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# A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World

*Tenth annual report dives deeper into the ways government restrictions on religion and social hostilities involving religion have changed, from 2007 to 2017*

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## Table of contents

<b>Overview</b>	<b>5</b>
Categories of government restrictions on religion	10
Categories of social hostilities involving religion	27
Overall restrictions in 2017	42
<b>1. Number of countries with ‘very high’ government restrictions on religion remains at highest levels since 2007</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>2. Harassment of religious groups steady in 2017, remaining at 10-year high</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>3. Middle East still home to highest levels of restrictions on religion, although levels have declined since 2016</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>4. Among the 25 most populous countries, Egypt, India, Russia, Pakistan and Indonesia had the highest overall restrictions on religion in 2017</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Methodology</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Appendix A: Government Restrictions Index</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Appendix B: Social Hostilities Index</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Appendix C: Religious restrictions index scores by region</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Appendix D: Summary of results</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Appendix E: Country category scores by region</b>	<b>120</b>

# A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World

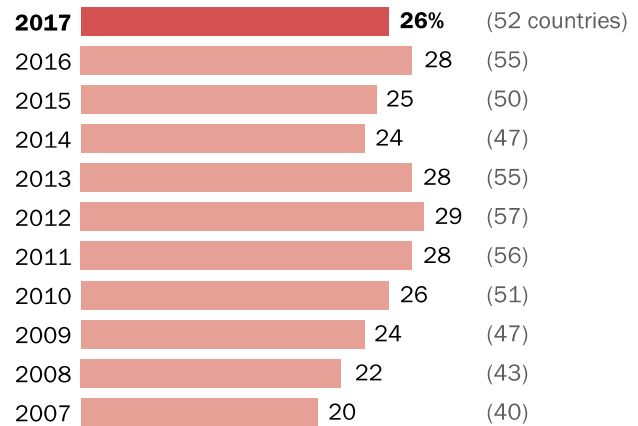
*Tenth annual report dives deeper into the ways government restrictions on religion and social hostilities involving religion have changed, from 2007 to 2017*

Over the decade from 2007 to 2017, government restrictions on religion — laws, policies and actions by state officials that restrict religious beliefs and practices — increased markedly around the world. And social hostilities involving religion — including violence and harassment by private individuals, organizations or groups — also have risen since 2007, the year Pew Research Center began tracking the issue.

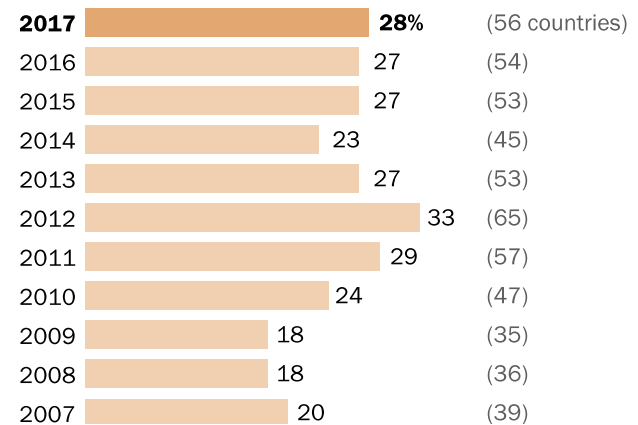
Indeed, the latest data shows that 52 governments — including some in very populous countries like China, Indonesia and Russia — impose either “high” or “very high” levels of restrictions on religion, up from 40 in 2007. And the number of countries where people are experiencing the highest levels of social hostilities involving religion has risen from 39 to 56 over the course of the study.

**Since 2007, increasing number of countries have high/very high levels of government restrictions on religion, social hostilities involving religion**

*% of countries with **high or very high** levels of ...*  
**... government restrictions on religion**  
 (Scores of 4.5 and higher)



**... social hostilities involving religion**  
 (Scores of 3.6 and higher)



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data.

See Methodology for details.

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Government restrictions have risen in several different ways. **Laws and policies restricting religious freedom** (such as requiring that religious groups register in order to operate) and **government favoritism of religious groups** (through funding for religious education, property and clergy, for example) have consistently been the most prevalent types of restrictions globally and in each of the five regions tracked in the study: Americas, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Middle East-North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. Both types of restrictions have been rising; the global average score in each of these categories increased more than 20% between 2007 and 2017.

Levels of **government limits on religious activities** and **government harassment of religious groups** are somewhat lower. But they also have been rising over the past decade – and in some cases, even more steeply. For instance, the average score for government

limits on religious activities in Europe (including efforts to restrict proselytizing and male circumcision) has doubled since 2007, and the average score for government harassment in the Middle East-North Africa region (such as criminal prosecutions of Ahmadis or other minority sects of Islam) has increased by 72%.<sup>1</sup>

**The Government Restrictions Index is made up of the following categories:**

- Government favoritism of religious groups
- Laws and policies restricting religious freedom
- Government limits on religious activities
- Government harassment of religious groups

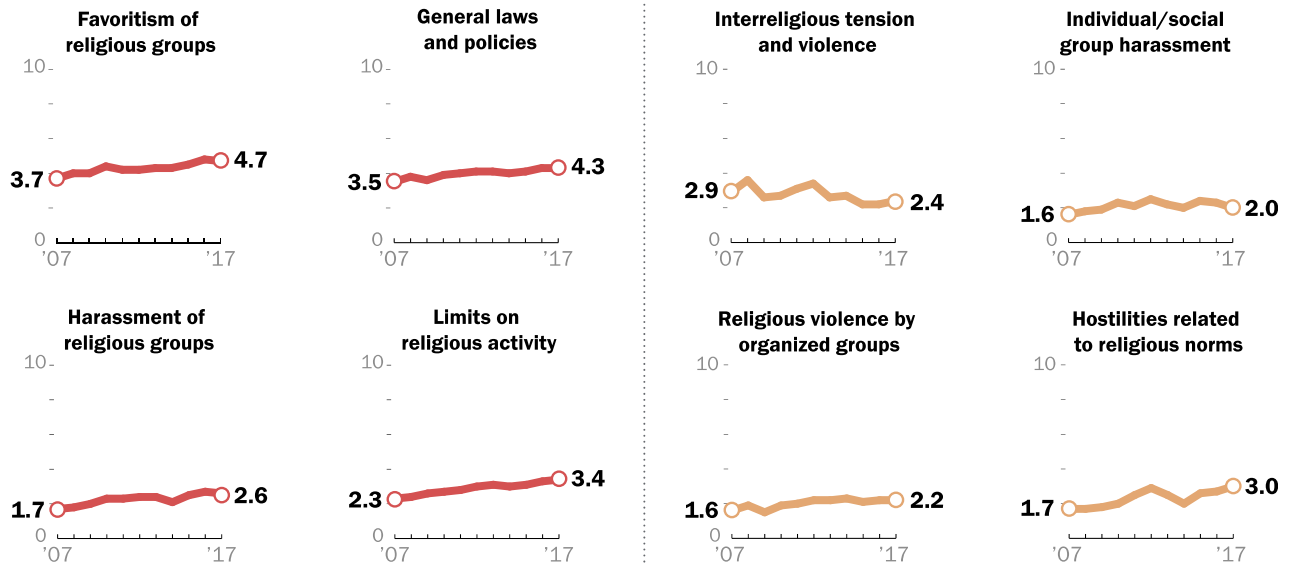
*For more details on these categories, see page 10.*

<sup>1</sup> Pew Research Center generally uses medians to show global and regional differences in scores on the full indexes (GRI and SHI). This decision was made more than a decade ago, at the beginning of the study, to prevent a few outliers (countries with extremely high or extremely low scores) from skewing the regional or global averages. Both the GRI and SHI are comprised of enough variables that median scores often reflect important differences between regions as well as changes in levels of restrictions over time. For the eight subcategories of government restrictions and social hostilities described in this report, however, researchers chose a different approach. Since each subcategory includes a much smaller number of variables, global and regional means (as opposed to medians) allow for more granular analysis. If medians were used, year-over-year change in many regions (as well as globally) would be more difficult to see. In addition, regional median scores in certain subcategories would be zero, even though many countries in those regions (albeit fewer than half) have non-zero scores.

A median is the middle number in a list of figures sorted in ascending or descending order. In a region with 45 countries, the median result is the 23rd on a list of country-level figures ranked in order. A mean is the average score, calculated by adding all the scores together and dividing by the number of countries.

## Globally, most restrictions, hostilities involving religion have risen over past decade

Global means for eight different categories of restrictions and hostilities



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.

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The global pattern has not been as consistent when it comes to social hostilities involving religion. One category of social hostilities has increased substantially – **hostilities related to religious norms** (for example, harassment of women for violating religious dress codes) – driving much of the overall rise in social hostilities involving religion. Two other types of social hostilities, **harassment by individuals and social groups** (ranging from small gangs to mob violence) and **religious violence by organized groups** (including neo-Nazi groups such as the Nordic Resistance Movement and Islamist groups like Boko Haram), have risen more modestly.

### The Social Hostilities Index is made up of the following categories:

- Hostilities related to religious norms
- Interreligious tension and violence
- Religious violence by organized groups
- Individual and social group harassment

For more details on these categories, see page 27.

Meanwhile, a fourth category of social hostilities – **interreligious tension and violence** (for instance, sectarian or communal clashes between Hindus and Muslims in India) – has declined markedly since the baseline year (17%). By one specific measure, in 2007, 91 countries experienced

some level of violence due to tensions between religious groups, but by 2017 that number dropped to 57 countries.<sup>2</sup>

These trends suggest that, in general, religious restrictions have been rising around the world for the past decade, but they have not been doing so evenly across all geographic regions or all kinds of restrictions. The level of restrictions started high in the Middle East-North Africa region, and is now highest there in all eight categories measured by the study. But some of the biggest *increases* over the last decade have been in other regions, including Europe – where growing numbers of governments have been placing limits on Muslim women’s dress – and sub-Saharan Africa, where some groups have tried to impose their religious norms on others through kidnappings and forced conversions.

This big-picture view of restrictions on religion comes from a decadelong series of studies by Pew Research Center analyzing the extent to which governments and societies around the world impinge on religious beliefs and practices. Researchers annually comb through more than a dozen publicly available, widely cited sources of information, including annual reports on international religious freedom by the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, as well as publications by a variety of European and UN bodies and several independent, nongovernmental organizations. (See Methodology for more details on sources used in the study.) Due to the availability of the source material and the time it takes to code, each annual Pew Research Center report looks at events that took place about 18 months to two years before its publication. For example, this report covers events that occurred in 2017.

The studies are part of the Pew-Templeton Global Religious Futures project, which analyzes religious change and its impact on societies around the world. The project is jointly funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts and the John Templeton Foundation.

The previous reports have focused largely on year-over-year change, but this 10th report provides an opportunity for a broader look back at how the situation has changed around the world – and, more specifically, in particular regions and in 198 countries – over the length of the study. Also for the first time this year, researchers have broken down the two main, 10-point indexes used in the study – the Government Restrictions Index (GRI) and the Social Hostilities Index (SHI) – into four categories each.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> For details on this interreligious tension *measure* within the broader interreligious tension and violence *category*, see Methodology and SHI Question 6 in Appendix D. This is one of the measures that make up the interreligious tension and violence category in this report.

<sup>3</sup> The categories do not each contain the same number of measures, but results are weighted so that each category’s scores are comparable on the same scale.



The categories can help give readers a sense of what goes into the broader GRI and SHI scores, and they also are useful when comparing countries that have similar overall scores but very different situations within their borders.

For instance, France and Qatar have similar overall GRI scores (both are in the “high” category), but that does not mean that the lived experience of someone in those two countries is similar with respect to government restrictions on religion. France scores low in the category of government favoritism, while Qatar scores much higher (Islam is the official state religion, according to the constitution). And while Qatar scores lower on government harassment of religious groups, France has higher scores in this category, which includes enforcing restrictions on religious dress. France continues to enforce a national ban on full-face coverings in public, and local authorities also impose various restrictions that mostly affect Muslim women. In 2017, for example, the city of Lorette banned headscarves in a public pool.<sup>4</sup> Laws regarding women’s religious dress also have boosted France’s score in the category of limits on religious activities, but Qatar scores even higher in this category, in part due to laws that target non-Islamic faiths by restricting public worship, the display of religious symbols and proselytization.<sup>5</sup>

For a full list of how all 198 countries and territories included in the study score in each category, see Appendix C. The remainder of this overview looks in more detail at the eight categories of restrictions on religion – four involving government restrictions and four involving social hostilities by private groups or individuals.

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<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[France](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Qatar](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

## Categories of government restrictions on religion

The **Government Restrictions Index** measures government laws, policies and actions that restrict religious beliefs and practices. The GRI comprises 20 measures of restrictions, now grouped into the following categories:<sup>6</sup>

### Government favoritism of religious groups

One of the consistent takeaways from a decade of tracking is the relatively high level of government restrictions on religion in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), which has ranked above all other regions each year from 2007 to 2017. The new study shows that the Middle East has high levels of restrictions across all four categories in 2017, but the gap in government favoritism is particularly large: The average country in the MENA region scores nearly twice as high on measures of government favoritism as the average country in any other region.

Indeed, 19 of the 20 countries in the Middle East (all except Lebanon) favor a religion — 17 have an official state religion, and two have a preferred or favored religion.<sup>7</sup> In all of these countries except Israel, the favored religion is Islam. Additionally, all countries in the region defer in some way to religious authorities or doctrines on legal issues. For example, in family law cases in Egypt, when spouses have the same religion, courts apply that religious group's canonical (i.e., traditional religious) laws. However, when one spouse is Muslim and the other has a different religion (such as Coptic Christianity), or if spouses are members of different Christian denominations, courts defer to Islamic family law.<sup>8</sup>

#### Questions considered in this category

- Does the country's constitution or basic law recognize a favored religion or religions?
- Do all religious groups receive the same level of government access and privileges?
- Does any level of government provide:
  - Funds or other resources for religious education programs and/or religious schools?
  - Funds or other resources for religious property (e.g., buildings, upkeep, repair or land)?
  - Funds or other resources for religious activities other than education or property (including through general tax exemption or lump sum payments)?
- Is religious education required in public schools?
- Does the national government defer in some way to religious authorities, texts or doctrines on legal issues?

<sup>6</sup> For the purposes of the GRI, all of the questions about government favoritism of religious groups are considered part of one measure, which also is its own category.

<sup>7</sup> For more on state favoritism of religions, see Pew Research Center's 2017 report, "[Many Countries Favor Specific Religions, Officially or Unofficially](#)."

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Egypt](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

However, government favoritism has barely increased in the Middle East over the course of the study, partly because it started at such a high level that there was not much room for growth on the scale. In the other four major geographic regions, meanwhile, there have been notable increases in the levels of government favoritism of religious groups.

Some of the largest increases occurred in sub-Saharan Africa. For example, in 2009, Comoros passed a constitutional referendum that declared Islam the state religion.<sup>9</sup> And, in 2014, a concordat between the island nation of Cabo Verde and the Vatican granted privileges to the Catholic Church that were not available to other groups. The agreement allowed for “Catholic educational institutions, charitable activities, and pastoral work in military, hospitals, and penal institutions, as well as Catholic teaching in public schools.” It also provided tax exemptions for Catholic properties and places of worship.<sup>10</sup>

In the Asia-Pacific region, government favoritism of particular religious groups also has increased since 2007. In Thailand, a new constitution came into force in 2017 with a provision that elevates the status of Theravada Buddhism by mandating “special promotion” through “education, propagation of its principles, and the establishment of measures and mechanisms ‘to prevent the desecration of Buddhism in any form.’”<sup>11</sup> There also has been an increase in Asian governments deferring to religious authorities, texts and doctrines since 2007. For instance, in Turkey, the government passed a law in 2017 giving Muslim religious authorities at the province and district level the authority to register marriages and officiate at weddings on behalf of the state.<sup>12</sup> The government contended that this would make the registration process more efficient, while critics argued that it violated principles of secularism in the country’s constitution and did not meet the needs of other (non-Muslim) religious groups.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> U.S. Department of State. Oct. 26, 2009. “[Comoros](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2009.

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Department of State. Oct. 14, 2015. “[Cabo Verde](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2014.

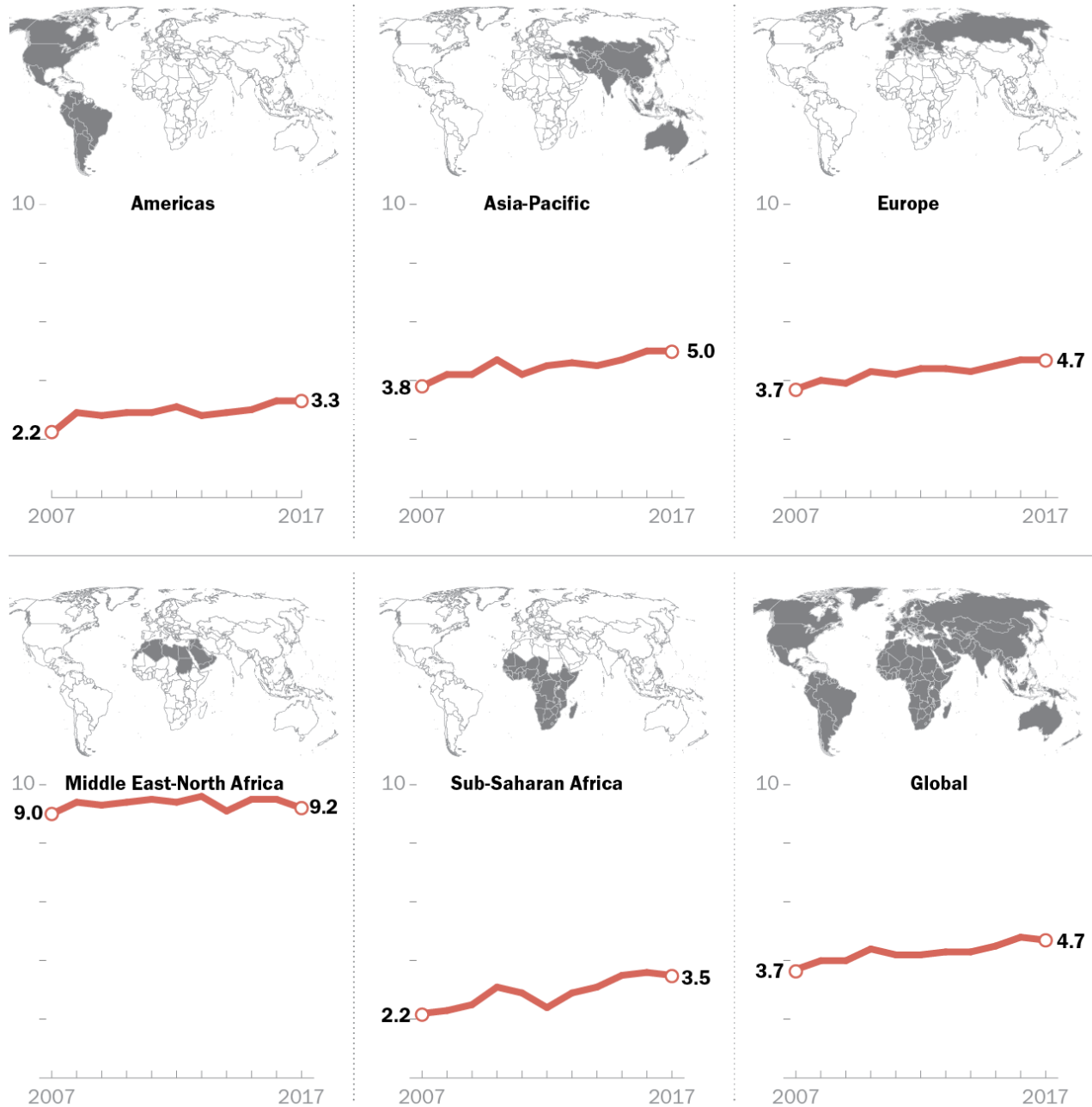
<sup>11</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Thailand](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>12</sup> Turkey is included in the Asia-Pacific region in this analysis. For a full list of countries by region, see Appendix C.

<sup>13</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Turkey](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

## Government favoritism of religious groups highest in Middle East, rising elsewhere

*Regional mean scores measuring government favoritism of religious groups, 2007-2017*



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
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Most countries with the highest scores in government favoritism as of 2017 (including Afghanistan, Bahrain and Bangladesh) have Islam as their official state religion.<sup>14</sup> This dovetails with an [earlier finding](#) that, as of 2015, Islam is the most common state religion around the world; in 27 of the 43 countries that enshrine an official religion (63%), that religion is Islam.

But not *all* the countries on this list favor Islam. In Greece, Iceland and the United Kingdom, different Christian denominations are the official state religions. The Greek government recognizes the Orthodox Church as the “prevailing religion” and funds the training of clergy, priests’ salaries and religious instruction in schools.<sup>15</sup> Iceland’s government provides the official state Evangelical Lutheran Church with financial support and benefits not available to other religious groups.<sup>16</sup> And in the UK, the monarch is the supreme governor of the Church of England, and must be a member of that church.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Countries with the highest scores are the top 10 countries (plus ties) in the category in 2017.

<sup>15</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Greece](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>16</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Iceland](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>17</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[United Kingdom](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

At the country level, one of the largest increases since 2007 in the favoritism category occurred in the Pacific island nation of Samoa. In 2011, the Samoan government began to enforce a 2009 education policy that makes Christian instruction mandatory in public primary schools.<sup>18</sup> And, in 2017, Samoa's parliament amended the constitution to define the country as a Christian nation.<sup>19</sup>

For a full list of countries' scores in this and other categories, see Appendix E.

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## Countries with high levels of favoritism of religious groups

*Top 10 countries (plus ties) with highest scores measuring government favoritism of religious groups in 2017*

Afghanistan  
Bahrain  
Bangladesh  
Greece  
Iceland  
Iraq  
Kuwait  
Malaysia  
Maldives  
Mauritania  
Morocco  
Oman  
Pakistan  
Palestinian territories  
Saudi Arabia  
Sudan  
United Kingdom  
Western Sahara

Note: There is a different number of countries listed for each category because all tied countries are included.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details. "A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World"

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<sup>18</sup> U.S. Department of State. July 30, 2012. "[Samoa](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2011.

<sup>19</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Samoa](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

## Government laws and policies restricting religious freedom

Along with favoritism, the broad category of “government laws and policies restricting religious freedom” includes some of the most common types of restrictions identified by the study. These restrictions can range from a constitution’s stated commitment to religious freedom (or lack thereof) to the regulation or registration of religious groups.

Again, the Middle East-North Africa region has higher levels of these restrictions than other regions, although after an initial rise from 2007 to 2008, the overall level of government laws and policies restricting religious freedom has been relatively stable in the MENA region as a whole. Other regions have seen recent increases in restrictions in this category – particularly sub-Saharan Africa, which experienced a sharp rise in government laws and policies restricting religious freedom between 2014 and 2017.

Rules on government registration of religious groups contributed heavily to the high scores in this category across all regions. Many countries require some form of registration for religious groups to operate, and at least four-in-ten countries in the Americas and more than half the countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the Asia-Pacific region and Europe had a registration process in 2017 that, at a minimum, adversely affected the ability of some groups to carry out their religious activities. In the Middle East and North Africa, this was the case in more than eight-in-ten countries.

In some cases, governments recognize only a specific set of religious groups and deny registration (and, hence, official recognition) to all others. Elsewhere, bureaucratic hurdles create cumbersome registration processes that disadvantage particular groups. For example, in Eritrea, the government recognizes and registers only four religious groups — the Eritrean Orthodox Church, Sunni Islam, the Roman Catholic Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Eritrea — and since 2002 no other groups have been registered or allowed to perform religious activities and

### Questions considered in this category

- Does the constitution, or law that functions in the place of a constitution (basic law), specifically provide for “freedom of religion” or include language used in Article 18 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights?
- Does the constitution or basic law include stipulations that appear to qualify or substantially contradict the concept of “religious freedom”?
- Taken together, how do the constitution/basic law and other national laws and policies affect religious freedom?
- Does the national government have an established organization to regulate or manage religious affairs?
- Does any level of government ask religious groups to register for any reason, including to be eligible for benefits such as tax exemption?

services.<sup>20</sup> And in Belarus, where there are extensive bureaucratic and legal requirements to be recognized, minority religious groups, such as Jehovah's Witnesses and some Baptist groups, remain unregistered and face difficulties in carrying out religious activities.<sup>21</sup>

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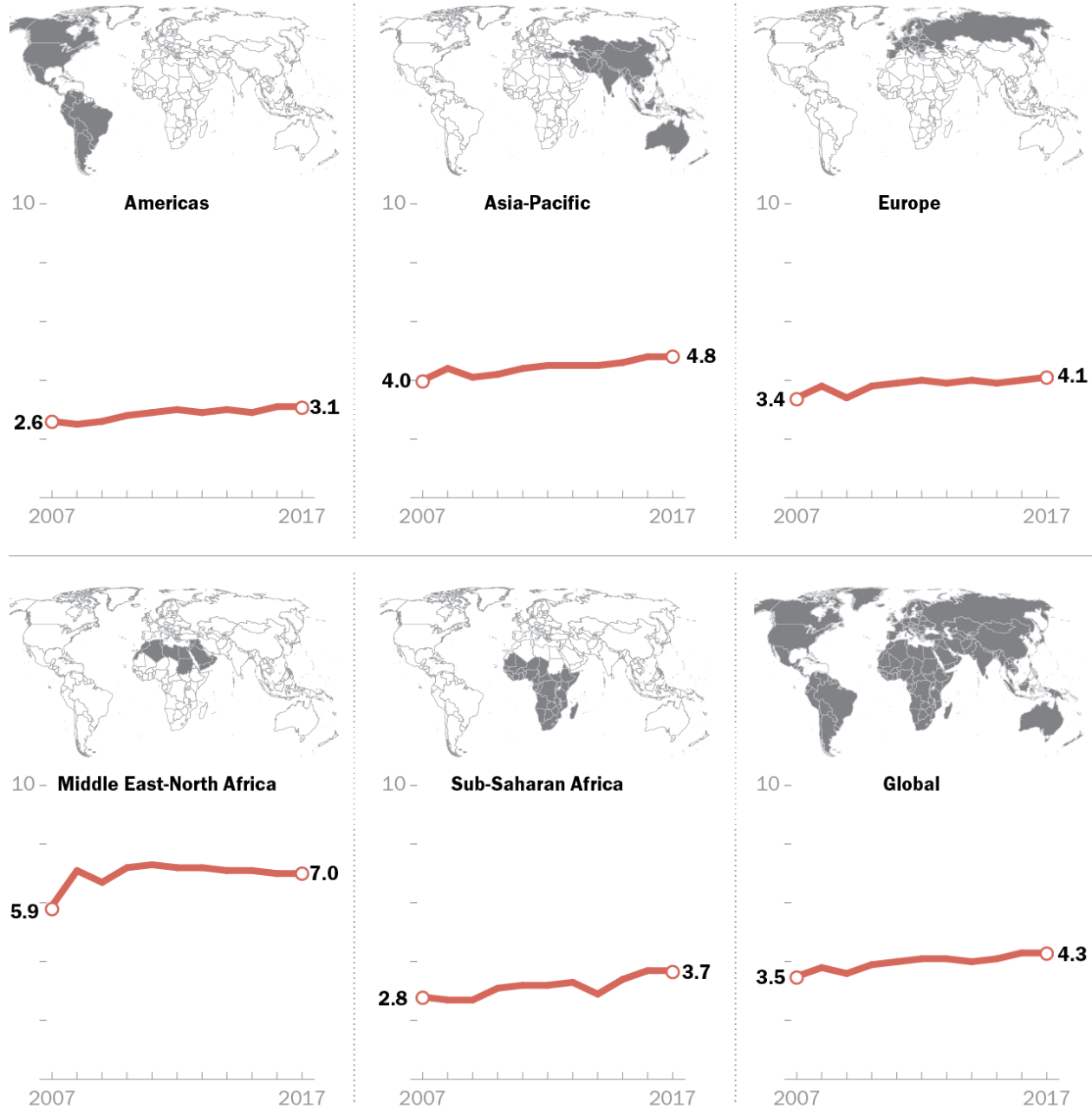
<sup>20</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Eritrea](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>21</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Belarus](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.



