
World Watch Research

Algeria: Persecution Dynamics

January 2025



Open Doors

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

Open Doors International / World Watch Research

January 2025

© Open Doors International

Open Doors Sverige
sweden@od.org | 019-31 05 00 | www.open-doors.se

Contents

World Watch List 2025 – Top 50.....	2
World Watch List 2025 – Ranks 51-78	4
Copyright, sources and definitions	5
Reporting period	5
Brief country details.....	5
Map of country	6
Dominant persecution engines and drivers.....	7
Brief description of the persecution situation.....	7
Summary of international obligations and rights violations.....	8
Specific examples of violations of rights in the reporting period	8
Christian communities and how they are affected.....	8
Areas where Christians face most difficulties.....	9
Position on the World Watch List	10
Persecution engines.....	10
Drivers of persecution.....	12
The Persecution pattern	14
Pressure in the 5 spheres of life.....	15
Violence	20
5 Year trends.....	22
Gender-specific religious persecution / Female	24
Gender-specific religious persecution / Male.....	25
Persecution of other religious minorities	25
Trends Summary	26
Further useful reports.....	26
External Links	27

World Watch List 2025 – Top 50

Rank	Country	Private life	Family life	Community life	National life	Church life	Violence	Total Score WWL 2025	Total Score WWL 2024	Total Score WWL 2023	Total Score WWL 2022	Total Score WWL 2021
1	North Korea	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	14.4	98	96	98	96	94
2	Somalia	16.5	16.7	16.6	16.6	16.7	11.1	94	93	92	91	92
3	Yemen	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	16.7	10.6	94	89	89	88	87
4	Libya	16.0	16.2	15.9	16.2	16.4	10.6	91	91	88	91	92
5	Sudan	14.1	14.2	15.5	14.9	15.3	16.1	90	87	83	79	79
6	Eritrea	14.6	14.9	15.5	15.9	15.9	12.2	89	89	89	88	88
7	Nigeria	13.5	13.9	14.6	14.9	14.5	16.7	88	88	88	87	85
8	Pakistan	13.6	13.9	15.0	15.0	12.9	16.7	87	87	86	87	88
9	Iran	15.0	14.6	13.5	15.9	16.5	10.9	86	86	86	85	86
10	Afghanistan	15.6	15.9	15.9	16.4	16.7	5.0	85	84	84	98	94
11	India	12.2	12.9	13.3	14.9	13.9	16.5	84	83	82	82	83
12	Saudi Arabia	15.2	15.3	14.8	15.8	16.6	3.3	81	81	80	81	78
13	Myanmar	12.6	11.1	13.5	14.1	12.9	16.5	81	79	80	79	74
14	Mali	11.1	10.1	14.7	13.0	15.2	15.6	80	79	76	70	67
15	China	13.2	10.1	12.8	14.6	16.1	11.1	78	78	77	76	74
16	Maldives	15.6	15.3	13.7	15.8	16.5	0.7	78	78	77	77	77
17	Iraq	14.2	14.4	14.3	14.8	13.9	6.1	78	79	76	78	82
18	Syria	13.5	14.4	13.9	14.4	14.3	7.0	78	81	80	78	81
19	Algeria	14.7	14.3	11.5	14.7	16.0	6.3	77	79	73	71	70
20	Burkina Faso	11.7	9.7	13.2	11.5	14.0	15.6	76	75	71	68	67
21	Morocco	13.2	13.8	11.6	12.9	14.3	8.3	74	71	69	69	67
22	Laos	11.8	10.7	13.5	14.1	13.9	9.8	74	75	68	69	71
23	Mauritania	14.6	14.2	13.8	14.2	14.2	2.8	74	72	72	70	71
24	Bangladesh	12.4	10.6	12.7	11.3	10.4	16.1	74	71	69	68	67
25	Uzbekistan	14.6	12.7	13.5	12.4	15.5	4.4	73	71	71	71	71
26	Cuba	13.2	8.5	13.9	13.3	15.1	9.1	73	73	70	66	62
27	CAR	10.3	8.6	13.9	9.6	14.0	15.6	72	70	70	68	66
28	Niger	9.4	9.6	14.5	7.7	14.6	15.7	72	70	70	68	62

Rank	Country	Private life	Family life	Community life	National life	Church life	Violence	Total Score WWL 2025	Total Score WWL 2024	Total Score WWL 2023	Total Score WWL 2022	Total Score WWL 2021
29	Turkmenistan	14.3	12.3	13.6	13.9	15.3	1.5	71	70	70	69	70
30	Nicaragua	12.4	7.6	13.7	13.3	14.1	9.6	71	70	65	56	51
31	Mexico	11.7	9.0	12.5	11.8	11.0	14.6	71	68	67	65	64
32	Oman	14.5	14.1	10.9	13.8	14.1	3.0	70	69	65	66	63
33	Ethiopia	9.9	9.7	12.6	10.4	12.1	15.6	70	69	66	66	65
34	Tunisia	12.4	13.2	10.1	12.6	13.8	8.1	70	69	67	66	67
35	DRC	8.0	7.9	12.6	10.8	14.5	16.1	70	67	67	66	64
36	Bhutan	13.2	13.2	12.3	14.1	14.2	2.2	69	68	66	67	64
37	Mozambique	9.3	8.5	13.9	8.4	12.5	15.9	68	68	68	65	63
38	Kazakhstan	13.3	11.6	12.2	12.8	14.2	4.3	68	65	65	64	64
39	Tajikistan	14.1	12.7	12.7	13.2	13.7	1.9	68	66	66	65	66
40	Egypt	12.7	13.7	12.1	12.4	10.9	6.3	68	68	68	71	75
41	Qatar	14.2	14.2	10.5	13.2	14.4	0.7	67	67	68	74	67
42	Comoros	12.7	14.0	11.2	12.4	14.2	2.6	67	66	66	63	62
43	Cameroon	8.8	7.6	12.6	8.4	13.1	16.1	67	66	65	65	64
44	Vietnam	10.8	9.5	12.2	14.1	14.1	5.9	67	68	70	71	72
45	Turkey	13.0	11.7	11.7	13.2	11.5	5.4	67	64	66	65	69
46	Colombia	11.0	7.9	12.7	11.5	10.5	12.6	66	68	71	68	67
47	Kyrgyzstan	13.5	10.3	11.7	11.4	12.4	6.9	66	59	59	58	58
48	Brunei	14.8	14.8	10.8	10.8	14.0	0.6	66	66	65	64	64
49	Chad	11.0	8.2	10.2	9.9	10.3	15.9	65	61	58	55	53
50	Jordan	12.9	14.3	10.4	12.2	12.8	2.4	65	65	65	66	64

