

# **Survivors in Gaza ‘desperate,’ Palestinian pastor says**

January 17, 2025

Crucial humanitarian aid, the phased release of hostages in exchange for prisoners, and an end to Israel’s bombing of Gaza were among the terms of a ceasefire agreement announced Jan. 14 between Israel and Hamas.

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# **Imprisoned evangelical Cuban pastor Fajardo released**

January 17, 2025

Lorenzo Rosales Fajardo, an evangelical Cuban pastor who has been imprisoned since 2021 for participating in peaceful protests, was released in mid-January as part of a mass amnesty, an international human rights organization reported.

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# **One global Christian in seven**

# **faces high-level persecution**

January 17, 2025

High-level persecution and discrimination impacted 380 million Christians around the world in 2024, according to the annual World Watch List report released Jan. 15.

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# **Baptist groups urge Indian officials to stop mob violence**

January 17, 2025

Baptist conventions, councils and associations representing thousands of churches were among the groups who urged Indian President Draupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to act decisively to stop violent mobs who have targeted Christians.

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# **Syrian church reopens after being padlocked for a decade**

January 17, 2025

The day after the ouster of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, members of Good News Evangelical Church in Latakia, Syria, broke the padlocks that

had barred entry to the church building the last 10 years and erected a new sign.

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## **300 million Christians persecuted globally, report says**

January 17, 2025

Religious nationalism, mass displacement, authoritarianism, surveillance technology and other trends combine to persecute 300 million Christians globally, International Christian Concern reported in its 2025 Global Persecution Index.

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## **Eleven killed in airstrike on Baptist church in Sudan**

January 17, 2025

An airstrike on a Baptist church in Sudan less than a week before Christmas killed at least 11 people, including eight children, an organization focused on international religious freedom reported.

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# **Report ranks countries where religion faces hostility**

January 17, 2025

A report by Pew Research Center on international religious freedom named Egypt, Syria, Pakistan and Iraq as the countries where both government restrictions and social hostility most limit the ability of religious minorities to practice their faith.

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# **Questions surround the future of religious freedom in Syria**

January 17, 2025

Many human rights advocates greeted the fall of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad with relief and optimism, but some groups focused on international religious freedom view Syria's future with more questions than answers.

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# **Nigerian Christians fear violence as Christmas approaches**

January 17, 2025

Christians in Nigeria plan to celebrate Christmas amid fear of a repeat of violence that claimed at least 160 lives in Nigeria's Middle Belt at Christmastime in 2023 and dozens in northern Nigeria during the holidays in 2022, international religious liberty advocates reported.

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# **This Christmas in Nazareth, peace is harder to find**

January 17, 2025

Nazareth has few public Christmas decorations this year, marking the second year in a row Jesus' hometown has been precluded by wartime conditions from traditional celebrations honoring the birthday of its most notable resident of all time.

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# **Ten Catholic priests killed in Mexico in six years, report says**

January 17, 2025

Ten Catholic priests and a seminarian were murdered during the six-year term of former Mexican President López Obrador that ended Sept. 30, the Catholic Multimedia Center said in its 2024 annual report.