## General laws, policies restricting religious freedom increased across all regions

*Regional mean scores measuring laws and policies restricting religious freedom, 2007-2017*



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
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The countries with the highest scores in the category of laws and policies restricting religious freedom are spread across Asia, the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa. In China, for example, only certain religious groups are allowed to register with the government and hold worship services. In order to do this, they must belong to one of five state-sponsored “patriotic religious associations” (Buddhist, Taoist, Muslim, Catholic and Protestant). However, there were reports that the Chinese government arrested, tortured and physically abused members of both registered and unregistered religious groups.<sup>22</sup>

In Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, a new counterterrorism law published in November 2017 criminalizes “anyone who challenges, either directly or indirectly, the religion or justice of the King or Crown Prince,” and prohibits “the promotion of atheistic ideologies in any form,” “any attempt to cast doubt on the fundamentals of Islam” and publications that “contradict the provisions of Islamic law.” Indeed, public practice of all non-Muslim religions is illegal in the country, including public worship, proselytization and display of religious symbols. It is also illegal for Muslims to convert to another religion.<sup>23</sup>

Since 2007, Hungary has experienced a large increase in its score in this category. A new law in 2012 changed the registration process for religious groups and effectively deregistered more than 350 groups, adversely affecting their finances and ability to offer charitable social services.<sup>24</sup>

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## Countries with most restrictive laws and policies toward religious freedom

*Top 10 countries (plus ties) with highest scores measuring laws and policies restricting religious freedom in 2017*

Eritrea  
Maldives  
Mauritania  
Thailand  
China  
Syria  
Comoros  
Saudi Arabia  
Algeria  
Brunei  
Egypt  
Iran  
Israel  
Kazakhstan  
Kuwait  
Laos  
Malaysia  
Qatar  
Tunisia  
Turkey  
Uzbekistan  
Western Sahara

Note: There is a different number of countries listed for each category because all tied countries are included.  
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
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<sup>22</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[China](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>23</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Saudi Arabia](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>24</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 20, 2013. “[Hungary](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2012.

## Government limits on activities of religious groups and individuals

There has been a bigger increase in government limits on religious activities – such as restrictions on religious dress, public or private worship or religious literature – in Europe than in any other region during the course of the study.<sup>25</sup>

A growing number of European countries have placed restrictions on religious dress, with regulations that can range from prohibitions on wearing religious symbols or clothing in photographs for official documents or in public service jobs to national bans on religious dress in public places. In 2007, five countries were reported to have such restrictions in Europe, but by 2017, that number had increased to 20 countries. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, for example, employees of judicial institutions are prohibited from wearing “religious insignia” at work, including headscarves.<sup>26</sup> And in France, a ban on full-face coverings was implemented in 2011; the ban prohibits Muslim women from wearing the burqa or niqab in public.<sup>27</sup>

### Questions considered in this category

- Does any level of government interfere with worship or other religious practices?
- Is public preaching by religious groups limited by any level of government?
- Is proselytizing limited by any level of government?
- Is converting from one religion to another limited by any level of government?
- Is religious literature or broadcasting limited by any level of government?
- Are foreign missionaries allowed to operate?
- Is the wearing of religious symbols, such as scarves or coverings for women and facial hair for men, regulated by law or by any level of government?

The number of European governments that interfered in worship or other religious practices also has been on the rise since 2007. In Moldova, for example, several local councils in 2012 banned Muslim worship in public.<sup>28</sup> And that same year in the United Kingdom, the high court found that a Scientologist’s allegation of discrimination was not valid after the Church of Scientology was barred from holding legal marriage ceremonies because it was not “a place of meeting for religious worship.”<sup>29</sup> Meanwhile, in Germany and Slovenia, Muslim and Jewish groups protested government interference in circumcision of boys. In Germany, a district court ruling in Cologne in 2012 criminalized male circumcision for nonmedical reasons, classifying it as assault. Following

<sup>25</sup> It is possible for a particular limit to fall into multiple categories. For example, a law that restricts head or face coverings for women would fall into this category as well as the next one (government harassment of religious groups) if it is actively enforced. Whenever possible, coders try to avoid counting restrictions as part of two categories. See Methodology for more details on the coding process.

<sup>26</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Bosnia and Herzegovina](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>27</sup> U.S. Department of State. July 30, 2012. “[France](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2011.

<sup>28</sup> Amnesty International. “[Annual Report: Moldova 2013](#).” The State of the World’s Human Rights.

<sup>29</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 20, 2013. “[United Kingdom](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2012.

complaints, the federal government introduced a new law later in the year to address the concerns of both Muslims and Jews by allowing the practice for religious reasons.<sup>30</sup> And in Slovenia, Muslim and Jewish groups accused the Slovenian ombudswoman for human rights – a government figure – of religious discrimination after she called child circumcision a criminal offense.<sup>31</sup>

Government limits on religious activities also have increased markedly in the Americas, where the number of countries where governments interfered with worship rose from 16 in 2007 to 28 in 2017. In Canada, for example, the Supreme Court denied constitutional protection to a territory of spiritual significance to the indigenous Ktunaxa Nation in 2017. The Ktunaxa Nation had in 2012 sought a judicial review of a decision to approve the construction of a ski resort on land that was central to their faith, claiming it would impinge on their religious practices and violate their religious freedom.<sup>32</sup>

In other regions, too, government limits on religious activities have risen over the course of the study. This includes the Middle East-North Africa region. For instance, limits on public preaching have increased notably since 2007, when 13 countries were reported to have such restrictions. In 2017, 18 out of 20 countries in the region reportedly limited public preaching. These types of restrictions are not limited to minority faiths. In Jordan, for example, the government monitored sermons at mosques and required preachers to abstain from talking about politics to avoid social and political unrest and to counter extremist views. The Jordanian government began distributing themes and recommended texts for sermons to imams at mosques in 2017, and those who did not follow the recommendations were subject to fines and preaching bans.<sup>33</sup>

Additionally, in sub-Saharan Africa, the government has increasingly regulated the wearing of religious clothing. In 2015, four countries — Cameroon, Chad, the Republic of Congo and Niger — banned Islamic veils for women in response to terror attacks within their borders.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 20, 2013. "[Germany](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2012.

<sup>31</sup> European Network Against Racism. "[Racism and related discriminatory practices in Slovenia](#)." European Network Against Racism Shadow Report 2011-2012.

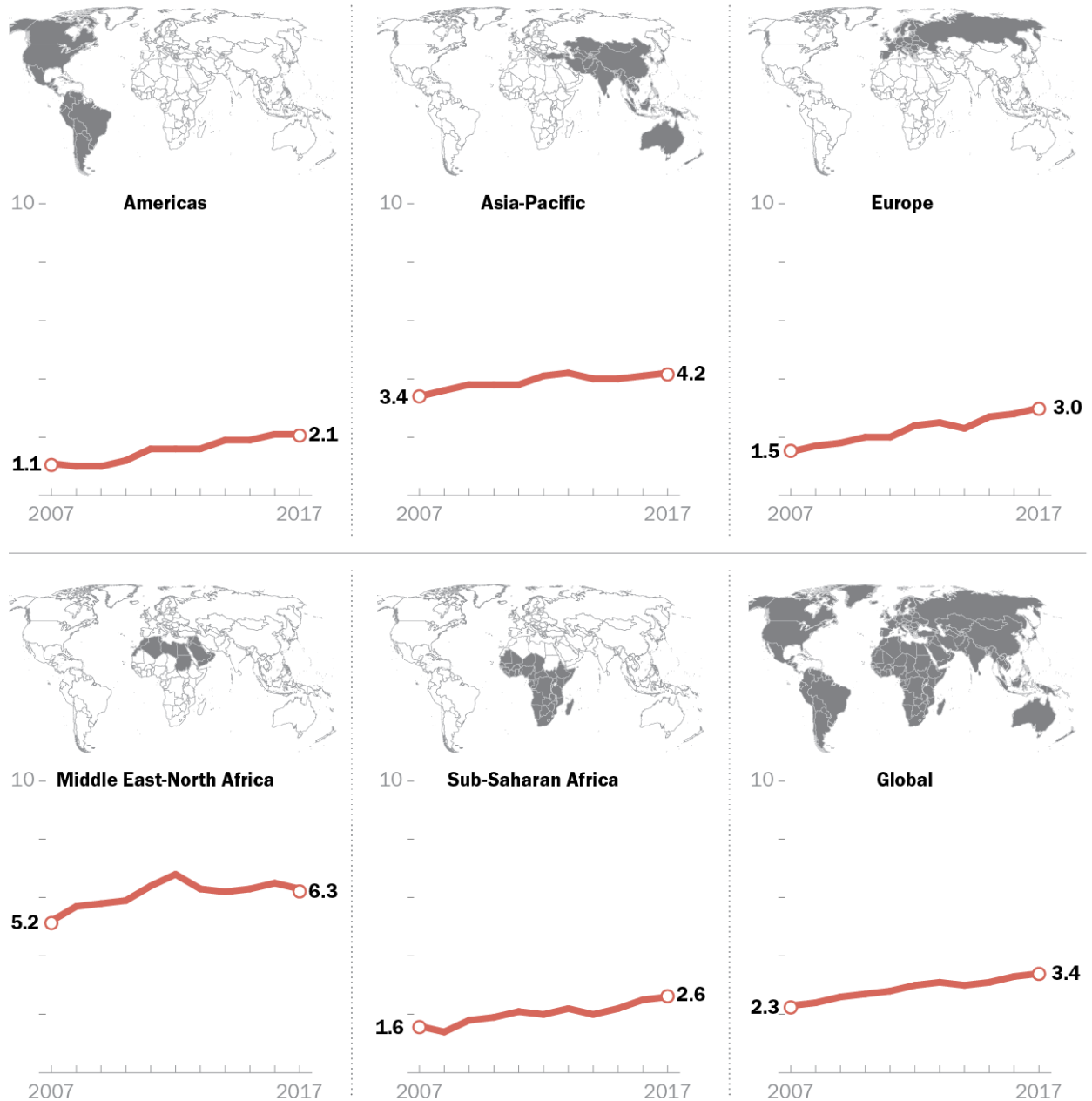
<sup>32</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Canada](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>33</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Jordan](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>34</sup> See Sidebar: Rising restrictions and hostilities in sub-Saharan Africa in Pew Research Center, April 11, 2017, "[Global Restrictions on Religion Rise Modestly in 2015, Reversing Downward Trend](#)."

## Europe's average score measuring government limits on religious activity has doubled

*Regional mean scores measuring government limits on religious activity, 2007-2017*



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
 "A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World"

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Among the countries with the highest levels of limits on religion, myriad policies restricting religious activities are enforced. In the Maldives, for example, it is a criminal offense to promote a religion other than Islam, punishable by up to five years in jail.<sup>35</sup> And in Laos, religious groups must get permission from the government in order to gather, hold religious services, build houses of worship and establish new congregations.<sup>36</sup>

Restrictions in this category also are common across Central Asia. As of 2017, the government in Turkmenistan continued to deny visas to foreigners if they were suspected of intending to do missionary work; the government also prevented the importation of religious literature.<sup>37</sup> Similarly, in Uzbekistan, a government agency continued to block the importation of both Christian and Islamic literature.<sup>38</sup> And a Kazakh law states that production, publication and dissemination of religious literature is allowed only after approval from the government.<sup>39</sup>

Spain has experienced some of the largest increases in its score for government limits on religious activities since 2007. In 2010, several cities in Catalonia introduced bans on the burqa and niqab (full-body and head coverings) as well as face-covering veils in public buildings. Additionally, the country's largest opposition party also proposed a ban on the niqab in all public places, though it was ultimately rejected.<sup>40</sup> And, in more recent years, religious groups such as Latter-day Saints (sometimes called Mormons) and Jehovah's Witnesses have faced restrictions on public preaching and proselytizing from local governments in Spain.<sup>41</sup>

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## Countries with most limits on religious activities of religious groups and individuals

*Top 10 countries (plus ties) with highest scores measuring limits on religious activities in 2017*

China  
Maldives  
Kazakhstan  
Saudi Arabia  
Singapore  
Turkmenistan  
Algeria  
Azerbaijan  
Laos  
Sudan  
Uzbekistan

Note: There is a different number of countries listed for each category because all tied countries are included.  
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
"A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World"

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<sup>35</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Maldives](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>36</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Laos](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>37</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Turkmenistan](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>38</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Uzbekistan](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>39</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Kazakhstan](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>40</sup> U.S. Department of State. Sept. 13, 2011. "[Spain](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2010.

<sup>41</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Spain](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

## Government harassment of religious groups

Not only are there higher levels of government harassment of religious groups in the Middle East-North Africa region compared with other regions, but MENA also has experienced the biggest increase in this category since the baseline year. This category measures types of harassment ranging from violence and intimidation to verbal denunciations of religious groups and formal bans on certain groups.

An increasing number of governments in MENA have reportedly used force against religious groups (including detention and forced displacement) since 2007. In Algeria, for example, more than 280 Ahmadis were prosecuted due to their religious beliefs in 2017.<sup>42</sup> And in the same year in Saudi Arabia, authorities began to demolish a 400-year-old Shiite majority neighborhood and displaced thousands of people in what the government described as counterterrorism efforts.<sup>43</sup>

The Asia-Pacific region also stands out as relatively high in this category. For example, in 2017 alone, harassment or intimidation of religious groups by governments was reported in 86% of countries in the region.<sup>44</sup> This measure includes long-term, ongoing harassment of religious minorities in some countries, which continued in 2017. For example, in China, hundreds of thousands of Uighur Muslims reportedly were sent to “reeducation camps.”<sup>45</sup> Religion-related harassment in Burma (Myanmar) also has received global attention in recent years. In 2017, there were numerous reports of large-scale abuses against the Rohingya, a Muslim ethnic minority in the country. The military reportedly carried out extrajudicial killings, rapes, torture, beatings, arbitrary arrests and

### Questions considered in this category

- Was there harassment or intimidation of religious groups by any level of government?
- Did the national government display hostility involving physical violence toward minority or non-approved religious groups?
- Were there instances when the national government did not intervene in cases of [social] discrimination or abuses against religious groups?
- Did the national government denounce one or more religious groups by characterizing them as dangerous “cults” or “sects”?
- Does any level of government formally ban any religious group?
- Were there instances when the national government attempted to eliminate an entire religious group’s presence in the country?
- Did any level of government use force toward religious groups that resulted in individuals being killed, physically abused, imprisoned, detained or displaced from their homes, or having their personal or religious properties damaged or destroyed?

<sup>42</sup> Amnesty International. Feb. 22, 2018. “[Annual Report: Algeria 2017/2018](#).” The State of the World’s Human Rights.

<sup>43</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Saudi Arabia](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>44</sup> For details on this government harassment measure, within the broader harassment category, see Methodology and GRI Question 11 in Appendix D. This measure is one of seven that make up the government harassment restriction category in this report.

<sup>45</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[China](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.



detentions, and restrictions on religious practice, which contributed to large-scale displacement. There also were reports that Rohingya were denied citizenship.<sup>46</sup>

Harassment also increased in Europe and Americas since the baseline year of the study, particularly between 2014 and 2016. For example, in 2015, religious groups in 38 out of 45 countries (84%) in Europe experienced at least limited levels of harassment, compared with 32 countries (71%) the previous year. Some incidents of government harassment — which can include derogatory statements and intimidation by public officials — were in response to record numbers of migrants entering Europe in 2015. For example, in the Netherlands, opposition parliamentarian Geert Wilders campaigned against the “Islamization of the West,” and in September 2015 led a protest against a “tsunami of refugees from Islamic countries who threaten our women and our civilization.”<sup>47</sup>

In the Americas, the sharpest increase in the government harassment category occurred between 2015 and 2016. That year, there was at least limited harassment in 32 countries, compared with 28 countries in 2015. In Cuba, for instance, members of religious groups advocating for greater religious and political freedom reportedly were threatened by the government.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Burma](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

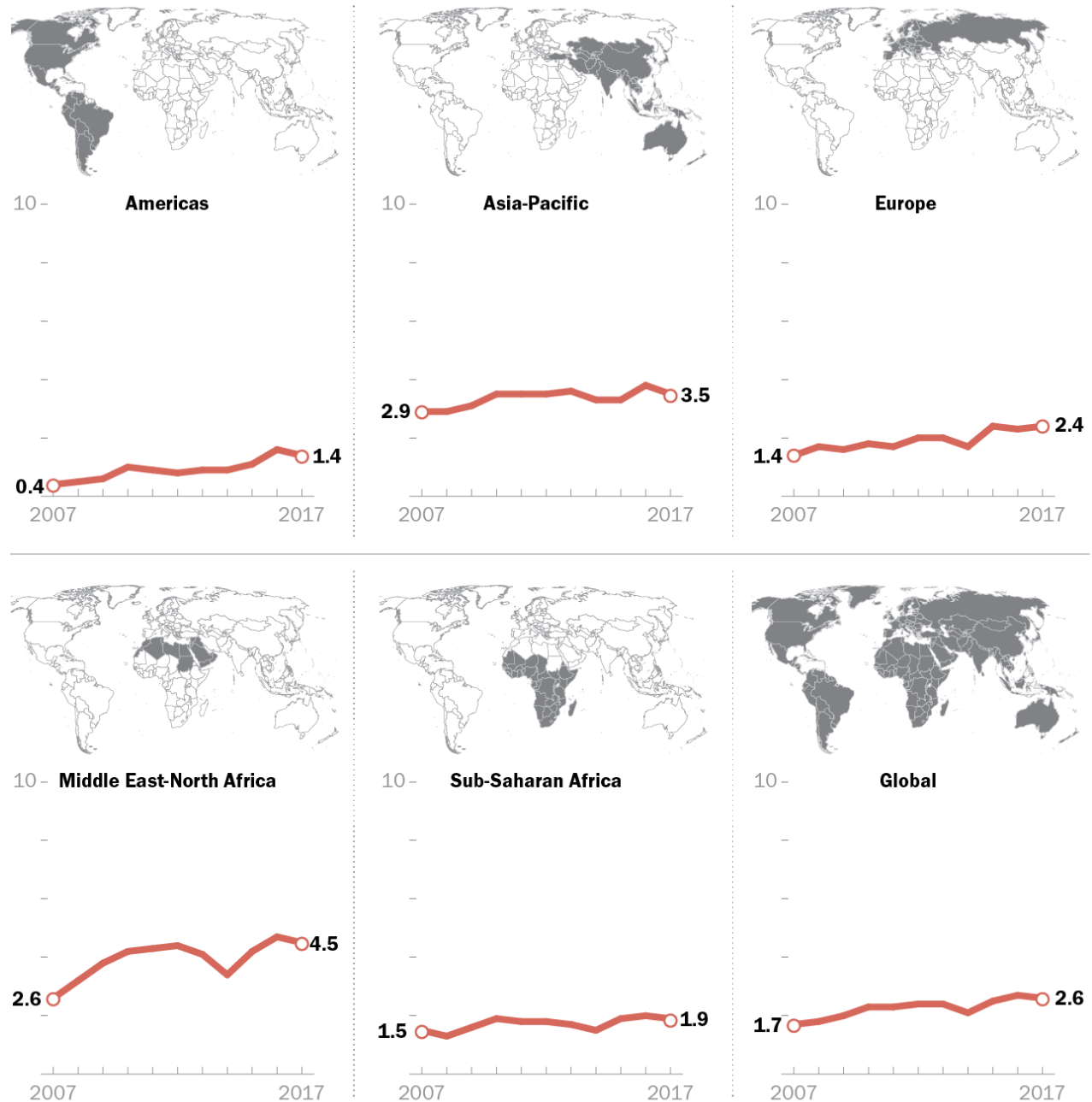
<sup>47</sup> U.S. Department of State. Aug. 10, 2016. “[Netherlands](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2015. See also Pew Research Center’s 2017 report, “[Global Restrictions on Religion Rise Modestly in 2015, Reversing Downward Trend](#).”

<sup>48</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Cuba](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.



## Average score measuring government harassment of religious groups has increased in every region since baseline year

*Regional mean scores measuring government harassment of religious groups, 2007-2017*



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
"A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World"

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Harassment of religious groups is particularly high in Iran, where authorities have labeled Baha'is as "heretical" and "filthy," and Russia, where police have raided religious minorities' homes and places of worship.<sup>49</sup> In Indonesia, local governments continued efforts to force conversions of Ahmadi Muslims by requiring them to sign forms renouncing their beliefs before they could register marriages or participate in the hajj pilgrimage.<sup>50</sup>

When it comes to increases since 2007 in this category, Bahrain stands out. Anti-government protests that began in 2011 took on a sectarian dimension, with the Sunni government targeting mostly Shiite opposition protesters and religious leaders. In 2016, the government carried out a security operation in a predominantly Shiite village where protesters were demonstrating in support of the country's most senior Shiite cleric, whose citizenship had been revoked. Authorities cut off access to the village, used live ammunition to clear the area and killed five civilians, injured many others, and arrested nearly 300 people.<sup>51</sup>

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## Countries with high levels of government harassment of religious groups

*Top 10 countries (plus ties) with highest scores measuring harassment of religious groups and individuals in 2017*

Iran  
Russia  
Malaysia  
Vietnam  
Indonesia  
China  
Syria  
Egypt  
Tajikistan  
Uzbekistan

Note: There is a different number of countries listed for each category because all tied countries are included.  
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
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<sup>49</sup> Amnesty International. Feb. 22, 2018. "[Annual Report: Iran 2017/2018](#)." The State of the World's Human Rights. See also U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Russia](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>50</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Indonesia](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>51</sup> U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. April 25, 2018. "[Bahrain](#)." 2018 Annual Report.

## Categories of social hostilities involving religion

The **Social Hostilities Index** measures acts of religious hostility by private individuals, organizations or groups in society. The SHI includes 13 measures of social hostilities, grouped into the following categories:

### Hostilities related to religious norms

Social hostilities involving religion have been consistently high in the Middle East-North Africa region compared with other regions throughout the length of the study. This is true across all four subcategories of social hostilities.

But social hostilities in MENA have been relatively stable between 2007 and 2017. Meanwhile, the largest *increase* in the category of social hostilities related to religious norms – and, in fact, in any category – occurred in Europe.

In 2007, just four European countries were reported to have individuals or groups who used violence, or threat of violence, to try to force others to accept their own religious practices and beliefs; by 2017, it had risen to 15 countries. For example, in the United Kingdom in 2016, a Sunni Muslim man killed an Ahmadi Muslim shopkeeper because he had “disrespected the Prophet Muhammad.”<sup>52</sup> And in

Ukraine in 2015, separatists held four Jehovah’s Witnesses at gunpoint, subjected them to beatings and mock executions and forced them to confess Orthodox Christianity as the only true religion.<sup>53</sup>

There also was an increase in assaults on individuals for religious expression considered offensive or threatening to the majority faith. In 2007, six European countries were reported to have such hostilities; by 2017, that number had climbed to 25 (out of a total of 45 countries in Europe). In Belgium, a rabbi reported in 2016 that stones were thrown at him and a friend because he was

### Questions considered in this category

- Did individuals or groups use violence or the threat of violence, including so-called honor killings, to try to enforce religious norms?
- Were individuals assaulted or displaced from their homes in retaliation for religious activities, including preaching and other forms of religious expression, considered offensive or threatening to the majority faith?
- Were women harassed for violating religious dress codes?
- Were there incidents of hostility over proselytizing?
- Were there incidents of hostility over conversions from one religion to another?

<sup>52</sup> U.S. Department of State. Aug. 15, 2017. “[United Kingdom](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2016.

<sup>53</sup> U.S. Department of State. April 13, 2016. “[Ukraine](#).” 2015 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

“visibly Jewish.”<sup>54</sup> The previous year, a young Jewish man wearing a yarmulke was assaulted by two men. And in a separate incident, a Muslim woman was attacked by two women who took off her veil and verbally abused her for being Muslim.<sup>55</sup>

In sub-Saharan Africa, hostilities related to religious norms also have risen since the baseline year of the study. In 2007, incidents of violence used to enforce religious norms were reported in eight countries, while in 2017, 31 out of 48 countries in the region experienced this type of hostility. In Burkina Faso, for example, armed men entered classrooms in multiple schools and threatened to kill teachers if they did not teach the Quran to their students.<sup>56</sup> Killings of people accused of witchcraft also occurred throughout the region. In 2017, there were reports of attacks on people accused of practicing witchcraft in five countries — Angola, Central African Republic, Lesotho, Liberia and South Africa.

Since 2007, there also has been an increase in hostilities over conversions in the region. In 2007, five countries in sub-Saharan Africa experienced such hostilities; by 2017, that number doubled, to 10 countries. In Djibouti, for instance, Christian groups reported that Christian converts faced discrimination in employment and education.<sup>57</sup> And in Nigeria, girls abducted by the terrorist group Boko Haram were subjected to forced religious conversion and other abuses.<sup>58</sup>

There has been a substantial increase in the Americas’ score in this category over the course of this study, but the score started from a very low base in 2007 and remains substantially lower than all other regions’ scores.

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<sup>54</sup> U.S. Department of State. Aug. 15, 2017. “[Belgium](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2016.

<sup>55</sup> U.S. Department of State. Aug. 10, 2016. “[Belgium](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2015.

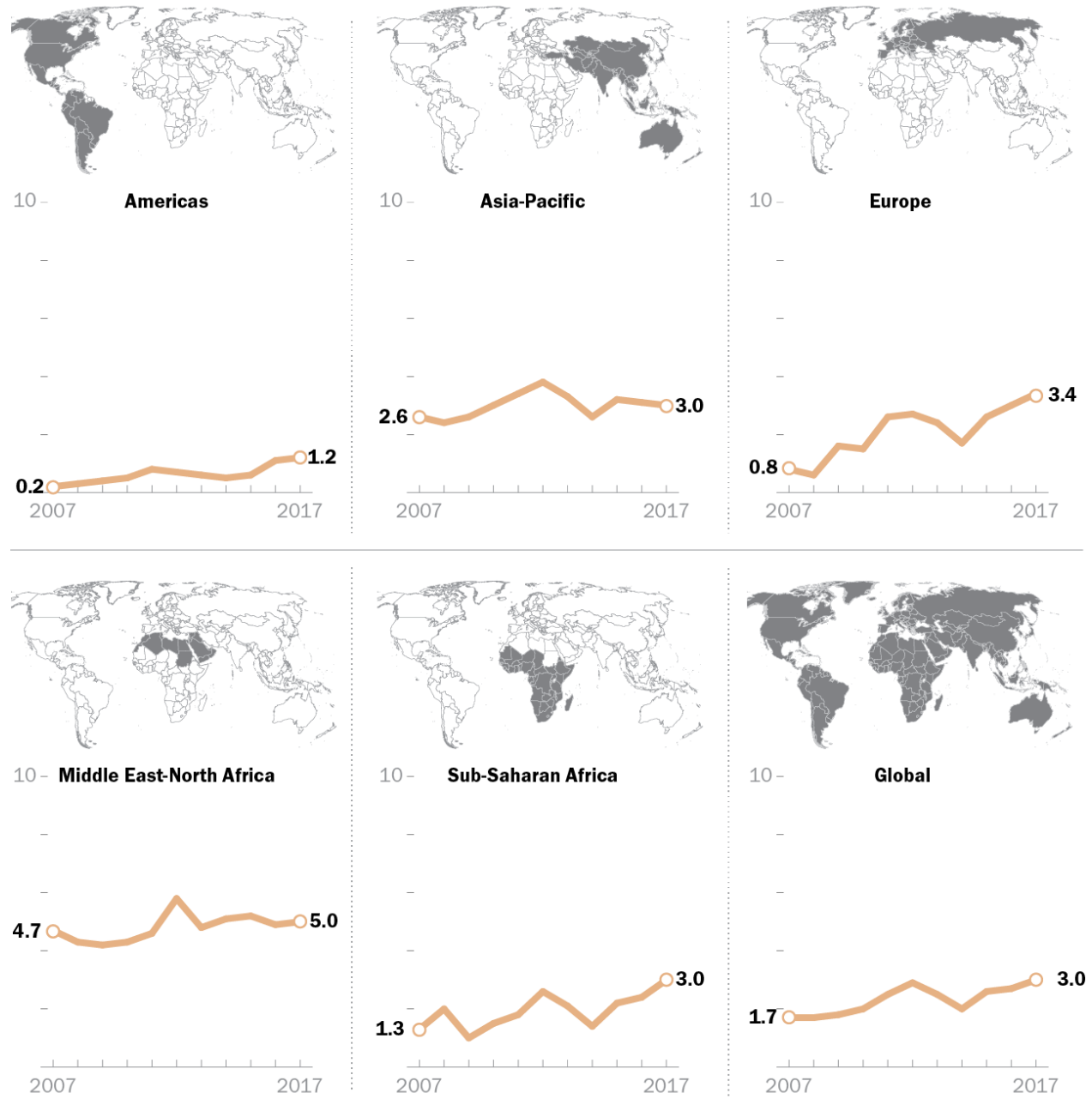
<sup>56</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Burkina Faso](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>57</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Djibouti](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>58</sup> U.S. Department of State. April 20, 2018. “[Nigeria](#).” 2017 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

## Levels of social hostilities related to religious norms have increased most in Americas, Europe and sub-Saharan Africa

*Regional mean scores measuring social hostilities related to religious norms, 2007-2017*



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
 "A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World"

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Several Western European countries rank among those with the highest scores in the category of social hostilities related to religious norms. In Germany, for instance, one sociologist estimated that there were thousands of conversions to Christianity – more than during all of the previous 50 years – linked to the rising number of refugees. Religious groups reportedly “used refugees’ fear of deportation to promote conversions and incentivized them by offering accelerated baptism, free lunch and transportation costs,” according to a radio program cited by the U.S. State Department’s annual report on religious freedom.<sup>59</sup> In France, Jehovah’s Witnesses faced violence when proselytizing door to door or engaging in other missionary activity.<sup>60</sup> And in Russia, following a Supreme Court ban on Jehovah’s Witnesses in 2017, several threats and attacks on the group were reported. The Russian Orthodox Church supported the ban, saying it would combat the “spread of cultist ideas, which have nothing in common with Christian religion.”<sup>61</sup>

Elsewhere, the Taliban in Afghanistan killed or threatened Sunni clerics for preaching messages the Taliban considered un-Islamic, and in 2015, some Algerians promised “retribution” against women who went out uncovered, threatening to publish pictures of unveiled women on the internet or to attack them by pouring acid on their faces.<sup>62</sup> In Israel, drivers who operated cars near ultra-Orthodox Jewish neighborhoods on the Sabbath reported incidents of harassment, including name-calling and spitting, by ultra-Orthodox residents.<sup>63</sup>

Germany and Uganda had some of the largest increases in social hostilities related to religious norms. In Uganda, for example, Christians were beaten and three were killed for religious reasons in Muslim-majority areas in 2015. The same year, three children were kidnapped because of their father’s conversion from Islam to Christianity.<sup>64</sup> And in 2016, several incidents of violence against

## Countries with high levels of social hostilities related to religious norms

*Top 10 countries (plus ties) with highest scores measuring violence related to religious norms in 2017*

Germany  
India  
Somalia  
Uganda  
Israel  
Afghanistan  
Algeria  
Egypt  
France  
Iraq  
Italy  
Libya  
Russia  
Syria  
Ukraine  
United Kingdom  
Yemen

Note: There is a different number of countries listed for each category because all tied countries are included.  
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
“A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World”

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<sup>59</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Germany](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>60</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[France](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>61</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Russia](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>62</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Afghanistan](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017. See also U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Algeria](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2015.