World Watch List 2025 – Ranks 51-78

Rank	Country	Private life	Family life	Community life	National life	Church life	Violence	Total Score WWL 2025	Total Score WWL 2024	Total Score WWL 2023	Total Score WWL 2022	Total Score WWL 2021
51	Malaysia	12.8	13.7	11.7	12.4	11.2	3.0	65	64	66	63	63
52	Azerbaijan	13.3	10.2	9.6	12.2	13.7	5.6	65	60	59	60	56
53	Kenya	10.3	9.2	11.4	8.0	11.5	13.9	64	63	64	63	62
54	Nepal	12.2	10.6	9.5	12.6	12.3	5.9	63	62	61	64	66
55	Tanzania	9.3	10.8	10.3	8.6	8.7	15.4	63	62	63	61	58
56	Russian Federation	12.7	7.9	10.7	13.1	14.1	4.4	63	58	57	56	57
57	Djibouti	12.3	12.6	12.7	10.1	12.1	1.7	61	61	60	59	56
58	Kuwait	13.1	13.6	9.4	12.0	12.2	0.9	61	61	64	64	63
59	Indonesia	10.9	11.9	10.9	11.6	10.2	5.7	61	66	68	68	63
60	UAE	13.3	13.4	9.5	11.3	12.8	0.6	61	61	62	62	62
61	Sri Lanka	12.7	8.7	11.5	11.5	8.5	7.6	60	60	57	63	62
62	Palestinian Territories	13.1	13.3	10.3	10.7	12.1	0.2	60	60	60	59	58
63	Burundi	7.6	7.8	9.4	9.8	9.7	14.6	59	57	55	52	48
64	Rwanda	9.4	7.7	9.0	10.4	12.1	9.4	58	58	57	50	42
65	Honduras	7.9	4.7	11.7	7.3	9.9	13.1	55	55	53	48	46
66	Togo	9.2	6.7	10.4	7.1	11.5	9.3	54	52	49	44	43
67	Bahrain	12.0	13.2	8.6	11.3	8.5	0.6	54	55	55	57	56
68	Guinea	10.3	7.5	8.3	8.3	10.5	8.9	54	52	48	43	47
69	Ukraine	6.8	5.0	7.8	12.5	13.5	7.2	53	44	37	37	34
70	Angola	6.8	6.7	8.1	11.5	11.4	8.3	53	52	52	51	46
71	Venezuela	6.3	4.4	11.1	10.0	10.8	9.6	52	53	56	51	39
72	Uganda	8.1	5.0	7.4	6.7	8.8	16.1	52	52	51	48	47
73	Ivory Coast	12.0	6.5	8.7	5.9	8.0	9.6	51	44	44	42	42
74	Lebanon	11.5	10.1	7.0	6.2	6.7	7.2	49	48	40	35	34
75	Gambia	8.3	8.2	8.9	8.8	8.9	4.4	48	47	44	44	43
76	South Sudan	5.7	4.4	7.0	6.3	8.1	15.6	47	46	46	43	43

Rank	Country	Private life	Family life	Community life	National life	Church life	Violence	Total Score WWL 2025	Total Score WWL 2024	Total Score WWL 2023	Total Score WWL 2022	Total Score WWL 2021
77	Belarus	9.9	3.7	5.0	10.8	14.1	3.1	47	46	43	33	30
78	Philippines	9.2	6.6	6.6	6.1	5.7	8.5	43	40	32	34	26

Copyright, sources and definitions

World Watch Research has divided up the previously named Full Country Dossier into two separate documents:

- [Background country information](#) (published annually in summer)
- Persecution dynamics (published annually in January).

These documents are the property of World Watch Research (WWR), the research department of Open Doors International. They include data and analysis based around Open Doors World Watch List (WWL) and statistical information on world religions, Christian denominations and people groups prepared by the World Christian Database (WCD). Highlighted links in the text can be found written out in full at the end of each document under the heading “External links”. These documents may be used and distributed free of charge, but please always acknowledge the source as: © Open Doors International.

The definition of persecution used in WWL analysis is: “Any hostility experienced as a result of one’s identification with Christ. This can include hostile attitudes, words and actions towards Christians”. This broad definition includes (but is not limited to) restrictions, pressure, discrimination, opposition, disinformation, injustice, intimidation, mistreatment, marginalization, oppression, intolerance, infringement, violation, ostracism, hostilities, harassment, abuse, violence, ethnic cleansing and genocide.

The latest update of WWL Methodology can be found on the research pages of the Open Doors website: <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/wwl-documentation/>.

Reporting period

The WWL 2025 reporting period was 1 October 2023 - 30 September 2024.

Brief country details

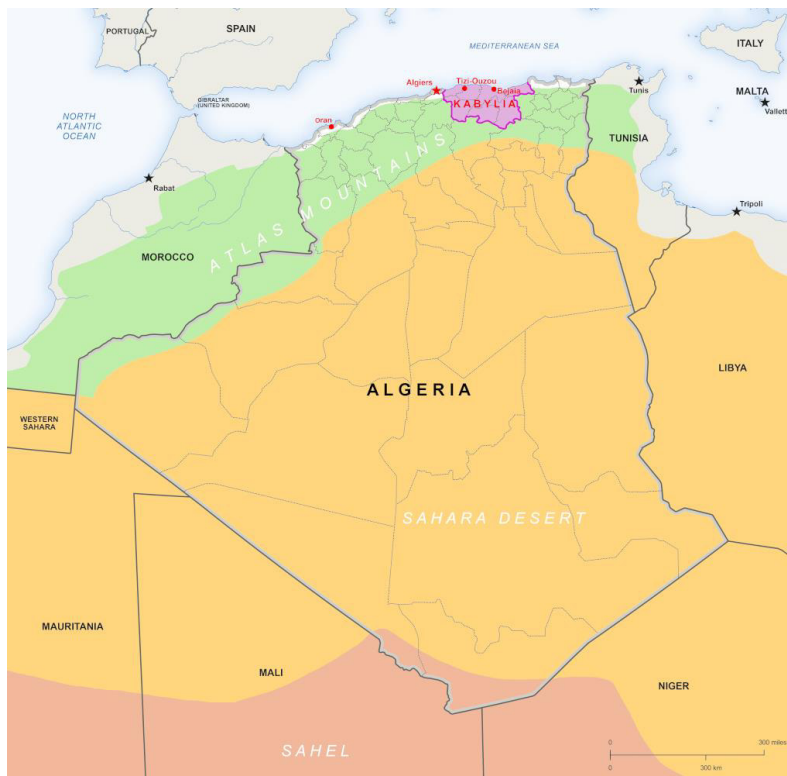
In the table below, the number of Christians shown is an Open Doors (OD) estimate.

Algeria: Population (UN estimate for 2024)	Christians	Chr%
46,279,000	144,000	0.3

Algeria: Religious context	Number of adherents	%
Christians	144,000	0.3
Muslim	45,370,553	98.0
Hindu	0	0.0
Buddhist	7,504	0.0
Ethnic religionist	0	0.0
Jewish	57	0.0
Bahai	5,003	0.0
Atheist	8,405	0.0
Agnostic	727,426	1.6
Other	16,109	0.0
<i>OTHER includes Chinese folk, New religionist, Sikh, Spiritist, Taoist, Confucianist, Jain, Shintoist, Zoroastrian.</i>		

Zurlo G A and Johnson T M, eds., *World Christian Database*, Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed May 2024 (Adapted according to OD-estimate)

Map of country



Dominant persecution engines and drivers

Algeria: Main Persecution engines	Main drivers
Islamic oppression	Government officials, One's own (extended) family, Political parties, Citizens (people from the broader society), including mobs, Non-Christian religious leaders, Violent religious groups, Ethnic group leaders
Dictatorial paranoia	Government officials
Clan oppression	One's own (extended) family, Ethnic group leaders, Citizens (people from the broader society), including mobs
Ethno-religious hostility	Government officials, Citizens (people from the broader society), including mobs, One's own (extended) family

Engines and Drivers are listed in order of strength. Only Very strong / Strong / Medium are shown here.

Brief description of the persecution situation

The sharp increase of government pressure against the Algerian Protestant church in the WWL 2024 reporting period continued into WWL 2025.

State officials at various levels of the administrative hierarchy are increasingly exerting pressure on Christians to renounce their faith and to restrict their freedom by limiting their possibility of expressing their views and of living out their faith in public. There are laws that regulate non-Muslim worship, including regulations which prohibit by law anything that would 'shake the faith of a Muslim' or be used as a 'means of seduction intending to convert a Muslim to another religion'. State action against Protestant Christians increased to a level not seen in the past decades. Previously closed church buildings remained closed, while other churches were ordered to close. Of the 47 churches under the umbrella of the Evangelical Protestant Church of Algeria (EPA) none remain open. Other independent churches also ceased meeting, fearing government measures. In addition to the church closures, several Christians received (suspended) prison sentences, with the total number of prosecutions reaching unprecedented heights.

