

*“From heaven the Lord looked  
at the earth to hear the  
groans of the prisoners,  
to set free those who  
were doomed to die.”*

*Psalm 102*

#### CONNECTING YOU TO THE PERSECUTED

In this past century alone, more Christians were murdered for their faith than any other century in human history, an estimated 200 million. Around the world, believers are economically marginalized, denied education for their children, beaten, tortured, raped, imprisoned, and even murdered for their faith.

International Christian Concern seeks to serve and build the persecuted Church in strength and breadth through effective advocacy, assistance, and awareness. ICC serves as an advocate for the worldwide persecuted Church. We are committed to connecting you with the needs of your suffering brothers and sisters around the world.

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# Pray for the Persecuted

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On the cover: Namrata Nayak, who suffered severe burns when Hindus bombed her home in August 2008.

# china

Gao Zhisheng, a Christian and prominent human rights attorney, has spent his life fighting for the rights of Chinese Christians and other minorities who suffer under China's communist regime. Despite threats and arrests, Gao has continued to fight to defend the defenseless and to speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves – he has even been nominated twice for the Nobel Peace Prize.



On February 4, 2009, the Chinese government attempted to silence his voice. Gao was seized from his home by Chinese police and disappeared at the hands of the regime without so much as a trial. We have learned that Gao has endured severe physical torture while in prison. His fellow inmates reported that prison guards forced them to watch video footage of Gao's torture in an effort to deter them from speaking out against the communist government. Despite prominent media and international government attention to Gao's case, he remains under the custody of China and has not been seen or heard from since April 2010.

**population:** 1,336,718,015 | **capital:** Beijing  
**government:** communist state | **religion:** atheist

# pakistan

Before her arrest in 2009, Asia Bibi spent her days laboring in the fields of a small Pakistani village to help sustain her five children. On June 14, 2009, one of Asia's Muslim colleagues asked her to bring them some water for refreshment. When she arrived with the water, some of the women refused to drink, claiming that Asia was "unclean" because she was a Christian. A heated exchange ensued and ended with the Muslim women accusing Asia of blaspheming the Islamic prophet Muhammad.



Though Asia denied the accusation, her colleagues incited a group of villagers to attack her. When police arrived, they arrested Asia and registered a case of blasphemy against her. More than a year later, on November 7, 2010, a Pakistani court sentenced Asia to death. She is currently being held in solitary confinement and lives in constant fear that she will be killed by radical Muslims who have even threatened suicide bomb attacks on the prison where she is being held.

**population:** 187,342,741 | **capital:** Islamabad  
**government:** federal republic | **religion:** Islam

# iran

Youcef Nadarkhani was arrested in October 2009 for opposing the education practice that forces Christian students to read the Quran in school. In September 2010, an Iranian court sentenced Youcef to death for apostasy. He was transferred to a high security prison where he is being held in solitary confinement.



This fall, a court-ordered investigation will determine whether Youcef was in fact a Muslim before his conversion and thus guilty of apostasy. If they find that Youcef is an apostate, Iran has declared that his execution will be carried out. Though thrown in prison, interrogated, tortured, and now facing death, Youcef refuses to renounce Christ and return to Islam.

Amidst immense suffering, Youcef is finding solace in the Lord. In a letter written from prison, he consoled believers around the world: *"What we are bearing today is a difficult, but not unbearable, situation because He has not tested us more than our faith can endure."*

**population:** 77,891,220 | **capital:** Tehran  
**government:** theocratic republic | **religion:** Shia Islam

# vietnam

Forty-one-year old Puih H'bat was leading about twenty other Degar Christians in prayer when Vietnamese security police burst through the doors of her home. Accusing the frightened believers of crimes against national unity, the police demanded that those present join the government-controlled church of Vietnam.



Knowing that her refusal would lead to her arrest, Puih still refused to compromise her faith by joining a church controlled by a regime that ardently persecutes her people. Puih was arrested on April 11 and sentenced to five years in Vietnam's brutal prisons where hard labor and physical torture are commonplace.

Three years later, Puih's fate remains a mystery, as no one has been able to verify if she is alive or dead. Five months after her arrest, the European Commission investigated her case, but the government refused to provide any information. Most Degar fear that this mother of four has perished in Vietnam's harsh prison system.

**population:** 90,549,390 | **capital:** Hanoi  
**government:** communist state | **religion:** none