

CHRISTIANS MURDERED BY GOVERNMENTS: YEAR 00 AD – 2026										
<i>"Yes, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." — 2 Timothy 3:12 (KJV)</i>										
#	Period Start	Period End	Government / Regime	System	Country / Region	Estimated Killed (Low)	Estimated Killed (High)	Estimated Killed (Mid)	Cumulative Total (Mid)	Notes
1	1917	1991	Soviet Union / USSR (Lenin, Stalin, Khrushchev, Brezhnev et al.)	Communism / Atheist State	Russia / USSR	12 000 000	20 000 000	15 000 000	15 000 000	Bolshevik Revolution to USSR collapse. Over 12,000 clergy shot in first years; 42,800 Orthodox clergy died in Gulag camps (1930 secret police report). Tens of thousands of churches destroyed. The Black Book of Communism estimates 20 million total Soviet victims; Christians formed the largest persecuted religious group. Includes Orthodox, Catholic, Lutheran, Mennonite, Baptist and Pentecostal believers.
2	1894	1923	Ottoman Empire / Committee of Union and Progress (Young Turks)	Nationalist / Theocratic Sultanate	Ottoman Empire (modern Turkey, Iraq, Syria)	2 500 000	3 750 000	3 000 000	18 000 000	Hamidian Massacres (1894–96): ~200,000–300,000 Armenian Christians killed. Armenian Genocide (1915–16): 600,000–1,500,000 killed (Britannica). Greek Genocide (1914–23): 1,574,235 killed (Tairkinidis estimate). Assyrian/Syriac Genocide (Sayfo, 1914–18): 250,000–750,000 killed. All victims were Christian minorities.
3	1949	2026	People's Republic of China – Chinese Communist Party (CCP)	Communism / Atheist State	China	1 000 000	3 000 000	2 000 000	20 000 000	Cultural Revolution (1966–76): all churches closed, Bibles burned, clergy imprisoned or executed; Stanford sociologist Andrew Walder estimates 1.6 million total Cultural Revolution deaths. Ongoing persecution of house-church Christians, Falun Gong, Uyghur Christians. Estimate covers direct killings of Christians 1949–2026.
4	1983	2005	Government of Sudan (Omar al-Bashir / National Islamic Front)	Islamist Military Dictatorship	Sudan / South Sudan	1 500 000	2 000 000	1 800 000	21 800 000	Second Sudanese Civil War (1983–2005): Khartoum's Islamist government waged jihad against the predominantly Christian and Animist south. Estimated 1.5–2 million killed; millions more displaced. Churches burned, pastors executed, children enslaved.
5	632	750	Rashidun and Umayyad Caliphates	Islamic Theocracy / Caliphate	Middle East, North Africa, Persia, Spain (multiple regions)	500 000	2 000 000	1 000 000	22 800 000	Arab-Islamic conquests swept through majority-Christian regions: Byzantine Syria, Egypt, North Africa, Persia, and Spain. CBN analysis: 1,400 years of Christian/Islamic struggle. Exact Christian death toll disputed; estimates range widely. Millions of Christians were killed, enslaved, or forcibly converted.
6	1945	1989	Eastern Bloc Communist Regimes (Poland, Romania, Hungary, E. Germany, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Albania, Yugoslavia)	Communism / Atheist States	Eastern Europe (multiple countries)	500 000	1 500 000	800 000	23 600 000	Albania declared itself the world's first atheist state (1967); all churches demolished or converted. Romania: Securitate tortured and killed thousands of clergy and believers. Yugoslavia: Ustasha and Communist regimes killed hundreds of thousands of Orthodox Serbs and Catholic Croats. Aggregate estimate across all Eastern Bloc states.
7	64	313	Roman Empire (Nero, Domitian, Trajan, Marcus Aurelius, Decius, Valerian, Diocletian et al.)	Pagan Imperial State / Polytheism	Roman Empire (modern Italy, Greece, Turkey, North Africa, Middle East)	100 000	1 000 000	500 000	24 100 000	Nero's persecution (64 AD): first state-sponsored persecution; Paul and Peter martyred. Domitian (81–96): widespread executions. Decius (249–251): empire-wide persecution edict. Diocletianic Persecution (303–313): most severe; thousands executed, churches destroyed. Exact totals unknown; estimates range from tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands.
8	1933	1945	Nazi Third Reich (Adolf Hitler / NSDAP)	National Socialism / Fascism	Germany / Occupied Europe	200 000	500 000	300 000	24 400 000	Nazi regime persecuted Confessing Church pastors (Dietrich Bonhoeffer executed 1945), Catholic clergy, Jehovah's Witnesses (2,500–5,000 killed), and Polish Catholic clergy (3,000+ priests killed). Millions of Catholic Poles, Orthodox Serbs, and other Christians killed in occupied territories. Estimate covers Christians killed specifically for faith or as Christian clergy.
9	1975	1979	Khmer Rouge (Pol Pot)	Maocism / Radical Communism / Atheism	Cambodia	100 000	500 000	200 000	24 600 000	Khmer Rouge killed approximately 1.7–2.5 million people total (25% of population). All religion was banned; Buddhist monks and Catholic Christians were specifically targeted. Estimate covers Christian victims of the regime.
10	1793	1796	French Republic / National Convention (General Turreau's Infernal Columns)	Radical Republicanism / Anti-clericalism	France (Vendée region)	100 000	300 000	170 000	24 770 000	Catholic peasants of the Vendée rose up in defence of their faith and king. Republican 'Infernal Columns' systematically massacred men, women, and children. Some historians (Secher) call it the first modern genocide. Victims were killed specifically because of their Catholic Christian faith.