<sup>63</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Israel](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>64</sup> U.S. Department of State. Aug. 10, 2016. “[Uganda](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2015.

converts were reported, including a woman whose husband strangled her to death for leaving Islam.<sup>65</sup>

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<sup>65</sup> Human Rights Without Frontiers. 2016. "[Uganda](#)." Human Rights Without Frontiers "Freedom of Religion or Belief" newsletters.

## Interreligious tension and violence

Interreligious tension and violence involves acts of sectarian or communal violence *between* religious groups. Such tensions can carry over from year to year, and are not necessarily reciprocal.<sup>66</sup>

Interreligious tension and violence was the most common type of social hostility in the early years of the study. But unlike all other categories of both government restrictions and social hostilities involving religion, interreligious tension and violence has declined since 2007 globally and in most regions (except sub-Saharan Africa), and by 2017, the average country's score was higher in the religious norms category than in this one.

### Questions considered in this category

- Were there acts of sectarian or communal violence between religious groups?
- Did violence result from tensions between religious groups?
- Did religious groups attempt to prevent other religious groups from being able to operate?

In the Asia-Pacific, Europe and Middle East-North Africa regions, the specific measure of tensions that involved numerous cases of physical violence between religious groups dropped in recent years in at least some countries. In Armenia, for instance, no violent attacks against Jehovah's Witnesses were reported in 2017, unlike in 2012, when Jehovah's Witnesses faced an attack from supporters of the Armenian Apostolic Church.<sup>67</sup> And in Tunisia, there were no reported attacks in 2017 by Salafists – who follow fundamentalist interpretations of Sunni Islam – on Sufi and Shiite Muslims, as had been reported in previous years. (This may be in part due to Salafists being closely monitored and restricted by the government after the deadly Bardo Museum attacks in 2015.<sup>68</sup>)

Still, in 2017, more than half of countries in sub-Saharan Africa and the Asia-Pacific region, and more than eight-in-ten countries in the Middle East-North Africa region, experienced some kind of communal tension between religious groups.

<sup>66</sup> For details, see the Methodology.

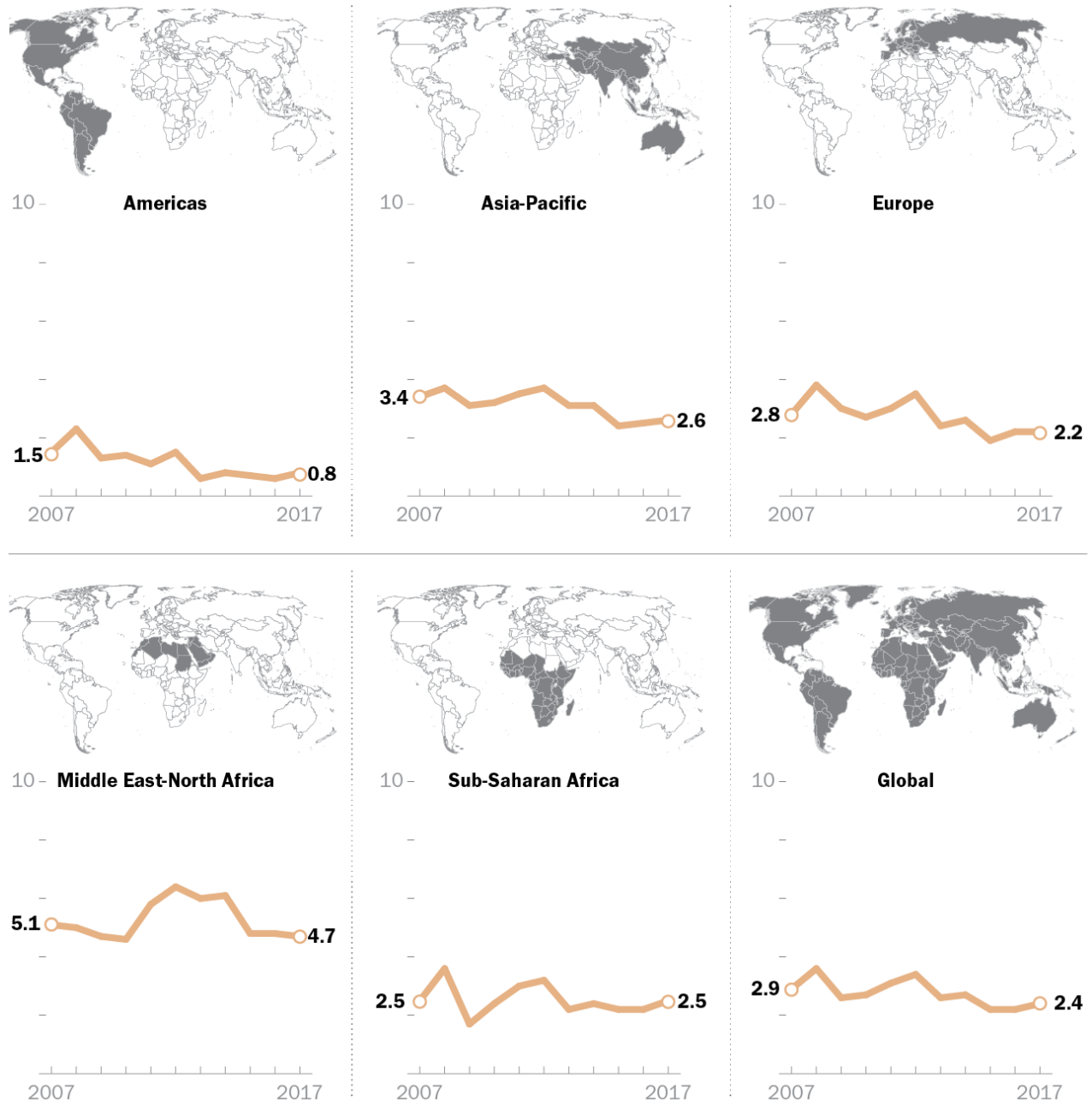
<sup>67</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Armenia](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017. See also U.S. Department of State. Aug. 15, 2017. "[Armenia](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2016. See also U.S. Department of State. May 20, 2013. "[Armenia](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2012.

<sup>68</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Tunisia](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017. See also U.S. Department of State. July 28, 2014. "[Tunisia](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2013.



## Interreligious tension and violence has declined in multiple regions, including Asia-Pacific

*Regional mean scores measuring interreligious tension and violence, 2007-2017*



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
"A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World"

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Communal violence has long been common in India, which continued to score high in this category in 2017. According to media reports, a dispute between two Hindu and Muslim high school students in Gujarat escalated into a mob attack on the village's Muslim residents; homes and vehicles were set on fire and about 50 homes were ransacked by the mob.<sup>69</sup>

There also were tensions between Christians and Muslims in Nigeria – the most populous country in Africa, and one that is almost evenly divided between the two religious groups. For example, Muslim herders carried out retaliatory attacks against Christian farmers after herders said they did not receive justice when the farmers killed members of the herding community and stole their cattle.<sup>70</sup>

In Iraq, there was Sunni-Shiite fighting following the liberation of certain areas from ISIS rule. There were reports that after the city of Tal Afar was freed from ISIS in 2017, Shiite militias arrested, kidnapped and killed Sunnis.<sup>71</sup>

Despite a modest decline in overall interreligious tensions since 2007, there were still some notable increases in this category, particularly in Syria and Ukraine. Syria has been experiencing a civil war since 2011 that has had a large sectarian component, with violence between religious groups reported throughout the conflict.<sup>72</sup> And in Ukraine, tensions between the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP) and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP) along with the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) have persisted. In 2017, UGCC followers and a priest took control of a UOC-MP church, assaulted members and called UOC-MP parishioners “Moscow’s pigs.” UOC-MP leaders also claimed that the UOC-KP continued to seize churches belonging to the UOC-MP.<sup>73</sup>

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## Countries with high levels of interreligious tension and violence

*Top 10 countries (plus ties) with highest scores measuring interreligious tension and violence in 2017*

Burma (Myanmar)  
Central African Republic  
Egypt  
India  
Iraq  
Israel  
Nigeria  
Syria  
Thailand  
Ukraine

Note: There is a different number of countries listed for each category because all tied countries are included.  
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
“A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World”

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<sup>69</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[India](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>70</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Nigeria](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>71</sup> U.S. Department of State. April 20, 2018. “[Iraq](#).” 2017 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

<sup>72</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Syria](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>73</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Ukraine](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

## Religious violence by organized groups

Religious violence by organized groups includes the actions of religion-related terrorist groups, religion-related conflict, and the use of force by organized groups to dominate public life with their perspective on religion. Since 2007, the largest increases in this category of social hostilities have occurred in Europe and the Middle East-North Africa region.

As in all other categories of government restrictions and social hostilities involving religion, the Middle East and North Africa has seen the highest levels of religious violence by organized groups. Over the years, the actions of religion-related terrorist groups have increased especially sharply in this region. In 2007, four countries in this study were recorded as having more than 50 injuries or deaths from religion-related terrorism incidents. By 2017, that figure climbed to 11 of the 20 countries in the region. These include deadly attacks in Egypt in 2017, when armed gunmen carrying the ISIS flag attacked a Sufi mosque in northern Sinai, leaving 311 dead. And on Palm Sunday, suicide bombings at two Coptic churches in the country – which ISIS claimed responsibility for – left 45 people dead.<sup>74</sup>

In Europe, meanwhile, organized groups have increasingly used force or coercion in an attempt to dominate public life with their perspective on religion. In the baseline year of the study, this type of hostility was reported at the local, regional or national level in a total of 21 European countries. By 2017, that figure had risen to 33 countries. For example, in Finland, the Nordic Resistance Movement, a neo-Nazi group, published anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim material and organized small-scale training camps and rallies. They published content on their website asserting that Jews had brought Muslims to Europe and that “Finns must become informed about racial violence against white persons and diseases spread by Muslim immigrants,” according to the U.S. State

### Questions considered in this category

- Were religion-related terrorist groups active in the country?
  - What is the total number of incidents (including deaths, physical abuse, detentions, displacements and property damage) resulting from religion-related terrorism?
- Was there a religion-related war or armed conflict in the country (including ongoing displacements from previous wars)?
  - What is the total number of incidents (including deaths, physical abuse, detentions, displacements and property damage) resulting from religion-related war or armed conflict?
- Did organized groups use force or coercion in an attempt to dominate public life with their perspective on religion, including preventing some religious groups from operating in the country?

<sup>74</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Egypt](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

Department's annual report on religious freedom.<sup>75</sup> The group also organized multiple antireligious activities in Sweden in 2017. In September, roughly 500 supporters of the group marched through the city of Gothenburg on the Jewish holiday Yom Kippur, clashing with police and thousands of counterdemonstrators.<sup>76</sup>

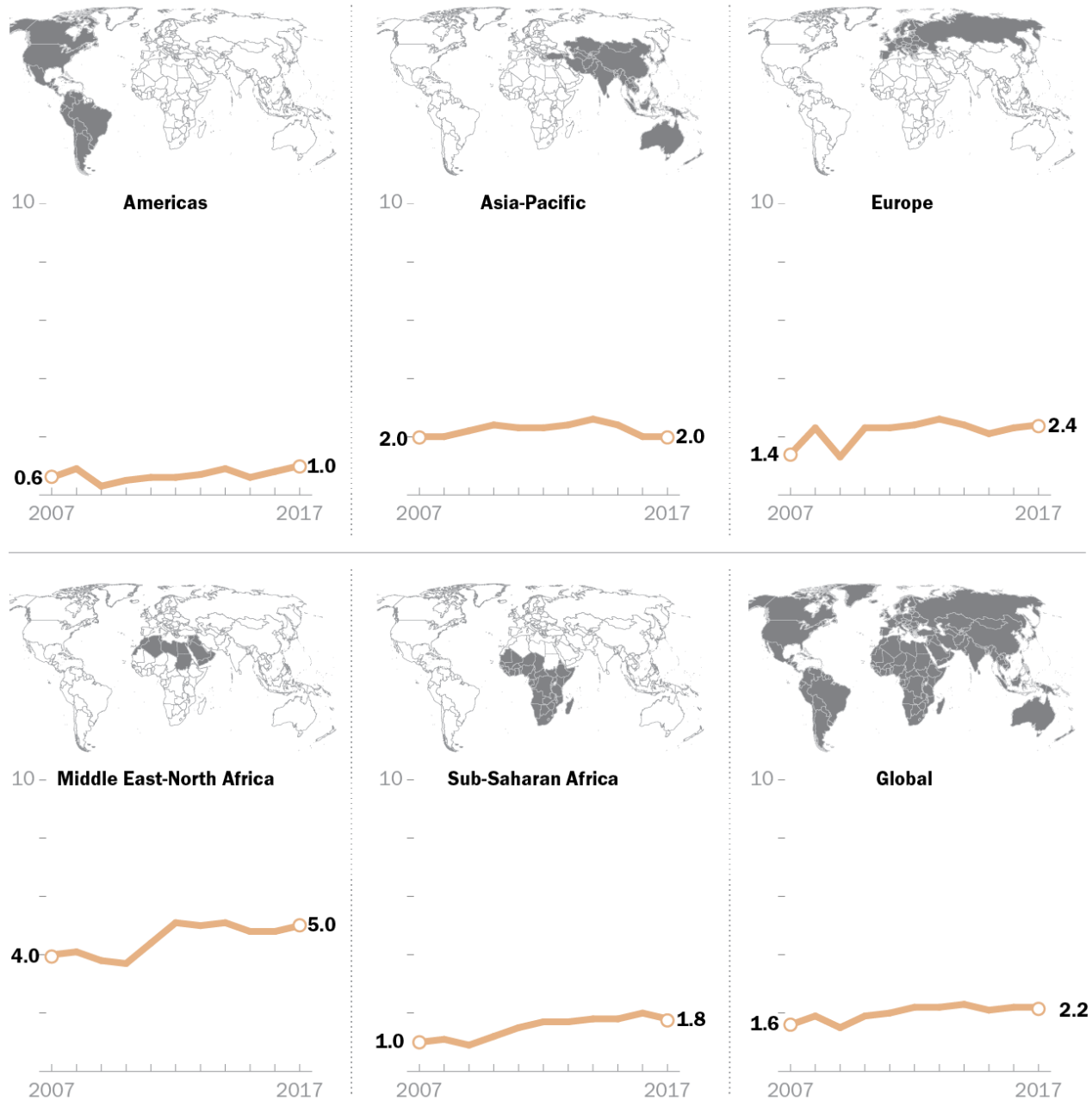
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<sup>75</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Finland](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>76</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Sweden](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

## Middle East has highest levels of religious hostilities by organized groups

*Regional mean scores measuring religion-related hostilities by organized groups, 2007-2017*



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
"A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World"

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Many of the countries with high levels of religious violence by organized groups have active Islamist militant groups within their borders. This includes ISIS and other groups in Syria, al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula in Yemen, al-Shabaab in Somalia, the Taliban in Afghanistan and Hamas in the Palestinian territories.

Nigeria is among the countries with the largest reported increases in religious violence by organized groups since 2007. The Islamist militant group Boko Haram became increasingly active in the country, “committing abuses such as mass killings, kidnappings, sexual assault, forced conversion and forced conscription,” according to the U.S. State Department’s annual report on religious freedom. In a particularly high-profile case in 2014, the group kidnapped more than 200 schoolgirls – who were mostly Christian – from a school in Chibok in Borno state.<sup>77</sup>

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### **Countries with high levels of religious violence by organized groups**

*Top 10 countries (plus ties) with highest scores measuring religious violence by organized groups in 2017*

Syria  
Afghanistan  
Iraq  
Nigeria  
Somalia  
India  
Libya  
Pakistan  
Yemen  
Palestinian territories

Note: There is a different number of countries listed for each category because all tied countries are included.  
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
“A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World”

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<sup>77</sup> U.S. Department of State. Oct. 14, 2015. “[Nigeria](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2014.

## Individual and social group harassment

Social harassment of religious groups is a broad category that ranges from actions by individuals to mob violence.<sup>78</sup> Harassment also can include discrimination or publishing of articles or cartoons that are derogatory toward a certain group. This category also includes property damage, detentions or abductions, displacement, physical assault and deaths of members of religious groups caused by private individuals or social groups.

The Middle East and North Africa again has almost always had the highest levels of hostilities in this category (sub-Saharan Africa had the highest level in 2010). The Americas, meanwhile, has the lowest levels of all the regions, but also has experienced the largest *increase* in this type of hostility since 2007. In Brazil, there were pockets of anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim sentiment in 2017 as well as incidents targeting Afro-Brazilian religions. In the state of Sao Paulo, arsonists burned down an Afro-Brazilian temple in September, one of eight attacks against Afro-Brazilian targets in the state in that month.<sup>79</sup>

There was a considerable uptick in this category in 2012 in the Middle East and North Africa in the aftermath of the Arab Spring uprisings in late 2010 and 2011. The increase was particularly pronounced in Syria, where there was a rise in people being targeted due to their faith, exacerbated by government efforts to quell what had started as anti-government protests. As the conflict worsened and the government increasingly targeted Sunni Muslims, revenge attacks by Sunnis against Alawites — who were seen as supporting the regime — also escalated.<sup>80</sup>

### Questions considered in this category

- Did individuals face harassment or intimidation motivated by religious hatred or bias?
  - Did incidents of religious hatred or bias result in individuals being killed, physically abused, imprisoned, detained or displaced from their homes, or having their personal or religious properties damaged or destroyed?
- Was there mob violence related to religion?

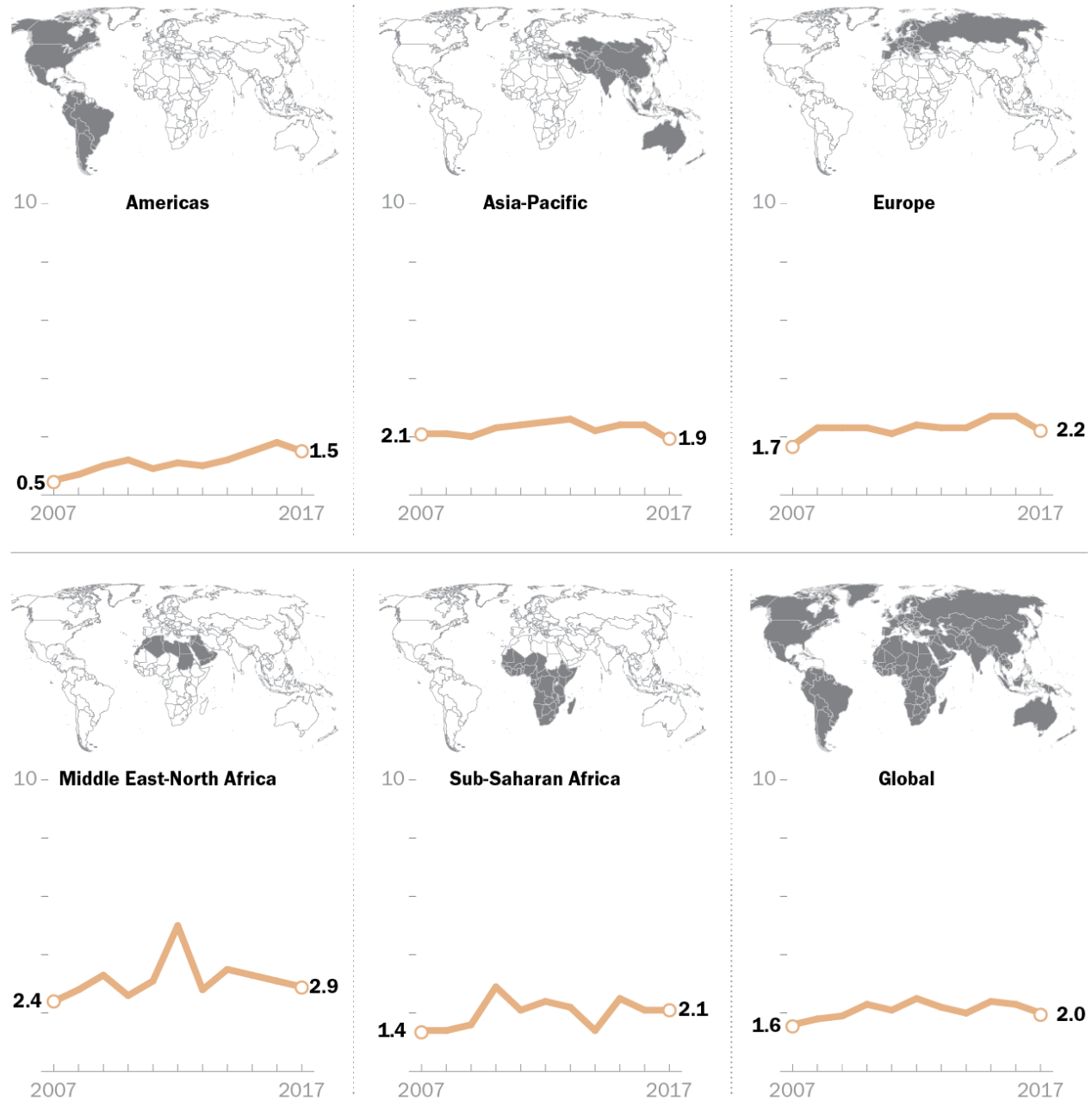
<sup>78</sup> It is possible for a particular incident to fall into this category and another category of social hostilities. For example, some types of harassment could be considered both “individual and social group harassment” and “hostilities related to religious norms.” Whenever possible, coders try to avoid counting restrictions in multiple categories. See Methodology for more details on the coding process.

<sup>79</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Brazil](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>80</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 20, 2013. “[Syria](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2012.

## Social hostilities by individuals, social groups in society ticked up globally since 2007

*Regional mean scores measuring religion-related hostilities by individuals or social groups, 2007-2017*



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
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Some of the countries with the highest levels of individual and social group harassment in 2017 experienced incidents of mob violence, including Bangladesh – where in November 2017 a mob of approximately 20,000 in Rangpur set fire to and vandalized approximately 30 homes belonging to the local Hindu minority community after a Facebook post demeaned the Prophet Muhammad.<sup>81</sup> In Pakistan, there were several incidents of mob attacks in response to accusations of blasphemy.<sup>82</sup>

The U.S. also ranked among the highest-scoring countries in this category in 2017, in part because of the “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, where white supremacists were protesting the removal of a Confederate statue from a park. Protesters expressed anti-Semitic and racist sentiments, displaying swastika flags and chanting “Jews will not replace us!”<sup>83</sup>

Central African Republic experienced a particularly large increase in its score in this category. In the midst of a violent conflict between Christian and Muslim militia forces, there have been widespread killings and displacement of people. Muslims have been disproportionately displaced – approximately 80 percent have been forced to flee the country.<sup>84</sup>

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## Countries with high levels of individual and social group harassment

*Top 10 countries (plus ties) with highest scores measuring individual and social group harassment in 2017*

Central African Republic  
Egypt  
Bangladesh  
India  
Nigeria  
Pakistan  
Iraq  
Syria  
United States  
Angola  
Kenya  
Ukraine

Note: There is a different number of countries listed for each category because all tied countries are included.  
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
“A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World”

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<sup>81</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Bangladesh](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>82</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Pakistan](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>83</sup> Anti-Defamation League. August 2018. “[Charlottesville: One Year Later](#).”

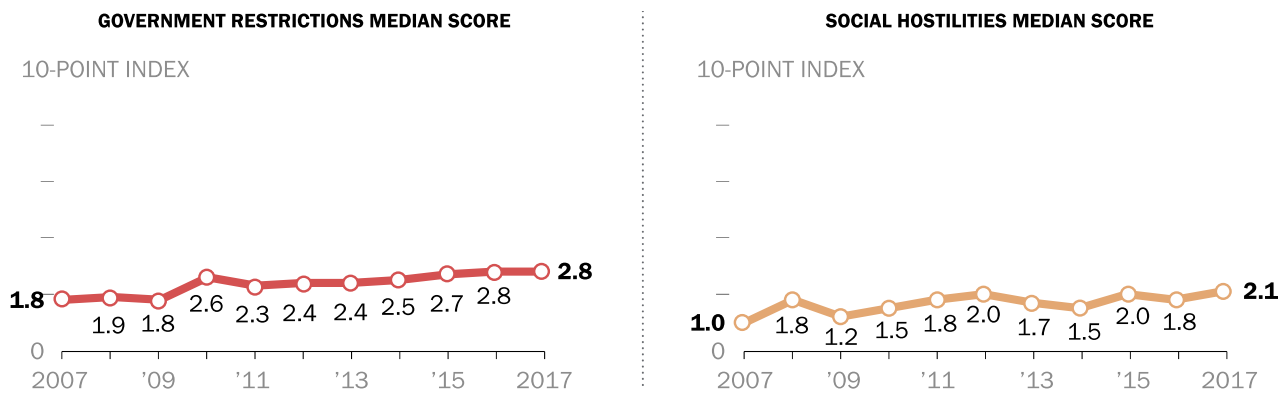
<sup>84</sup> U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. April 25, 2018. “[Central African Republic](#).” 2018 Annual Report.

## Overall restrictions in 2017

Overall, government restrictions on religion and social hostilities involving religion remained fairly stable in 2017, compared with the previous year. This marks the first time there was little change globally after two consecutive years of increases on overall restrictions carried out either by governments or by private groups and individuals.

### Global median level of government restrictions on religion stable between 2016 and 2017

*Global medians across 198 countries for overall scores, 2007-2017*



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
 “A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World”

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In 2017, about a quarter of the 198 countries studied (26%) experienced “high” or “very high” levels of **government restrictions** — that is, laws, policies and actions by government officials that restrict religious beliefs and practices — falling from 28% in 2016. This decrease follows two years of increases in the percentage of countries with high levels of restrictions on religion by these measures (see page 5).

The share of countries with “high” or “very high” levels of **social hostilities** involving religion — that is, acts of religious hostility by private individuals, organizations or groups in society — ticked up from 27% in 2016 to 28% in 2017. This is the largest percentage of countries to have high or very high levels of social hostilities since 2013, but falls well below the 10-year peak of 33% in 2012.

In 2017, 83 countries (42%) experienced high or very high levels of **overall restrictions** on religion, from government actions or hostile acts by private individuals, organizations and social groups. This figure has remained at the same level since 2016 following two years of increases and is just below the 10-year peak of 43% in 2012. As in previous years, most countries continue to have low to moderate levels of overall religious restrictions in 2017.

Looking separately at global median scores can provide another understanding of how religious restrictions are changing. The global median score on the Government Restrictions Index remained the same at 2.8 from 2016 to 2017 after three years of increases. And the global median score on the Social Hostilities Index increased slightly from 1.8 to 2.1 in 2017.

The rest of this report looks more closely at the changes in 2017, the most recent year for which data is available.

## 1. Number of countries with ‘very high’ government restrictions on religion remains at highest levels since 2007

### Countries with the most extensive government restrictions on religion

While most countries have some form of government restrictions involving religion, some countries stand out each year by having particularly high levels of these restrictions. This subset of states may have some similarities with countries in the lower categories of restrictions – for example, both may limit religious activities like worship or public preaching, harass religious groups, or have a religion they favor over others – but the countries with higher levels of restrictions either have a wider variety of government restrictions, or they implement them more severely.

