



PRAY FOR PERSECUTED BROTHERS & SISTERS

Pray for the Persecuted Christians in AFGHANISTAN

Remember the prisoners as if chained with them - those who are mistreated - since you yourselves are in the Body also.

(Hebrews 13:3)



Total Population: 38,928,346

Self-Proclaimed Christian Population: 10-12,000 – **Evangelical Witness: 0,0%**

Death Rate: 12.7/1000 per year: Just today: 1,354

Report Outlines Chilling Situation for Hazara Minorities in Afghanistan
09/07/2022 Afghanistan (International Christian Concern) - A recent report, published by an informal group of parliamentarians from the House of Commons and the House of Lords, outlined a chilling situation for the Hazara ethnic group in Afghanistan. Although the Hazaras are one of the largest ethnic groups in the country, the group has faced severe persecution and discrimination for decades - and these levels have only increased with the Taliban's takeover. The report offered an extensive analysis of the situation, finding that "...Hazara in Afghanistan, as a religious and ethnic minority, are at serious risk of genocide at the hands of the Taliban and Islamic State-Khorasan Province (IS-K)."

While the majority of Hazara follow Islam, many have converted to Christianity, making them far more marginalized and vulnerable to persecution. Under the Taliban's strict interpretation of Islam, any convert from Islam is considered apostate and subject to the death penalty. Along with the Hazara, the brutality against Christians has only increased with the Taliban's takeover. Just recently, ICC's team received footage of a known Christian being beheaded by a member of the Taliban - an act purely motivated by jihadist terrorism. Many individuals from Afghanistan and within the human rights community fear that this form of brutality will only continue to increase.

Matias Perttula, Director of Advocacy for International Christian Concern said, "Reports like the one compiled by the informal group of parliamentarians are critical in raising awareness and mobilizing the international community to act on behalf of persecuted religious communities. The Taliban should under no circumstances receive official recognition from the international community. As long as they continue to violate human rights, they should be sanctioned and held accountable by the international community."

International Christian Concern estimates that there are roughly 10,000 - 12,000 Christians residing in Afghanistan - most of whom are converts from Islam and subject to the death penalty. They are deemed as a 'community of criminals' by the Taliban and operate under deep secrecy.