

YEMEN



UNDERSTANDING THE SITUATION

Yemen has endured more than a decade of war, political instability, economic collapse, and repeated humanitarian crises. Infrastructure has been heavily damaged, jobs are scarce, wages often go unpaid, and many families struggle simply to meet their daily needs.

For Christians, these hardships are compounded by persecution. Since early 2026, believers have faced a new and intense wave of pressure. Christian leaders have been arrested, sought by authorities, subjected to raids, stopped in public, imprisoned, and in some cases tortured. Several dozen Christian leaders have been imprisoned during this recent wave.

Many believers live their faith quietly. Some have been forced to flee after being identified as Christians, leaving behind homes, jobs, and support systems. Finding employment can be especially difficult for displaced Christians, leaving local churches and trusted partners as an important source of practical and spiritual support.

Yet this is not only a story of persecution.

The underground Church continues to grow rapidly. Even after years of war and increasing pressure, believers are gathering, caring for one another, and remaining faithful to Christ.

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FACTS & CONTEXT

#3 — World Watch List

Yemen ranked third on the 2026 World Watch List among the most difficult places in the world to be a Christian. The report notes that the latest wave of persecution began too late to be fully reflected in that ranking.

Dozens Imprisoned

A new wave of persecution beginning in late 2025 and early 2026 has resulted in dozens of Christian leaders being imprisoned. Others have experienced raids, surveillance, searches, and torture.

10+ Years of War

Yemen has lived through more than a decade of conflict, leaving the country in a prolonged state of humanitarian and economic crisis.

A Growing Underground Church

Despite intense pressure, the underground Church continues to grow rapidly. Earlier reporting described Christians living in every region of the country, where only a few hundred believers were known roughly a decade earlier.

Displaced Believers

Many local Christian workers are themselves displaced. Some were identified as Christians and forced to flee, leaving them without stable employment or income.

Children Face Added Pressure

Christian children can face discrimination and intense religious pressure in public schools. ICR partners help several hundred children attend private schools where the risk is lower and educational opportunities are stronger.

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NASR'S STORY

A Family in Need. A Church That Responded.

Nasr* is a 14-year-old Christian boy from a displaced family. His father works each day to provide for seven children, making even ordinary expenses difficult to manage.

One afternoon, Nasr fell while playing outside and suffered a serious fracture in his leg. Doctors said he needed surgery to repair the bone. Without treatment, he could face complications that might affect his ability to walk in the future.

The surgery and medication were far beyond what his father could afford.

When the local church learned about Nasr's situation, believers stepped in. Support was provided to cover the full cost of his operation and the medical treatment that followed.

The surgery was successful.

After two months of recovery, Nasr returned to church, walking again and wearing his familiar shy smile.

He told those who had helped him:

"If you hadn't helped me, I don't think I could walk this soon."

His father added:

"We felt God was with us. This help was a mercy for our whole family."

Nasr's story is a simple example of what the Body of Christ can look like under persecution. In a place where families already face displacement, poverty, and pressure because of their faith, the local Church becomes a source of practical care, encouragement, and hope.

Name changed for security.

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WHAT THE CHURCH IS DOING

ICR works through trusted local churches and underground Christian networks rather than operating independently of them.

Partners are providing humanitarian assistance, educational programs, emergency medical care, support for persecuted families, and help for Christians who have been displaced.

Education is especially important for Christian families. Private schooling can provide children with a safer environment, stronger education, and less religious pressure. Local underground churches contribute what they can toward these costs, while outside support helps cover what remains.

The Church is also caring for families facing food insecurity, medical emergencies, and loss of income while continuing to strengthen believers spiritually.

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WAYS TO SUPPORT

PROVIDE EDUCATION

Help Christian children receive a safer education and build a stronger future.

MEET URGENT NEEDS

Help provide food, medical care, and other practical assistance for persecuted and displaced Christian families.

STRENGTHEN THE UNDERGROUND CHURCH

Come alongside local believers and Christian leaders as they care for one another and strengthen a rapidly growing Church.

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PRAYER

Father, we lift up our brothers and sisters in Yemen. Protect those facing persecution and strengthen those who have been imprisoned for their faith. Provide for families who have been displaced and are struggling to meet their daily needs. Give Christian leaders wisdom and courage as they serve, and thank You for continuing to grow Your Church even in such difficult circumstances. Remind every believer that they are not alone and that You are with them. Amen.