



Oral Statement

Human Rights Council 52nd Session

Agenda Item 4

General Debate

22 March 2023

Delivered by Wissam Al Saliby

Mr. President,

The World Evangelical Alliance and the World Council of Churches remain concerned about the ongoing violations of the rights of religious minorities in Algeria and India.

Algerian authorities continue to prosecute, detain and harass Protestant church leaders. Two dozen Christians have faced unjust prosecution since 2020.

Since November 2017, two-thirds of Protestant churches have been forced to close. The remaining Protestant churches in Algeria also face the risk of being forcibly closed.

We call on Algeria to cease all prosecutions against Christians and allow forcibly closed Protestant churches to reopen.

In India, starting in November 2022, Adivasi Christians in the Bastar division in the state of Chhattisgarh were attacked and forced out of their homes in a violent campaign by radical Hindu mobs.

Over 2500 Adivasi Christians from across 35 villages in Chhattisgarh have been forcibly displaced in recent months. Authorities have failed to control the situation and appear unwilling or unable to enforce law and order.

We call on India to ensure order and safety for Adivasi Christians so that they can return home without the risk of being attacked on the basis of their religion.

Thank you.