As is the case in most other countries in North Africa, the major drivers of freedom of religion violations in Algeria are society, radical Islamic teachers and state officials who adhere to the views of such teachers. Algerian Christians, most of whom are converts from Islam, face opposition from their family members and extended family in particular. Therefore, the family and the wider community - including local community leaders and elders - are significant drivers of persecution, causing Christians to face harassment and discrimination in their daily life. Members of extended family and neighbors try to force converts to adhere to Islamic norms and follow Islamic rites. The pressure and danger faced by Christians is particularly high in the Arab, rural and religiously more conservative parts of the country. In the 1990s, these regions acted as a stronghold for Islamist insurgents fighting against the government.

Summary of international obligations and rights violations

Algeria has committed to respect and protect fundamental rights in the following international treaties

1. [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#) (ICCPR)
2. [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) (ICESCR)
3. [Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment](#) (CAT)
4. [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#) (CEDAW)
5. [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (CRC)

Algeria is not fulfilling its international obligations by regularly violating or failing to protect the following rights of Christians:

- Christian leaders are monitored and their activities actively watched (ICCPR Art. 17)
- Churches are arbitrarily closed by the Government (ICCPR Arts. 18 and 20)
- Christians cannot discuss their faith with non-Christians or proselytize (ICCPR Arts. 18 and 19)
- Christians cannot adopt children or serve as foster parents (ICCPR Art. 26)

Specific examples of violations of rights in the reporting period

During the WWL 2025 reporting period:

- All of the four churches that had remained open after the wave of closures in the WWL 2024 reporting period, have now ceased operating openly. None of the more than 50 Protestant churches in the country (EPA-affiliated and independent congregations) remain open.
- Several Christians were prosecuted on various charges ranging from "proselytism", to "practicing worship without prior approval" and "holding worship in a building not permitted for worship", bringing the total number of prosecuted Christians to more than 50 between WWL 2023 - WWL 2025. The majority of these charges have been based on the Ordinance to Regulate non-Muslim Worship, enacted in 2006. For example, in May 2024, Pastor Youssef Ourahmane's one year prison sentence was upheld in appeal. The vice-president of the Protestant umbrella organization EPA was also forced to pay a significant fine. He was earlier sentenced to one year imprisonment and a fine for holding "an unauthorized religious assembly and holding worship in a building not permitted for worship" after some Christian families under his supervision gathered for three days in the compound of one of the closed and sealed churches ([MEC, 3 May 2024](#)).
- At least 20 Christians faced physical and mental abuse from their Islamic family members, as well as from the government. Several Christians had to relocate due to such pressure.

Christian communities and how they are affected

The Protestant Church in Algeria (EPA) consists of 47 member churches. All EPA and independent churches have ceased operating openly, including the two biggest churches in Tizi Ouzou and Makouda. The Roman Catholic Church has four functioning dioceses in the country (in Algiers, Oran, Constantine and Hippone and Laghouat-Ghardaïa).

Communities of expatriate Christians: This category consists mainly of Sub-Saharan migrant Christians, complemented by some (Western) expatriate Christians. They belong to a number of churches including Anglicans, Lutherans, the Reformed Church and the Coptic Orthodox Church. The small number of Sub-Saharan African Christian students in the country sometimes face discrimination at universities and in day-to-day life in the cities.

Historical Christian communities: The Roman Catholic Church is the only remaining church in this category, as the Protestant churches nowadays are almost completely made up of converts (see next category). The Catholic community faces restrictions outside their places of worship but are allowed to exist, where registered. Catholic churches (including the cathedral in Algiers - the seat of the Archbishop), conduct services without government interference.

Converts to Christianity: The vast majority of Christians in Algeria are converts with a Muslim background and face on-going pressure. The law prohibits public assembly for the purpose of practicing a faith other than Islam - with the exception of registered churches. However, individual churches have all been denied registration. There have been a large number of unofficial groups meeting regularly in the Berber regions; non-Muslims usually congregate in private homes for religious services. The very young Algerian church (mostly consisting of first generation Christians) faces many forms of discrimination by the state and by family members. While some Protestant church communities under the EPA (Algerian Protestant Church) go back to colonial times, they nowadays consist almost entirely of communities of converts to Christianity.

Non-traditional Christian communities: This category does not exist in Algeria as defined by WWL Methodology.

Areas where Christians face most difficulties

The majority of Christians live in the Kabyle region in the north of Algeria. The Kabyle people are a Berber ethnic group and speak their own Berber language, in contrast to other Algerians with an Arab background. The Kabyles were discriminated against and neglected by the Algerian government for many years in the past which created an environment in which the Christian community could develop, although pressure from both government and society remains strong.

In the Arab part of the country, especially the south, circumstances are difficult for Christians and the number of churches is very low. Violent Islamic militants do not have a wide support base among the general population, but Islam holds a firm grip over the country, also due to the growth of the Salafist movement.

Position on the World Watch List

Algeria: World Watch List	Points	WWL Rank
WWL 2025	77	19
WWL 2024	79	15
WWL 2023	73	19
WWL 2022	71	22
WWL 2021	70	24

Pressure remained at an extremely high level in Algeria during WWL 2025, despite a 2 points drop in overall score. The decrease is mainly caused by a significant drop in the score for violence from 9.8 points in WWL 2024 to 6.3 points in WWL 2025, due to the fact that all Protestant Algerian churches have now been forced to close and none remain as a target for forced closure. Average pressure in the five spheres of life continued to increase and is at an extremely high level 14.2 points in WWL 2025). Although not directly reflected in the violence score, the total number of prosecuted Christians awaiting trials and judgements is at an all time high, with many Christians keeping a very low profile to avoid prosecution under Algeria's notorious Ordinance 06-03, which regulates non-Muslim religious practices. In addition to these prosecutions, the government continued to try to introduce various forms of financial and organizational pressure to weaken churches, and has continued to focus in particular on online Christian activities.

The overall pressure, in combination with the closure of the churches, has forced many Algerian Christians into isolation.

Persecution engines

Algeria: Persecution engines	Abbreviation	Level of influence
Islamic oppression	IO	Very strong
Religious nationalism	RN	Not at all
Ethno-religious hostility	ERH	Medium
Clan oppression	CO	Medium
Christian denominational protectionism	CDP	Not at all
Communist and post-Communist oppression	CPCO	Not at all
Secular intolerance	SI	Not at all

(table continues below)

Algeria: Persecution engines	Abbreviation	Level of influence
Dictatorial paranoia	DPA	Strong
Organized corruption and crime	OCC	Not at all

The scale for the level of influence of Persecution engines in society is: Not at all / Very weak / Weak / Medium / Strong / Very strong. For more information see WWL Methodology.

Islamic oppression (Very strong)

Islam has a significant influence on Algeria’s government, which translates into restrictions on the freedom of Christians. Islamist pressure on government and society, in combination with pressure from family members on Christian converts from a Muslim background, has led to persistent difficulties for Christians. Islamist groups are exerting pressure on a government that cannot risk losing popularity by deviating from Islamic convictions held by its citizens. Although the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) is still banned, other Islamist groups are becoming more visible and they monitor the activities of Christians and other non-Muslim minorities (such as the small Jewish and Bahai communities).

Dictatorial paranoia (Strong)

This engine is evident in the autocratic nature of Algeria's government, which imposes restrictions on Christians. Government action against the Church increased in the WWL 2024 and WWL 2025 reporting periods; the motives behind the new wave of violence are unknown, but some of the measures could be seen as attempts to appease the Islamist segment of society. Furthermore, the anti-colonial and revolutionary roots of the ruling party which has been in power since independence, provides it with an ideological perspective that makes it suspicious of Christian missionary activities, especially when they are allied to churches and Christian groups in the West.

Clan oppression (Medium)

Islamic oppression forms the root cause of family and community pressure on converts to Christianity, but especially in the Arab part of the country cultural values such as 'protection of family honor' play an important role as well. With the support of local (village) elders, pressure is exerted by both direct family members and (in time) the whole community to force the convert to renounce Christian faith and adhere to the traditional values of both the family and community. In urban areas, the influence of the elders is waning and there is often no wider community to exert pressure. However, family pressure often remains high.

