

# PRAYER FOR West Africa

**ARISE AFRICA**

The persecution landscape for Christians in this region is complex; they encounter a variety of pressures daily that affect all spheres of their lives (private, family, community and national). One aspect of the persecution is targeted violence. This aggression comes most often from Muslim radical groups. And though they don't all go by the same name they are generally motivated by the same ideology. This violence often happens in an environment battling things like limited resources due to climate change, political instability, or discontentment among people over perceived marginalization on the grounds of their ethnicity. These radicals often abuse these problems to win people for their cause, to break down cohesion even further and stoke disunity and, in the end, advance their expansionist agenda through the resultant violence. We invite you to STOP THE VIOLENCE AND START THE HEALING by joining us in prayer for the countries and Christians of West Africa.



## Nigeria

1. Thank the Lord for Nigeria, one of the giants of Africa that plays an important role in the region and the continent, and for its wealth. Pray for the Lord's continued blessing on this nation.
2. Christians form about 46% and come from diverse denominational backgrounds. The church is active in local and international outreach. Thank God for the **Church's presence**, even in regions most hostile to the gospel. Pray that God will continue to build His Church and that she will **grow** despite severe persecution. Pray that Christians will remain bold and obedient in sharing the Gospel. Pray for continued grace, protection, and faithfulness to **pastors**. Pray that they may have all they need as they work, often amid great opposition.
3. Nigeria is 7th on Open Doors' 2025 World Watchlist, with Islamic radical violence the most prominent type of persecution. In the Muslim-dominated north, Christians live under immense pressure from Islamic militants. More believers are killed for their faith in Nigeria each year than anywhere else in the world combined. Thank the Lord for the Church's courage amid danger. Pray for grace to **remain courageous** in growing danger. Pray that believers will receive sufficient spiritual care.
4. In the northeast and parts of the Middle Belt Christians face brutal attacks resulting in injury and destruction of property. Survivors suffer grief and trauma. The need for care outweighs resources of churches. Pray for more workers.
5. The attacks displace great numbers of Christians who often do not feel safe in formal displacement camps, so take refuge at churches and/or with fellow Christians. This puts severe socio-economic pressure on Christian communities. Pray for **comfort** to displaced believers. Pray for those **caring** for the displaced to find the physical and emotional strength to continue this work. Thank the Lord for every **contribution** of help and the **generosity** of hosting communities. Pray for **provision** in the needs of hosting and displaced communities. Pray for wisdom to find **sustainable** ways for the displaced to provide for families.
6. Countless **women** in Nigeria have suffered abduction and/or sexual violence. Apart from the trauma this causes, there is often also shame to deal with. Pray fervently for God's intervention. Pray for more workers to bring help and provision for all.
7. In this onslaught **men** are often killed, lose their ability to work or have his property seized, impoverishing his family. Many leave try to find a safer and better life far away. Pray for discernment for the Church to find the spiritual, emotional, and physical solutions.
8. The median age in Nigeria is 17. **Young people** often feel marginalized. Pray for efforts by the government and Church to bring hope. Pray for thorough discipleship and sound view on economics coupled with practical help to uplift

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and create a hopeful future.

9. About 18.5 million **children**, the majority girls, have no access to education in Nigeria (UN, 2022), mostly because of the jihadist attacks on schools. Pray for more physical and emotional care to children, that they will receive the education they need.
10. Groups like **Boko Haram and ISWAP** often act with impunity against Christians (and Muslims who do not support their ideology). Pray that the Holy Spirit will bring many to salvation.
11. Islamic militancy occurs in the **context** of complex environmental and socio-economic challenges. Pray for wisdom and transparency for the government to find solutions to the drivers of the crisis.
12. Nigeria is a Federal Presidential Republic led by **Pres. Bola Ahmed Adekunle Tinubu**. When he took office in 2023, prioritized action against violence. Pray for wisdom and courage to not give up in protection for all Nigerians, no matter their tribe or faith.

## Burkina Faso

1. Burkina Faso has a population of about 23 million from diverse ethnicities and cultures, though with a history of cohesion. Thank the Lord for the country and its rich **heritage**. Pray for restoration of cohesion where it has broken down due to extremists.
2. **Christians** form 23% and have played a significant role in society, by building good schools, hospitals, etc. Thank the Lord for the Church. Pray for continued opportunity to bless society.
3. Pray that the Church will continue **courageous outreach** to society and government, even if space to do so is shrinking.
4. Burkina ranked 20th on the 2025 WWL, with Islamic oppression the strongest **persecution** type. Islamic militant groups has retained steady influence over recently. Pray for abundant grace and wisdom for Christians to navigate the situation.



