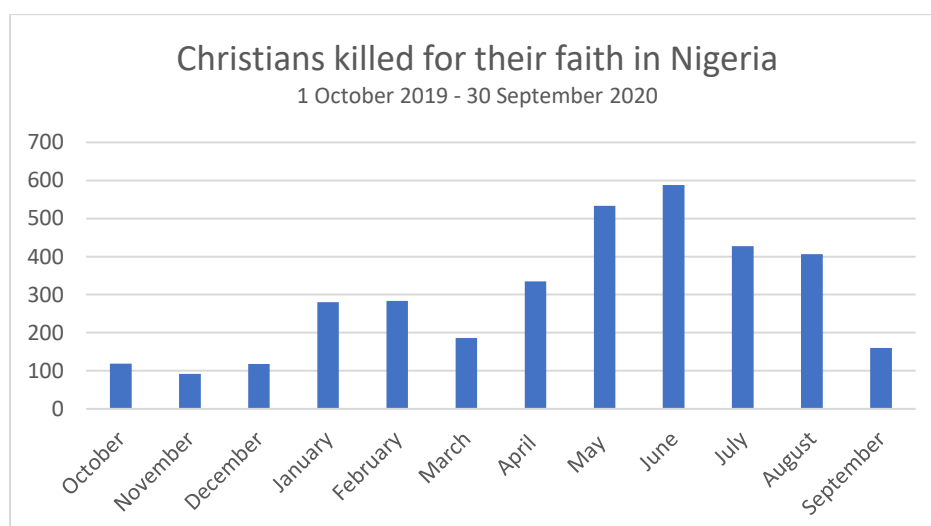
| Year | Month        | Christians killed | Muslims killed | Killed but religion unclear | Killed but not in the context of Boko Haram, ISWAP, armed Fulani herdsmen or 'bandits' | Killed: Soldiers, police, immigration officers | Killed: Boko Haram, ISWAP, armed Fulani herdsmen, 'bandits' |
|------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--|--|---|
| 2019 | October      | 119               | 15             | 1                           | 1  | 32   | 8   |
|      | November     | 92                | 26             | 1                           | 0  | 21   | 9   |
|      | December     | 115               | 20             | 8                           | 25   | 2  | 7   |
| 2020 | January      | 270               | 105            | 30                          | 4  | 65   | 67  |
|      | February     | 277               | 160            | 21                          | 3  | 12   | 30  |
|      | March        | 175               | 93             | 32                          | 13   | 56   | 10  |
|      | April        | 305               | 92             | 90                          | 9  | 24   | 95  |
|      | May          | 530               | 127            | 9                           | 20   | 43   | 35  |
|      | June         | 583               | 132            | 15                          | 105  | 31   | 83  |
|      | July         | 402               | 36             | 75                          | 16   | 44   | 1   |
|      | August       | 381               | 25             | 76                          | 40   | 5  | 26  |
|      | September    | 154               | 61             | 19                          | 9  | 29   | 26  |
|      | <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>3,403</b>      | <b>892</b>     | <b>377</b>                  | <b>245</b>   | <b>364</b>                                     | <b>397</b>  |

To calculate the number of Christians killed, the numbers for “Christians killed” are chosen, with the addition of a third of the numbers for “Killed but religion unclear”.

### Violence, ‘bandits’ and COVID-19

The COVID-19 lockdown in Nigeria started at the end of March 2020. More than bringing relief, it seems to have facilitated the killing of Christians (and others) by Boko Haram, ISWAP, armed Fulani herdsmen and ‘bandits’ (who have links to the same Islamist agenda as the other groups named).

It is important to note that the term ‘bandits’ (i.e. unidentified gunmen) is being increasingly widely used by national and international media when reporting attacks on Christians (and on Muslims who do not actively buy into the Islamist agenda). The widespread use of this term is causing - in many cases deliberately - the religious-ideological agenda behind many of the attacks to be ignored. This is a typical example of how media are responsible for what can be termed ‘persecution eclipse’.



## Behind the bare numbers

Behind the bare numbers for the different categories of violence, much lies hidden from view. A husband or son killed leaves the mother and the younger children behind in a state of great vulnerability. A wife or daughter abducted leaves a man only being able to imagine what might be happening to them – such thoughts torment the mind incessantly.

Often the same people or communities are affected by different categories of violence.

When a (mainly) Christian community is attacked, some are killed, others are (seriously) wounded; others are abducted. Often men and boys are killed; women and girls are abducted. Many flee from their houses and fields. Their properties are robbed; their harvests destroyed or possession of their fields is taken over. When they can come back, there is always this fear it will happen again. Some communities are permanently deserted by their Christian inhabitants and occupied by Fulani herdsmen. The overlap between Fulani herdsmen and so-called ‘bandits’ is considerable. Boko Haram and ISWAP operate slightly differently but the consequences are comparable.

There is always fear. When the night falls, there is always the fear of an attack, and of what might happen to oneself and one’s family.

Violence is acted out in different ways. It is not always that (mainly) Christian villages are attacked. But when it is, it is not likely that the assailants want to kill as many members of such villages as possible. If so, they would do it differently. It seems that the creation of an atmosphere of terror is the main goal, plus the possibility to rob other people’s possessions. Or the goal might be to simply take over everything those people have for a specific period of time, if not definitively.

Abduction is also increasing. Some are abducted for sexual slavery or forced marriage. Then it is mainly about women and girls. Others are abducted for ransom - often men. Church leaders are popular, probably because they are expected to be able to raise enough money quickly from their congregations or institutions. Abduction has become a successful ‘revenue model’.

Many Christians live as IDPs. Some find they can survive and carry on, while others suffer a long time lacking everything. Women and children are particularly vulnerable in such circumstances: Children being vulnerable to health issues, and women and girls to abuse and human trafficking.