Ethno-religious hostility (Medium)

Most Algerian Christians are found in the Kabyle region which is located in the northern part of the country. Since independence, there has been political tensions between this region and the central government in Algeria. Among other matters, issues of ethnic identity, culture and language figure prominently in the difficult relationship between the government and residents of the Kabyle region, most of whom are ethnic Berbers while the dominant ethnic identity in the country is Arab. The ethnic tension and antagonism also spills into religious life and contributes to freedom of religion violations against Christians in the Kabyle region.

Drivers of persecution

Algeria: Drivers of Persecution	IO	RN	ERH	CO	CDP	CPCO	SI	DPA	OCC
	VERY STRONG		MEDIUM	MEDIUM				STRONG	
Government officials	Very strong		Medium					Strong	
Ethnic group leaders	Medium			Medium					
Non-Christian religious leaders	Strong								
Violent religious groups	Medium								
Citizens (people from the broader society), including mobs	Strong		Medium	Medium					
One's own (extended) family	Very strong		Medium	Medium					
Political parties	Strong								

The scale for the level of influence of Drivers of persecution in society is: Not at all / Very weak / Weak / Medium / Strong / Very strong. For more information see WWL Methodology.

Drivers of Islamic oppression

- **Extended family (Very strong):** Family members are the driving force behind most of the violations against converts to Christianity. Violations include, but are not limited to, (physical) abuse, banishment, house arrest (mostly in the case of women), forced divorce, inheritance loss and loss of custody over children.
- **Government officials (Very strong):** The Algerian government acts firmly against the Christian community in the country. In addition to forcing the closure of churches, the government's rhetoric towards Christians is often hostile, basically stating that Christians do not belong in Algeria. During a speech on National Martyr Day (Independence Day) on 18 February 2020, President Tebboune stated that Algeria will keep defending the national identity against "conspiracies of Christianization and conversion". (Source: Unpublished transcript by Middle East Concern - MEC)
- **Non-Christian religious leaders (Strong):** Radical interpretations of Islam are ever present in Algeria; Salafist leaders are known to preach intolerance towards non-Muslims.
- **Citizens - including mobs (Strong):** Social hostility towards Christians is deeply rooted in Arab society and is only slightly less severe in the Kabyle and other Berber regions.

- **Political parties (Strong):** Although the power of the non-ruling political parties is limited, Islamist parties can still put pressure on the government to act against non-Sunni religious groups.
- **Ethnic group leaders (Medium):** Elders of villages and towns often actively oppose the visible presence of churches. They are also known to put families under pressure to act against any converts in their homes.
- **Violent religious groups (Medium):** The threat of violence coming from radical Islamic groups is always present, although no major incidents have taken place in recent years.

Drivers of Dictatorial paranoia

- **Government officials (Strong):** Algeria is one of the few countries in northern Africa that has managed to ensure regime continuity and avoid sweeping democratic reforms, although the country is now looking for a new balance. Since independence, the National Liberation Front has maintained its grip on power despite several changes of president. The National Liberation Front has often been challenged by Islamist political movements and in order to win over the supporters of the Islamist movements and shore up its legitimacy, the government restricts the freedom of Christians.

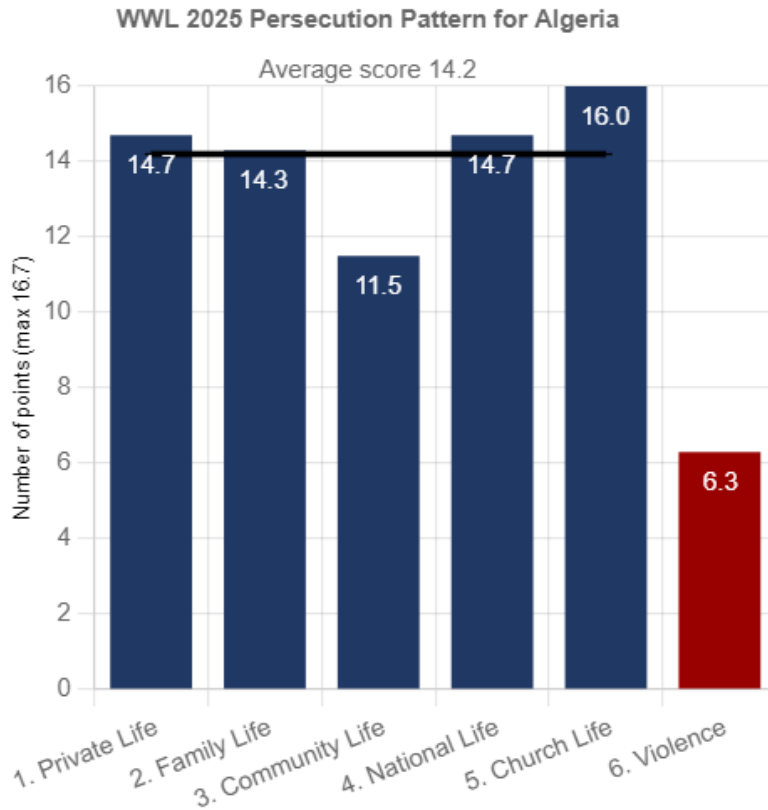
Drivers of Clan oppression

- **Extended family (Medium):** Tribal concepts like 'family honor' are actively protected. Converts, especially women, have to face harsh consequences for 'bringing shame upon the family' and other tribal rules.
- **Ethnic group leaders (Medium):** Tribal relationships play an important role in daily life. By changing their religion, converts defy tribal tradition and face violations of their basic rights as a consequence. Ethnic group leaders, such as village elders, put pressure on family members and society to take action against converts.
- **Citizens, including mobs (Medium):** Tribalism and values and norms coming from ancient traditions are kept alive in Islamic society. The convert breaks with this and can be pressurized by wider society as a result (for example, by losing employment).

Drivers of Ethno-religious hostility

- **Government officials (Medium):** Government officials play an important role as drivers of violations. The hostility of these actors towards the cultural, linguistic and political claims of non-Arab ethnic groups means that, in their efforts to suppress such demands, local churches in the Kabyle region are also made to face restrictions. The growth of the church particularly in this region is perceived as a threat to the predominantly Arab and Islamic identity of the country.

The Persecution pattern



The WWL 2025 Persecution pattern for Algeria shows:

- The average pressure on Christians rose from 13.9 points in WWL 2024 to 14.2 points in WWL 2025.
- Pressure is highest (and at an extreme level) in the *Church* (16.0), *Private* (14.7), *National* (14.7) and *Family* (14.3) *spheres of life*. This reflects the levels of pressure Algerian Christians (especially recent converts) face due to the risk of discovery and - when their faith becomes known - following ostracization by their families, as well as the opposition they face from society and government.
- The score for violence went down from 9.8 points in WWL 2024 to 6.3 in WWL 2025. This drop in points was caused mainly by the fact that all Protestant churches have now been forced to cease functioning openly, and there are none left to be forcibly closed.

Pressure in the 5 spheres of life

In each of the five spheres of life discussed below, four questions have been selected from the WWL 2025 questionnaire for brief commentary and explanation. The selection usually (but not always) reflects the highest scoring elements. In some cases, an additional paragraph per sphere is included to give further information deemed important. To see how individual questions are scored on a scale of 0-4 points, please see the “WWL Scoring example” in the WWL Methodology, available at: <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/wwl-documentation/>.

Pressure in Block 1 / Private sphere

Block 1.4: It has been risky for Christians to reveal their faith in written forms of personal expression (including expressions in blogs and Facebook etc.). (4.00 points)

Some of Algeria's Christians have been openly sharing their Christian faith on social media, but in the past this has led to prosecution on charges of blasphemy and to (physical) violence in several cases, carried out by radical Muslims in particular. This has made Algerian Christians very careful. For new Christian converts, it is especially risky, as the wider family might expel them from their home or force them to divorce (losing custody rights over their children).

