

Violent Persecution against Christians in Pakistan

By Michael Ireland

PAKISTAN -Christians in Pakistan are preparing for more violent persecution against them in the wake of former cricket star Imran Khan, who represents the PTI party, Pakistan



Former cricket player Imran Khan has been elected Prime Minister of Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf, being elected Prime Minister. PTI is a centrist political party in Pakistan founded in 1996 by former national cricket captain and current Prime Minister Imran Khan, who was sworn into office as Pakistan's prime minister on Aug. 18. He has vowed to support strict blasphemy laws that could mean heightened violent persecution against the country's Christians. Khan has been urged to stop the persecution of Christians in Pakistan, with critics accusing him of being part of the "same old extremism," according to Tom Parfitt, writing for the British daily newspaper "Express." Open Doors, a Christian 'persecution watchdog' which monitors violence against Christians around the world, fears Khan will not do enough to help protect Pakistan's small Christian minority. Christians make up less than two percent of the country's population of 197 million and, although Pakistan's constitution guarantees freedom of religion, Christians often report facing discrimination. A spokesman for Open

Doors said: "Imran Khan is the chairman of the newly emerged Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). It's a centrist party which, according to the party, aims to create a welfare state, where the state is responsible for education, health and employability of citizens." This sounds like good news for Christians, who often struggle to access education, health care and dignified work because of the discrimination and attack they face from Islamic extremists. "However, Khan has not positioned himself as a champion for minority groups and religious freedom. In fact, he seems keen to ensure that Pakistan remains a strongly Islamic republic." "Hours after Khan's victory was confirmed, he spoke to the nation saying his preferred form of government is 'the Islamic State as established by the Prophet Muhammad in Medina.'" Khan's support for Pakistan's strict blasphemy laws has also sparked concerns among the country's Christians who fear further violence against them. Pakistan's constitution mandates the death penalty for any "imputation, insinuation or innuendo" against

the prophet Muhammad. Christians in Pakistan march to free Asia Bibi, convicted of blasphemy under Pakistan's strict blasphemy laws. Asia Bibi, a Christian mother of five children, was sentenced to death in 2010 after being found guilty of blasphemy. She remains in prison despite growing pressure on Pakistani officials to free her. Khan has reportedly said: "I know this law is an inconvenience for some people like that poor woman Asia Bibi. But it is a law that is complete and I support it." Following his election, a Pakistani Christian told Open Doors: "We prayed this government would not come in, but God had another plan. We see a new leader at the helm, who is rooted in the same old extremism that has tortured Christians for decades and the future looks ominous." "We do prepare for violence and challenges in the months ahead. We need structural changes to the constitution to be heard better, and to be safeguarded, and for the playing field to be level, and that is not a priority for this government."

Millennials Told Media Lies about Palestine and Israel

By Charles Gardner

DONCASTER, UK (ANS - shaped their perception of the conflict, and they were profoundly shocked to discover that the truth was very different. "I've been lied to," said one. "You realize how false these stories are," said another. After hearing how Palestinians see the Israelis as occupiers of their land, they were taken aback by the response of Arab pastor, Naim Khoury, who asked: "What occupation?" And as he turned towards the windows, he added: "Where is the occupation? We are completely under the Palestinian Authority." The point was further brought home by a member of the group, who observed: "I have not seen one IDF (Israeli Defence Force) soldier, or Israeli flag." They also learnt that the throwing of rocks - and even Molotov cocktails - at Israeli soldiers is seen by Fatah, the PA's ruling party, as non-violent activity. A further learning curve involved meeting Col. Danny Tirza, architect of the notorious security wall built to keep out terrorists, who said he wanted to be the first to begin taking it down when peace finally came. But, in the meantime, the murder rate from terrorism had been cut by 90%. He said that those whose land had been split by the wall - only five per cent of which is concrete; the

rest being a much more discreet wire fence - are offered compensation, but refuse to accept it for fear of being labelled collaborators. Graffiti on the wall betrays the true ambition of Palestinian agitators, with a map showing all of geographical Israel as theirs. They have no wish to share the land, or establish a state beside Israel. They want all of it. As historian Dr. Michael Brown put it: "If the Palestinians put down their weapons there'd be no more war; if Israel put down their weapons, there'd be no more Israel." An ex-IDF soldier said: "They use our moral standards against us." As an example, he explained how a terrorist suspect fled to a crowded residential area, knowing they wouldn't open fire if civilians were at risk. And when the military had the place surrounded, the fugitive duly appeared on the roof in a bid to escape, at which point they shot him in the leg. But while supporting medics were bandaging him up, the soldiers were pelted with huge rocks. Israelis risk death because of the great value they place on life. Shevy Kass Stand With Us Sderot Israel smaller-Further observations on the Palestinians included - "They are victims of their own hatred" and "They are suffering a lot because of radical people in their community."

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