



On The World Watch List

“In this crisis, we are again reminded how much we need the Lord’s salvation.”

– Father Ammar, a church leader from Iraq.

Score: 82/100

Extreme

Violence:		69%
Church Life:		83%
National Life:		89%
Community Life:		85%
Family Life:		87%
Private Life:		81%

Region:	Middle East
Leader:	Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi
Persecution Level:	Extreme
Christian Population:	175,000 (0.4%)
Main Religion:	Islam
Source of Persecution:	Islamic Oppression

A Costly Faith

In Iraq, the presence of Islamic extremist groups, and their ideology, continue to influence society. Christians are pressured to conform to the Islamic way of life and are often faced with physical abuse or the threat of kidnapping. In Iraq, many view the Christian faith as an act of treason. Some local Muslims have also been responsible for an anti-Christian poster campaign, calling on others to reject the Christmas holiday.

Those who have converted from a Muslim background often feel the need to keep their faith secret. On top of the physical danger, they also risk losing their inheritance or the right to marry.

Persecution From All Sides

The Iraqi government also discriminates against Christians in various contexts, from the workplace to travelling checkpoints across the country. Blasphemy laws can also be used to punish Christians who try to spread the gospel. Properties owned by Christians who fled the country during the war, have also been illegally seized by organised criminal groups, politicians or religious leaders.

How can we pray for Iraq?

Pray for an end to the waves of violence in Iraq, and for the country to have lasting peace.

Pray God would turn the hearts of Iraq’s leaders to Him, strengthening them to lead with wisdom and mercy.

Praise God for the opportunities Iraqi believers have received to share the gospel. Pray the gospel will continue to spread.

Download the full WWL report at opendoors.org.au/resources or opendoors.org.nz/resources