Block 1.8: It has been risky for Christians to speak about their faith with those other than immediate family (extended family, others). (3.75 points)

Algeria's anti-proselytism and blasphemy laws affect the freedom of Christians to share their beliefs. Under Ordinance 06-03, which regulates non-Muslim worship and is strictly enforced by the Algerian government, proselytizing is a criminal act. It carries a prison sentence of 3-5 years for religious leaders and 1-3 years for non-leaders. In addition, Algeria's society often views Christianity negatively, so even just discussions about the Christian faith can lead to harassment or worse.

Block 1.9: It has been risky for Christians to meet with other Christians. (3.75 points)

In the Arab part of the country, and in particular in the south, it is difficult for converts to Christianity to meet with other Christians. Family and social control is high, but even more important are the travel restrictions applied by the government, including the increased use of internal checkpoints. These circumstances make it difficult to support converts and other Christians in the Arab part of the country.

Block 1.5: It has been risky for Christians to display Christian images or symbols. (3.50 points)

All Christians in the country are careful not to display Christian symbols like crosses openly, as hostility towards Christians is common. For converts, the display of symbols can lead to discovery of their conversion by their families and lead to questioning and harassment by others.

Block 1 - Additional information

Algeria has a law that criminalizes any attempt to proselytize and make someone leave Islam for another religion. However, converting from Islam in itself is not criminalized (i.e., there is no crime of apostasy). Hence, technically, it is those who cause the conversion or attempt to convince someone to convert (and not the convert himself) who will be criminally liable. The main problem for converts is family persecution and this can be very severe. Church leaders report that especially women converts are sometimes placed under house-arrest by their Muslim families. They are not allowed to meet other Christians or to have any contact with them. They are not allowed to watch TV or listen to the radio as

Christian channels are broadcast into Algeria. In the Arab part of the country, persecution is even more severe and converts risk being killed. For many Christians, sharing about their faith in written form, with family members or with guests, is simply not possible and would expose them to domestic violence.

Pressure in Block 2 / Family sphere

Block 2.6: Christian couples have been hindered in adopting children or serving as foster parents because of their faith. (4.00 points)

Adoption is possible in Algeria, but only for Muslims. Converts from Islam to Christianity will be denied the possibility to adopt if their conversion is known.

Block 2.2: Registering the birth, wedding, death, etc. of Christians has been hindered or made impossible. (3.75 points)

Algerian Christians face difficulties in giving their children Christian names, as government officials usually refuse to register those names. However, in previous years, in the Kabyle region, some townhalls allowed Christians to register Biblical or Christian names for their children. Even then, bureaucratic obstacles, such as having to show baptism certificates for both parents, still hindered the registration of Christian names at times. In addition, it has been reported that children registered with Christian names are filed separately, fueling fears that such documentation may be used for discrimination purposes later in life. Recently, in some cases, only showing baptism certificates was not enough and the parents also needed to submit a request to the Ministry of Justice.

Another issue concerns marriage: According to the Algerian Family Code, A Christian Algerian woman from a Muslim background is legally prohibited from marrying an expatriate Christian man.

Block 2.8: Christian children have been pressured into attending anti-Christian or majority religion teaching at any level of education. (3.75 points)

Religious education, based on Islamic principles, is mandatory in all primary and secondary schools. Private schools, if parents are able to afford them, can show more flexibility and exempt a Christian child from these lessons, but the problem remains that the whole curriculum is permeated by Islam.

Block 2.12: Christian spouses of non-Christians have been excluded from the right or opportunity to claim custody of the children in divorce cases. (3.75 points)

In many cases, the Muslim husband or wife of a convert will want to be divorced or will be forced by family members to divorce the convert. The children will be kept away from the convert; a practice often supported by the courts and government officials.

Block 2 - Additional information

From the point of view of the Algerian government, every citizen is a Muslim and is to be treated as such. There is no recognition of religious diversity. There have also been cases where the Muslim population in villages has refused to allow Christians to bury their deceased family members. Christian marriages are only valid within a church community but are not accepted as official by the government, which registers them as a Muslim marriage.

Pressure in Block 3 / Community sphere

Block 3.13: Christians have been interrogated or compelled to report to the local vigilante/police for faith-related reasons. (4.00 points)

Individual Christians, especially church leaders, are actively monitored and regularly questioned by the police and intelligence agencies regarding their activities. These practices increased in the WWL 2025 reporting period.

Block 3.2: Christians have been monitored by their local communities or by private groups (this includes reporting to police, being shadowed, telephone lines listened to, emails read/censored, etc.). (3.75 points)

Monitoring of individuals occurs regularly. The police and other intelligence officials strictly enforce Ordinance 06-03, which regulates non-Muslim worship and other activities. Those engaged in Christian activities are actively watched. Christians with positions of responsibility know that they have to be careful when communicating since their telephones are likely to be tapped and e-mails read. Christians have to be discreet when gathering outside of church buildings, as obvious Christian activities will be reported by members of society to the police. This pressure is less intense in the Kabyle region, although Christianity faces opposition in all parts of the country.

Block 3.1: Christians have been harassed, threatened or obstructed in their daily lives for faith-related reasons (e.g. for not meeting majority religion or traditional dress codes, beard codes etc.). (3.50 points)

Christians, especially converts to Christianity, are subject to harassment, discrimination, ostracism and more, since conversion to another religion is seen as apostasy (this is also the case in the Kabyle region, where most Christians live). Harassment occurs in particular during the month of Ramadan. At times, community hostility has led to mob violence.

Block 3.10: Christians have been discriminated against in public or private employment for faith-related reasons. (3.50 points)

Conversion from Islam to Christianity brings many negative consequences for the convert and losing employment is one of them. Many converts have to hide their new faith or face discrimination when applying for a job. Christians, whether convert or not, do not have access to positions in government and are most likely to be fired if their new faith becomes known.

Block 3 - Additional information

Algerian Christians tend to speak of "villagers who don't talk to them," while Christian human rights organizations speak routinely of verbal and physical abuse being used. The US State Department ([IRFR 2023 Algeria](#), Section III) states:

- "Christian leaders said some Christian converts continued to keep a low profile due to concern for their personal safety and the potential for legal, familial, career, and social problems. According to religious leaders, some individuals who openly engaged in any religious practice other than Sunni Islam reported that family, neighbors, or others criticized their religious practice, pressured them to convert back to Islam, and occasionally insinuated they could be in danger be-

cause of their choice. Other converts practiced their new religion openly, according to members of the Christian community."

The latter depends on the region where the convert lives. The Berber regions tend to be more open for Christian activity than the Arab regions.

Pressure in Block 4 / National sphere

Block 4.1: The Constitution (or comparable national or state law) limits freedom of religion as formulated in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (4.00 points)

The Constitution declares Islam to be the state religion and government institutions have to act in accordance with Islamic values. Conversion from Islam to Christianity is not forbidden, but proselytizing is a criminal offence. Ordinance 06-03 ("Regarding the Conditions and Rules of Practice of Faiths other than Islam") severely restricts the Freedom of Religion and Belief for churches and individual Christians.

Block 4.5: Christians have been discriminated against when engaging with the authorities (local administration, government, army, etc.) for faith-related reasons. (3.75 points)

There is a clear risk of discrimination when a convert or Sub-Saharan African Christian engages with the authorities. Reportedly, this attitude had improved slightly in some places in the Kabyle region, where, for example, some children were registered with a Christian name. However, this practice has recently become difficult again.

Block 4.9: Christian civil society organizations or political parties have been hindered in their functioning or forbidden because of their Christian convictions. (3.75 points)

Openly Christian NGOs are forbidden under Ordinance 06-03, which particularly prohibits any educational, social, health or cultural institution which could be used to 'seduce a Muslim to convert to another religion'. Any (foreign) organization active in the country is highly regulated by law and continuously monitored by the authorities. The EPA, the umbrella organization of Protestant churches, is trying to function as best as possible, but receives high levels of (government) harassment.