In 2017, 27 of the 198 countries in this study had “very high” levels of government restrictions on religion, an increase from 25

### Countries with very high government restrictions on religion

*Scores of 6.6 or higher on the 10-point Government Restrictions Index*

2016	2017
Algeria	Algeria
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan
Brunei	Brunei
China	China
Egypt	<b>Comoros</b>
Eritrea	Egypt
Indonesia	Eritrea
Iran	Indonesia
Iraq	Iran
Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan
Laos	Laos
Malaysia	Malaysia
Maldives	Maldives
Mauritania	Mauritania
Morocco	Morocco
Burma (Myanmar)	Burma (Myanmar)
Russia	<b>Pakistan</b>
Saudi Arabia	Russia
Singapore	Saudi Arabia
Syria	Singapore
Tajikistan	<b>Sudan</b>
Turkey	Syria
Turkmenistan	Tajikistan
Uzbekistan	Turkey
Western Sahara	Turkmenistan
	Uzbekistan
	<b>Vietnam</b>

Note: Gray indicates a country that had very high government restrictions in 2016 but not in 2017. Bold indicates a country that had very high government restrictions in 2017 but not in 2016.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.

“A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World”

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countries in 2016.<sup>85</sup> This marks the third straight year of increases; 27 is the largest number of countries to fall in this top category of restrictions since Pew Research Center began analyzing restrictions on religion in 2007.

Four countries – Comoros, Pakistan, Sudan and Vietnam – had increased levels of government restrictions in 2017 that led them to join the “very high” category. This is Comoros’ first time in this top category: Comoros’ increase in score (from 6.3 in 2016 to 7.4 in 2017) was due in part to statements by the country’s leadership targeting Shiite Muslims in the country. During a speech in July 2017, President Azali Assoumani compared Shia Islam to “fringe extremist sects” and asserted that the practice of religions other than Shafi’i Sunni Islam would not be tolerated. And in September, one of the country’s three vice presidents vowed to “completely eradicate Shiism from the country.”<sup>86</sup> Pakistan, Sudan and Vietnam have been in this top category multiple times in previous years.

Two countries or territories – Iraq and Western Sahara – fell out of the “very high” category (although both maintained “high” levels of government restrictions). Both had small score decreases of less than 1.0 point in 2017. For a complete list of all countries in each category, see the Government Restrictions Index table in Appendix A.<sup>87</sup>

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<sup>85</sup> Countries with a “very high” level of government restrictions had the maximum score on at least 14 of the 20 questions that make up the Government Restrictions Index. See Methodology for details.

<sup>86</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Comoros](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>87</sup> To see index-score thresholds for the very high, high, moderate and low categories, see Methodology.

### Countries with the most extensive social hostilities involving religion

Similarly, each year some countries stand out for having the highest levels of social hostilities involving religion. These hostilities can include violence by individuals or social groups targeting religious groups or enforcing religious norms, religiously motivated terrorism, or sectarian and communal violence (see Overview).

In 2017, 10 of the 198 countries in this study fell into the top category of “very high” levels of social hostilities involving religion. This marks an increase from nine countries in 2016, and reverses the decrease seen from 2015 to 2016.

Three countries – Central African Republic, Pakistan and Yemen – had scores that caused them to rise into the “very high” category in 2017, although each had small increases of less than 1.0 point.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian territories and Russia fell out of this top category in 2017, with score decreases that put them in the “high” category instead. In Russia, there were fewer reports of sectarian violence and violence targeting members of religious groups than in 2016. And in the Palestinian territories, there were no reported incidents of hostility over conversion (in contrast with previous years), and, similar to Russia, fewer incidents of violence targeting religious groups.

For a complete list of all countries in each category, see the Social Hostilities Index table in Appendix B.<sup>88</sup>

### Countries with very high social hostilities involving religion

*Scores of 7.2 or higher on the 10-point Social Hostilities Index*

2016	2017
Bangladesh	Bangladesh
Egypt	<b>Central African Republic</b>
India	Egypt
Iraq	India
Israel	Iraq
Nigeria	Israel
Palestinian territories	Nigeria
Russia	<b>Pakistan</b>
Syria	Syria
	<b>Yemen</b>

Note: Gray indicates a country that had very high social hostilities in 2016 but not in 2017. Bold indicates a country that had very high social hostilities in 2017 but not in 2016.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data.

See Methodology for details.

“A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

<sup>88</sup> To see index-score thresholds for the very high, high, moderate and low categories, see Methodology.

## Changes in government restrictions on religion

Some countries experience changes in their level of government restrictions that do not put them in the “very high” category but are nonetheless substantial. For this reason, Pew Research Center analyzes the magnitude of changes across all countries and categories to provide greater insight into the ways government actions and policies can have an especially large impact on religious restrictions each year.

In 2017, an equal number of countries (67) had increases and decreases in their scores on the Government Restrictions Index (GRI), and nearly the same number of countries (64) had no change in score from 2016 to 2017. This is the first year since Pew Research Center began analyzing restrictions on religion in 2007 that increases in GRI scores have matched decreases. In 2016 and 2015, the number of countries with increases in GRI scores was about double the number with decreases.

Unlike 2016, when Gambia was the only country to experience a large increase (2.0 points or more) in its GRI score, it was the only country to see a large *decrease* in score in 2017. This reversal was due in part to President Adama Barrow’s announcement that Gambia would become a secular republic once again, in accordance with its constitution. In late 2015, former President Yahya Jammeh had proclaimed Gambia an Islamic state.<sup>89</sup> No countries had large increases in GRI scores in 2017.

Fourteen countries saw modest changes (1.0 to 1.9 points) in their GRI scores, with nine of those countries registering increases and five having decreases. One of the increases occurred in the Netherlands, where religious leaders reported that religious organizations had been barred from

## Identical number of increases, declines in country-level government restrictions on religion in 2017

POINT CHANGE	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	
2.0 or more increase	0	0%	34%
1.0 to 1.9 increase	9	5	
0.1 to 0.9 increase	58	29	
No change	64	32	32%
0.1 to 0.9 decrease	61	31	34%
1.0 to 1.9 decrease	5	3	
2.0 or more decrease	1	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	

Note: Point changes are calculated by comparing GRI scores from year to year. Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated due to rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data.

See Methodology for details.

“A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

<sup>89</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Gambia](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

proselytizing at asylum centers.<sup>90</sup> And in the Republic of the Congo, which had a decrease in its GRI score, there were fewer reported incidents of government harassment in 2017.

Most countries (119 out of 198) experienced only small changes (less than 1.0 point) in their GRI scores. Nearly equal numbers had increases (58) and decreases (61).

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<sup>90</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Netherlands](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.



## Changes in social hostilities involving religion

In 2017, 66 countries experienced increases in their Social Hostilities Index (SHI) scores and 75 countries experienced decreases.

Mali was the only country in 2017 to experience a large change (2.0 points or more) in social hostilities, rising from the “moderate” category to the “high” category. Some of this increase was due to several incidents of religious groups attempting to prevent other religious groups from operating. For example, the Malian Episcopal Conference reported multiple incidents of harassment, including in August, when suspected members of a militant Islamist group forced Christians to remove the bell from their church.<sup>91</sup>

Thirty-two countries registered modest changes in SHI scores (1.0 to 1.9 points), including 16 increases and the same number of decreases. In

Bulgaria, where social hostilities involving religion were on the rise, physical assaults against Jehovah’s Witnesses and Latter-day Saints (also known as Mormons) continued, and there were additional reports of attacks on Muslims in 2017. For example, in June, a Muslim cleric’s wife (who was wearing a head scarf) and daughters were physically and verbally attacked by two teenage girls in a supermarket parking lot. In addition, Protestant pastors reported being harassed by Orthodox Christian priests, unlike in the previous year.<sup>92</sup>

Out of the 198 countries in the study, 108 experienced small changes in their SHI scores (0.1 to 0.9 points) – 49 with increases and 59 with decreases. There was no change in SHI score in 57 countries.

## More countries with decreases than increases in social hostilities involving religion in 2017

POINT CHANGE	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	
2.0 or more increase	1	1%	33%
1.0 to 1.9 increase	16	8	
0.1 to 0.9 increase	49	25	
No change	57	29	29%
0.1 to 0.9 decrease	59	30	38%
1.0 to 1.9 decrease	16	8	
2.0 or more decrease	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	

Note: Point changes are calculated by comparing SHI scores from year to year. Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated due to rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data.

See Methodology for details.

“A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

<sup>91</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Mali](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>92</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Bulgaria](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017. See also U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2017. “[Bulgaria](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2016.

## Changes in overall restrictions on religion

Looking at changes in overall restrictions (including both government restrictions and social hostilities involving religion) can provide a more complete picture of religious restrictions in a country. In 2017, a similar number of countries had increases in overall scores (85 countries) and decreases (87). Most of these countries had small changes in their scores.

Among the countries with increases, 67 had small increases and 17 had modest increases. Only one country (Mali) had a large increase in its overall score. Similarly, within the countries that had decreases, most (68) had small decreases and fewer (18) had modest decreases. And only one country, Gambia, had a large decrease in its overall score.

Twenty-six countries had no change in their overall scores between 2016 and 2017.

## Overall changes in global restrictions on religion: 85 countries had increased scores in 2017, while 87 had decreases

*Changes on the Government Restrictions Index (GRI) or Social Hostilities Index (SHI) from 2016 to 2017*

POINT CHANGE	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	
2.0 or more increase	1	1%	43%
1.0 to 1.9 increase	17	9	
0.1 to 0.9 increase	67	34	
No change	26	13	13%
0.1 to 0.9 decrease	68	34	44%
1.0 to 1.9 decrease	18	9	
2.0 or more decrease	1	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	

Note: Categories of overall change in restrictions are calculated by comparing a country's unrounded scores on the GRI and SHI from year to year. When a country's scores on both indexes changed in the same direction (both increased or both decreased), the greater amount of change determined the category. For instance, if the country's GRI score increased by 0.8 and its SHI score increased by 1.5, the country was put into the "1.0-1.9 increase" category. When a country's score increased on one index but decreased on the other, the difference between the amounts of change determined the grouping. For example, if the country's GRI score increased by 2.0 and its SHI score decreased by 1.5, the country went into the "0.1-0.9 increase" category. When a country's score on one index stayed the same, the amount of change on the other index was used to assign the category. Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated due to rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.

"A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World"

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## 2. Harassment of religious groups steady in 2017, remaining at 10-year high

In 2017, harassment against religious groups – either by governments or individuals and groups in society – was reported in 187 countries by this study’s sources (see Methodology for details). This figure remained the same from the previous year, matching the highest level since the study began in 2007.

Harassment entails an offense against a religious group or person due to their religious identity, and can include being physically coerced or singled out with the intent of making life or religious practice more difficult. The severity ranges from verbal or written harassment to physical violence and killings.

### Harassment of religiously unaffiliated people became more widespread in 2017

*Number of countries where religious groups were harassed, by year*

	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17
Christians	107	95	96	111	105	110	102	108	128	144	143
Muslims	96	91	82	90	101	109	99	100	125	142	140
Jews	51	53	63	68	69	71	77	81	74	87	87
Others*	33	34	39	52	42	39	38	43	50	57	50
Folk religions**	24	19	24	26	23	26	34	21	32	41	38
Hindus	21	18	11	16	12	16	9	14	18	23	23
Buddhists	10	11	7	15	9	13	12	10	7	17	19
Unaffiliated	- CODING WAS NOT DONE -					3	5	4	14	14	23
<b>Any of above</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>187</b>

\* Includes Sikhs, members of ancient faiths such as Zoroastrianism, members of newer faiths such as Baha'i, and other religious groups.

\*\* Includes, for example, followers of African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian aboriginal religions.

Note: This measure looks at the number of countries in which groups were harassed, either by government or individuals/social groups (or both). It does not assess the severity of the harassment. Numbers do not add to totals because multiple religious groups can be harassed in a country. The figure for other religious groups for the year ending in December 2012 and the any-of-the-above figure for the year ending in December 2011 have been updated to correct minor errors in previous reports.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.

"A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Christians and Muslims typically have been targeted in the largest number of countries since the beginning of the study. They also are the two largest religious groups in the world, and, compared with smaller groups, are geographically dispersed across a [greater number of countries](#) in substantial numbers.

In 2017, Christians reportedly were harassed in 143 countries, declining slightly from 144 countries in 2016. In China, for example, the government ramped up efforts to arrest and deport

Christian missionaries. There were more frequent reports of authorities in northeastern provinces of the country detaining missionaries and confiscating their electronic devices.<sup>93</sup>

Muslims were harassed in 140 countries in 2017, down from 142 countries in 2016. In Indonesia – a Muslim-majority country – Muslim minority groups such as Shiites and Ahmadis reported that they faced difficulties in applying for national identity cards when applying as Muslims, which prevented them from accessing public services such as marriage licenses or health care.<sup>94</sup>

Jews were harassed in 87 countries – steady since 2016, and still the third-largest number of countries of any religious group despite Jews' [relatively small population size](#). In Sweden, for instance, there was a reported increase in violence against Jewish targets in 2017, even though there was a decline in the overall share of hate crimes with suspected anti-Semitic motives. In the city of Gothenburg, a group of people wearing masks threw flaming objects at a synagogue in December. The prosecutor in the case said the attack was a reaction to unrest in the Middle East over the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel by the United States. In the same month, a Jewish cemetery was attacked with Molotov cocktails in the city of Malmo.<sup>95</sup>

Hindus continued to be harassed in 23 countries – the same number as the previous year. In Uzbekistan, for example, government authorities raided the home of a Hare Krishna member, seizing religious books from the home and issuing a fine for a violation of policies restricting religious literature.<sup>96</sup>

Buddhists experienced a slight increase in the number of countries where they faced harassment, from 17 in 2016 to 19 in 2017 – the highest number since the study began in 2007. In Bangladesh, there were attacks on Buddhist monks, including one in the Jessore District and another in Chittagong.<sup>97</sup>

Religiously unaffiliated people (including atheists, agnostics and people who don't identify with any religion) were harassed for religious reasons in 23 countries in 2017, up from 14 the previous year – the biggest increase of any group. In Malaysia, for example, the government declared atheism to be unconstitutional. And in August, authorities began investigating a meeting of atheists in Kuala Lumpur.<sup>98</sup>

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<sup>93</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[China](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>94</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Indonesia](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>95</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Sweden](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>96</sup> Human Rights Without Frontiers. "[Uzbekistan](#)." Freedom of Religion and Belief Newsletter 2017.

<sup>97</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Bangladesh](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>98</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Malaysia](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

## Government versus social harassment of groups

Some groups face more harassment from governments, while others are more often harassed by individuals or groups in society. For example, in 2017, Buddhists, Christians, Hindus and Muslims experienced harassment by governments in more countries than they did by private individuals or groups. By contrast, Jews have faced more social harassment than government harassment since the baseline year of the study. This pattern continued in 2017, when social hostilities against Jews were reported in 75 countries, compared with 63 countries where Jews experienced some form of government harassment – although both numbers increased from 2016.

Adherents of folk religions also faced more widespread social hostilities than government harassment in 2017 (27 countries vs. 16). In Tanzania, for example, vigilantes killed women they said were practicing witchcraft.<sup>99</sup> And in Haiti, practitioners of Voodoo (known as Vodou in that country) reported facing social stigma for their beliefs.<sup>100</sup>

Other religious groups beyond those separately analyzed above – including Baha’i, Scientologists, Sikhs, Rastafarians and Zoroastrians – experienced government harassment in 43 countries, compared with 21 countries where they faced social hostilities. In Malawi, Rastafarian children with dreadlocks were prevented from attending some public schools.<sup>101</sup> And several countries (including Jordan) continued to deny official recognition to the Baha’i faith, while others (such as Iraq) prohibit practicing the faith.<sup>102</sup>

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<sup>99</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Tanzania](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>100</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Haiti](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>101</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Malawi](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>102</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Jordan](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017. See also U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Iraq](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

## Number of countries where religious groups were harassed, by type of harassment

### Government harassment in the year ...

### Social harassment in the year ...

	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17		'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17
Christians	79	80	71	95	78	81	85	79	97	114	123		74	72	70	77	81	83	71	85	94	107	101
Muslims	77	74	58	74	78	83	73	80	106	127	124		64	53	58	64	82	88	84	81	94	97	105
Jews	11	16	14	21	28	28	39	31	43	56	63		46	48	60	64	63	66	72	80	67	66	75
Others*	25	28	29	40	39	34	33	39	44	49	43		15	13	19	28	18	20	17	17	18	22	21
Folk religions**	13	10	9	10	5	11	12	13	16	23	16		16	13	19	20	21	18	26	12	23	25	27
Hindus	12	11	9	13	9	13	8	9	14	18	17		12	9	8	10	6	9	4	7	11	11	11
Buddhists	7	7	6	11	5	9	7	8	5	15	15		4	4	4	7	5	7	7	3	3	6	9
Unaffiliated	CODING WAS NOT DONE					2	1	1	9	11	14		CODING WAS NOT DONE					2	4	3	6	5	13
<b>Any of above</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>175</b>		<b>127</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>164</b>

\*Includes Sikhs, members of ancient faiths such as Zoroastrianism, members of newer faiths such as Baha'i, and other religious groups.

\*\*Includes, for example, followers of African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian aboriginal religions.

Note: This measure does not assess the severity of the harassment. Numbers do not add to totals because multiple religious groups can be harassed in a country.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.

"A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World"

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Looking at the two largest religious groups shows there also are regional variations in where they are more likely to face harassment. The Middle East-North Africa region had the highest share of countries where Christians were harassed. All 20 countries in the region had some form of harassment (either by governments or social groups) directed at Christians in 2017. Government harassment of Christians was reported in all countries in the region, while social harassment occurred in 60% of countries. For example, in Morocco, two foreigners were deported for encouraging conversions to Christianity and distributing religious materials.

The Asia-Pacific region had the second-highest share of countries where Christians reportedly were harassed by governments or social groups (76% of countries). In Europe, Christians were harassed in 73% of countries, and in sub-Saharan Africa and the Americas, Christians faced harassment in at least six-in-ten countries. In all of these regions, a higher number of countries experienced government harassment (rather than social harassment) of Christians.

Compared with other regions, Muslims were harassed in a higher percentage of countries in the Middle East-North Africa region and Europe (95% and 93% of countries, respectively). In the Middle East region, 90% of governments harassed Muslims (including minority sects within Islam), and 87% of European governments did the same. Meanwhile, social harassment of

Muslims was reported in 60% of countries in the Middle East and 82% of countries in Europe (37 out of 45 countries).

In Asia and the Pacific, the sources reported harassment of Muslims in 72% of countries. This figure was 67% in sub-Saharan African and 31% in the Americas. In all regions but the Americas, there was more widespread government harassment of Muslims than social harassment. In the Americas, 23% of governments harassed Muslims, while there was social harassment of the group in 26% of countries.

### 3. Middle East still home to highest levels of restrictions on religion, although levels have declined since 2016

#### Government restrictions by region

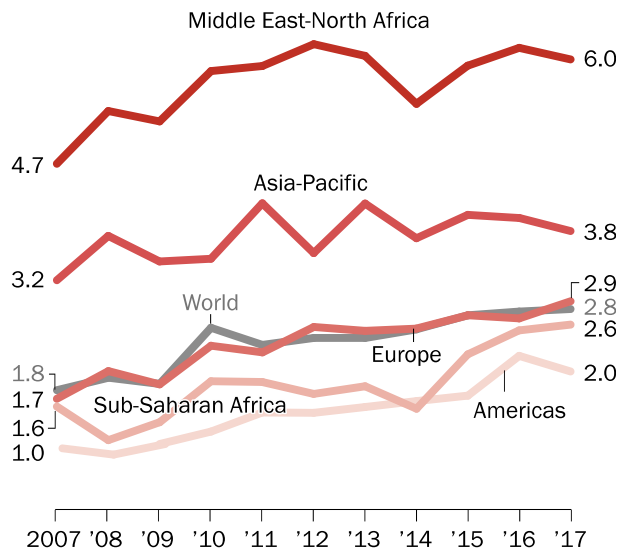
In 2017, the global median score on the Government Restrictions Index (GRI) remained stable at 2.8 – matching 2016 and staying at its highest point since the study began in 2007 (see Overview). The median score declined in three geographic regions (Middle East-North Africa, the Americas and Asia-Pacific), increased in Europe and remained about the same in sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>103</sup>

The Middle East-North Africa region continued to have the highest level of government restrictions on religion out of all regions. The median score for the 20 countries (6.0) in 2017 was more than double the global median (2.8), which has been the case every year since 2007. Since 2016, there has been a small decline (0.2 points) in the Middle East's median score, partly due to fewer reports of government hostility toward minority religious groups (down from 15 countries in 2016 to 12 in 2017).

The Asia-Pacific region had the second-highest level of restrictions. Similar to the Middle East, the median score among the 50 countries in the region (3.8) also declined by 0.2 points, and there were fewer Asian countries where governments used physical violence toward minority groups (23 countries in 2016 vs. 20 in 2017). However, in 2017, there were still 10 countries in the Asia-Pacific region where there were 200 or more cases of governments using force (including detentions and killings) against religious groups. For example, in Uzbekistan, the country's president in 2017 pardoned 763 prisoners of conscience who were

#### Government restrictions on religion by region

*Median scores on the Government Restrictions Index*



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
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<sup>103</sup> The median government restrictions score for sub-Saharan Africa increased slightly from 2.53 to 2.56 in 2017, but changes of less than 0.1 points are categorized as unchanged.



being held for their religious beliefs, but a civil society organization reported that the government still held 7,000 “religious prisoners.”<sup>104</sup>

Europe experienced a slight increase in its median score, from 2.7 to 2.9, marking the highest levels of government restrictions for the region since the study began in 2007 and the only increase out of the five regions in 2017. More specifically, there was a notable rise in governments failing to intervene when religious groups were targeted. For example, in Croatia and Moldova, Jewish leaders reported dissatisfaction with the government’s handling of anti-Semitic incidents, including failure to respond to vandalism and hate speech. In Moldova, authorities also failed to prosecute threats and verbal attacks on Jehovah’s Witnesses.<sup>105</sup> And in Greece, the government reportedly did not respond to two separate attacks on churches in Athens by anarchists. In one incident, the anarchist group set fire to Saint Basil Church and named its opposition to the church’s sexism and stance on homosexuality as a reason for the attack.<sup>106</sup>

There also was an increase in the number of governments in Europe (from 17 to 20) that regulated religious clothing in some way. For example, Austria enacted a ban on full-face veils in public spaces that went into effect in October of 2017.<sup>107</sup> And in Germany, the federal parliament implemented a ban on soldiers and civil servants wearing full-face coverings.<sup>108</sup>

Sub-Saharan Africa’s median GRI score stayed about the same (2.6) and remained the highest median score for the region since 2007. Governments continued to restrict women’s religious dress in several countries (see Overview for more details). For example, in Liberia, Muslim women reported that they were not allowed to register to vote by election officials if they did not remove their headscarves for voter identification photos, but said Catholic nuns and other women wearing traditional head wraps were permitted to wear their head coverings for their photos.<sup>109</sup>

The Americas’ median score declined slightly (from 2.2 to 2.0) since 2016, when the median level of government restrictions had reached an all-time high. By 2017, there were fewer countries (seven, down from 10 in 2016) where governments used some level of force — such as detentions, physical abuse or killings — toward religious groups. There also was a decline in the number of countries (from six to three) where governments failed to protect religious groups in the face of discrimination and abuse.

<sup>104</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Uzbekistan](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>105</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Croatia](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017. See also U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Moldova](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>106</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Greece](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

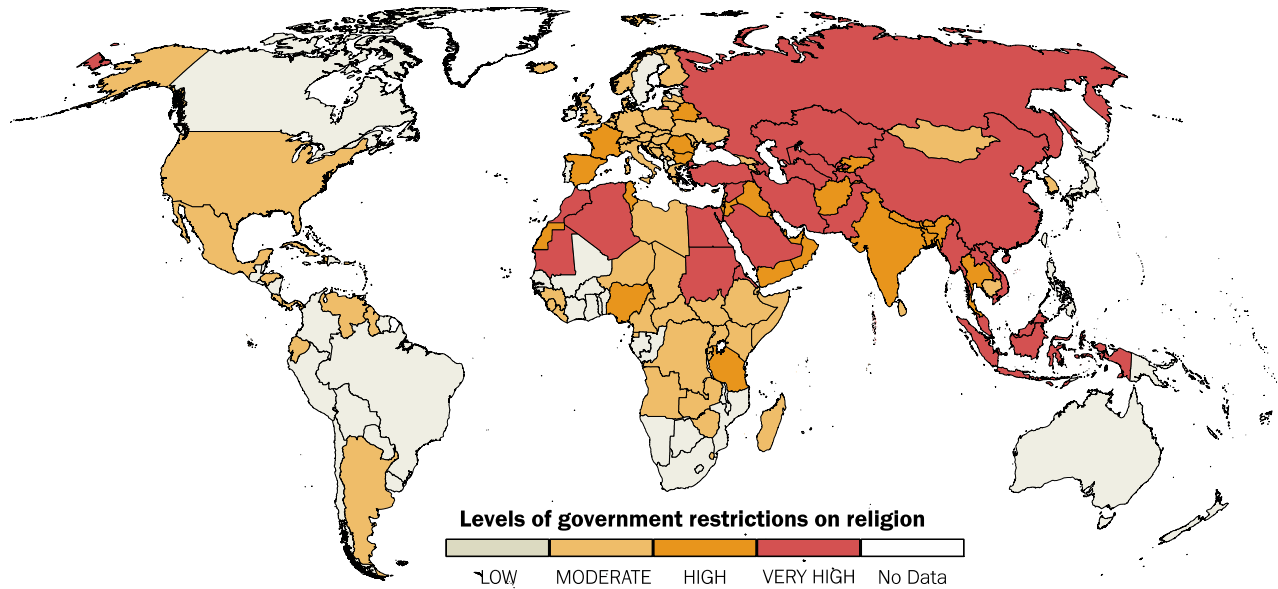
<sup>107</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Austria](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>108</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Germany](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>109</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. “[Liberia](#).” International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

## Government restrictions on religion around the world

*Level of government restrictions on religion in each country as of 2017*



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
 “A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World”

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## Social hostilities by region

The global median score on the Social Hostilities Index (SHI) increased from 1.8 in 2016 to 2.1 in 2017, the highest level reported since the baseline year of the study (2007). Two regions had increases in their scores (Asia-Pacific and sub-Saharan Africa), one had a decrease (Middle East-North Africa), and two regions held steady (Europe and the Americas).<sup>110</sup>

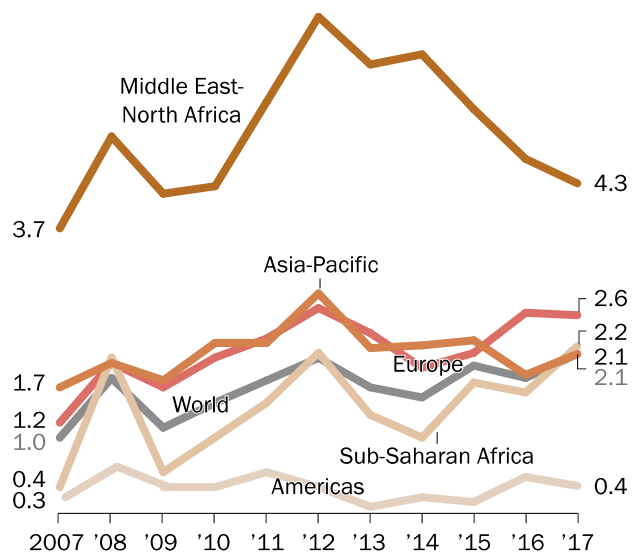
The Middle East and North Africa remained the region with the highest median level of social hostilities (4.3), more than double the global median (2.1). However, the median score for the 20 countries in the region declined from 4.6 in 2016 — continuing a trend from the previous year — and remains well below the all-time peak of 6.4 in 2012, following the Arab Spring. The modest decline in 2017 was partly due to fewer reported cases of religious groups attempting to prevent other groups from operating and fewer hostilities over conversions.

Europe's median SHI score remained stable at 2.6 — the second-highest out of all regions. Organized groups (such as neo-Nazi groups) continued to attempt to dominate public life with their perspective on religion in 33 out of 45 countries in the region.