5. **Pastors** have been providing care amid growing complexity and specific targeting from rebels. Pray for protection, provision and wisdom. Pray for comfort, as they deal with loss and trauma.
6. **Christian women** face abduction and sexual violence against during militant attacks. This causes trauma, and shame. If not addressed, this will weaken and destroy both families and the larger Christian community. Pray for greater awareness among authorities, the church and her partners and for proactive ways to protect women. Pray for sufficient physical and emotional care to survivors.
7. Islamic militant groups target **Christian men and boys** for forced military service, physical attacks—incl. murder if they refuse to convert. Survivors battle with trauma. Pray that the Church will become sufficiently equipped to care for all affected. Pray that men will receive good discipleship to be able to provide spiritual care to their families. Pray for the Church to find proactive solutions to the violence-induced economic challenges men face.
8. **Youths** are facing lack of access to education and jobs, and many have become radicalized or found “employment” with radicals. Pray for the church to offer youth an alternative through discipleship, a Biblical view on economics and helping youths to find viable ways to make a living. Pray that church partners offer sufficient support in this.
9. Due to the Islamic militant attacks in the north and east 6,000+ schools have been closed. Pray for more effort by the government, churches and their international partners to provide solid **education** to children, especially those living in rebel-controlled areas, or in displacement.
10. Islamic militant influence has eroded some of the peaceful coexistence. Pray that the **Church** will not allow enmity to take root, but continue to seek healthy relationships with all who may not worship Christ, while continuing to share the gospel.
11. In some parts of the country, there may simply be no Christians to kidnap or kill anymore. Even some “safer” parts of the country have become risky. Pray for continued grace to navigate these circumstances and to remain **salt and light** in society. Pray that Christians will resist fear and despondency and continue to follow Christ in these circumstances.
12. Perpetrators of violent persecution of Christians are a mixture of groups affiliated to ISIS and al Qaida. Pray that the flow of resources to them will be cut. Pray for hunger for justice and peace with the Almighty and that many may come to faith.
13. Burkina has faced years of political unrest and military rule and recently faced two coups (Jan and Oct 2022). Pray that Captain Ibrahim Traoré the current leader will allow swift and transparent return to democratic rule. Pray that a strong,

representative **government** that can push back militants. Pray for respect for human rights and that all will enjoy protection and inclusion in a new Burkina Faso.

14. Internal displacement has soared, affecting nearly 2 million people (2023) - 10% of the population. Pray for **peace** so that people can live productively.

## Niger

1. Niger has suffered from extended droughts, causing much hardship for farming (constituting the largest sector of the economy). Labelled as one of the poorest countries on earth, her people have had to show great resilience. Thank the Lord for this remarkable country and people. Pray that He will bless Niger in all aspects.
2. Christians form less than one percent of the population. Thank the Lord for the that 1% for the church's courageous testimony. Thank the Lord for the protections Christians have enjoyed from their government over much of its recent history.
3. Pastors serve communities that face great poverty. Thank the Lord for their sacrificial service and pray that they may continue to experience His provision. Pray for wisdom and protection as they care for flocks vulnerable to increasing hostility.
4. Niger is 28th on Open Doors' 2025 World Watch List, with Islamic oppression the strongest type of persecution. There has been a surge in jihadist attacks, especially in the west and south-east. There the situation for Christians is dire. Communal worship and meetings are dangerous, and must happen in secret. Pray for protection for believers who chose to stay and that they may have wisdom in navigating these dangers. Those who have been displaced are experienced different challenges, among which great discouragement. Pray for comfort and peace of mind.
5. In the West there has been a rise in attacks on Christian properties, incl. churches, schools and health care centers. Please pray for communities affected by these realities to be freed from the militants and that these destroyed services will be restored soon.
6. Christians face uncertainty over the space they will enjoy in society in the future. Pray that they will remain clear witnesses for Christ and that the Lord will continue to build His Church that will remain salt and light live in these changing circumstances.
7. Pray that the Lord will raise up shepherds for these believers. Pray that believers from affected areas, may experience support and fellowship, whether they have stayed or fled.
8. Christian men are often specific targets of violence to instil fear. Pray for God's comfort and for the grace to remain firm in the faith. Pray for courage to live out their faith and that they will find a way to encourage and minister to each other.
9. Women and girls in Niger are particularly vulnerable to abduction, rape and sexual abuse by extremist groups here too. Pray that the church will be a place of safety and healing for our sister who may have experienced such targeting. Pray for sufficient physical and emotion care for survivors.
10. Christian boys are targeted for killing or forced recruitment into labour or trafficking between militants in exchange for money, weapons, or other resources. Pray for God's intervention and that captives will be freed.
11. Niger suffered a coup in Jul 2023, by Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani. Pray for full return to democracy with transparency and accountability. Some fear that the coup would worsen security in areas controlled by militants. Pray for wisdom for the government and for success in protecting citizens.
12. Since the coup Niger are at odds with the rest of the West African (WA) Community. Pray for a restoration of peace and that the WA community will work together to curb growing instability caused by Islamic radicals.
13. Among the drivers of persecution are Muslim extremists like the Izala group (a radical Islamic group from northern Nigeria), the Tariqa (Sufi group), Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), and the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJWA). Pray that many members of these groups may hear the Gospel and turn to Christ. Pray that the Church will use every opportunity to share the Gospel.



