

Colombia

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On The World Watch List

“Even though I was afraid, God showed me His powerful protection.”

– Rubén, Colombian believer.

Score: 67 / 100

Very High

Violence:		83%
Church Life:		58%
National Life:		66%
Community Life:		74%
Family Life:		53%
Private Life:		84%

Region:	Latin America
Leader:	President Ivan Duque Marquez
Persecution Level:	Very High
Christian Population:	47,706,000 (95%)
Main Religion:	Christianity
Source of Persecution:	Clan Oppression

Colombia is rife with organised crime and corruption. Criminal groups and drug trafficking cause violence and unrest. Some political interest groups continue to call for a separation of religion and government.

Persecution From Organised Crime

Various criminal groups take control of villages and place difficult restrictions on churches. Christian leaders have been abducted, extorted and even killed as intolerance for Christianity in Colombia has increased. Any Christian who speaks out against organised crime faces threats, beatings or even death. A large spike in criminal violence in 2020 has led to Colombia's rise by 11 ranks in the World Watch List 2021.

The Most Vulnerable Christians

Young men are vulnerable targets of gang recruitment, while Christian women are particularly vulnerable to harassment and exploitation. In indigenous communities, believers face harassment, threats and expulsion. They are accused of abandoning community norms and can be imprisoned for practising their faith. Christian missionaries are treated with scrutiny and can face imprisonment, physical abuse and the confiscation of property, among other forms of punishment.

*Name changed for security purposes.

How can we pray for Colombia?

Pray for the families struck by criminal violence. Pray for God's comfort and healing in their lives.

Pray persecutors will seek out Jesus, finding hope and revival.

Pray isolated believers will be equipped with boldness and wisdom to share the gospel.

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