Sub-Saharan Africa's median level of social hostilities increased from 1.6 in 2016 to 2.2 in 2017, the largest rise out of all regions. There was a notable increase in groups using violence or the threat of violence to enforce religious norms (see Overview for more details), as well as increased hostilities over conversions and proselytizing in the region. In addition, in a growing number of countries (from 15 in 2016 to 20 in 2017), religious groups sought to prevent other groups from being able to operate. For example, in Mauritania, during Eid prayers, the imam of

### Social hostilities involving religion, by region

*Median scores on the Social Hostilities Index*



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
 "A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World"

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<sup>110</sup> The median social hostilities scores for Europe and the Americas each shifted by less than 0.1 points, which is categorized as unchanged.

the Grand Mosque of Nouakchott issued a warning against the growing threat of Shiite Islam and encouraged the government to cut ties with Iran to curb the spread of Iranian Shiite Islam.<sup>111</sup>

Sub-Saharan Africa also had the only country in the study (Mali) to have a large increase in its score (see Chapter 1 for details). And another country in the region — the Central African Republic — experienced an escalation in clashes between armed groups divided along religious and ethnic lines, prompting a United Nations official to warn that early signs of genocide were present.<sup>112</sup>

In Asia and the Pacific, the median SHI score rose from 1.8 to 2.1, mirroring the global median score. There were reported increases in sectarian violence in the region. In Pakistan, Shiites were targeted several times by the militant group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and the Pakistani Taliban, including two attacks in January 2017 that left more than 80 people dead.<sup>113</sup> And in Burma (Myanmar), Buddhist nationalists and monks attacked Christian converts and Muslims during the year.<sup>114</sup>

Out of all five regions, the Americas remained at the lowest level of social hostilities in 2017, with a median SHI score of 0.4.

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<sup>111</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Mauritania](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017.

<sup>112</sup> U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. April 25, 2018. "[Central African Republic](#)." 2018 Annual Report.

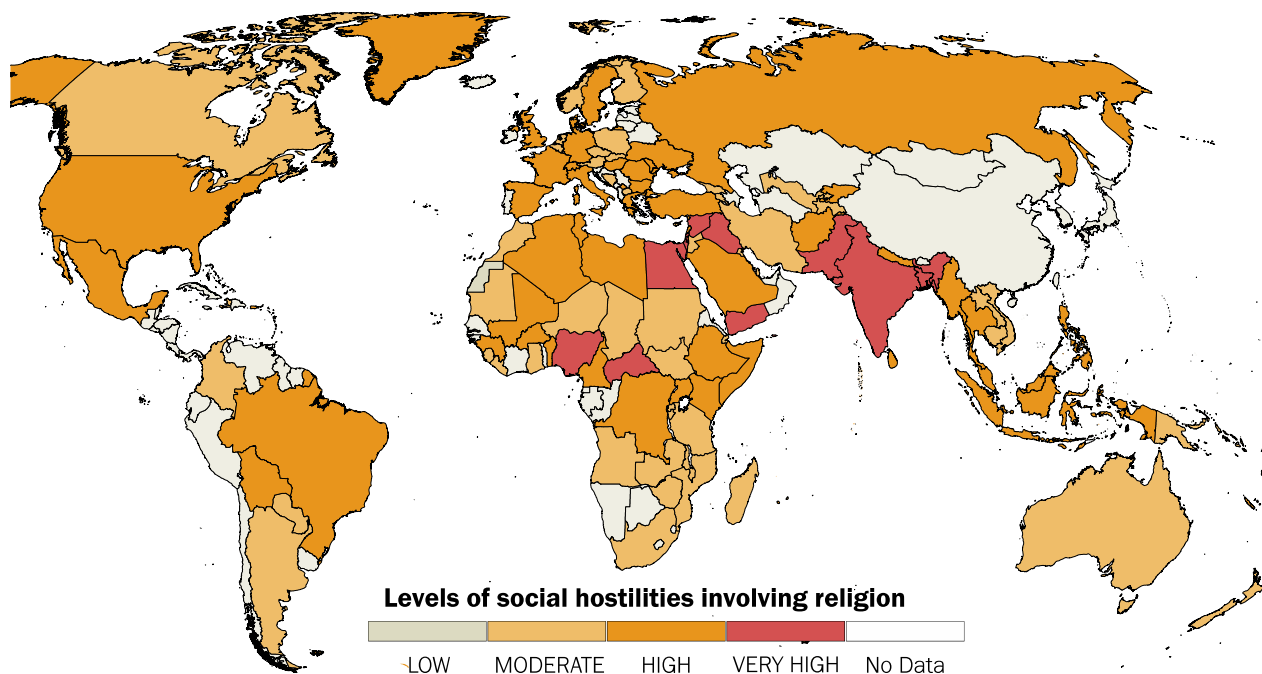
<sup>113</sup> U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. April 25, 2018. "[Pakistan](#)." 2018 Annual Report.

<sup>114</sup> U.S. Department of State. May 29, 2018. "[Burma](#)." International Religious Freedom Report for 2017. See also U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. April 25, 2018. "[Burma](#)." 2018 Annual Report.

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## Social hostilities involving religion around the world

*Level of social hostilities involving religion in each country as of 2017*



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
"A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World"

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## 4. Among the 25 most populous countries, Egypt, India, Russia, Pakistan and Indonesia had the highest overall restrictions on religion in 2017

More than 5 billion people – or three-quarters of the world’s population – live in the planet’s 25 most populous countries, including China, India and the United States. Looking at restrictions in these countries can give insight into how large segments of the world’s population are affected by government restrictions and social hostilities involving religion, although not everyone within each country’s borders is impacted equally.

In 2017, among the 25 most populous countries, Egypt, India, Russia, Pakistan and Indonesia had the highest **overall** levels of both government restrictions and social hostilities involving religion. The countries in this group with the lowest overall scores were Japan, South Korea, South Africa, the Philippines and Brazil.

The highest **government restrictions** among the most populous countries occurred in China, Iran, Russia, Egypt and Indonesia, with all ranking in the “very high” category of restrictions. Meanwhile, the lowest-ranking countries were South Africa, Japan, the Philippines, Brazil and South Korea. These countries fell into the “low” category of government restrictions, with the exception of South Korea, which had a “moderate” level of government restrictions on religion in 2017.

The very populous countries with the highest levels of **social hostilities** involving religion were India, Egypt, Nigeria, Pakistan and Bangladesh, with all five experiencing “very high” levels of hostilities. Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam and Iran had the lowest levels of social hostilities among the world’s 25 most populous countries; all were either “low” or “moderate.”

In some countries, levels of government restrictions roughly matched levels of social hostilities. For example, Egypt and Pakistan had “very high” levels of both government restrictions and social hostilities in 2017, while Japan scored “low” on both indexes. In other cases, the two scores diverge sharply. China had the highest level of government restrictions among all 198 countries in the study in 2017, yet it had low levels of social hostilities. And Iran had the second-highest government restrictions score among all countries in 2017 – behind China – but experienced only “moderate” levels of social hostilities involving religion.

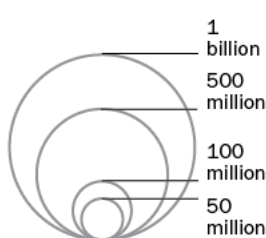
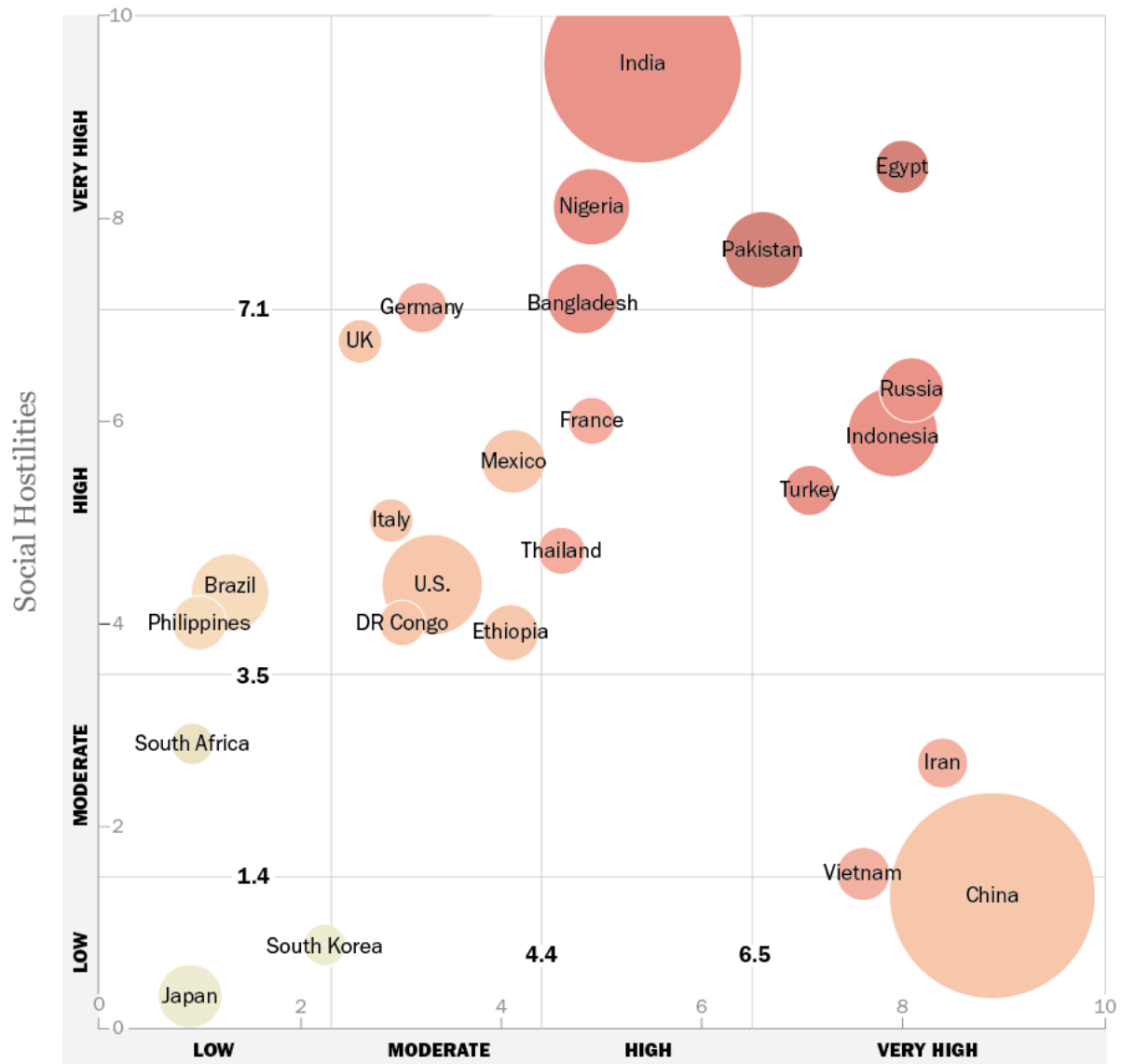
In 2017, none of the 25 most populous countries experienced large changes (2.0 points or more) in Government Restrictions Index (GRI) scores. Two countries – Vietnam and the Democratic

Republic of the Congo – experienced modest increases (1.0 to 1.9 points) in GRI scores. Vietnam moved from “high” to “very high,” while the Democratic Republic of the Congo climbed from the “low” category to “moderate.”

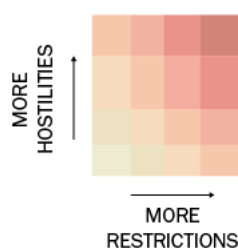
When it comes to changes in Social Hostilities Index (SHI) scores, none of the most populous countries had large changes. However, five countries – Turkey, Iran, Japan, South Africa and Russia – had modest declines. Japan declined from “moderate” to “low” levels of social hostilities involving religion, while South Africa’s score went from “high” to “moderate,” and Russia moved from “very high” to “high.” Meanwhile, Ethiopia had a modest increase in its SHI score, shifting from “moderate” to “high” levels of hostilities.

## Restrictions on religion among the world's 25 most populous countries

Among the world's 25 most populous countries, Egypt, India, Russia, Pakistan and Indonesia stand out as having the most restrictions on religions (as of 2017) when both government restrictions and religious hostilities are taken into account. (Countries in the upper right of the chart have the most restrictions and hostilities.) Japan, South Korea, South Africa, Philippines and Brazil have the least restrictions and hostilities. (Countries in the lower left have the least restrictions and hostilities.) Scores are for calendar year 2017.



Circles are sized proportionally to each country's population (2010).



Colors are based on each country's position on the chart.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of external data. See Methodology for details.  
 "A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World"



## Methodology

This is the 10th time Pew Research Center has measured restrictions on religion around the globe.<sup>115</sup> This report, which includes data for the year ending Dec. 31, 2017, generally follows the same methodology as previous reports.

Pew Research Center uses two 10-point indexes – the Government Restrictions Index (GRI) and the Social Hostilities Index (SHI) – to rate 198 countries and self-governing territories on their levels of restrictions.<sup>116</sup> This report analyzes changes in restrictions on an annual basis, focusing on the period from 2016 to 2017.

The study categorizes the direction and degree of change in each country's scores in two ways, numerically and by percentile. First, countries are grouped into categories depending on the size of the numeric change in their scores from year to year on the two indexes: changes of 2 points or more in either direction, changes of at least 1 point but less than 2 points, changes of less than 1 point, or no change at all. (See chart at right.)

Changes in overall levels of restrictions are calculated for each country by comparing its scores on both indexes (the GRI and the SHI) from year to year. When a country's scores on the GRI and the SHI changed in the same direction (both increased or both decreased), the greater amount of change determines the category. For instance, if the country's GRI score increased by 0.8 and its SHI score increased by 1.5, the country was put into the overall "1.0-1.9 increase" category. When a country's score increased on one index but decreased on the other, the difference between the amounts of change determines the grouping. For example, if the country's GRI score increased by 2.0 and its SHI score decreased by 1.5, the country went into the overall "0.1-0.9 increase" category. When a country's score on one index stayed the same, the amount of change on the other index was used to assign the category.

### Index point change

*Categories for assessing index score changes between years*

2.0 or more increase

1.0 to 1.9 increase

0.1 to 0.9 increase

No change

0.1 to 0.9 decrease

1.0 to 1.9 decrease

2.0 or more decrease

*"A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World"*

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<sup>115</sup> See Methodology of Pew Research Center's 2009 report ["Global Restrictions on Religion"](#) for a discussion of the conceptual basis for measuring restrictions on religion.

<sup>116</sup> Some earlier reports provided scores for 197 countries and territories. This report includes South Sudan (which separated from Sudan in July 2011), bringing the total to 198 countries and territories.

Second, this report categorizes the levels of government restrictions and social hostilities in each country by percentiles. As the benchmark, it uses the results from the baseline year of the study (the year ending in mid-2007). Scores in the top 5% on each index in mid-2007 were categorized as “very high.” The next highest 15% of scores were categorized as “high,” and the following 20% were categorized as “moderate.” The bottom 60% of scores were categorized as “low.” See the table to the right for the index score thresholds as determined from the mid-2007 data. These thresholds are applied to all subsequent years of data.

### Level of restrictions on religion

	GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS INDEX	SOCIAL HOSTILITIES INDEX
Very high	6.6 to 10.0	7.2 to 10.0
High	4.5 to 6.5	3.6 to 7.1
Moderate	2.4 to 4.4	1.5 to 3.5
Low	0.0 to 2.3	0.0 to 1.4

Note: Based on distribution of index scores in the baseline year, ending mid-2007.

“A Closer Look at How Religious Restrictions Have Risen Around the World”

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## Overview of procedures

The methodology used by Pew Research Center to assess and compare restrictions on religion was developed by former Pew Research Center senior researcher and director of cross-national data Brian J. Grim in consultation with other Pew Research Center staff members, building on a methodology that Grim and Professor Roger Finke developed while at Penn State University’s Association of Religion Data Archives.<sup>117</sup> The goal was to devise quantifiable, objective and transparent measures of the extent to which governments and societal groups impinge on the practice of religion. The findings were used to rate countries and self-governing territories on two indexes that are reproducible and can be periodically updated.

This research goes beyond previous efforts to assess restrictions on religion in several ways. First, Pew Research Center coded (categorized and counted) data from more than a dozen published cross-national sources, providing a high degree of confidence in the findings. Pew Research Center coders looked to the sources for only specific, well-documented facts, not opinions or commentary.

Second, Pew Research Center staff used extensive data-verification checks that reflect generally accepted best practices for such studies, such as double-blind coding (coders do not see each other’s ratings), inter-rater reliability assessments (checking for consistency among coders) and carefully monitored protocols to reconcile discrepancies among coders.

<sup>117</sup> See Grim, Brian J., and Roger Finke. 2006. “[International Religion Indexes: Government Regulation, Government Favoritism, and Social Regulation of Religion](#).” *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion*.

Third, the coding took into account whether the perpetrators of religion-related violence were government or private actors. The coding also identified how widespread and intensive the restrictions were in each country.

Fourth, one of the most valuable contributions of the indexes and the questions used to construct them (see the section on the coding instrument on page 70) is their ability to chart change over time.

## Countries and territories

The 198 countries and self-administering territories covered by the study contain more than 99.5% of the world's population. They include 192 of the 193 member states of the United Nations as of 2017, plus six self-administering territories – Kosovo, Hong Kong, Macau, the Palestinian territories, Taiwan and Western Sahara.<sup>118</sup> Reporting on these territories does not imply any position on what their international political status should be, only recognition that the de facto situations in these territories require separate analysis.

Although the 198 countries and territories vary widely in size, population, wealth, ethnic diversity, religious makeup and form of government, the study does not attempt to adjust for such differences. Poor countries are not scored differently on the indexes than wealthy ones. Countries with diverse ethnic and religious populations are not “expected” to have more social hostilities than countries with more homogeneous populations. And democracies are not assessed more leniently or harshly than authoritarian regimes.

## Information sources

In the latest year of the study, Pew Research Center identified 20 widely available, frequently cited sources of information on government restrictions and social hostilities involving religion around the world. This study includes four sources that were not used in the baseline report on religious restrictions. (See page 69 for more details on the new information sources.)

The primary sources, which are listed below, include reports from U.S. government agencies, several independent, nongovernmental organizations and a variety of European and United

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<sup>118</sup> The one member state of the United Nations not included in the study is North Korea. The sources clearly indicate that North Korea's government is among the most repressive in the world with respect to religion as well as other civil and political liberties. The U.S. State Department's 2015 Report on International Religious Freedom, for example, says that “Religious freedom does not exist in North Korea despite the constitutional guarantee for the freedom of religion,” and there are no indications that this changed in 2017. But because North Korean society is effectively closed to outsiders and independent observers lack regular access to the country, the sources were unable to provide the kind of specific, timely information that Pew Research Center categorized and counted (“coded,” in social science parlance) for this quantitative study. Therefore, the report does not include scores for North Korea.

Nations bodies. Although most of these organizations are based in Western countries, many of them depend on local staff to collect information across the globe. As previously noted, Pew Research Center did not use the commentaries, opinions or normative judgments of the sources; the sources were combed only for factual information on specific policies and actions.

## **Primary sources for 2017**

1. Country constitutions
2. U.S. State Department annual reports on International Religious Freedom
3. U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom annual reports
4. U.N. Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief reports
5. Human Rights First reports in first and second years of coding; Freedom House reports in subsequent years of coding
6. Human Rights Watch topical reports
7. International Crisis Group country reports
8. United Kingdom Foreign & Commonwealth Office annual report on human rights
9. Council of the European Union annual report on human rights
10. START Global Terrorism Database at the University of Maryland
11. European Network Against Racism Shadow Reports
12. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports
13. U.S. State Department annual Country Reports on Terrorism
14. Anti-Defamation League reports
15. U.S. State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices

16. Uppsala University's Uppsala Conflict Data Program, Armed Conflict Database
17. Human Rights Without Frontiers "Freedom of Religion or Belief" newsletters
18. Amnesty International Country Profiles
19. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Population Statistics Database
20. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre Global Internal Displacement Database

*U.S. government reports with information on the situation in the United States*

- U.S. Department of Justice "Religious Freedom in Focus" newsletters and reports
- FBI Hate Crime Reports

As noted, this study includes four sources that were not included in Pew Research Center's first report on global restrictions on religion: Freedom House reports; Uppsala University's Armed Conflict Database; the "Freedom of Religion or Belief" newsletters of Human Rights Without Frontiers; and the Global Terrorism Database.

The Freedom House reports have replaced Human Rights First reports, which have not been updated since mid-2008. The Uppsala Armed Conflict Database provides information on the number of people affected by religion-related armed conflicts, supplementing other sources. The Human Rights Without Frontiers "Freedom of Religion or Belief" newsletters have replaced the Hudson Institute publication "Religious Freedom in the World" (by Paul Marshall), which has not been updated since its release in 2008. Human Rights Without Frontiers is a nongovernmental organization based in Brussels that has affiliated offices throughout the world.

Since 2013, Pew Research Center has used data from the Global Terrorism Database, maintained by the University of Maryland's National Consortium for Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), along with the International Crisis Group's country reports, Uppsala University's Armed Conflict Database and the State Department's annual Country Reports on Terrorism, for information on religion-related terrorism. (One source used in earlier reports, the U.S. government's Worldwide Incident Tracking System, or WITS, is no longer available online.) Prior to 2013, the report relied only on the International Crisis Group reports, the Uppsala database and the State Department reports for information on religion-related terrorism. The Global Terrorism Database is one of the most comprehensive sources on terrorism around the world and is the

source for the U.S. State Department’s Country Reports on Terrorism. The addition of this source thus provides greater context and information on terrorism without biasing the reporting through the addition of information that was not previously available.

While some of the increases in religious restrictions noted in this study could reflect the use of more up-to-date and/or better information sources, Pew Research Center staff monitor the impact of source information variability each year and have found no evidence of overall informational bias. (For additional discussion, see the “Potential Biases” section in the 2014 report, “[Religious Hostilities Reach Six-Year High](#).”)

## The coding instrument

As explained in more detail below, Pew Research Center staff developed a battery of questions similar to a survey questionnaire. Coders consulted the primary sources in order to answer the questions separately for each country. While the U.S. State Department’s annual reports on International Religious Freedom generally contained the most comprehensive information, the other sources provided additional factual detail that was used to settle ambiguities, resolve contradictions and help in the proper scoring of each question.

The questionnaire, or coding instrument, generated a set of numerical measures on restrictions in each country. It also made it possible to see how government restrictions intersect with broader social tensions and incidents of violence or intimidation by private actors. The coding instrument with the list of questions used for this report is shown in Appendix D.

The coding process required the coders to check all the sources for each country. Coders determined whether each source provided information critical to assigning a score; had supporting information but did not result in new facts; or had no available information on that particular country. Multiple sources of information were available for all countries and self-administering territories with populations greater than 1 million. Most of the countries and territories analyzed by Pew Research Center were multi-sourced; only small (predominantly island) countries had a single source, namely the State Department reports.

Coding the United States presented a special problem since it is not included in the State Department’s annual reports on International Religious Freedom. Accordingly, Pew Research Center coders also looked at reports from the U.S. Department of Justice and the FBI on violations of religious freedom in the United States, in addition to consulting all the primary sources, including reports by the United Nations, Human Rights Watch, Freedom House, the International

Crisis Group and the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office, many of which contain data on the United States.

## The coding process

Pew Research Center employed strict training and rigorous coding protocols to make its coding as objective and reproducible as possible. Coders worked directly under an experienced researcher's supervision, with additional direction and support provided by other Pew Research Center researchers. The coders underwent an intensive training period that included a thorough overview of the research objectives, information sources and methodology.

Countries were double-blind coded by two coders (coders did not see each other's ratings), and the initial ratings were entered into an electronic document (coding instrument) including details on each incident. The coders began by filling out the coding instrument for each country using the information source that had the most comprehensive information. The protocol for each coder was to answer every question on which information was available in the initial source. Once a coder had completed that process, he or she then turned to the other sources. As new information was found, this was also coded and the source duly noted. Whenever ambiguities or contradictions arose, the source providing the most detailed, clearly documented evidence was used.

After two coders had separately completed the coding instrument for a particular country, their scores were compared by a research analyst. Areas of discrepancy were discussed at length with the coders and were reconciled in order to arrive at a single score on each question for each country. The data for each country were then combined into a master file, and the answers and substantiating evidence were entered into a database.

After data collection for all countries was completed, Pew Research Center coders and researchers compared the scores from calendar year 2017 with those from the previous year, ending Dec. 31, 2016. They identified scores that had changed and analyzed the substantiating evidence for each year to make sure the change was substantive and not the result of coder error. Throughout this process, the coding instrument itself was continually monitored for possible defects. The questions were designed to be precise, comprehensive and objective so that, based on the same data and definitions, the coding could be reliably reproduced by others with the same results. At the same time, Pew Research Center has attempted to minimize changes to the coding instrument as much as is possible to ensure all changes between years are the result of actual changes in restrictions and hostilities, not changes in methodology.

Pew Research Center staff generally found few cases in which one source contradicted another. When contradictions did arise – such as when sources provided differing estimates of the number of people displaced due to religion-related violence – the source that cited the most specific documentation was used. The coders were instructed to disregard broad, unsubstantiated generalizations regarding abuses and to focus on reports that contained clear, precise documentation and factual details, such as names, dates and places where incidents occurred.

Pew Research Center staff compared coders' scores for all questions for each of the 198 countries and territories included in the study, computing the degree to which the scores matched. The inter-rater reliability score across all variables was 0.69. This score is similar to scores in the previous two reports in this series (0.70 and 0.74). Scores at or near 0.7 are generally considered good.

The data-verification procedures went beyond the inter-rater reliability statistics. They also involved comparing the answers on the main measures for each country with other closely related questions in the data set. This provided a practical way to test the internal reliability of the data.

In previous years, Pew Research Center staff also checked the reliability of the coded data by comparing them with similar, though more limited, religious restrictions data sets. In particular, published government and social regulation of religion index scores are available from the Association of Religion Data Archives (for three years of data) and the Hudson Institute (for one year of data), which makes them ideal measures for cross-validation. The review process found very few significant discrepancies in the coded data; changes were made only if warranted by a further review of the primary sources.

## **Restriction of religion indexes**

The Government Restrictions Index is based on 20 indicators of ways that national and local governments restrict religion, including through coercion and force. The Social Hostilities Index is based on 13 indicators of ways in which private individuals and social groups infringe on religious beliefs and practices, including religiously biased crimes, mob violence and efforts to stop particular religious groups from growing or operating. The study also counted the number and types of documented incidents of religion-related violence, including terrorism and armed conflict.

### **Government Restrictions Index**

Coding multiple indicators makes it possible to construct a Government Restrictions Index of sufficient gradation to allow for meaningful cross-national comparisons. An additional advantage



of using multiple indicators is that it helps mitigate the effects of measurement error in any one variable, providing greater confidence in the overall measure.

Pew Research Center coded 20 indicators of government restrictions on religion (see Appendix D: Summary of results). These 20 items were added together to create the GRI. In two cases, these items represent an aggregation of several closely related questions: Measures of five types of physical abuses are combined into a single variable (GRI Q.19), and seven questions measuring aspects of government favoritism are combined into an overall favoritism scale (GRI Q.20 is a summary variable showing whether a country received the maximum score on one or more of the seven questions).

The GRI is a fine-grained measure created by adding the 20 items on a 0-to-10 metric, with zero indicating very low levels of government restrictions on religion and 10 indicating very high levels of restrictions. The 20 questions that form the GRI are coded in a standard scale from zero to 1 point, while gradations among the answers allowed for partial points to be given for lesser degrees of the particular government restriction being measured. The overall value of the index was calculated and proportionally adjusted – so that it had a maximum value of 10 and a possible range of zero to 10 – by dividing the sum of the variables by two.

A test of whether the 20 items were statistically reliable as a single index produced a scale reliability coefficient of 0.90 for calendar year 2017. Since coefficients of 0.7 or higher are generally considered acceptable, it was statistically appropriate to combine these 20 items into a single index.

### **Social Hostilities Index**

In addition to government restrictions, violence and intimidation in societies also can limit religious beliefs and practices. Accordingly, Pew Research Center staff tracked more than a dozen indicators of social impediments on religion. Once again, coding multiple indicators made it possible to construct an index that shows gradations of severity or intensity and allows for comparisons among countries. The summary of results contains the 13 items used by Pew Research Center staff to create the Social Hostilities Index.

The SHI was constructed by adding together the 13 indicators based on a 0-to-10 metric, with zero indicating very low impediments to religious beliefs and practices and 10 indicating very high impediments. The various questions that form the index are coded in a standard scale from zero to 1 point, while gradations among the answers allow for partial points to be given for lesser degrees

of the particular hostilities being measured. The indicators were added together and set to have a possible range of zero to 10 by dividing the sum of the variables by 1.3.

As with the Government Restrictions Index, various types of violence and intimidation were combined. A test of whether these 13 items were statistically reliable as a single index produced a scale reliability coefficient of 0.85. Since coefficients of 0.7 or higher are generally considered acceptable, it was statistically appropriate to combine these items into a single index.

### **How examples are coded**

Examples of each type of government restriction or social hostility are generally counted in a single measure on the GRI or SHI. For instance, a restriction on proselytizing (sharing one's faith with the intent of persuading another to join the faith) is not also counted as a restriction on conversion (an individual changing their religion). In some situations, however, an individual restriction or hostility may be part of a broader set of restrictions or hostilities. For instance, a mob attack by members of one religious group on an individual of another religion may be an isolated event and counted just under question SHI Q.2: Was there mob violence related to religion? However, if such an attack triggers repeated attacks between religious groups, it also might be an indication of sectarian or communal violence, which by definition involves two or more religious groups facing off in repeated clashes. In such a case, the mob attack also would be counted under question SHI Q.3: Were there acts of sectarian or communal violence between religious groups? (See the summary of results.)

