How Many Christians Are Persecuted?

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In a new and comprehensive analysis, the world’s most eminent scholar of religious demography, Todd Johnson, concludes that more than one of every five Christians in the world lives in states where they are likely to face persecution. This amounts to some 500 million Christians. By 2020, Johnson predicts, this figure will rise to 600 million, or nearly a quarter (23.5%) of the world’s Christian population. Indeed, persecution against Christians persists in more nations (139) and affects more people than any other religious community. Some of the fastest-growing traditions in global Christianity—such as Pentecostal and Independent churches—find themselves under increasing risk of persecution.