Block 4.15: Christians accused in court have been deprived of equal treatment. (3.75 points)

A clear example is the case of Hamid Soudad ([USCIRF, accessed 16 December 2024](#)). He was arrested and sentenced to five years in prison in January 2021 because of a social media post he had shared in 2018. He was charged with blasphemy because the post was deemed offensive to Islam. However, the elapse of two years between the sharing of the post and the actual arrest suggests that the prosecutor had been looking for a reason to punish him for his conversion. In addition, the maximum sentence of five years is clearly disproportionate, particularly when compared to sentences given in other blasphemy cases. Soudad was released in July 2023.

Block 4 - Additional information

Algeria is a highly controlled state in which churches and NGO's alike are heavily monitored and strictly regulated. It is difficult to obtain visas to visit the country and stringent financial regulations make it difficult to establish civil society organizations. Like all Algerians, Christians are limited in their freedom

of speech but their faith makes them additionally vulnerable, since they cannot openly discuss their faith or conversion. Christians are increasingly being accused of blasphemy, proselytizing, money laundering and other offences, with numerous Christians being sentenced under these charges. Because of Ordinance 06-03, churches and Christian organizations cannot display Christian symbols in public and even crosses on historical church buildings have been removed. There has been an increasing number of hate-speech incidents against Christians; these have included accusations of causing the widespread wildfires in August 2021, as well as accusing Christians of supporting the MAK, the Kabyle region's autonomy movement, which the government has designated as a 'terrorist group'.

Pressure in Block 5 / Church sphere

Block 5.5: Churches have been hindered from organizing Christian activities outside church buildings. (4.00 points)

During the WWL 2024 and WWL 2025 reporting periods, government interference increased to such an extent that Algerian Protestant churches were either told to stop meeting or they pre-empted state interference by ceasing operating openly of their own accord. Naturally, activities taking place outside church buildings are legally impossible. Even the officially recognized Roman Catholic church has to limit its public expressions of faith, such as processions, to its church compounds.

Block 5.13: Churches have been hindered in importing Christian materials from abroad. (4.00 points)

Due to the government's strict monitoring of all church activities, it has become impossible to import Christian materials from abroad. Because the printing of religious materials inside the country is similarly restricted, it is becoming more and more difficult to provide Christians with Bibles and Christian literature.

Block 5.18: Churches have been hindered in establishing, managing, maintaining and conducting schools, or charitable, humanitarian, medical, social or cultural organizations, institutions and associations. (4.00 points)

Both local Algerian and foreign expatriate Christian communities are hindered in such ways that it is practically impossible to establish or operate church-connected organizations, including schools, charities or other humanitarian institutions.

Block 5.19: Churches have been hindered in their interaction with the global church (both foreigners visiting and nationals being able to visit Christians in other countries to attend conferences etc.). (3.75 points)

It is difficult for foreign Christians to obtain a visa and visit Algerian churches due to the constant monitoring of churches. Algerian Christians know that they are likely to be questioned when planning to travel abroad.

Block 5 - Additional information

Church life in Algeria is severely monitored, regulated and restricted. Churches are left in legal limbo: In theory they should be able to register as legitimate places of worship, but in practice no individual church application has ever been accepted by the government. This has left church communities with a great amount of uncertainty and has prevented church congregations from constructing recognizable

church buildings. Even before the forced closures, government pressure ensured that churches operated out of the public eye. There are no seminaries in the country, and training new church leaders is difficult.

Violence

Violence is defined in WWL Methodology as the deprivation of physical freedom or as bodily harm to Christians or damage to their property. It includes severe threats (mental abuse). The table is based on reported cases as much as possible, but since many incidents go unreported, the numbers must be understood as being minimum figures. The following points should be considered when using the data provided in the Block 6 table:

1. Some incidents go unreported because the Christians involved choose not to speak about the hostility being faced.

Possible reasons for this may be:

- *Doing so would expose them to more attacks. For example, if a family member is killed because of his/her faith, the survivors might decide to keep silent about the circumstances of the killing to avoid provoking any further attacks.*
- *In some circumstances, the reticence to pass on information may be due to the danger of exposure caused by converts returning to their previous faith.*
- *If persecution is related to sexual violence - due to stigma, survivors often do not tell even their closest relatives.*
- *In some cultural settings, if your loved one is killed, you might be under the obligation to take revenge. Christians not wishing to do that, may decide to keep quiet about it.*

2. Other incidents go unreported for the following possible reasons:

- *Some incidents never reach the public consciousness, because no one really knows about it; or the incident is simply not considered worth reporting; or media coverage is deliberately blocked or distorted; or media coverage is not deliberately blocked, but the information somehow gets lost; or the incidents are deliberately not reported widely for security reasons (e.g. for the protection of local church leaders).*
- *In situations where Christians have been discriminated against for many years, armed conflict can make them additionally vulnerable. Christians killed in areas where fighting regularly takes place are unlikely to be reported separately. Examples in recent years have been Sudan, Syria and Myanmar.*
- *Christians who die through the deprivation of basic necessities such as clean water and medical care (due to long-term discrimination) are unlikely to be reported separately. Christians are not always killed directly; they can be so squeezed by regulations and other oppressive factors that they die – not at once, but in the course of years. This often includes the deprivation of basic necessities such as clean water and medical care, or exclusion from government assisted socio-economic development projects. These numbers could be immense.*

3. The use of symbolic numbers:

- *In cases where it has been impossible to count exactly, a symbolic round figure (10*, 100* etc.) is given and indicated with an asterisk. A symbolic number of 10* could in reality even be 100 or more but the real number is uncertain. A symbolic number of 100* could go well over 1000 but the real number is uncertain. A symbolic number of 1,000* could go well over 10,000 but, again, the real number is uncertain. The same applies for symbolic numbers 10,000*, 100,000* and 1,000,000*: Each could indicate much higher numbers, but WWL chooses to be cautious because the real number is uncertain.*

Algeria: Violence scores per Block 6 question in questionnaire	WWL 2025	WWL 2024
6.1 How many Christians have been killed for faith-related reasons (including state sanctioned executions)?	0	0
6.2 How many churches or public Christian properties (schools, hospitals, cemeteries, etc.) have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down, closed or confiscated for faith-related reasons?	5	12
6.3 How many Christians have been detained for faith-related reasons?	0	2
6.4 How many Christians have been sentenced to jail, labor camp, sent to psychiatric hospital as punishment, or similar things for faith-related reasons?	10	18
6.5 How many Christians have been abducted for faith-related reasons (including Christians missing in a persecution context)?	0	0
6.6 How many Christians have been raped or otherwise sexually harassed for faith-related reasons?	10 *	10 *
6.7 How many cases have there been of forced marriages of Christians to non-Christians?	10 *	10 *
6.8 How many Christians have been otherwise physically or mentally abused for faith-related reasons (including beatings and death threats)?	20	30
6.9 How many houses of Christians or other property (excluding shops) have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down or confiscated for faith-related reasons?	0	7
6.10 How many shops or businesses of Christians have been attacked, damaged, bombed, looted, destroyed, burned down, closed or confiscated for faith-related reasons?	1	1
6.11 How many Christians have been forced to leave their homes or go into hiding in-country for faith-related reasons?	15	17
6.12 How many Christians have been forced to leave the country for faith-related reasons?	15	14

For WWL 2025 examples see above: *Specific examples of violations of rights in the reporting period.*

- Protestant churches that had remained open during WWL 2024 ceased operating openly in the WWL 2025 reporting period,.
- As previously in WWL 2024, a significant number of Algerian Christians were brought to trial, with most of them receiving (suspended) prison sentences. A number of Algerian Christians are currently being prosecuted and awaiting a verdict.

