

Indonesia

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On The World Watch List

“In case I am put in prison, or if I get killed, don’t be surprised, you still press on and still hold your faith.”

– Tun*, a believer from southeast Asia.

Score: 63/100

Very High

Violence:		47%
Church Life:		56%
National Life:		64%
Community Life:		74%
Family Life:		68%
Private Life:		68%

Region:	Asia
Leader:	President Joko Widodo
Persecution Level:	Very High
Christian Population:	33,192,000 (12.2%)
Main Religion:	Islam
Source of Persecution:	Islamic Oppression

An Increasingly Islamic Indonesia

In Indonesia, the situation for Christians has been deteriorating in recent years, with Indonesian society becoming more conservative and Islamic. Christians who grew up in a Muslim home often experience persecution from their families. In many homes, families will verbally abuse Christians and isolate them because of their faith. A small percentage of converts face physical violence for their Christian faith.

Positive Developments

There have been no bomb attacks against churches for the second year in a row, but churches still can have a hard time meeting. Non-traditional church groups struggle to get permission for building churches. Even if they manage to fulfil all legal requirements, the local authorities still often ignore them. However, there have been some positive developments in Indonesia. For the first time since taking office, President Joko Widodo has cautiously spoken out against the difficulties believers of minority religions face when they want to set up a new place of worship.

*Name changed for security purposes.

How can we pray for Indonesia?

Pray for Christians who leave Islam and are heavily pressured by family and community to renounce their new faith in Jesus.

Pray that churches who are trying to obtain locations for worship would find favour with the government and be granted freedom to gather and worship in peace.

Pray for Christian children and teenagers, who often face discrimination and isolation for their faith.

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