### **Effects of consolidating to a new database**

For the first few years of this study, information on the number, types and locations of incidents of government force and social violence toward religious groups as well as deference to religious authorities in matters of law were coded at the province level. (See example of data coding on pages 45-48 of the December 2009 baseline report.) Each year, the province numbers were summed and put into separate country-level files. Following the publication of the August 2011 report, Pew Research Center staff created a database that integrated all province- and country-level data on religious restrictions. During this process, Pew Research Center staff reviewed any discrepancies between province files and the sums that had been transferred to the country files and made appropriate corrections. The adjustments made were relatively minor and had small effects on index scores for countries, on average less than 0.005 points on the 10-point indexes. Consolidating the data into a database also entailed a review of the data on harassment of religious groups. In particular, instances of harassment from the year ending in mid-2007 were stored as open-ended questions, and in a few cases they were recoded to match the categories used in subsequent years.

Beginning with data covering 2012, Pew Research Center stopped collecting data at the province level; all data are coded at the country level.

### **Changing time period of analysis**

This is the seventh time Pew Research Center has analyzed restrictions on religion in a calendar year. Previous reports analyzed 12-month periods from July 1-June 30 (e.g., July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010). The shift to calendar years was made, in part, because most of the primary sources used in this study are based on calendar years.

Because of the shift in time frame, previous studies did not report directly on incidents that occurred during the period from July 1-Dec. 31, 2010. While this misses some incidents that occurred during the second half of 2010, events that had an ongoing impact – such as a change to a country’s constitution or the outbreak of a religion-related war – were captured by the coding. Researchers for the study carefully reviewed the situation in each country and territory during this six-month period and made sure that restrictions with an ongoing impact were not overlooked.

### **Religion-related terrorism and armed conflict**

Terrorism and war can have huge direct and indirect effects on religious groups, including destroying religious sites, displacing whole communities and inflaming sectarian passions. Accordingly, Pew Research Center tallied the number, location and consequences of religion-related terrorism and armed conflict around the world, as reported in the same primary sources used to document other forms of intimidation and violence. However, war and terrorism are sufficiently complex that it is not always possible to determine the degree to which they are religiously motivated or state sponsored. Out of an abundance of caution, this study does not include them in the Government Restrictions Index. They are factored instead into the index of social hostilities involving religion, which includes one question specifically about religion-related terrorism and one question specifically about religion-related war or armed conflict. In addition, other measures in both indexes are likely to pick up spillover effects of war and terrorism on the level of religious tensions in society. For example, hate crimes, mob violence and sectarian fighting that occur in the aftermath of a terrorist attack or in the context of a religion-related war would be counted in the Social Hostilities Index, and laws or policies that clearly discriminate against a particular religious group would be registered on the Government Restrictions Index.

For the purposes of this study, the term “religion-related terrorism” is defined as premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatants by subnational groups or clandestine agents that have some identifiable religious ideology or religious motivation. It also includes acts carried out by groups that have a nonreligious identity but affect religious personnel,

such as clergy. Readers should note that it is the political character and motivation of the groups, not the type of violence, that is at issue here. For instance, a bombing would not be classified as religion-related terrorism if there was no clearly discernible religious ideology or bias behind it unless it was directed at religious personnel. Religion-related war or armed conflict is defined as armed conflict (a conflict that involves sustained casualties over time or more than 1,000 battle deaths) in which religious rhetoric is commonly used to justify the use of force, or in which one or more of the combatants primarily identifies itself or the opposing side by religion.

### **Changes to Somalia's coding**

Starting with data covering 2013, researchers changed the way they coded government restrictions in Somalia. In previous years of the study, researchers had coded actions by the al-Shabaab rebel group as government restrictions, largely because the group effectively controlled large swathes of Somali territory. The extent of al-Shabaab control over Somali territory decreased in calendar year 2013, so researchers did not code their actions as government restrictions but rather as social hostilities. Researchers continued to follow this policy when coding data for 2017.

### **Crimea coding**

Starting with data covering 2015, researchers coded incidents occurring in Crimea as part of Russia's GRI and SHI score. This is to reflect Russia's de facto control over Crimea, and is not intended as a Pew Research Center position on the de jure status of the territory, which the United Nations recognizes as part of Ukraine.<sup>119</sup>

### **Changes to Yemen's coding**

Starting with data covering 2016, researchers changed the way they coded social hostilities in Yemen. In previous years of the study, researchers had coded actions by Houthi rebels as social hostilities. In 2016, however, Houthis formed their own government and had control of territory that is home to more than half of Yemen's population.<sup>120</sup> For this reason, researchers coded actions by the Houthi in 2016 as government restrictions rather than social hostilities and continued to do so in 2017.

### **Displacement coding**

Starting with data covering 2016, researchers changed the way they coded displacement caused by religion-related conflict or terrorism. Previously, researchers would record displacement figures that were reported in any sources. During the coding period covering 2015, researchers continued

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<sup>119</sup> United Nations. March 27, 2014. "[Territorial integrity of Ukraine](#)." Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 March 2014.

<sup>120</sup> Nov. 28, 2016. "[Yemen: Houthi rebels form new government](#)." Al Jazeera.

to code displacement figures in this way but also recorded displacement figures from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as well as the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre in order to compare the results. Researchers found that the figures from the UNHCR and IDMC more closely matched United Nations estimates for new displacements in the calendar year than did the previous method of capturing displacements, which tended to overestimate the number of new displacements in a coding year because the figures often included the *total* number of displaced people from a country and not necessarily the *newly* displaced. Therefore, beginning with the data covering 2016, researchers exclusively used UNHCR and IDMC figures to more conservatively estimate the number of new displacements in the coding year. Displacement was only coded in countries with active religion-related conflict or terrorism in order to avoid including displacements from other types of conflicts or terrorism.

### **Country constitution audit**

Researchers conducted an audit of country constitutions for coding covering the years 2007-2014. While the vast majority of country constitutions were correctly coded as to whether they included religious freedom provisions, there were a few countries where the coding was amended. These included Mexico, Costa Rica, Fiji, Iran, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Cameroon, Kenya and Mozambique. These amendments resulted in minimal changes in these countries' overall GRI scores and did not alter overall trends represented in previous reports. Two countries – Mexico and Costa Rica – had score changes that pushed them from one category to another in 2014. Mexico's 2014 GRI score decreased from "high" to "moderate", while Costa Rica's 2014 GRI score increased from "low" to "moderate."

### **Potential biases**

As noted earlier, the primary sources indicate that the North Korean government is among the most repressive in the world, including toward religion. But because independent observers lack regular access to North Korea, the sources are unable to provide the kind of specific, timely information that forms the basis of this report. Therefore, North Korea is not included on either index.

This raises two important issues concerning potential information bias in the sources. The first is whether other countries that limit outsiders' access and that may seek to obscure or distort their record on religious restrictions were adequately covered by the sources. Countries with relatively limited access have multiple primary sources of information that Pew Research Center used for its coding. Each is also covered by other secondary quantitative data sets on religious restrictions that have used a similar coding scheme, including earlier years of coded State Department report data produced by Grim at Penn State's Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA) project (four data

sets); independent coding by experts at the Hudson Institute’s Center for Religious Liberty using indexes also available from ARDA (one data set); and content analysis of country constitutions conducted by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty (one data set). Pew Research Center staff used these for cross-validation. Thus, contrary to what one might expect, even most countries that limit access to information tend to receive fairly extensive coverage by groups that monitor religious restrictions.

The second key question – the flipside of the first – is whether countries that provide freer access to information receive worse scores simply because more information is available on them. As described more fully in the methodology in the baseline report, Pew Research Center staff compared the length of State Department reports on freer-access countries with those of less-free-access countries. The comparison found that the median number of words was approximately three times as large for the limited-access countries as for the open-access countries. This suggests that problems in freer-access countries are generally not overreported in the State Department reports.

Only when it comes to religion-related violence and intimidation in society do the sources report more problems in the freer-access countries than in the limited-access ones. However, the Social Hostilities Index includes several measures – such as SHI Q.8 (“Did religious groups themselves attempt to prevent other religious groups from being able to operate?”) and SHI Q.11 (“Were women harassed for violating religious dress codes?”) – that are less susceptible to such reporting bias because they capture general social trends or attitudes as well as specific incidents. With these limitations in mind, it appears that the coded information on social hostilities is a fair gauge of the situation in the vast majority of countries and a valuable complement to the information on government restrictions.

Data on social impediments to religious practice can more confidently be used to make comparisons among countries with sufficient openness, which includes more than nine-in-ten countries covered in the coding. An analysis by Grim and Richard Wike, Pew Research Center’s director of global attitudes research, tested the reliability of the State Department reports on social impediments to religious practice by comparing public opinion data with data coded from the reports in previous years by Grim and experts at Penn State. They concluded that “the understanding of social religious intolerance embodied in the State Department reports is comparable with the results of population surveys and individual expert opinion.”<sup>121</sup>

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<sup>121</sup> See Grim, Brian J., and Richard Wike. 2010. “[Cross-Validating Measures of Global Religious Intolerance: Comparing Coded State Department Reports with Survey Data and Expert Opinion.](#)” Politics and Religion.

## Coding harassment of specific religious groups

As in previous reports, this study provides a summary of the number of countries where specific religious groups faced government or social harassment. This is essentially a cross-tabulation of GRI.Q.11 (“Was there harassment or intimidation of religious groups by any level of government?”) and the first type of religious hatred or bias measured in SHI.Q.1.a. (“Did individuals face harassment or intimidation motivated by religious hatred or bias?”). For the purposes of this study, the definition of harassment includes any mention in the primary sources of an offense against an individual or group based on religious identity. Such offenses may range from physical attacks and direct coercion to more subtle forms of discrimination. But prejudicial opinions or attitudes, in and of themselves, do not constitute harassment unless they are acted upon in a palpable way.

As noted above, this study provides data on the number of countries in which different religious groups are harassed or intimidated. But the study does not assess either the severity or the frequency of the harassment in each country. Therefore, the results should not be interpreted as gauging which religious group faces the most harassment or persecution around the world.

## Categories of government restrictions and social hostilities

The categories described in the Overview – included for the first time in this report – were created by grouping together index variables that share commonalities. They *only* include variables that are part of the GRI and SHI indexes. The following tables show the category groups and the variables included in each group.

To calculate the category values, the country’s scores for each of the variables in the category are added and multiplied by a propensity weight. This is because the categories have a different number of variables included, and the categories with more variables need to be weighed down so their scores will not always be higher than the categories with fewer variables included. The weight is calculated using the inverse of the probability of being in the category group. For example, a variable has a five out of 24 chance of being included in the general laws and policies category (five variables in the category, 24 government restrictions variables total). So the propensity score is:  $1 / (5/24) = 4.8$ .

To place the GRI and SHI category scores on a 0-10 scale, the GRI category scores were multiplied by (10/24) and the SHI category scores were multiplied by (10/13).

Pew Research Center generally uses medians to show global and regional differences in scores on the full indexes (GRI and SHI). This decision was made more than a decade ago, at the beginning

of the study, to prevent a few outliers (countries with extremely high or extremely low scores) from skewing the regional or global averages. Both the GRI and SHI are comprised of enough variables that median scores often reflect important differences between regions as well as changes in levels of restrictions over time.

For the eight subcategories of government restrictions and social hostilities described in this report, however, researchers chose a different approach. Since each subcategory includes a much smaller number of variables, global and regional means (as opposed to medians) allow for more granular analysis. If medians were used, year-over-year change in many regions (as well as globally) would be more difficult to see. In addition, regional median scores in certain subcategories would be zero, even though many countries in those regions (albeit fewer than half) have nonzero scores.



## Government restrictions categories

*How government restrictions categories were calculated*

<b>Favoritism of religious groups</b>	<b>Harassment of religious groups</b>	<b>Limits on religious activity</b>	<b>General laws and policies</b>
GRI 20_01: Does the country's constitution or basic law recognize a favored religion or religions?	GRI 11: Was there harassment or intimidation of religious groups by any level of government?	GRI 04: Does any level of government interfere with worship or other religious practices?	GRI 01: Does the constitution, or law that functions in the place of a constitution (basic law), specifically provide for "freedom of religion" or include language used in Article 18 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights?
GRI 20_02: Do all religious groups receive the same level of government access and privileges?	GRI 12: Did the national government display hostility involving physical violence toward minority or non-approved religious groups?	GRI 05: Is public preaching by religious groups limited by any level of government?	GRI 02: Does the constitution or basic law include stipulations that appear to qualify or substantially contradict the concept of "religious freedom"?
GRI 20_03: Does any level of government provide funds or other resources for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>religious education programs and/or religious schools?</li> <li>religious property (e.g., buildings, upkeep, repair or land)?</li> <li>religious activities other than education or property (including through general tax exemption or lump sum payments)?</li> </ul>	GRI 13: Were there instances when the national government did not intervene in cases of [social] discrimination or abuses against religious groups?	GRI 06: Is proselytizing limited by any level of government?	GRI 03: Taken together, how do the constitution/basic law and other national laws and policies affect religious freedom?
GRI 20_04: Is religious education required in public schools?	GRI 15: Did the national government denounce one or more religious groups by characterizing them as dangerous "cults" or "sects"?	GRI 07: Is converting from one religion to another limited by any level of government?	GRI 14: Does the national government have an established organization to regulate or manage religious affairs?

GRI 20_05: Does the national government defer in some way to religious authorities, texts or doctrines on legal issues?	GRI 16: Does any level of government formally ban any religious group?	GRI 08: Is religious literature or broadcasting limited by any level of government?	GRI 18: Does any level of government ask religious groups to register for any reason, including to be eligible for benefits such as tax exemption?
	GRI 17: Were there instances when the national government attempted to eliminate an entire religious group's presence in the country?	GRI 09: Are foreign missionaries allowed to operate?	
	GRI 19: Did any level of government use force toward religious groups that resulted in individuals being killed, physically abused, imprisoned, detained or displaced from their homes, or having their personal or religious properties damaged or destroyed?	GRI 10: Is the wearing of religious symbols, such as scarves or coverings for women and facial hair for men, regulated by law or by any level of government?	
Weight 4.8	Weight: 3.43	Weight 3.43	Weight 4.8
GRI 20_03 is calculated using the average of the a, b and c components: $GRI\ 20\_03 = (GRI\ 20\_03\_a + GRI\ 20\_03\_b + GRI\ 20\_03\_c) / 3$			
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## Social hostilities categories

*How social hostilities categories were calculated*

Interreligious tension and violence	Individual and social group harassment	Hostilities by organized groups	Hostilities related to religious norms
SHI 03: Were there acts of sectarian or communal violence <u>between</u> religious groups?	SHI 01: Did individuals face harassment or intimidation motivated by religious hatred or bias? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Did incidents of religious hatred or bias result in individuals being killed, physically abused, imprisoned, detained or displaced from their homes, or having their personal or religious properties damaged or destroyed?</li> </ul>	SHI 04: Were religion-related terrorist groups active in the country? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the total number of incidents (including deaths, physical abuse, detentions, displacements and property damage) resulting from religion-related terrorism?</li> </ul>	SHI 09: Did individuals or groups use violence or the threat of violence, including so-called honor killings, to try to enforce religious norms?
SHI 06: Did violence result from tensions between religious groups?	SHI 02: Was there mob violence related to religion?	SHI 05: Was there a religion-related war or armed conflict in the country (including ongoing displacements from previous wars)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the total number of incidents (including deaths, physical abuse, detentions, displacements and property damage) resulting from religion-related war or armed conflict?</li> </ul>	SHI 10: Were individuals assaulted or displaced from their homes in retaliation for religious activities, including preaching and other forms of religious expression, considered offensive or threatening to the majority faith?
SHI 08: Did religious groups attempt to prevent other religious groups from being able to operate?		SHI 07: Did organized groups use force or coercion in an attempt to dominate public life with their perspective on religion, including preventing some religious groups from operating in the country?	SHI 11: Were women harassed for violating religious dress codes?

			SHI 12: Were there incidents of hostility over proselytizing?
			SHI 13: Were there incidents of hostility over conversions from one religion to another?
Weight 4.3	Weight: 6.5	Weight 4.3	Weight 2.6
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## Appendix A: Government Restrictions Index

The following table shows all 198 countries and territories in descending order of their scores on Pew Research Center's index of government restrictions on religion as of the end of 2017. The Center has not attached numerical rankings to the countries because there are numerous tied scores and the differences between the scores of countries that are close to each other on this table are not necessarily meaningful.

Very High		High		Moderate	
SCORES 6.6 AND HIGHER		SCORES 4.5 TO 6.5		SCORES 2.4 TO 4.4	
China		Afghanistan		Moldova	
Iran		Western Sahara		Somalia	
Malaysia		Belarus		Cuba	
Syria		Iraq		Greece	
Maldives		Bahrain		Palestinian territories	
Russia		Kuwait		Austria	
Algeria		United Arab Emirates		Serbia	▲
Egypt		Kyrgyzstan		Libya	
Uzbekistan		Qatar		Angola	
Indonesia		Israel	▼	Mexico	
Turkmenistan		Oman		Ethiopia	
Saudi Arabia		India		Djibouti	
Vietnam	▲	Bulgaria		Denmark	
Eritrea		Jordan		Chad	
Tajikistan		Tunisia		Venezuela	
Comoros	▲	Nigeria		Belgium	
Singapore		France		Sri Lanka	
Turkey		Romania		Ukraine	
Kazakhstan		Bangladesh		Rwanda	
Morocco		Tanzania		Armenia	
Laos		Yemen		Iceland	
Burma (Myanmar)		Nepal		Niger	
Azerbaijan		Thailand		Georgia	
Mauritania		Bhutan		Lebanon	
Sudan		Spain	▲	Sierra Leone	
Brunei				Hungary	
Pakistan				Kenya	
				Equatorial Guinea	
				United States	
				Czech Republic	
				Honduras	
				Costa Rica	

▲ Denotes an increase of one point or more from 2016 to 2017.

▼ Denotes a decrease of one point or more from 2016 to 2017.

\* See page 87 for notes on North Korea and Somalia.

### Government Restrictions Index (cont.)

[illegible]

**NORTH KOREA:** The sources used for this study clearly indicate that the government of North Korea is among the most repressive in the world with respect to religion as well as other civil liberties. But because North Korean society is effectively closed to outsiders, the sources are unable to provide the kind of specific and timely information that Pew Research Center coded in this quantitative study. Therefore, the report does not include a score for North Korea on either index.

**SOMALIA:** Starting with data covering 2013, researchers changed the way they coded government restrictions in Somalia. See the Methodology for more details.

## Appendix B: Social Hostilities Index

The following table shows all 198 countries and territories in descending order of their scores on Pew Research Center's index of social hostilities involving religion as of the end of 2017. The Center has not attached numerical rankings to the countries because there are numerous tied scores and the differences between the scores of countries that are close to each other on this table are not necessarily meaningful.

<b>Very High</b>		
<b>SCORES 7.2 AND HIGHER</b>		
India		
Syria		
Iraq		
Egypt		
Nigeria		
Central African Republic		
Pakistan		
Israel		
Yemen		
Bangladesh		
<b>High</b>		
<b>SCORES 3.6 TO 7.2</b>		
Somalia		
Germany		
Libya		
Ukraine		
Palestinian territories		
Afghanistan		
United Kingdom		
Uganda		
Kenya		
Russia		▼
Algeria		
France		
Burma (Myanmar)		
Indonesia		
<b>Moderate</b>		
<b>SCORES 1.5 TO 3.5</b>		
Jordan		
Bosnia-Herzegovina		
Angola		▲
Austria		
Georgia		▼
Liberia		▲
Niger		▲
South Sudan		
Gambia		
Morocco		
Tanzania		
Cyprus		
South Africa		▼
Netherlands		
Samoa		
Tuvalu		
Slovakia		
Sudan		
Ghana		
Norway		
Sierra Leone		
Armenia		
Australia		▼
Czech Republic		▲
Iran		▼
Maldives		▼
New Zealand		▲
Qatar		
Mozambique		▲
Papua New Guinea		
Laos		

▲ Denotes an increase of one point or more from 2016 to 2017.

▼ Denotes a decrease of one point or more from 2016 to 2017.

\* See page 90 for a note on North Korea and Yemen.



## Social Hostilities Index (cont.)

Brunei  
Canada  
Rwanda ▲  
Chad  
North Macedonia  
Belgium  
Colombia  
Poland  
Bahrain ▲  
Solomon Islands  
Mauritania ▲  
Zimbabwe  
Zambia  
Tajikistan  
Kuwait  
Haiti ▼  
Singapore  
Argentina  
Timor-Leste  
Finland  
Uzbekistan  
Djibouti  
Burundi  
Cambodia  
Malawi  
Mauritius  
Madagascar  
Paraguay ▲  
Vietnam

### Low

SCORES 0 TO 1.4

Belarus  
Honduras  
Venezuela  
Chile  
China  
Ireland  
Kiribati  
Latvia

Trinidad and Tobago  
Serbia  
Gabon  
Montenegro ▼  
Senegal  
El Salvador  
Lesotho  
Uruguay  
United Arab Emirates  
Azerbaijan  
Estonia  
Kazakhstan  
Liechtenstein  
Luxembourg  
South Korea  
Togo  
Equatorial Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau  
Malta  
Taiwan  
Lithuania  
Comoros  
Vanuatu ▼  
Bhutan  
Croatia  
Ecuador  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Guatemala  
Jamaica  
Oman  
Turkmenistan  
Belize  
Mongolia ▼  
Peru  
Swaziland  
Barbados  
Hong Kong  
Ivory Coast ▼  
Japan ▼  
Nicaragua  
Portugal  
Tonga

Cuba  
Fiji  
Slovenia  
St. Kitts and Nevis  
Albania  
Costa Rica  
Iceland  
Marshall Islands  
St. Lucia  
St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
Andorra  
Antigua and Barbuda  
Bahamas  
Botswana  
Cape Verde  
Dominica  
Dominican Republic  
Eritrea  
Grenada  
Guyana  
Macau  
Monaco  
Namibia  
Nauru  
Palau  
Panama  
Republic of the Congo  
San Marino  
Sao Tome and Principe  
Seychelles  
Suriname  
Western Sahara

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**NORTH KOREA:** The sources used for this study clearly indicate that the government of North Korea is among the most repressive in the world with respect to religion as well as other civil liberties. But because North Korean society is effectively closed to outsiders, the sources are unable to provide the kind of specific and timely information that Pew Research Center coded in this quantitative study. Therefore, the report does not include a score for North Korea on either index.

**YEMEN:** Starting with data covering 2016, researchers changed the way they coded social hostilities in Yemen. See the Methodology for more details.

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## Appendix C: Religious restrictions index scores by region

Scores in the table below express the levels of religious restrictions according to Pew Research Center's Government Restrictions Index (GRI) and Social Hostilities Index (SHI).

<b>Americas</b> 35 countries	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	COUNTRY	GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI	GRI
Antigua and Barbuda	1.1	0.3	2.7	0.1	2.2	0.0
Argentina	1.7	0.6	2.6	1.8	2.7	1.8
Bahamas	1.4	0.5	3.0	0.8	3.0	0.0
Barbados	0.8	0.3	2.3	0.1	2.3	0.3
Belize	1.3	0.0	1.1	0.4	1.1	0.3
Bolivia	1.0	0.0	1.0	4.0	1.0	3.9
Brazil	0.4	0.8	1.4	3.5	1.3	4.3
Canada	1.0	1.2	1.2	2.3	1.2	2.4
Chile	1.2	0.4	2.2	0.8	1.3	1.3
Colombia	1.8	3.3	3.1	2.3	2.0	2.2
Costa Rica	1.0	0.0	3.2	0.1	3.2	0.1
Cuba	4.5	0.0	5.0	0.0	4.3	0.2
Dominica	0.8	0.3	2.1	0.0	1.6	0.0
Dominican Republic	0.6	0.0	1.7	0.0	1.3	0.0
Ecuador	1.1	0.6	2.1	0.5	2.5	0.4
El Salvador	0.6	0.4	2.0	0.1	2.0	1.0
Grenada	0.5	0.0	2.2	0.0	2.2	0.0
Guatemala	1.2	1.0	2.3	1.3	2.2	0.4
Guyana	0.7	0.0	1.3	0.0	2.5	0.0
Haiti	1.8	0.6	2.3	2.8	2.7	1.9
Honduras	1.3	0.3	2.8	1.2	3.3	1.4
Jamaica	1.0	0.0	1.4	0.1	1.4	0.4
Mexico	4.7	5.5	4.4	5.9	4.1	5.6
Nicaragua	2.1	0.5	2.1	1.0	1.7	0.3
Panama	0.7	0.0	3.2	0.1	2.6	0.0
Paraguay	0.6	0.7	2.2	0.5	1.9	1.5
Peru	1.8	0.0	2.5	0.4	2.0	0.3
St. Kitts and Nevis	0.6	0.3	2.2	0.1	2.2	0.1
St. Lucia	0.6	0.3	1.8	0.0	1.9	0.1
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	0.6	0.3	1.4	0.1	1.4	0.1
Suriname	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.9	0.0

## Religious restrictions index scores by region (cont.)

<b>Americas</b> 35 countries (cont.)		baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
COUNTRY		GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI
Trinidad and Tobago		0.3	0.6	0.8	2.1	0.8	1.2
United States		1.6	1.9	3.2	3.6	3.3	4.4
Uruguay		0.3	0.6	0.8	1.3	1.1	1.0
Venezuela		3.6	0.8	3.2	0.6	3.9	1.4

<b>Asia-Pacific</b> 50 countries		baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
COUNTRY		GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI
Afghanistan		5.3	8.5	6.0	7.1	6.5	6.9
Armenia		3.4	2.7	3.8	2.7	3.7	2.6
Australia		1.3	1.8	1.2	4.2	1.1	2.6
Azerbaijan		5.0	2.9	6.9	0.8	6.8	0.8
Bangladesh		4.0	8.3	4.9	7.6	4.8	7.2
Bhutan		4.4	1.9	4.6	0.4	4.6	0.4
Brunei		7.2	4.2	7.2	2.1	6.6	2.4
Burma (Myanmar)		7.9	4.9	6.9	5.1	6.9	5.9
Cambodia		2.9	0.8	3.6	1.8	3.2	1.5
China		7.8	0.9	8.8	1.3	8.9	1.3
Cyprus		1.2	0.9	2.7	2.2	2.5	2.8
Federated States of Micronesia		0.2	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.4
Fiji		0.9	2.6	1.8	0.6	1.5	0.2
Hong Kong		1.0	0.8	1.9	0.4	1.8	0.3
India		4.8	8.8	5.1	9.7	5.4	9.5
Indonesia		6.2	8.3	8.5	5.5	7.9	5.9
Iran		7.9	6.0	8.5	3.5	8.4	2.6
Japan		0.2	0.4	0.8	1.9	0.9	0.3
Kazakhstan		5.6	3.1	7.5	1.7	7.1	0.8
Kiribati		0.3	0.8	0.9	1.3	0.9	1.2

### Religious restrictions index scores by region (cont.)

Asia-Pacific 50 countries (cont.)	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017		
	COUNTRY	GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI
Kyrgyzstan		3.9	5.5	6.5	5.2	5.7	4.0
Laos		6.3	1.0	6.9	1.7	6.9	2.4
Macau		1.3	0.3	0.8	0.0	1.0	0.0
Malaysia		6.4	1.0	8.2	6.2	8.3	4.5
Maldives		6.5	2.6	8.2	3.7	8.2	2.6
Marshall Islands		0.2	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.6	0.1
Mongolia		1.9	0.6	2.5	1.9	3.1	0.3
Nauru		2.0	0.3	2.1	0.0	1.5	0.0
Nepal		3.4	4.2	5.2	5.0	4.6	4.7
New Zealand		0.3	0.4	0.5	0.9	0.5	2.6
Pakistan		5.8	8.9	6.5	6.9	6.6	7.7
Palau		0.6	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.0
Papua New Guinea		0.8	0.0	1.2	2.4	1.4	2.4
Philippines		1.6	3.7	1.3	4.2	1.0	4.0
Samoa		0.8	0.4	1.1	2.8	1.3	2.8
Singapore		4.6	0.2	7.1	1.7	7.1	1.9
Solomon Islands		0.6	0.4	1.0	1.5	1.0	2.1
South Korea		1.6	0.0	2.4	1.2	2.4	0.8
Sri Lanka		4.0	7.8	4.1	5.9	3.8	5.6
Taiwan		0.5	0.0	2.2	0.5	1.7	0.7
Tajikistan		4.5	2.2	7.5	1.1	7.5	2.0
Thailand		2.6	2.6	5.3	4.9	4.6	4.7
Timor-Leste		0.9	4.2	1.6	1.9	1.0	1.7
Tonga		2.0	0.0	1.6	0.0	1.6	0.3
Turkey		6.6	4.7	7.0	6.5	7.1	5.3
Turkmenistan		5.6	1.5	7.9	0.5	7.9	0.4
Tuvalu		1.8	2.1	3.0	2.2	2.0	2.8
Uzbekistan		7.7	3.3	7.8	1.1	8.0	1.7
Vanuatu		1.0	1.0	1.5	1.7	1.5	0.6
Vietnam		6.6	1.2	6.5	1.0	7.6	1.5