- Several converts to Christianity faced harassment and abuse from their families, including domestic violence and house arrest. As a result, several Algerian Christians had to relocate inside the country.
- Several Algerian Christians had to relocate outside the country due to increased government pressure.

5 Year trends

The following three charts show the levels of pressure and violence faced by Christians in the country over the last five WWL reporting periods.

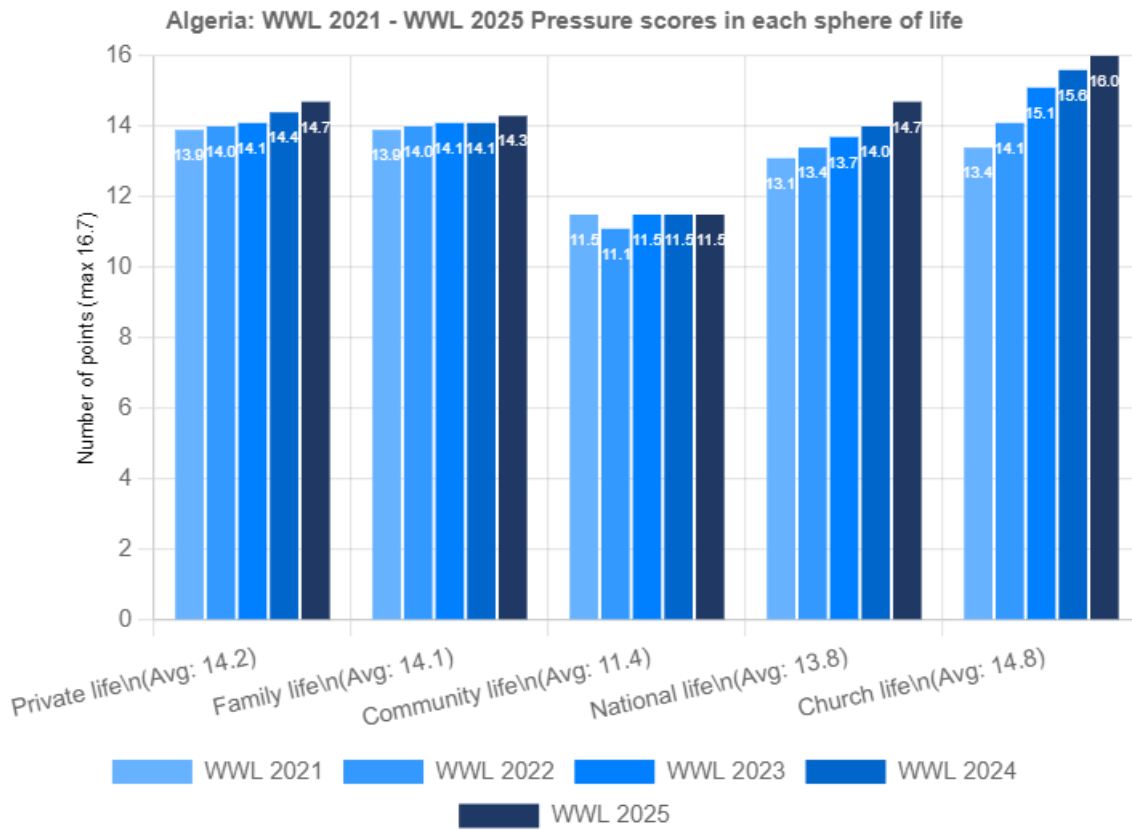
5 Year trends: Average pressure

Algeria: WWL 2021 - WWL 2025	Average pressure over 5 Spheres of life
2025	14.2
2024	13.9
2023	13.7
2022	13.3
2021	13.1

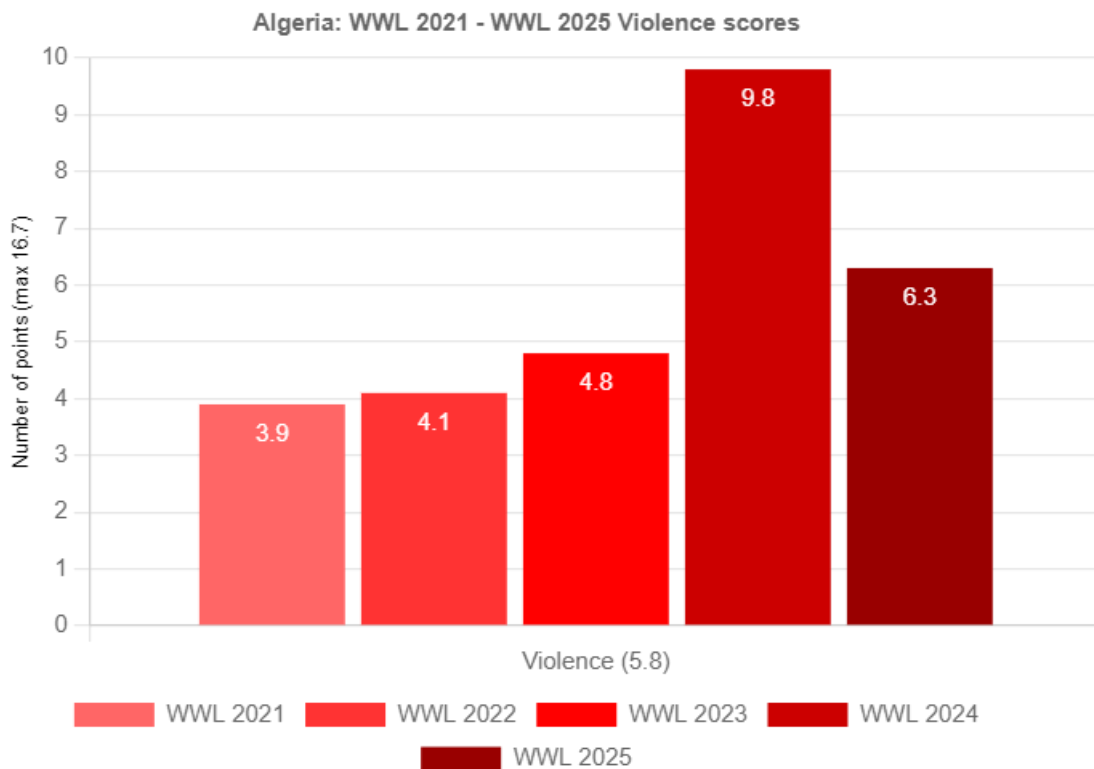
The table above lists the average pressure on Christians over the last 5 reporting periods. It shows that the overall level of pressure on Christians has continually increased since WWL 2021 and has now reached an extreme level.

5 Year trends: Pressure in each sphere of life

The blue chart below shows that there has been a steady upward trend of pressure in the *National* and *Church sphere of life*, matching the rise in government action against churches in the last five reporting periods in particular. The consistent extreme levels of pressure in the *Private* and *Family spheres*, reflect the difficulties experienced by converts.



5 Year trends: Violence against Christians



The score for violence was especially high in the WWL 2020 reporting period (just outside this 5 year chart: 9.3 points) due to the number of church closures and arrests. The violence score then dropped sharply in WWL 2021, probably because all churches had to cease activities due to the COVID-19 lockdown measures. The score rose somewhat again in WWL 2022 and WWL 2023, but saw a very strong increase in WWL 2024 mainly due to the high number of Protestant churches closing their doors following government pressure. In WWL 2025, the remainder of Protestant churches ceased operating openly; the resulting score was still higher than in the period WWL 2021 - WWL 2023.

Gender-specific religious persecution / Female

Algeria	Female Pressure Points Most frequently recorded PPs: WWL 2019 - WWL 2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denied access to social community/networks Enforced religious dress code Forced divorce Forced marriage Incarceration by family (house arrest) Violence – physical Violence – psychological Violence – sexual

Despite gaining [legal protection](#) against targeted violence in 2016 (CBS, 2 February 2016), Algerian women continue to be disadvantaged in law and society with femicide and other gender-based violence creating a public-health crisis ([Middle East Institute, 8 February 2021](#)), compounding the pressure Christian women experience due to their faith. Christian women experience pressure in several public spheres, including within workplaces and educational settings. This includes harassment (particularly if they are unveiled), the possibility of sexual assault and death threats.