11	2000	2026	Multiple Governments and Non-State Actors (Global)	Various (Islamism, Communism, Hindu Nationalism, etc.)	Global (50+ countries)	100 000	150 000	120 000	24 890 000	Open Doors World Watch List annual data: WWL 2024: 4,565 killed; WWL 2025: 4,476 killed; WWL 2026: 4,849 killed. Cumulative estimate for 2000–2026 based on Open Doors annual reports. 365 million Christians face high persecution globally (WWL 2024). 1 in 7 Christians worldwide is persecuted.
12	1948	2026	Democratic People's Republic of Korea (Kim Il-sung, Kim Jong-il, Kim Jong-un)	Communism / Juche Totalitarianism	North Korea	50 000	300 000	100 000	24 990 000	Open Doors: North Korea #1 on World Watch List for 20+ consecutive years. Christians classified as 'hostile class'; discovered believers sent to political prison camps (kwanliso) where conditions are lethal. Forbes (2024): persecution may amount to genocide. Estimated 50,000–300,000 Christians imprisoned or killed since 1948.
13	1974	1991	Derg Military Junta (Mengistu Haile Mariam)	Communism / Marxism-Leninism	Ethiopia	50 000	200 000	100 000	25 090 000	Red Terror (1977–78): tens of thousands killed. Ethiopian Orthodox Church persecuted; Patriarch Theophilos imprisoned and murdered (1979). Protestant and Catholic missionaries expelled; many believers killed.
14	1926	1929	Mexican Federal Government (Plutarco Elias Calles)	Anti-clericalism / Freemasonry	Mexico	90 000	250 000	90 000	25 180 000	Cristero War: Catholic uprising against Calles' anti-Catholic laws. Wikipedia: 56,882 government soldiers dead; estimated 250,000 total dead. EWTN News (2026): 90,000 fatalities including civilian Catholics. Priests executed publicly; churches closed by government decree.
15	2000	2026	Non-State Actors (Boko Haram, Fulani Herdsmen, ISWAP) tolerated/enabled by Nigerian Federal Government	Islamist Terrorism / State Negligence	Nigeria	50 000	80 000	65 000	25 245 000	Nigeria is the world's leading country for Christian martyrdom. Paul Chappell (2025): 'more than 50,000 Christians have been killed' since 2000. Open Doors WWL 2026: 4,849 Christians killed globally in one year, majority in sub-Saharan Africa. Thousands of churches burned. The Nigerian government has largely failed to prosecute perpetrators.
16	2013	2019	Islamic State (ISIS/SIL/Daesh)	Islamist Caliphate / Terrorism	Iraq, Syria, Libya (multiple countries)	10 000	50 000	20 000	25 265 000	ISIS systematically targeted ancient Christian communities in Iraq and Syria. Christians in Mosul, Nineveh Plains, and Syria expelled, enslaved, or executed. University of Minnesota CHGS: mass violence and genocide by ISIS. Hundreds of thousands of Christians fled the region permanently.
17	1789	1799	French Revolutionary Government / Committee of Public Safety (Robespierre)	Radical Republicanism / Anti-clericalism / Atheism	France	3 000	40 000	10 000	25 275 000	Reign of Terror: ~17,000 officially executed; thousands more died in prisons. Dechristianisation campaign: churches closed, clergy forced to renounce vows, ~200 priests killed in September Massacres (1792). Vendée uprising (1793–96): 100,000–300,000 Catholic peasants massacred by Republican forces in what some historians call a genocide.
18	1979	2026	Islamic Republic of Iran (Ayatollah Khomeini / Khamenei)	Islamist Theocracy / Shia Totalitarianism	Iran	5 000	20 000	10 000	25 285 000	Post-revolution persecution of Armenian, Assyrian, and Protestant Christians. Converts from Islam to Christianity face execution for apostasy. Pastors imprisoned and executed; house churches raided. Open Doors: Iran consistently in top 10 of World Watch List.
19	1947	2026	Government of Pakistan (various) / Islamist Non-State Actors	Islamic Republic / Blasphemy Laws	Pakistan	5 000	30 000	10 000	25 295 000	Blasphemy laws used to imprison and execute Christians. Asia Bibi case (2009–2018) drew global attention. Taliban and other groups attack churches and Christian communities. Open Doors: Pakistan consistently in top 10 of World Watch List.
20	1936	1939	Spanish Republic (Popular Front / Republican Left)	Socialism / Anarchism / Anti-clericalism	Spain	6 800	13 000	7 000	25 302 000	Red Terror: 6,800+ Catholic clergy and laypeople killed (USHMM). IHM Martyrs data: 13 bishops, 4,172 diocesan priests, 2,364 monks/friars, 283 nuns killed. As of Dec 2025, 2,255 have been beatified as martyrs. Priests hunted, tortured, and executed by Republican militias.
21	33	70	Sanhedrin / Jewish Religious Authorities (with Roman cooperation)	Theocratic Religious Authority	Judea / Roman Province	1 000	10 000	3 000	25 305 000	Saul of Tarsus (later Paul) persecuted the early church before his conversion (Acts 8:3; 9:1-2). Stephen stoned (Acts 7:59). James son of Zebedee beheaded by Herod Agrippa (Acts 12:2). Jewish War (66–70 AD): many Jewish Christians killed in the destruction of Jerusalem. Exact numbers unknown.
<b>GRAND TOTAL — CHRISTIANS MURDERED BY GOVERNMENTS (Year 00 – 2026)</b>						<b>18 870 800</b>	<b>35 693 000</b>	<b>25 305 000</b>	<b>25 305 000</b>	