



Aid to the  
Church in Need

ACN CANADA

## Examples of situations of religious persecution

### Pakistan

Kainut, a young 20 year-old woman was born from a Christian mother and a Muslim father. Her mom had been forced to convert to Islam and forced to marry a Muslim. In some regions, it's very common to forcibly convert young Hindu and Christian women. Later on, Kainut and her brothers converted to Christianity, despite the dangers. The first priest to whom she asked to be baptized refused, knowing the dangers her and her family would be exposed to following their conversion. Once her father died. Her mother was forced to get remarried to her late husband's cousin. When he learned that the children and her spouse had converted, he proposed that divorce, which the young woman's mother accepted. However, problems continued: her ex-stepfather and people close to the family broke into Kainut's home and wanted to force her to marry a Muslim man. The police were called and the aggressors left. In October 2017, her brother was wounded by gun shots. No one knows what they will still have to face. Their situation is very delicate.

### Nigeria

On Easter 2017, a group of Fulani (also called Fulbe), Muslim pastoralists, interrupted the Easter Vigil in a church in Kafanchan, a country's northern state. Among them, a young woman was pursued all the way to her house, where she was killed in the kitchen. However, militaries were present during the celebration and the attack, but they did nothing. Christians need continued protection, which isn't always the case.



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## **Iraq and Syria**

Iraq and Syria saw violent events in the last few years. In Iraq, it's mainly ISIS that attacked and made Christians flee. Their homes were destroyed, pillaged and burned by members of this group who pretended that the homes of these Christians now belonged to Muslims, marking the building with a very distinguished sign for everyone to know. In Syria, the situation is more complex. There was ISIS, but over 200 groups who declare themselves to be rebels have joined them. Some were fighting the government in place, but for many of these groups, motivations were unclear. Whatever the case, Christians were particularly targeted and had to flee.

Reconstruction in Iraq had begun under difficult conditions since there are no more infrastructures such as roads, nor security. However, a lot of Christians want to come back home. In Syria, the reconstruction should be starting soon under the same difficult conditions.

## **Nigeria**

Father Pierluigi Maccalli was kidnapped in September of this year. He's not the first Christian to have been kidnapped. In February 2017, Sister Gloria Cecilia Navarez Argoti was kidnapped and hasn't been freed yet. As for Father Maccalli, his kidnapping had carefully been prepared. His kidnappers knew his whereabouts. They knocked on his door and took him as soon as he opened the door, and then left shooting gunshots in the air. Right after, a nuns' convent was pillaged. According to them, the aggressors for Fulani pastoralists who killed thousands of people in the neighbouring country of Nigeria.