In the private sphere, too, female converts face severe violations of their religious freedom from family members. Conversion is forbidden and dangerous. Church leaders report that Christian converts (especially women) are often beaten, harassed, threatened and/or placed under house-arrest for their faith by their Muslim families. In addition to restricting women’s access to meaningful community, families also prevent converts from accessing Christian radio or television channels.

In the light of this pressure and violence, many female converts opt to hide their faith and live as secret believers. A country expert commented: “Christian women are much more concerned with the danger of meeting other believers because of the supervision of families (which makes them eternal minors).” The wave of church closures by the authorities has deprived many believers of attending teaching and being baptized. Women, in particular, have been affected by this (since they did not have the freedom to travel to remote churches - when there were still some operating openly - to access religious teaching etc.). Should their family discover their Christian faith, it is likely that unmarried converts would be threatened with forced marriage to a Muslim man as a corrective measure, and to restore them to the Islamic faith. This can also be used as an effective threat against Christian women. If already married at the point of becoming a Christian, her husband can divorce her, use her faith to exploit her, or restrict her access to Christian religious materials.

Gender-specific religious persecution / Male

Algeria	Male Pressure Points Most frequently recorded PPs: WWL 2019 - WWL 2024
	Denied access to social community/networks Forced out of home – expulsion Imprisonment by government Violence – physical Violence – psychological Violence – verbal

Christian men in Algeria regularly experience community and economic pressure, facing harassment in workplaces and communal spaces. As men are the main providers in Algerian families, the loss of work can have a crippling effect on the whole family, creating fear and a sense of helplessness. Given the prevalence of male church leaders in Algeria, this makes men more likely to be interrogated or detained, which also affects their ability to work. A country expert commented: “The majority of church leaders have regularly received a summons from the police to answer certain questions about the functioning of local churches.” If imprisoned, they can leave behind children and families who may struggle without a financial provider. A country expert reported that one pastor and his family recently chose to leave the country for fear of being arrested.

Families are often the source of additional violations, such as physical beatings, being forced out of the home, verbal insults and threats. In comparison to other Christian men, male converts face the most severe violations of religious freedom. They suffer ostracism and rejection not just from their families, but from the wider community too. Upon discovery of their faith, they may also be beaten and taken to the local mosque by force. Under such pressure, converts are forced to live out their faith in secret.

Persecution of other religious minorities

Apart from Christians, Algerian Jews, Ahmadiyya and Shia Muslims also face varying levels of pressure and violence. Algerian Jews fear for their security due to the threat of violence from Islamists and there have been instances of desecration of Jewish cemeteries. The Ahmadiyya face more severe violations, including criminal charges for "denigrating the dogma or precepts of Islam". They face hostility from public officials and are denied their right to form associations ([USCIRF statement](#), 25 January 2021).

According to the US State Department ([IRFR 2023 Algeria](#)):

- "Media reports often discussed judicial proceedings against members of minority Muslim religious communities, such as Ahmadi Muslims and Shia Muslims, without the presumption of innocence, and local media occasionally portrayed these communities as 'sects' or 'deviations' from Islam. Ahmadi leaders said their faith was often misunderstood by the public, which largely believed the Ahmadi community was non-Muslim." (p. 22)
- "On February 1 [2023], the Supreme Court overturned on appeal the conviction of Said Djabelkhir for blasphemy. Djabelkhir, an Islamic scholar specializing in Sufism and founder of the 'Circle of Enlightenment for Free Thought', an association for thinkers and academics who advocate a progressive Islam, was convicted of blasphemy in 2021 for 'offending the precepts of Islam' after

a fellow academic filed a complaint about Djabelkhir’s writings on various Islamic rituals. As a result of his conviction, authorities sentenced Djabelkhir in 2021 to three years in prison, in addition to a fine." (p.11)

Earlier, in [IRFR 2021 Algeria](#), the US State Department reported:

- "During a May 5 [2021] speech to the Algerian Muslim Ulemas (scholars) Association, Bouabdellah Ghlamallah, former Minister of Religious Affairs and head of the High Islamic Council, stated, 'Algerians can only be Muslim'. Ghlamallah said: 'The seeds sown by France are still germinating', and he told Muslim scholars to 'eradicate these residues'."

Atheists and those who openly question Sunni Islamic doctrine are likely to face hostilities in Algeria. Although probably more related to his activities during the anti-governmental demonstrations, in October 2020 Yacine Mebarki was sentenced to ten years in prison on charges of "inciting atheism" ([Al-Arabiya, 8 October 2020](#)). Similarly, in January 2021, Walid Kechida received a three years prison sentence for "undermining the precepts of religion" (and "contempt and offense to the president") for running a satirical Facebook page.

Trends Summary

1) Despite the end of the Hirak movement, political dissatisfaction remains

Although the Algerian government successfully used COVID-19 pandemic measures and political oppression to halt the Hirak demonstrations, it is unlikely that the government will be able to contain such political dissatisfaction in the long-term. Algeria's young population wants economic opportunities and political renewal. High energy prices at the international level have led to increased government revenue, thus making it possible to provide more economic opportunities, but it is unlikely that the Algerian government will be able to buy off the call for reforms in the long-term.

2) The situation for Christians has been deteriorating

The popular protests did not change the government's use of Ordinance 06-03 to oppress Algerian's Christians and it is unlikely that the situation for religious minorities will improve in 2025 and beyond. It is more likely, at present, that the government will continue to target the Christian community to appease the Islamists in the country. The high level of government action in the WWL 2024 and WWL 2025 reporting periods, forcing Protestant churches to stop operating openly, indicates a clear deterioration compared to previous years and seems to be a further step in stifling any growth in the Christian community.

Further useful reports

Further background information per country and a selection of in-depth reports and smaller articles are available on the Research & Reports pages of the Open Doors website:

- <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/wwl-background/>
- <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/>.

External Links

- Copyright, sources and definitions: Background country information - <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/research-reports/wwl-background/>
- Summary of international obligations and rights violations: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx>
- Summary of international obligations and rights violations: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cescr.aspx>
- Summary of international obligations and rights violations: Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cat.aspx>
- Summary of international obligations and rights violations: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women - <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>
- Summary of international obligations and rights violations: Convention on the Rights of the Child - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>
- Specific examples of violations of rights in the reporting period: MEC, 3 May 2024 - <https://www.meconcern.org/2024/05/03/algeria-pastors-sentence-upheld/>
- Pressure in Block 3 / Community sphere: IRFR 2023 Algeria - <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-report-on-international-religious-freedom/algeria/>
- Block 4.15: Christians accused in court have been deprived of equal treatment. (3.75 points): USCIRF, accessed 16 December 2024 - <https://www.uscirf.gov/religious-prisoners-conscience/forb-victims-database/hamid-soudad>
- Gender-specific religious persecution Female description: legal protection - <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/new-law-in-algeria-punishes-violence-against-women/>
- Gender-specific religious persecution Female description: (Middle East Institute, 8 February 2021) - <https://www.mei.edu/publications/algeria-war-against-women>
- Persecution of other religious minorities: USCIRF statement - <https://www.uscirf.gov/news-room/releases-statements/uscirf-troubled-escalating-persecution-ahmadi-muslims-algeria>
- Persecution of other religious minorities: IRFR 2023 Algeria - <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-report-on-international-religious-freedom/algeria/>
- Persecution of other religious minorities: IRFR 2021 Algeria - <https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-report-on-international-religious-freedom/algeria/>
- Persecution of other religious minorities: Al-Arabiya, 8 October 2020 - <https://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/north-africa/2020/10/08/Algeria-hands-activist-Yacine-Mebarki-10-years-jail-for-inciting-atheism-NGO>