## Mali

1. Mali has a rich cultural, natural and human heritage. People of varying religious backgrounds have lived together in peace for decades. Thank the Lord for the **country** and her **people**. Pray for the Lord's blessing on this nation and for peace.



2. Christians form a small minority in Mali – less than 3%, but they have been active in advocacy and in seeking every opportunity to engage their government. Thank the Lord for the courageous **Church** in Mali.
3. Thank the Lord for every **pastor** who have equipped and faithfully disciplined the Church. Pastors asked us to pray for fruit on their work that the Church may experience a spiritual awakening.
4. Mali is in 14th on the 2025 World Watch List. Islamic oppression is the most prominent form of **persecution** Christians face. Pray for wisdom and courage to navigate changing circumstances.
5. **Christian women and girls** face increasing risk of kidnapping and forced marriage to militants. Pray for captives to be released. Until then, may they experience the Lord's daily provision in miraculous ways. May they experience His nearness in their trouble. Pray that released survivors may receive sufficient emotional and physical care. Pray for families awaiting the return of loved ones.
6. **Christian men and boys** are exposed to death threats and physical violence because of their faith. Please pray for protection and discernment to live and minister under these circumstances. Pray for God's provision.
7. **Church leaders** in areas under Islamic extremist control are closely monitored and face tight restrictions on movement, esp. in remote areas. As leaders seek ways to continue ministry, pray for godly wisdom and courage. Pray that they would experience his nearness. As the safety and wellbeing of their families are always on their minds, pray for God's peace that surpasses human understanding.
8. Targeted attacks on Christian homes and businesses are effective in impoverishing families, leaving both **men and boys** at risk of being recruitment by jihadist groups and forceful conversion to Islam. The loss of Christian men and boys weakens families financially and injures the health of the wider church. Pray that the plans of the adversary will be thwarted, and that God will continue to build and strengthen His church and His children.
9. Mali is a Semi-presidential republic led by Transition President Assimi Goita since May 2021. It is a challenged government, struggling to contain the jihadist threat. Its rule has been characterised by an erosion of democracy and civil liberties. In June 2023 a referendum on a new draft constitution was held. The government promised a return to constitutional, civilian rule. Pray for a complete return to democracy and that **government** will rule with justice. Pray for success in taking back control over vast regions Islamic radicals have taken and that peace will be restored with transparency and accountability.

10. Mali has once been a beacon of relative **tolerance**, but under the jihadist threat communities have become less trusting of each other. Pray for Christians to be able to retain their footing and good relationship with their neighbours or work hard to restore it where it has broken down.
11. Church-run schools have had to shut down, further exacerbating the community's sense of **siege**. Pray for the Lord's encouragement and spiritual strength to know that they are not abandoned by God or the wider Body of Christ. Pray for opportunities for them to enjoy fellowship and care from the wider Christian community (locally and globally).
12. Pray for the Lord to reveal Himself to perpetrators of violence and that many may come to salvation in Christ.



### The Arise Africa Campaign

1. Pray for greater global awareness about the plight of Christians in regions across Sub Saharab Africa (SSA) facing targeted violence.
2. Pray that we will make a strong and clear case to state actors, media and churches around the globe about the specific targeted violence Christians face in parts of SSA.
3. The narrative in media is often oversimplified, failing to give sufficient attention to the targeting of Christians. Pray for increased opportunity and wisdom to speak up.
4. Violence in the affected areas of SSA often take place without restraint. Governments do not sufficiently protect communities or bring perpetrators to justice. Pray for discernment and protection for workers on various levels.
5. Pray for efforts to create greater understanding of and respect for Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) and equip Christians to speak up when it is violated, especially where Christians are targeted by jihadists for their faith (different groups, same ideology).