## Religious restrictions index scores by region (cont.)

<b>Europe</b> 45 countries		<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2016</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2017</i>	
COUNTRY		GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI
Albania		0.8	0.2	1.1	0.2	1.6	0.1
Andorra		0.9	0.0	2.3	0.8	2.4	0.0
Austria		2.6	1.1	3.9	3.8	4.2	3.2
Belarus		5.9	1.4	6.4	2.0	6.4	1.4
Belgium		4.0	0.9	4.0	2.7	3.8	2.2
Bosnia-Herzegovina		1.5	2.4	3.0	3.4	2.9	3.2
Bulgaria		4.0	2.2	5.7	2.7	5.3	4.2
Croatia		0.7	2.0	1.7	0.5	2.4	0.4
Czech Republic		1.0	1.2	2.5	1.3	3.3	2.6
Denmark		2.5	1.2	4.1	4.4	4.0	4.4
Estonia		1.1	0.8	1.2	1.0	1.2	0.8
Finland		0.6	0.8	2.5	2.0	2.6	1.7
France		3.3	3.4	5.2	5.9	4.9	6.0
Georgia		2.2	4.7	3.7	4.5	3.5	3.1
Germany		3.1	2.1	3.0	6.8	3.2	7.1
Greece		5.2	4.4	4.5	3.5	4.3	5.1
Hungary		0.3	1.0	3.3	2.6	3.3	3.7
Iceland		2.6	0.4	3.7	0.1	3.7	0.1
Ireland		0.6	0.4	0.8	1.8	1.0	1.2
Italy		2.0	1.9	3.0	5.1	2.9	5.0
Kosovo		1.9	2.4	3.1	3.8	2.7	4.4
Latvia		2.3	1.4	2.4	0.3	2.6	1.2
Liechtenstein		1.3	0.1	2.5	0.9	2.5	0.8
Lithuania		1.7	0.8	2.1	0.9	2.5	0.6
Luxembourg		0.8	0.0	2.1	0.0	2.5	0.8
Malta		1.2	0.4	2.2	1.2	2.1	0.8
Moldova		4.2	3.8	4.6	5.0	4.4	4.5
Monaco		2.5	0.0	2.5	0.0	2.8	0.0
Montenegro		0.9	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.2	1.1

**Religious restrictions index scores by region (cont.)**

<b>Europe 45 countries (cont.)</b>		<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2016</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2017</i>	
COUNTRY		GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI
Netherlands		0.4	1.0	1.6	3.5	2.6	2.8
North Macedonia		2.2	1.5	2.3	2.8	2.2	2.2
Norway		1.5	1.0	2.5	2.6	2.9	2.6
Poland		1.0	0.9	3.3	2.2	2.9	2.2
Portugal		0.3	0.0	0.6	0.5	1.0	0.3
Romania		4.8	5.5	4.7	4.5	4.8	3.7
Russia		5.8	3.7	8.1	7.4	8.1	6.3
San Marino		0.1	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.6	0.0
Serbia		3.1	1.5	3.1	1.8	4.2	1.1
Slovakia		2.8	1.9	2.5	3.3	3.0	2.7
Slovenia		0.6	1.0	1.7	0.3	2.6	0.2
Spain		2.0	1.6	3.0	4.0	4.5	4.0
Sweden		1.2	0.7	2.8	3.5	2.3	4.5
Switzerland		1.2	1.7	2.7	4.7	2.5	4.6
Ukraine		2.6	1.9	4.2	6.8	3.8	7.1
United Kingdom		1.6	1.6	2.3	6.6	2.6	6.8

<b>Middle East-North Africa 20 countries</b>		<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2016</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2017</i>	
COUNTRY		GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI
Algeria		5.6	3.6	7.8	6.5	8.0	6.3
Bahrain		4.3	3.0	6.1	1.0	6.2	2.1
Egypt		7.2	6.1	7.9	8.5	8.0	8.5
Iraq		5.1	10.0	6.8	8.9	6.4	8.8
Israel		3.9	7.8	6.5	7.7	5.5	7.3
Jordan		4.6	3.5	5.9	4.0	5.3	3.4
Kuwait		4.8	1.9	6.4	1.9	6.1	1.9
Lebanon		1.4	5.1	4.0	5.3	3.5	5.2
Libya		5.1	1.4	3.4	6.7	4.1	7.1

## Religious restrictions index scores by region (cont.)

<b>Middle East-North Africa</b> 20 countries (cont.)		<i>baseline</i> year, ending <b>JUN 2007</b>		<i>previous</i> year, ending <b>DEC 2016</b>		<i>latest</i> year, ending <b>DEC 2017</b>	
COUNTRY		GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI
Morocco		4.9	3.7	7.4	3.4	7.0	3.0
Oman		3.9	0.3	5.4	0.5	5.4	0.4
Palestinian territories		3.3	6.4	4.4	7.8	4.3	7.0
Qatar		3.3	0.3	6.2	1.7	5.6	2.6
Saudi Arabia		8.0	7.2	7.7	5.6	7.8	4.7
Sudan		5.7	6.5	5.9	3.1	6.7	2.7
Syria		4.5	5.3	7.8	9.0	8.3	9.0
Tunisia		4.8	3.8	5.7	3.6	5.1	3.8
United Arab Emirates		3.9	0.1	5.9	1.0	5.8	1.0
Western Sahara		4.8	3.3	7.0	0.0	6.5	0.0
Yemen		4.3	6.2	5.5	6.3	4.7	7.2

<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b> 48 countries		<i>baseline</i> year, ending <b>JUN 2007</b>		<i>previous</i> year, ending <b>DEC 2016</b>		<i>latest</i> year, ending <b>DEC 2017</b>	
COUNTRY		GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI
Angola		3.3	3.7	4.2	1.9	4.1	3.2
Benin		0.3	0.0	1.2	3.6	1.2	3.9
Botswana		0.9	0.1	1.6	0.0	1.3	0.0
Burkina Faso		0.3	1.5	1.2	6.0	1.8	4.3
Burundi		0.4	0.9	2.9	1.3	2.4	1.5
Cameroon		1.1	1.4	3.0	3.7	3.2	5.2
Cape Verde		0.3	0.1	1.1	0.0	0.5	0.0
Central African Republic		3.7	3.3	3.1	6.9	2.6	7.7
Chad		4.2	3.3	3.5	1.8	3.9	2.2
Comoros		5.4	6.2	6.3	0.5	7.4	0.6
Democratic Republic of the Congo		1.3	2.6	1.9	4.4	3.0	4.0
Djibouti		2.4	1.8	4.4	1.7	4.0	1.6
Equatorial Guinea		2.6	0.0	2.9	0.8	3.3	0.8
Eritrea		7.0	0.4	7.4	0.1	7.6	0.0
Ethiopia		2.6	5.3	4.7	2.5	4.1	3.9



**Religious restrictions index scores by region (cont.)**

Sub-Saharan Africa 48 countries (cont.)	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	COUNTRY	GRI	SHI	GRI	SHI	GRI
Gabon	1.7	0.1	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.1
Gambia	0.5	0.8	3.8	3.1	0.7	3.0
Ghana	1.2	4.9	1.6	2.7	1.6	2.6
Guinea	1.5	1.7	2.6	3.1	2.5	3.9
Guinea-Bissau	1.6	0.0	0.3	0.8	0.4	0.8
Ivory Coast	1.9	3.1	1.7	1.5	1.0	0.3
Kenya	2.9	2.4	3.3	6.8	3.3	6.5
Lesotho	0.4	0.0	0.7	0.3	0.7	1.0
Liberia	1.7	3.8	1.7	1.2	2.6	3.1
Madagascar	1.8	0.0	2.3	1.7	3.0	1.5
Malawi	0.4	0.3	2.1	1.4	2.1	1.5
Mali	0.9	0.3	0.6	2.6	1.2	5.1
Mauritania	6.5	0.9	6.6	1.1	6.7	2.1
Mauritius	1.4	0.3	1.3	0.8	1.5	1.5
Mozambique	1.0	0.3	1.1	1.0	1.4	2.5
Namibia	0.3	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.9	0.0
Niger	1.7	1.5	3.6	2.1	3.7	3.1
Nigeria	3.7	4.4	4.4	8.9	4.9	8.1
Republic of the Congo	0.7	0.4	3.2	0.0	1.9	0.0
Rwanda	2.0	0.0	4.3	1.2	3.7	2.4
Sao Tome and Principe	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0
Senegal	0.5	0.0	1.1	0.2	1.2	1.0
Seychelles	1.3	0.0	2.5	0.0	2.6	0.0
Sierra Leone	0.0	0.0	2.6	2.3	3.4	2.6
Somalia	4.4	7.4	4.5	6.7	4.4	7.1
South Sudan	*	*	1.3	3.0	3.0	3.0
South Africa	0.6	2.2	0.8	3.9	0.9	2.8
Swaziland	1.5	0.0	2.9	0.6	2.4	0.3
Tanzania	2.1	3.5	4.6	2.6	4.7	2.9
Togo	2.8	0.0	2.0	1.2	2.1	0.8
Uganda	2.4	0.4	4.1	6.3	2.4	6.7
Zambia	2.0	0.0	2.3	2.9	3.2	2.0
Zimbabwe	2.9	1.2	2.7	1.5	2.8	2.1

\* South Sudan was coded for the first time in 2011.

## Appendix D: Summary of results

### Government restrictions on religion

To assess the level of restrictions on religion by governments around the world, Pew Research Center selected the following 20 questions for the Government Restrictions Index (GRI). Pew Research Center staff then combed through 20 published sources of information, including reports by the U.S. State Department, the United Nations and various nongovernmental organizations, to answer the questions on a country-by-country basis. (For more details, see the Methodology.)

This summary shows the questions, followed by various possible answers and the number and percentage of countries that fell into each category, according to the multiple sources analyzed by the Center. For example, on Question No. 5 – “Is public preaching by religious groups limited by any level of government?” – the study found that for the latest year, ending on Dec. 31, 2017, 112 countries (57%) had no reported limits on preaching, 42 countries (21%) had limits on preaching for some religious groups and 44 countries (22%) had limits on preaching for all religious groups.

Additionally, the summary shows whether particular religious restrictions occurred during the previous year, ending Dec. 31, 2016, or in the study’s baseline year, ending in mid-2007. A total of 197 countries are shown for the baseline year; South Sudan was coded for the first time in 2011, bringing the previous and latest years’ totals to 198 countries. To see how each country scored on each question, see the Results by Country online.

When comparing these results with Pew Research Center’s previous reports, readers should keep in mind that reports before 2011 showed the number of countries in which particular religious restrictions occurred at any time during two overlapping periods: July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2008, and July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2009. Because this report presents data on an annual basis, the incidents for a single year may be less than when two years were taken into account.

Some differences from year to year might not be as significant as they appear due to minor changes in coding procedures and changes in the amount of information available between years. For example, sources for the most recent period studied sometimes had less information on incidents in a country than sources previously had reported. Such additional information may reflect either an actual decrease in restrictions in a country, streamlined reporting for that country or both. (For more details, see the Methodology.)

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

**GRI.Q.1**

*Does the constitution, or law that functions in the place of a constitution (basic law), specifically provide for “freedom of religion” or include language used in Article 18 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights?<sup>1</sup>*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
Yes	143	73%	147	74%	147	74%
The constitution or basic law does not specifically provide for freedom of religion but does protect some religious practices	47	24	43	22	44	22
No	7	4	8	4	7	4
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

**GRI.Q.2**

*Does the constitution or basic law include stipulations that appear to qualify or substantially contradict the concept of “religious freedom”?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	42	21%	26	13%	27	14%
Yes, there is a qualification	38	19	47	24	46	23
Yes, there is a substantial contradiction and only some religious practices are protected	110	56	117	59	118	60
Religious freedom is not provided in the first place	7	4	8	4	7	4
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

**Note:** This report corrects the way constitutions were coded for 10 countries: Cameroon, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Fiji, Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique and Uruguay. The corrections were applied to all applicable previous years to ensure consistency, and the updates resulted in changes to distribution of the GRI.Q.1 and GRI.Q.2 variables in various years. Users of the data should note this update when comparing these results with those printed in previous reports.

<sup>1</sup> Article 18 states: “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.”

**GRI.Q.3**

*Taken together, how do the constitution/basic law and other national laws and policies affect religious freedom?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2016</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2017</i>	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
National laws and policies provide for religious freedom, and the national government respects religious freedom in practice	63	32%	72	36%	69	35%
National laws and policies provide for religious freedom, and the national government generally respects religious freedom in practice; but there are some instances (e.g., in certain localities) where religious freedom is not respected in practice	94	48	83	42	84	42
There are limited national legal protections for religious freedom, but the national government does not generally respect religious freedom in practice	38	19	34	17	37	19
National laws and policies do not provide for religious freedom and the national government does not respect religious freedom in practice	2	1	9	5	8	4
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

**GRI.Q.4***Does any level of government interfere with worship or other religious practices?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	85	43%	43	22%	43	22%
Yes, in a few cases	44	22	31	16	30	15
Yes, in many cases	32	16	63	32	67	34
Government prohibits worship or religious practices of one or more religious groups as a general policy	36	18	61	31	58	29
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

**GRI.Q.5***Is public preaching by religious groups limited by any level of government?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	141	72%	114	58%	112	57%
Yes, for some religious groups	32	16	43	22	42	21
Yes, for all religious groups	24	12	41	21	44	22
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

**GRI.Q.6***Is proselytizing limited by any level of government?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	132	67%	121	61%	121	61%
Yes, for some religious groups	39	20	41	21	38	19
Yes, for all religious groups	26	13	36	18	39	20
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

### GRI.Q.7

*Is converting from one religion to another limited by any level of government?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	166	84%	154	78%	153	77%
Yes	31	16	44	22	45	23
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

### GRI.Q.8

*Is religious literature or broadcasting limited by any level of government?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	130	66%	122	62%	121	61%
Yes	67	34	76	38	77	39
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

### GRI.Q.9

*Are foreign missionaries allowed to operate?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
Yes	117	59%	122	62%	117	59%
Yes, but with restrictions	72	37	66	33	71	36
No	8	4	10	5	10	5
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

**GRI.Q.10**

*Is the wearing of religious symbols, such as head coverings for women and facial hair for men, regulated by law or by any level of government?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	176	89%	137	69%	136	69%
Yes	21	11	61	31	62	31
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

**GRI.Q.11**

*Was there harassment or intimidation of religious groups by any level of government?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	79	40%	21	11%	23	12%
Yes, there was limited intimidation	82	42	55	28	60	30
Yes, there was widespread intimidation	36	18	122	62	115	58
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

**GRI.Q.12**

*Did the national government display hostility involving physical violence toward minority or nonapproved religious groups?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	152	77%	138	70%	151	76%
Yes	45	23	60	30	47	24
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

### GRI.Q.13

*Were there instances when the national government did not intervene in cases of discrimination or abuses against religious groups?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	157	80%	144	73%	140	71%
Yes	40	20	54	27	58	29
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

### GRI.Q.14

*Does the national government have an established organization to regulate or manage religious affairs?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	106	54%	74	37%	70	35%
No, but the government consults a nongovernmental advisory board	12	6	12	6	13	7
Yes, but the organization is non- coercive toward religious groups	54	27	54	27	58	29
Yes, and the organization is coercive toward religious groups	25	13	58	29	57	29
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

### GRI.Q.15

*Did the national government denounce one or more religious groups by characterizing them as dangerous “cults” or “sects”?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	180	91%	171	86%	168	85%
Yes	17	9	27	14	30	15
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>



**GRI.Q.16***Does any level of government formally ban any religious group?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2016</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2017</i>	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	162	82%	156	79%	158	80%
Yes	35	18	42	21	40	20
Security reasons stated as rationale	11	6	7	4	9	5
Nonsecurity reasons stated as rationale	18	9	20	10	18	9
Both security and nonsecurity reasons stated as rationale	6	3	15	8	13	7
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

**GRI.Q.17***Were there instances when the national government attempted to eliminate an entire religious group's presence in the country?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2016</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2017</i>	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	181	92%	181	91%	180	91%
Yes	16	8	17	9	18	9
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

### GRI.Q.18

*Does any level of government ask religious groups to register for any reason, including to be eligible for benefits such as tax exemption?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	38	19%	11	6%	9	5%
Yes, but in a nondiscriminatory way	71	36	66	33	67	34
Yes, and the process adversely affects the ability of some religious groups to operate	34	17	30	15	29	15
Yes, and the process clearly discriminates against some religious groups	54	27	91	46	93	47
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

### GRI.Q.19

*Did any level of government use force toward religious groups that resulted in individuals being killed, physically abused, imprisoned, detained or displaced from their homes, or having their personal or religious properties damaged or destroyed?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	136	69%	96	48%	111	56%
Yes	61	31	102	52	87	44
1-9 cases of government force	18	9	45	23	32	16
10-200 cases of government force	35	18	35	18	34	17
201-1,000 cases of government force	4	2	10	5	12	6
1,001-9,999 cases of government force	2	1	6	3	5	3
10,000+ cases of government force	2	1	6	3	4	2
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

**GRI.Q.19b**

*Did any level of government use force toward religious groups that resulted in individuals being killed, physically abused, imprisoned, detained or displaced from their homes, or having their personal or religious properties damaged or destroyed?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	136	69%	96	48%	111	56%
Yes ^	61	31	102	52	87	44
Property damage	7	4	75	38	62	31
Detentions/abductions	47	24	74	37	71	36
Displacement from homes	20	10	25	13	26	13
Physical assaults	25	13	39	20	37	19
Deaths	15	8	23	12	22	11
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

Nested categories add to more than total because countries can have multiple types of cases of government force.

^ This line represents the number or percentage of countries in which at least one of the following types of government force occurred.

**GRI.Q.20**

*Do some religious groups receive government support or favors, such as funding, official recognition or special access?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	17	9%	1	1%	2	1%
Yes, the government provides support to religious groups, but it does so on a more-or-less fair and equal basis	37	19	40	20	45	23
Yes, the government gives preferential support or favors to some religious group(s) and clearly discriminates against others	143	73	157	79	151	76
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

This is a summary table that puts the restrictions identified in Questions 20.1, 20.2, 20.3.a-c, 20.4 and 20.5 into a single measure indicating the level to which a government supports religious groups in the country. Government support of a religion or religions is considered restrictive only when preferential treatment of one or more religious groups puts other religious groups at a disadvantage.

### GRI.Q.20.1

*Does the country's constitution or basic law recognize a favored religion or religions?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	141	72%	109	55%	109	55%
Yes	56	28	89	45	89	45
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

This question is a component of GRI.Q.20.

For GRI.Q.20.1, the differences between the coding periods may not be as significant as they appear due to minor changes in coding procedures.

### GRI.Q.20.2

*Do all religious groups receive the same level of government access and privileges?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
All religious groups are generally treated the same	39	20%	23	12%	26	13%
Some religious groups have minimal privileges unavailable to other religious groups, limited to things such as inheriting buildings or properties	7	4	32	16	31	16
Some religious groups have general privileges or government access unavailable to other religious groups	62	31	49	25	43	22
One religious group has privileges or government access unavailable to other religious groups, but it is not recognized as the country's official religion	48	24	49	25	52	26
One religious group has privileges or government access unavailable to other religious groups, and it is recognized by the national government as the official religion	41	21	45	23	46	23
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

This question is a component of GRI.Q.20.

**GRI.Q.20.3**

*Does any level of government provide funds or other resources to religious groups?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2016</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2017</i>	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	45	23%	6	3%	15	8%
Yes, but with no obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	23	12	44	22	46	23
Yes, and with obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	129	65	148	75	137	69
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

This question is a component of GRI.Q.20. This is a summary table that puts the restrictions identified in Questions 20.3.a-c into a single measure indicating the level to which a government supports religious groups in the country. Government support of a religion or religions is considered restrictive only when preferential treatment of one or more religious groups puts other religious groups at a disadvantage.

**GRI.Q.20.3.a**

*Does any level of government provide funds or other resources for religious education programs and/or religious schools?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2016</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2017</i>	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	71	36%	34	17%	60	30%
Yes, but with no obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	24	12	47	24	39	20
Yes, and with obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	102	52	117	59	99	50
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

This question is a component of GRI.Q.20.3.

**GRI.Q.20.3.b**

*Does any level of government provide funds or other resources for religious property (e.g., buildings, upkeep, repair or land)?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2016</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2017</i>	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	128	65%	102	52%	103	52%
Yes, but with no obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	10	5	28	14	23	12
Yes, and with obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	59	30	68	34	72	36
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

This question is a component of GRI.Q.20.3.

**GRI.Q.20.3.c**

*Does any level of government provide funds or other resources for religious activities other than education or property?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2016</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2017</i>	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	106	54%	31	16%	30	15%
Yes, but with no obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	7	4	61	31	65	33
Yes, and with obvious favoritism to a particular group or groups	84	43	106	54	103	52
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

This question is a component of GRI.Q.20.3.

**GRI.Q.20.4***Is religious education required in public schools?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2016</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2017</i>	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	134	68%	110	56%	112	57%
Yes, by at least some local governments	6	3	8	4	7	4
Yes, by the national government	57	29	80	40	79	40
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

This question is a component of GRI.Q.20.

**GRI.Q.20.5***Does the national government defer in some way to religious authorities, texts or doctrines on legal issues?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2016</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2017</i>	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	150	76%	134	68%	131	66%
Yes	47	24	64	32	67	34
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

This question is a component of GRI.Q.20.

## Social hostilities involving religion

To assess the level of social hostilities involving religion around the world, Pew Research Center used the following 13 questions for the Social Hostilities Index (SHI). Pew Research Center staff then combed through 20 published sources of information, including reports by the U.S. State Department, the United Nations and various nongovernmental organizations, to answer the questions on a country-by-country basis. (For more details, see the Methodology.)

This summary shows the questions, followed by various possible answers and the number and percentage of countries that fell into each category, according to the multiple sources analyzed by Pew Research Center. For example, on Question No. 12 – “Were there incidents of hostility over proselytizing?” – the study found that for the latest year, ending on Dec. 31, 2017, 163 countries (82%) had no reported incidents of hostility over proselytizing, 19 countries (10%) had incidents that fell short of physical violence and 16 countries (8%) had incidents involving violence.

Additionally, the summary shows whether particular religious hostilities occurred during the previous year, ending Dec. 31, 2016, or in the study’s baseline year, ending in mid-2007. A total of 197 countries are shown for the baseline year; South Sudan was coded for the first time in 2011, bringing the previous and last years’ totals to 198 countries. To see how each country scored on each question, see the Results by Country online.

When comparing these results with the Pew Research Center’s previous reports, readers should keep in mind that previous reports showed the number of countries in which particular religious hostilities occurred at any time during two overlapping periods: July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2008, and July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2009. Because this report presents data on an annual basis, the incidents for a single year may be less than when two years were taken into account.

Some differences from year to year might not be as significant as they appear due to minor changes in coding procedures and changes in the amount of information available between years. For example, sources for the most recent period studied sometimes had more information on incidents in a country than sources previously had reported. Such additional information may reflect either an actual increase in hostilities in a country, improved reporting for that country or both. (For more details, see the Methodology.)

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.



**SHI.Q.1.a**

*Were there crimes, malicious acts or violence motivated by religious hatred or bias?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	67	34%	39	20%	34	17%
Yes ^	130	66	159	80	164	83
Harassment/intimidation	127	64	159	80	164	83
Property damage	40	20	82	41	79	40
Detentions/abductions	12	6	17	9	18	9
Displacement from homes	19	10	19	10	22	11
Physical assaults	55	28	64	32	52	26
Deaths	25	13	38	19	38	19
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

This is a summary table that captures the types of religious hatred or bias.

Nested categories add to more than total because countries can have multiple types of hostilities.

^ This line represents the number or percentage of countries in which at least one of the following hostilities occurred.

Each country's score for each type of religious hatred or bias is available in SHI.Q.1a-f in the Results by Country (online).

**SHI.Q.1.b**

*How many different types of crimes, malicious acts or violence motivated by religious hatred or bias occurred?  
The six different types considered include: harassment/intimidation, property damage, detentions/abductions,  
displacement from homes, physical assaults and killings.*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	67	34%	39	20%	34	17%
Yes: one type	56	28	57	29	60	30
Yes: two types	30	15	33	17	40	20
Yes: three types	25	13	40	20	38	19
Yes: four types	11	6	15	8	14	7
Yes: five types	5	3	8	4	9	5
Yes: six types	3	2	6	3	3	2
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

This is a summary table that captures the severity of religious hatred or bias.

Each country's score based on how many of the six types of religious hatred or bias were documented is available in SHI.Q.1 in the Results by Country (online).

## SHI.Q.2

*Was there mob violence related to religion?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2016</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2017</i>	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	174	88%	153	77%	163	82%
Yes, but there were no deaths re- ported	14	7	31	16	19	10
Yes, and there were deaths reported	9	5	14	7	16	8
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

## SHI.Q.3

*Were there acts of sectarian or communal violence between religious groups?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2016</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2017</i>	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	181	92%	185	93%	184	93%
Yes	16	8	13	7	14	7
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

Sectarian or communal violence involves two or more religious groups facing off in repeated clashes.

**SHI.Q.4***Were religion-related terrorist groups active in the country?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2016</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2017</i>	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	137	70%	129	65%	133	67%
Yes	60	30	69	35	65	33
Yes, but their activity was limited to recruitment and fundraising	43	22	21	11	12	6
Yes, with violence that resulted in some casualties (1-9 injuries or deaths)	7	4	10	5	14	7
Yes, with violence that resulted in multiple casualties (10-50 injuries or deaths)	2	1	5	3	7	4
Yes, with violence that resulted in many casualties (more than 50 injuries or deaths)	8	4	33	17	32	16
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

Religion-related terrorism is defined as politically motivated violence against noncombatants by subnational groups or clandestine agents with a religious justification or intent.

## SHI.Q.5

*Was there a religion-related war or armed conflict in the country?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2016</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2017</i>	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	176	89%	186	94%	186	94%
Yes	21	11	12	6	12	6
Yes, with fewer than 10,000 casualties or people displaced	9	5	3	2	1	1
Yes, with tens of thousands of casualties or people displaced	6	3	2	1	5	3
Yes, with hundreds of thousands of casualties or people displaced	3	2	7	4	5	3
Yes, with millions of casualties or people displaced	3	2	0	0	1	1
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

Religion-related war is defined as armed conflict (involving sustained casualties over time or more than 1,000 battle deaths) in which religious rhetoric is commonly employed to justify the use of force, or in which one or more of the combatants primarily identifies itself or the opposing side by religion.

## SHI.Q.6

*Did violence result from tensions between religious groups?*

	<i>baseline year, ending JUN 2007</i>		<i>previous year, ending DEC 2016</i>		<i>latest year, ending DEC 2017</i>	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	50	25%	99	50%	91	46%
There were public tensions between religious groups, but they fell short of hostilities involving physical violence	56	28	42	21	50	25
Yes, with physical violence in a few cases	69	35	34	17	35	18
Yes, with physical violence in numerous cases	22	11	23	12	22	11
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

The data for each year also take into account information from the two previous years.

**SHI.Q.7**

*Did organized groups use force or coercion in an attempt to dominate public life with their perspective on religion, including preventing some religious groups from operating in the country?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	113	57%	103	52%	102	52%
Yes	84	43	95	48	96	49
At the local level	22	11	27	14	27	14
At the regional level	31	16	9	5	10	5
At the national level	31	16	59	30	59	30
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

The data for each year also take into account information from the two previous years.

**SHI.Q.8**

*Did religious groups themselves attempt to prevent other religious groups from being able to operate?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	130	66%	137	69%	133	67%
Yes	67	34	61	31	65	33
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

The data for each year also take into account information from the two previous years.

**SHI.Q.9**

*Did individuals or groups use violence or the threat of violence, including so-called honor killings, to try to enforce religious norms?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	162	82%	121	61%	110	56%
Yes	35	18	77	39	88	44
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

The data for each year also take into account information from the two previous years.

### SHI.Q.10

*Were individuals assaulted or displaced from their homes in retaliation for religious activities, including preaching and other forms of religious expression, considered offensive or threatening to the majority faith?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	149	76%	110	56%	119	60%
Yes	48	24	88	44	79	40
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

The data for each year also take into account information from the two previous years.

### SHI.Q.11

*Were women harassed for violating religious dress codes?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	183	93%	141	71%	139	70%
Yes	14	7	57	29	59	30
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

The data for each year also take into account information from the two previous years.

