

## **\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***

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# **‘Save The Persecuted Christians’ Coalition Begins Awareness Movement Today; Churches Across America Display Banners Featuring ‘Nun’ Symbol**

**WASHINGTON**—North Korea, Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan and Pakistan have in common an appalling attribute: they are ranked as the world’s top five countries perpetrating “extreme persecution” of Christians according to the recent [World Watch List](#) from [Open Doors USA](#). The list annually ranks the worst 50 countries when it comes to persecution.

Such persecution currently occurs so routinely that it rarely makes headlines these days. For example, according to Open Doors, 255 Christians are killed worldwide every month. 104 Christians are abducted. 180 Christian women are raped, sexually assaulted or forced into marriage. 160 Christians are detained or imprisoned without trial. And 66 churches are attacked. *Every month*.

In response to such outrages and with a shared determination to protect their victims, scores of individuals and organizations have come together to launch today the *Save the Persecuted Christians (STPC) Coalition*, ([www.SaveThePersecutedChristians.org](http://www.SaveThePersecutedChristians.org)). *Save the Persecuted Christians’* mission is to protect Christians worldwide who are suffering discrimination, torture, rape, slavery, banishment and murder—simply because they believe in Jesus Christ.

The goal of the *STPC Coalition* is greatly to reduce—and to deter—the further, global persecution of Christians. Beyond calling attention to the oppression of Christians worldwide, the immediate task is to disseminate actionable information about ways in which the American people can help those being persecuted. The information includes relevant initiatives of members of the *Save the Persecuted Christians Coalition* and others.

The *STPC* initiative also starts today, February 14, Ash Wednesday, by asking faith leaders and houses of worship across America to post banners outside for two reasons: 1) build awareness and 2) encourage engagement by visiting [www.SaveThePersecutedChristians.org](http://www.SaveThePersecutedChristians.org).

The banners feature the “nun” letter, which has become an international symbol for the oppression of Christians ever since the Islamic State used this first letter of the Arabic word for “Nazarene” to designate homes of followers of Christ targeted for persecution.

# SAVE THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS



[www.SaveThePersecutedChristians.org](http://www.SaveThePersecutedChristians.org)

A model for how this Coalition can work is the Save the Soviet Jewry campaign of the 1970s, which started out with banners and signage outside synagogues and churches across America and turned into a powerful political movement and catalyst for policy changes that ultimately helped free the USSR's oppressed Jews.

A banner and supporting materials can be viewed and downloaded at [www.SaveThePersecutedChristians.org](http://www.SaveThePersecutedChristians.org). Other items available include additional information about the Coalition, a pastoral bulletin insert and details concerning partner resources.

Leading members of the *Save the Persecuted Christians Coalition* include:

Rev. David Barton, WallBuilders  
Pastor Paul Blair, Reclaiming Oklahoma for Christ  
LTG/Rev. "Jerry" Boykin, Family Research Council  
Dr. Mark Christian, Global Faith Institute  
Andrew Coleman, Voices of the Martyrs  
Devon Cross, Donors' Forum on International Affairs  
Bill Dallas, United in Purpose  
Dr. Tim Daughtry, Clinical Psychologist and Author  
Tom Doyle, Uncharted Ministries and Author  
Bob Fu, ChinaAid  
Frank Gaffney, Center for Security Policy  
Pastor Mark Gonzales, Hispanic Action Network  
Suzanne Grishman, Nazarene Fund  
Deborah and Michael Hamilton, Hamilton Strategies  
Phil Haney, former CPB Officer and Author  
Rabbi Jonathan Hausman, former Students for Soviet Jewry Activist  
Jake Hoffman, Rally Forge  
Jason James, Resonance Films  
Jerry Johnson, National Religious Broadcasters  
Tracey Johnson, Credo Strategies

Rick Joyner, Oak Initiative  
Kelly Kullberg, American Association of Evangelicals  
Dede Laugesen, Save the Christian Middle East  
Reggie Littlejohn, Women's Rights Without Frontiers  
Fr. Andre Mahanna, St. Rafka Mission of Hope and Mercy  
Faith McDonnell, Institute on Religion and Democracy  
Rev. Johnnie Moore, Kairos Ministries  
Pastor Sam Rohrer, American Pastors Network  
Zach Sicherman, Faithkeepers  
Erick Stackelbeck, Christians United for Israel  
Juliana Taimoorazy, Iraqi Christian Relief  
Elizabeth Yore, International Child Advocate and Attorney  
Gregg Young, Red State Radio Host

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**To interview a *Save the Persecuted Christians* representative, contact Deborah Hamilton, [Media@HamiltonStrategies.com](mailto:Media@HamiltonStrategies.com), 610.584.1096, ext. 102, or Emily Brunner, 610.584.1096, ext. 100.**