



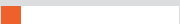





# Mauritania

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## On The World Watch List

Score: 71 / 100

Very High

Violence:		10%
Church Life:		81%
National Life:		84%
Community Life:		80%
Family Life:		84%
Private Life:		86%

Region:	Africa
Leader:	President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani
Persecution Level:	Very High
Christian Population:	10,800 (0.2%)
Main Religion:	Islam
Source of Persecution:	Islamic Oppression

In Mauritania, leaving Islam to follow Jesus is illegal. In the nation's tribal culture, converting is also a betrayal of the tribe and family. As society is increasingly dominated by Islamic extremism, Christians in Mauritania are rarely protected.

### Faith Made Illegal

Gathering together is nearly impossible for Christians in Mauritania. Some laws tightly restrict preaching the gospel to Muslims. The recent strengthening of blasphemy laws has made it extremely dangerous for Christians to openly share their faith. Those who do may be arrested and imprisoned. The punishment for anyone who criticises Islam, which Christians are often accused of doing, can be the death penalty.

### No Christian Baptisms, Marriages or Funerals

Under Mauritanian law and the watchful eyes of the community, there is no room for baptisms, Christian marriages or funerals, or any other Christian celebration. Most believers in Mauritania must live out their faith in secret.

## How can we pray for Mauritania?

Pray for opportunities for Christians to share the gospel despite the risks.

Pray for strength and perseverance over new Christian converts experiencing pressure from their family and community.

Pray God will be changing the hearts of Mauritanian lawmakers and authorities, to honour Him.

Download the full WWL report at [opendoors.org.au/resources](https://opendoors.org.au/resources) or [opendoors.org.nz/resources](https://opendoors.org.nz/resources)