



# STUDY GUIDE

## THE WORLD'S MOST PERSECUTED MINORITY: CHRISTIANS

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**KEY TERMS:** persecuted Christians Muslims  
persecution infidels

<b>NOTE-TAKING COLUMN:</b> Complete this section <u>during</u> the video. Include definitions and key terms.	<b>CUE COLUMN:</b> Complete this section <u>after</u> the video.
<p>What are Muslims doing to North Africa and the Middle East, in terms of Christians?</p> <p>Why do Coptic Christians want to leave Egypt?</p> <p>Why are Christians in predominately Muslim countries being persecuted?</p>	<p>How would you characterize what is happening to Christians in North Africa and the Middle East?</p> <p>What is the full narrative that the Western media attempts to portray?</p>

## DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- We learn from Mr. Ibrahim that, “The list of fresh atrocities by Muslims against Christians grows longer almost every day. Even in Muslim countries often portrayed as “moderate” – Morocco, Indonesia, Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan – Christian minorities are under legal pressure not to build churches or evangelize,” indeed that, “In essence Muslims are rendering North Africa and the Middle East free of Christians.” Why do you think this is happening? Why are predominately Muslim countries that were tolerant of Christians for so long recently taking such an intolerant stance?
- Mr. Ibrahim explains that Christians “Vastly outnumbered and politically marginalized...” in these Muslim countries, “...are often identical to their cocitizens in race, ethnicity, national identity, culture, and language; there is no political dispute between the Christians and Muslims, no land dispute,” but are “...hounded and attacked...” because “...they’re Christians, or as the Quran puts it, “infidels,” that is, non-Muslims, who are regarded by many fundamentalist Muslims as inferior.” Do you think that any group of people who codify and apply a belief system that is so intolerant, discriminatory, and violent can reasonably be said to be part of a legitimate ‘religion?’ Don’t the actions of the extreme Islamists in these areas qualify them as being part of a cult? Why or why not? Do you agree that an organization that kills people who don’t share their beliefs should rightly be called ‘The Religion of Peace?’ Why or why not? How are these Islamic extremists any different than the KKK or the Nazis?
- Mr. Ibrahim addresses an important point when sharing with us that “Christians are indeed the most persecuted religious group in the world today. But reporting it would violate the media’s narrative of Christians as persecutors and Muslims as victims,” more specifically the media’s narrative that, “‘Muslim violence is a product of Muslim grievance.’ That grievance is, first and foremost, portrayed as the sin of European colonialism and alleged American imperialism.” Why does the Western media have a narrative in the first place aren’t they just supposed to objectively report what happens? Where do you think that this narrative comes from? Who does this narrative benefit? In what ways? Should the media have a narrative? If no, why not? If yes, why, what should it be, and who should decide what it is? Doesn’t having a narrative automatically compel the media to ‘take sides?’ Isn’t that bad? Why or why not? If they do take sides, whose side should the media be on? Whose side are they on now?
- Mr. Ibrahim explains towards the end of the video that much of the Western world has been duped into believing this bogus media narrative, not questioning when the media portends that, “Because Israel, with the backing of the United States, is stronger than its Muslim neighbors [then] the media, while not defending Islamic terrorism, often portray terror against Israel, America, and even Europe as the actions of understandably angry “underdogs” fighting for what they deem “justice.” Mr. Ibrahim then asks, “But what happens to this media narrative when Islamic terror is directed against a minority weaker than them—in this case, the millions of indigenous Christians throughout the Islamic world?” How would you answer his question? Why? Why do you think that so many people simply believe what they read or hear instead of questioning the ‘angle’ of the story and without considering the ‘other side or missing part of the story?’

## EXTEND THE LEARNING:

### CASE STUDY: Noreen

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “Pakistan: Acid thrown over women in ‘blasphemy’ attack on village,” then answer the questions that follow.

- What happened to Noreen? Do you think Noreen deserved what happened to her, especially in terms of the context of ‘justice’ for her attackers? Do you think the actions of Noreen’s attackers will do anyone any good in the end? Would you consider Noreen’s attackers ‘victims,’ as the Western media narrative would have you believe? Isn’t the Western media insidious for essentially using their narrative to justify the actions of people such as Noreen’s attackers? Why or why not? Do you believe that Noreen’s attackers had any justification for their attack on her and the others? Why or why not?
- What does her story reflect? Why is her story so important? Why haven’t more Westerners heard her story? Do you think they should? Why or why not?
- Mr. Ibrahim informs us that, “As a fundamentalist interpretation of the holy books of Islam has grown in the last fifty or so years, Christians have suffered. And in recent years, they have suffered terribly.” Would you consider this article strong support for Mr. Ibrahim’s claim? Why or why not?



# QUIZ

## THE WORLD'S MOST PERSECUTED MINORITY: CHRISTIANS

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1. The persecution of Christians is often reported in mainstream media.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
2. Why are Christians being persecuted in Muslim countries?
  - a. Because they hold violent protests.
  - b. Because they are Christians.
  - c. Because they persecute Muslims.
  - d. Christians are not persecuted in Muslim countries.
  
3. Which of the following is not true?
  - a. Christians in Muslim countries are able to worship peacefully.
  - b. Christians in Muslim countries have no political disputes.
  - c. Christians in Muslim countries have no land disputes.
  - d. Christians in Muslim countries are often identical to their co-citizens.
  
4. One hundred years ago, 20% of North Africa and the Middle East, the birthplace of Christianity, was Christian. Today, Christians make up \_\_\_\_\_ of the population.
  - a. 0.5%
  - b. 4%
  - c. 25%
  - d. 54%
  
5. Which nation does the Muslim world believe was forced upon them by the colonial powers of Europe?
  - a. Egypt
  - b. Jordan
  - c. Indonesia
  - d. Israel



# QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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## Pakistan: Acid thrown over women in ‘blasphemy’ attack on village

An angry mob petrol-bombed homes and threw acid over Christian women, after mosque loudspeakers accused the Christians of blasphemy.

The attack took place on 30 June at Bahmani village in the district of Kasur, in Punjab. Partners of [Release International](#), which serves persecuted Christians, say a mob looted and burned the houses of Christians.

Lawyers told Release International that one of the victims of the acid attack was Noreen, a young teenage girl. She was taking a bath when a petrol bomb was hurled through the window.

“After she ran naked from the room a Muslim boy threw acid on her,” said Katherine Sapna from CLAAS (the Centre for Legal Aid Assistance and Settlement). “The acid burnt her back and a little went on her face.”

Noreen was so distressed that she later tried to kill herself. “She threw petrol on her body and tried to set her self on fire,” said Ms Sapna, “but a team from CLAAS was able to stop her.”

Nine women and girls had to be treated for acid burns, while another four children were also injured in the attack, which left many villagers traumatised. The attackers also destroyed water pumps, leaving the villagers without running water.

“Everything in their houses has been damaged,” said Ms Sapna. “The villagers have no food to eat and no water.”

Release partners CLAAS and Sharing Life Ministries Pakistan (SLMP) are attending to the villagers. CLAAS have arranged medical treatment for the injured and have provided food, and have called on the local authorities to provide water.

“Release is deeply concerned about the growing number of attacks against Christians in Pakistan,” says Release CEO Andy Dipper. “Extremists are deliberately trying to drive a wedge between communities, and it is becoming an increasingly dangerous place for the Christian minority.

“Please pray for Christians in Bahmani, especially Noreen and the other women and girls who have been traumatised by this acid attack and the destruction of their homes.”

The attack in Bahmani took place after a quarrel broke out between a Christian and a Muslim in the village which then escalated, according to SLMP.



*(Photo: Release International)*