## CHINA – Churches attacked

*More details will be given on these recent events in a special document to be produced soon. That document will also add some details about COVID-19 and churches in China.*

It is important to consider the recent history of attacks on churches. The number for WWL 2021 may be lower than the number in foregoing years. **However, that number does not stand alone, but adds to what happened in foregoing years. In countries such as China an action against a church is not easily nullified but drags on over years.**

Origins: It started with the “Three rectification and one demolition” campaign at the end of 2013 in Zhejiang province. Reportedly, and never confirmed, a high-ranking party official went to the capital of Zhejiang, Wenzhou, and was taken aback by the forest of crosses he saw everywhere. Zhejiang is a rich coastal province with many Christian businessmen (“boss Christians”). He shared his displeasure and the campaign was set up.



It started in 2014 and took off with the very public demolition of first the cross and then the whole building of Sanjiang church in April 2014.

In the table below, please take note of the Comment column The comments show that the numbers for WWL 2017, WWL 2018 and WWL 2019 were unrealistically low. The reason is the researcher's constant fear of exaggerating and the need to be as sure as possible about data supplied. It makes sense to draw a dotted line from the WWL 2016 value to the WWL 2020 value. Even then the comments suggest that the numbers given are still (very) conservative.

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Numbers</b>                          | <b>Regions</b>   | <b>Comment</b>  |
|-------------|---|--|---|
| WWL 2015    | 300                                     | Zhejiang   | "did not seem to be the beginning of a wider campaign" --- obviously wrong...   |
| WWL 2016    | 1,500                                   | Zhejiang   |   |
| WWL 2017    | (symbolic) 10<br>Brent F suggests 2,000 | Zhejiang   |   |
| WWL 2018    | (symbolic) 10<br>No further numbers     | Zhejiang<br>Incident in Catholic church in Shanxi                    | For the first time, another province is named.  |
| <b>Year</b> | <b>Numbers</b>                          | <b>Regions</b>   | <b>Comment</b>  |
| WWL 2019    | 171                                     | Emphasis on Henan  | Examples of churches in Beijing and Shanxi; we are sure the number must have been four-digit, too:<br>Reports from 26 provinces* (Anhui, Beijing, Fujian, Gansu, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hebei, Henan, Heilongjiang, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Jilin, Liaoning, Nei Mongol, Qinghai, Shaanxi, Shandong, Shanghai, Shanxi, Sichuan, Xinjiang, Yunnan, Zhejiang) |
| WWL 2020    | 5,576                                   | Emphasis on Henan  | Reports from 24 provinces (Anhui, Beijing, Fujian, Gansu, Guangdong, Hainan, Hebei, Heilongjiang, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Jilin, Liaoning, Nei Mongol, Shaanxi, Shandong, Shanxi, Sichuan, Tianjin, Yunnan, Xinjiang and Zhejiang)   |
| WWL 2021    | 3,088                                   | "emphasis on the provinces of Anhui and Jiangsu, but also elsewhere" | Reports from 26 provinces (Anhui, Beijing, Fujian, Gansu, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Hebei, Heilongjiang, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Jilin, Liaoning, Nei Mongol, Qinghai, Shaanxi, Shandong, Shanghai, Shanxi, Sichuan, Tianjin, Yunnan and Zhejiang)   |

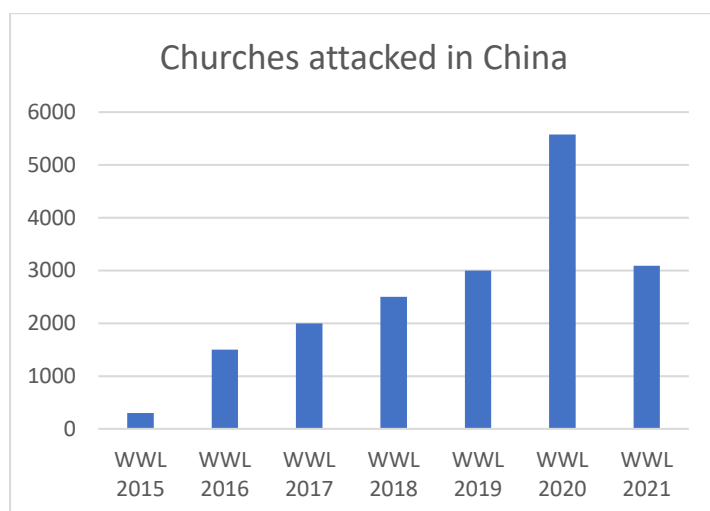
\* China has 34 regional units, not all named “province”.

As stated above, the comments in the table above show that the numbers for WWL 2017, WWL 2018 and WWL 2019 were unrealistically low. Realistically, therefore, the situation for China could very well have been the following:

| CHINA                  | Number of churches attacked |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| WWL 2015               | 300                         |
| WWL 2016               | 1,500                       |
| WWL 2017 <sup>1/</sup> | 2,000                       |
| WWL 2018 <sup>1/</sup> | 2,500                       |
| WWL 2019 <sup>1/</sup> | 3,000                       |
| WWL 2020               | 5,576                       |
| WWL 2021               | 3,088                       |

<sup>1/</sup> These numbers are estimations only.

The total of churches attacked would then be close to 18,000. The special document on church attacks in China (to be produced shortly) will suggest this is very likely a conservative estimate.



If one only looks at the number of churches attacked in the WWL 2021 reporting period, 3,000 seems much less in comparison to the 5,576 attacked in WWL 2020. But because church attack in China is cumulative, the 3,000 completes a series of 18,000 church attacks (and very likely even more).

WWR / 2020-12-10