### SHI.Q.12

*Were there incidents of hostility over proselytizing?*

	baseline year, ending JUN 2007		previous year, ending DEC 2016		latest year, ending DEC 2017	
	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	% OF COUNTRIES
No	148	75%	164	83%	163	82%
Yes, but they fell short of physical violence	30	15	17	9	19	10
Yes, and they included physical violence	19	10	17	9	16	8
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

The data for each year also take into account information from the two previous years.

**SHI.Q.13**

*Were there incidents of hostility over conversions from one religion to another?*

	<i>baseline year, ending</i> <b>JUN 2007</b>		<i>previous year, ending</i> <b>DEC 2016</b>		<i>latest year, ending</i> <b>DEC 2017</b>	
	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COUNTRIES</b>	<b>% OF COUNTRIES</b>
No	153	78%	140	71%	142	72%
Yes, but they fell short of physical violence	23	12	34	17	26	13
Yes, and they included physical violence	21	11	24	12	30	15
	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100</b>

The data for each year also take into account information from the two previous years.

## Appendix E: Country category scores by region

Scores in the table below measure the levels of religious restrictions in each category for each country. For details on the specific indicators that go into each category, see Overview. The first four columns (favoritism of religious groups, general laws and policies, harassment of religious groups, and limits on religious activity) are different types of government restrictions on religion that are all part of the Government Restrictions Index (GRI). The last four (interreligious tension and violence, individual and social group harassment, religious violence by organized groups, and hostilities related to religious norms) are different types of social hostilities involving religion that are part of the Social Hostilities Index (SHI).

Americas	Favoritism of religious groups		General laws and policies		Harassment of religious groups		Limits on religious activity		Inter-religious tension, violence		Individual/social group harassment		Religious violence by organized groups		Hostilities related to religious norms	
	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17
Antigua, Barbuda	1.3	0.3	3.3	2.7	0.0	1.4	0.5	2.9	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Argentina	4.8	4.8	5.7	4.3	0.0	2.1	0.0	1.9	2.2	0.0	0.9	5.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	2.0
Bahamas	2.2	6.2	2.0	3.3	1.7	2.4	0.5	2.9	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Barbados	1.7	3.5	2.0	2.7	0.0	1.4	0.5	2.9	1.1	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Belize	4.3	4.0	3.3	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bolivia	2.8	1.5	3.3	2.7	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.0
Brazil	0.3	1.7	0.7	1.3	0.0	0.7	0.7	1.9	2.2	5.6	0.9	5.0	0.8	3.1	0.0	4.0
Canada	2.0	2.8	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.9	1.9	2.2	0.0	1.6	1.6	1.9	2.5	0.0	4.0
Chile	4.8	4.5	3.7	4.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.9	5.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0
Colombia	4.8	1.5	2.7	2.7	0.0	2.4	2.6	1.2	6.7	0.0	0.9	4.2	7.2	3.3	0.0	2.0
Costa Rica	5.3	9.7	3.0	5.7	0.0	0.7	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cuba	2.2	1.2	5.3	6.0	2.9	3.4	6.0	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dominica	1.7	1.2	2.0	3.3	0.0	0.7	0.5	1.4	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dom. Republic	4.7	8.0	1.3	2.7	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ecuador	0.0	0.7	2.0	4.0	0.3	1.4	1.4	2.6	2.2	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
El Salvador	1.5	4.2	2.0	3.3	0.0	0.7	0.0	2.1	1.1	0.0	0.9	1.3	0.0	3.3	0.0	0.0
Grenada	0.0	1.2	2.0	3.3	0.0	0.7	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guatemala	1.2	5.5	2.7	3.3	0.7	1.4	0.7	1.7	4.4	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0
Guyana	1.5	0.8	2.0	2.7	0.0	1.4	0.5	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Haiti	1.8	5.5	4.7	5.3	0.0	1.4	1.4	1.7	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.4	1.1	0.0	0.0	4.0
Honduras	0.0	2.2	2.6	3.3	0.7	2.9	1.2	3.8	1.1	1.1	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
Jamaica	1.5	3.2	2.0	0.7	0.7	1.7	0.5	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0
Mexico	0.7	1.2	6.3	4.0	2.7	3.4	6.2	5.2	8.9	5.6	4.2	3.3	2.2	5.0	6.0	7.0
Nicaragua	2.8	6.2	2.0	2.0	0.0	1.4	4.0	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Panama	4.2	7.2	2.0	2.7	0.0	1.4	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Paraguay	2.2	4.5	2.0	4.7	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.7	1.1	4.4	1.6	0.4	0.8	0.0	0.0	1.0
Peru	5.5	7.5	5.3	4.7	0.0	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0
St. Kitts, Nevis	1.5	1.5	2.0	2.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	2.9	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
St. Lucia	1.7	1.5	2.0	4.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.4	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
St. Vincent, Grenadines	1.7	1.2	1.3	2.0	0.0	1.4	0.5	1.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Suriname	0.7	1.5	0.0	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Trinidad, Tobago	2.3	3.5	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.7	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.0	2.0
United States	0.7	0.7	2.7	1.3	0.7	1.7	1.9	6.7	3.3	1.1	3.3	8.4	2.8	5.8	0.0	4.0
Uruguay	0.3	1.2	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.7	0.0	1.2	2.2	0.0	0.9	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
Venezuela	2.8	2.8	4.7	5.3	2.1	3.4	4.5	3.6	2.2	0.0	0.9	4.2	0.8	3.3	0.0	0.0



## Appendix E: Country category scores by region (cont.)

Asia-Pacific	Favoritism of religious groups		General laws and policies		Harassment of religious groups		Limits on religious activity		Inter-religious tension, violence		Individual/social group harassment		Religious violence by organized groups		Hostilities related to religious norms	
	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17
Afghanistan	9.3	10.0	5.7	6.3	4.6	7.0	5.2	5.7	10.0	6.7	2.5	0.9	10.0	9.2	9.0	8.0
Armenia	4.3	9.3	3.3	6.7	2.7	1.4	4.0	3.1	5.6	3.3	1.6	1.6	0.0	3.3	3.0	2.0
Australia	0.3	2.7	0.7	2.0	1.3	0.7	1.9	0.7	2.2	0.0	3.3	4.2	0.0	5.0	2.0	2.0
Azerbaijan	0.0	2.7	6.7	6.7	4.9	5.8	4.5	8.6	2.2	0.0	1.6	0.4	0.8	0.0	5.0	2.0
Bangladesh	10.0	10.0	5.4	4.7	2.9	4.9	3.3	4.0	10.0	6.7	6.7	9.1	5.0	6.7	10.0	7.0
Bhutan	8.0	6.0	2.7	6.7	4.3	1.4	5.2	6.0	1.1	0.0	0.9	0.4	3.3	0.0	2.0	1.0
Brunei	10.0	9.3	7.7	7.7	5.8	4.1	7.9	7.9	4.4	0.0	0.9	0.4	3.3	0.0	6.0	6.0
Burma (Myanmar)	7.5	5.5	6.7	6.0	8.1	8.1	8.6	6.4	6.7	10.0	8.4	5.8	2.2	5.0	4.0	4.0
Cambodia	5.3	5.3	5.0	6.3	0.0	1.3	4.0	2.6	1.1	2.2	3.3	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
China	3.7	5.5	7.7	8.3	9.7	8.6	6.4	10.0	1.1	1.1	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0	1.0	2.0
Cyprus	3.7	9.0	2.0	2.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	3.1	2.2	0.0	2.5	2.5	0.0	2.2	0.0	5.0
Fed. States, Micronesia	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.7	0.0	1.1	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fiji	0.7	0.7	1.3	2.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	2.9	5.6	0.0	0.9	1.3	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0
Hong Kong	3.0	2.0	2.3	5.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0
India	7.5	5.2	2.0	4.7	3.9	4.9	7.4	6.4	10.0	10.0	10.0	9.1	8.3	8.3	8.0	10.0
Indonesia	8.2	9.3	6.0	6.7	4.4	8.7	7.9	7.9	10.0	5.6	9.1	2.5	4.7	6.7	9.0	7.0
Iran	9.3	8.0	7.7	7.7	7.2	9.4	8.6	7.9	5.6	1.1	4.2	2.5	4.2	3.3	8.0	3.0
Japan	0.0	0.3	0.7	2.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	1.9	0.8	0.0	0.0
Kazakhstan	1.7	1.7	6.4	7.7	6.0	5.3	5.2	9.3	4.4	0.0	0.0	0.4	4.2	0.0	3.0	2.0
Kiribati	0.0	1.2	1.3	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	3.3	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0
Kyrgyzstan	3.7	2.3	4.0	5.3	4.6	5.0	3.1	7.1	5.6	6.7	5.8	1.3	4.2	0.0	6.0	6.0
Laos	1.5	5.8	7.7	7.7	7.2	4.9	5.0	8.6	2.2	4.4	0.9	1.6	0.0	0.0	1.0	3.0
Macau	1.8	1.0	3.7	3.0	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Malaysia	9.3	10.0	4.7	7.7	5.8	9.0	7.9	7.9	1.1	5.6	0.9	0.9	0.8	3.3	1.0	6.0
Maldives	10.0	10.0	7.3	10.0	4.1	4.9	7.9	10.0	4.4	0.0	0.9	6.7	1.1	0.0	3.0	4.0
Marshall Islands	0.0	1.2	0.7	1.3	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mongolia	1.7	4.2	2.0	3.3	0.7	1.4	3.1	4.5	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
Nauru	1.0	1.0	4.0	3.3	0.0	0.0	2.6	1.9	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nepal	3.5	3.0	5.7	4.0	2.1	3.1	3.1	6.7	2.2	5.6	5.8	2.5	3.9	4.7	5.0	5.0
New Zealand	0.3	0.8	1.3	0.7	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.6	0.0	2.2	0.0	4.0
Pakistan	10.0	10.0	4.7	4.0	5.3	8.0	6.4	6.4	10.0	8.9	6.7	9.1	7.5	8.3	10.0	6.0
Palau	1.3	0.7	1.3	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.7	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Papua New Guinea	3.3	6.8	2.7	3.3	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0
Philippines	3.3	5.5	2.7	2.0	2.1	0.7	0.0	0.0	1.1	3.3	3.3	0.4	5.8	6.9	4.0	4.0
Samoa	1.0	7.0	1.3	2.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.0	1.1	4.4	0.9	1.3	0.0	3.3	0.0	2.0
Singapore	2.5	7.2	4.7	5.3	3.7	6.3	5.7	9.3	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.4	0.8	0.0	0.0	4.0
Solomon Islands	2.7	4.0	2.0	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	5.6	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
South Korea	1.2	1.5	2.0	2.7	3.0	3.7	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
Sri Lanka	8.8	8.8	6.0	5.3	2.7	3.4	3.1	2.4	10.0	5.6	5.8	5.8	6.4	5.0	8.0	6.0
Taiwan	0.0	0.3	2.0	3.3	0.0	1.4	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Tajikistan	3.7	6.2	4.7	6.0	2.5	8.3	6.4	7.9	2.2	0.0	2.5	0.4	4.2	1.7	1.0	4.0

## Appendix E: Country category scores by region (cont.)

Asia-Pacific	Favoritism of religious groups		General laws and policies		Harassment of religious groups		Limits on religious activity		Inter-religious tension, violence		Individual/social group harassment		Religious violence by organized groups		Hostilities related to religious norms	
	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17
Thailand	5.5	9.5	4.7	9.3	1.0	2.4	2.4	2.6	6.7	10.0	2.5	2.5	3.1	3.9	0.0	3.0
Timor-Leste	1.5	4.2	3.3	1.3	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.7	5.6	5.6	1.6	0.4	3.3	0.0	5.0	1.0
Tonga	1.5	7.2	3.7	2.0	0.7	0.0	2.1	2.1	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Turkey	5.5	7.5	7.0	7.7	5.8	8.1	7.1	5.7	6.7	1.1	2.5	5.0	1.9	6.7	6.0	7.0
Turkmenistan	7.5	5.0	5.3	6.7	5.3	7.7	5.7	9.3	1.1	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.0	3.0	1.0
Tuvalu	1.0	4.7	2.7	3.3	1.7	0.0	1.4	2.6	4.4	0.0	0.9	0.4	2.2	3.3	1.0	5.0
Uzbekistan	2.0	3.5	7.7	7.7	7.0	8.3	9.3	8.6	5.6	0.0	1.6	0.9	4.2	0.0	2.0	4.0
Vanuatu	4.2	6.8	3.3	3.7	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	3.3	2.2	0.0	0.4	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vietnam	0.0	1.0	6.0	6.7	6.6	9.0	7.9	7.9	2.2	1.1	0.9	1.3	2.2	1.1	0.0	2.0

## Appendix E: Country category scores by region (cont.)

Europe	Favoritism of religious groups		General laws and policies		Harassment of religious groups		Limits on religious activity		Inter-religious tension, violence		Individual/social group harassment		Religious violence by organized groups		Hostilities related to religious norms	
	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17
Albania	0.5	2.5	2.0	2.0	0.0	1.0	0.7	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Andorra	4.2	5.5	2.7	2.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Austria	3.7	4.3	6.3	5.7	2.4	2.9	0.0	4.5	2.2	1.1	2.5	2.5	0.8	1.1	0.0	6.0
Belarus	4.7	4.8	5.3	6.7	7.2	7.2	5.0	5.7	3.3	1.1	0.9	2.5	2.2	3.3	0.0	0.0
Belgium	2.3	4.7	7.0	5.0	2.1	4.3	3.8	2.4	1.1	1.1	2.5	2.5	1.1	0.0	0.0	4.0
Bosnia-Herzegovina	1.7	3.0	1.3	3.3	2.1	3.1	1.0	2.4	6.7	5.6	0.9	1.3	3.3	0.8	0.0	4.0
Bulgaria	3.2	4.5	5.4	5.3	1.4	4.9	5.7	6.0	5.6	3.3	0.9	2.5	3.3	3.3	0.0	6.0
Croatia	4.7	3.5	2.0	4.7	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.9	1.3	2.5	1.1	0.0	0.0
Czech Republic	2.3	2.3	2.7	6.0	0.7	2.9	0.0	1.9	2.2	1.1	0.9	2.5	2.2	5.0	0.0	2.0
Denmark	8.0	9.3	6.3	5.7	0.7	1.4	0.7	4.5	1.1	2.2	1.6	5.0	3.1	3.3	0.0	6.0
Estonia	0.7	1.5	3.3	3.3	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	1.6	0.4	0.0	3.3	0.0	0.0
Finland	3.0	9.5	1.3	2.7	0.3	1.4	0.0	2.9	1.1	0.0	0.9	0.9	0.0	3.3	1.0	2.0
France	2.3	1.8	5.7	6.3	4.1	4.6	1.0	4.5	2.2	4.4	9.1	6.7	3.1	3.6	2.0	8.0
Georgia	3.5	5.5	2.7	4.0	1.4	4.1	2.4	2.1	5.6	1.1	4.2	2.5	2.2	4.2	6.0	4.0
Germany	3.7	3.0	2.7	2.0	3.6	4.8	2.9	2.4	5.6	6.7	0.9	3.3	3.1	5.0	0.0	10.0
Greece	10.0	10.0	7.7	6.3	4.9	3.1	3.1	3.1	5.6	5.6	2.5	5.0	3.3	3.3	5.0	6.0
Hungary	2.0	3.0	0.7	4.7	0.0	3.4	0.0	2.4	2.2	1.1	1.6	2.5	1.1	3.3	0.0	6.0
Iceland	8.0	10.0	5.7	4.3	0.7	0.7	1.4	5.2	1.1	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ireland	0.3	4.5	2.3	2.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.9	1.3	0.0	1.1	0.0	2.0
Italy	4.8	5.2	3.3	5.3	0.7	1.4	1.9	2.4	1.1	4.4	0.9	4.2	3.1	1.1	2.0	8.0
Kosovo	2.3	4.7	1.3	2.7	0.7	2.9	3.3	2.4	5.6	4.4	2.5	5.0	0.0	1.1	2.0	6.0
Latvia	2.3	4.7	4.0	4.7	0.7	0.7	2.6	2.6	5.6	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.0	1.7	0.0	2.0
Liechtenstein	6.0	8.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.7	0.7	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.0	3.3	0.0	0.0
Lithuania	3.0	5.0	4.0	5.3	0.0	2.1	1.4	0.5	2.2	0.0	1.6	0.9	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0
Luxembourg	2.3	2.0	2.7	3.3	0.0	0.7	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
Malta	9.3	6.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	2.4	1.1	0.0	0.9	0.9	0.0	2.8	0.0	0.0
Moldova	4.2	5.2	6.3	5.0	2.4	3.1	4.5	5.2	8.9	6.7	2.5	1.6	1.1	3.3	3.0	5.0
Monaco	4.0	4.0	3.3	3.3	1.4	2.1	2.9	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Montenegro	0.0	2.0	0.0	2.7	0.7	2.1	1.9	1.9	5.6	4.4	1.6	0.4	3.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Netherlands	0.7	1.0	1.3	2.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	4.5	1.1	2.2	1.6	1.6	2.2	1.9	0.0	4.0
North Macedonia	1.3	4.8	4.0	4.0	0.7	1.4	2.6	1.2	5.6	4.4	1.6	1.3	0.0	1.1	0.0	2.0
Norway	6.7	7.3	2.7	2.7	1.4	1.4	0.0	3.8	2.2	0.0	1.6	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.0	6.0
Poland	2.2	7.2	2.7	5.3	0.7	2.1	0.0	1.4	2.2	1.1	2.5	2.5	0.0	3.3	0.0	2.0
Portugal	3.5	2.0	0.7	2.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0
Romania	6.5	5.5	5.3	5.3	4.6	3.1	4.5	6.0	5.6	4.4	5.0	2.5	3.3	3.3	7.0	4.0
Russia	4.5	8.2	5.3	6.7	7.7	9.4	4.5	7.9	5.6	6.7	3.3	5.8	3.1	3.6	3.0	8.0
San Marino	2.2	4.5	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Serbia	7.5	7.0	6.0	6.0	3.6	4.3	0.0	2.4	2.2	0.0	3.3	2.1	1.9	3.3	0.0	0.0
Slovakia	4.3	2.7	4.7	5.3	2.1	1.4	1.9	2.9	5.6	1.1	0.9	0.9	2.2	3.3	0.0	4.0
Slovenia	1.3	1.5	2.0	3.3	0.0	2.4	0.0	2.4	2.2	0.0	0.9	1.3	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
Spain	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	0.7	2.9	1.0	6.0	2.2	2.2	1.6	2.5	1.9	6.7	1.0	4.0

## Appendix E: Country category scores by region (cont.)

Europe		Favoritism of religious groups		General laws and policies		Harassment of religious groups		Limits on religious activity		Inter-religious tension, violence		Individual/social group harassment		Religious violence by organized groups		Hostilities related to religious norms	
COUNTRY		'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17
Sweden		2.3	3.5	3.7	5.0	0.0	1.4	0.5	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.6	4.2	0.8	5.8	0.0	6.0
Switzerland		3.3	2.7	1.3	2.7	0.7	1.4	1.2	3.6	2.2	4.4	1.6	0.9	4.2	3.3	0.0	7.0
Ukraine		1.7	0.8	3.3	5.3	2.1	3.1	2.6	3.8	2.2	10.0	1.6	7.5	0.0	2.2	3.0	8.0
United Kingdom		7.5	10.0	1.3	2.0	0.7	0.0	1.9	4.5	3.3	5.6	2.5	5.8	1.9	6.7	0.0	8.0

Middle East-N. Africa		Favoritism of religious groups		General laws and policies		Harassment of religious groups		Limits on religious activity		Inter-religious tension, violence		Individual/social group harassment		Religious violence by organized groups		Hostilities related to religious norms	
COUNTRY		'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17
Algeria		10.0	9.7	7.3	7.7	2.9	7.5	6.4	8.6	3.3	5.6	0.9	2.5	6.7	6.7	3.0	8.0
Bahrain		10.0	10.0	6.4	7.0	1.4	7.5	4.8	3.8	5.6	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.0	5.8	4.0	1.0
Egypt		7.3	9.3	7.7	7.7	6.9	8.3	7.1	7.9	8.9	10.0	5.0	10.0	4.2	6.7	6.0	8.0
Iraq		9.0	10.0	6.3	6.7	5.1	6.4	3.6	5.7	10.0	10.0	10.0	8.4	10.0	9.2	10.0	8.0
Israel		10.0	8.0	6.3	7.7	0.7	3.9	4.5	5.2	10.0	10.0	2.5	2.5	5.6	5.0	10.0	9.0
Jordan		9.3	9.3	7.7	7.0	2.0	2.9	4.3	6.0	4.4	2.2	0.9	2.5	1.9	0.8	5.0	6.0
Kuwait		10.0	10.0	5.7	7.7	2.1	3.4	6.0	7.1	4.4	1.1	0.0	0.4	1.9	1.9	1.0	3.0
Lebanon		3.7	5.7	3.7	5.0	0.0	1.4	0.7	4.0	5.6	6.7	5.0	1.3	8.3	6.7	3.0	5.0
Libya		9.3	8.0	5.3	5.0	3.8	5.9	5.7	1.2	3.3	6.7	0.0	3.3	2.8	8.3	0.0	8.0
Morocco		8.0	10.0	6.3	7.0	2.4	5.5	6.0	8.1	4.4	1.1	0.9	4.2	4.2	0.8	4.0	5.0
Oman		8.7	10.0	7.7	7.0	0.7	1.7	3.8	7.4	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Palestinian territories		9.7	10.0	4.3	5.7	3.4	2.9	1.4	3.8	8.9	8.9	3.3	3.3	6.4	7.5	6.0	7.0
Qatar		9.7	8.7	5.0	7.7	0.0	1.4	4.5	7.9	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	4.2	0.0	4.0
Saudi Arabia		10.0	10.0	7.3	8.0	7.7	5.9	8.6	9.3	8.9	6.7	2.5	0.9	4.2	6.7	10.0	4.0
Sudan		8.8	10.0	4.7	6.0	4.6	4.9	7.1	8.6	5.6	2.2	2.5	6.7	4.2	5.0	10.0	0.0
Syria		9.5	8.8	5.0	8.3	3.7	8.6	4.3	7.9	2.2	10.0	7.5	8.4	5.8	10.0	6.0	8.0
Tunisia		10.0	9.3	5.0	7.7	1.3	3.1	7.4	4.5	2.2	1.1	2.5	1.3	4.2	4.4	5.0	6.0
United Arab Emirates		10.0	9.3	5.0	7.0	0.7	3.9	5.5	6.4	0.0	1.1	0.9	0.4	0.0	1.1	0.0	1.0
Western Sahara		8.0	10.0	6.3	7.7	2.1	3.8	6.0	7.9	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.2	0.0	4.0	0.0
Yemen		8.7	8.0	4.7	7.3	1.3	2.0	6.4	5.0	8.9	8.9	2.5	1.3	4.7	8.3	7.0	8.0

## Appendix E: Country category scores by region (cont.)

Sub-Saharan Africa	Favoritism of religious groups		General laws and policies		Harassment of religious groups		Limits on religious activity		Inter-religious tension, violence		Individual/social group harassment		Religious violence by organized groups		Hostilities related to religious norms	
	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17
Angola	2.3	1.7	6.3	5.3	3.1	4.1	1.4	3.6	5.6	4.4	2.5	7.5	2.2	1.1	4.0	2.0
Benin	0.0	0.3	1.3	2.7	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	7.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0
Botswana	3.7	0.0	2.7	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Burkina Faso	0.0	1.0	1.3	4.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	1.4	2.2	5.6	1.6	2.9	0.0	4.4	2.0	4.0
Burundi	0.3	1.5	0.7	3.3	0.7	3.4	0.0	1.0	2.2	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	3.3	0.0	2.0
Cameroon	1.0	2.2	2.0	2.0	1.2	3.9	0.5	3.6	4.4	5.6	0.9	2.1	1.1	5.6	0.0	6.0
Cape Verde	2.2	7.5	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Central African Rep.	1.7	1.2	5.0	5.0	5.3	3.1	1.4	0.5	6.7	10.0	1.6	10.0	0.0	6.7	4.0	6.0
Chad	4.8	2.0	4.7	4.7	3.6	1.9	4.3	5.7	5.6	2.2	3.3	1.3	3.3	3.3	2.0	2.0
Comoros	4.2	8.7	5.7	8.0	4.6	7.7	6.2	6.4	5.6	0.0	1.6	1.6	3.3	0.0	10.0	1.0
DR of the Congo	0.3	1.2	1.3	3.3	1.3	3.7	1.4	2.4	6.7	2.2	2.5	4.2	3.1	5.6	0.0	4.0
Djibouti	4.0	8.0	4.0	4.7	2.1	1.0	1.2	6.0	1.1	0.0	0.9	0.4	1.1	0.0	3.0	4.0
Equatorial Guinea	4.3	7.7	2.7	3.3	1.7	0.7	3.3	5.2	0.0	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Eritrea	3.0	5.0	9.3	10.0	6.6	6.6	6.4	7.1	1.1	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ethiopia	1.0	3.7	4.0	6.7	1.7	2.0	2.6	4.3	6.7	5.6	10.0	4.6	2.8	0.0	4.0	5.0
Gabon	2.5	0.7	4.0	2.0	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.0	1.1	0.0	2.0
Gambia	4.0	4.7	1.3	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	4.4	1.6	0.4	0.0	3.3	0.0	3.0
Ghana	2.0	3.7	1.3	2.0	2.1	0.7	0.0	1.9	5.6	0.0	3.3	2.1	3.3	0.0	6.0	6.0
Guinea	2.3	4.3	2.7	4.0	0.0	0.7	2.1	3.1	5.6	5.6	0.0	2.1	0.0	0.0	1.0	6.0
Guinea-Bissau	1.0	2.3	2.7	1.3	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
Ivory Coast	3.0	1.3	3.3	3.3	0.7	0.3	1.9	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.8	1.1	4.0	0.0
Kenya	4.0	6.0	2.7	2.0	2.4	4.9	3.3	2.4	5.6	6.7	4.2	7.5	2.2	6.7	0.0	6.0
Lesotho	0.8	3.7	1.3	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
Liberia	2.2	2.8	2.7	2.7	1.3	2.9	1.4	2.4	5.6	1.1	1.6	3.3	3.1	0.0	4.0	6.0
Madagascar	1.7	1.7	3.3	3.3	1.2	0.7	1.4	5.2	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0
Malawi	0.3	4.5	0.7	2.0	0.7	1.4	0.0	2.4	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	3.0
Mali	1.0	2.3	1.3	2.7	0.0	1.3	1.4	0.0	0.0	3.3	0.9	3.3	0.8	6.7	0.0	6.0
Mauritania	9.3	10.0	7.3	10.0	4.9	3.4	7.1	7.1	0.0	4.4	0.0	0.4	3.9	1.1	0.0	2.0
Mauritius	1.0	3.7	2.7	3.3	0.7	0.7	1.2	0.7	1.1	5.6	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mozambique	1.0	3.5	2.7	2.7	0.7	1.0	0.0	0.5	1.1	3.3	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0
Namibia	0.0	0.7	1.3	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Niger	0.7	4.8	2.6	4.7	1.0	0.7	1.9	5.7	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	6.7	0.0	4.0
Nigeria	7.0	5.8	2.7	4.7	2.4	5.6	5.2	4.3	6.7	10.0	1.6	9.1	3.1	9.2	5.0	6.0
Rep. of the Congo	0.0	0.3	2.7	2.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	2.4	1.1	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rwanda	1.0	2.3	2.7	3.3	2.7	3.4	1.0	4.5	0.0	1.1	0.0	3.8	0.0	3.3	0.0	2.0
Sao Tome, Principe	0.0	0.3	0.7	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Senegal	2.7	4.7	1.3	2.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.8	0.0	2.0
Seychelles	2.3	3.7	2.7	4.0	0.0	0.7	1.4	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sierra Leone	0.0	2.3	0.0	4.7	0.0	4.6	0.0	1.4	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.9	0.0	3.3	0.0	1.0
Somalia	4.0	8.0	5.0	5.7	3.4	1.7	5.0	5.7	10.0	4.4	3.3	0.9	6.4	9.2	8.0	10.0
South Africa	0.0	0.3	1.3	2.0	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.5	2.2	0.0	6.7	4.2	3.1	2.8	0.0	4.0
South Sudan	*	2.5	*	3.3	*	3.4	*	2.4	*	2.2	*	1.3	*	0.0	*	6.0

## Appendix E: Country category scores by region (cont.)

Sub-Saharan Africa	Favoritism of religious groups		General laws and policies		Harassment of religious groups		Limits on religious activity		Inter- religious tension, violence		Individual/ social group harassment		Religious violence by organized groups		Hostilities related to religious norms	
	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17	'07	'17
Swaziland	2.8	4.8	3.3	3.3	0.0	1.4	1.4	2.4	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tanzania	3.7	3.7	3.3	5.3	0.7	3.4	2.4	5.7	5.6	4.4	7.5	2.5	1.1	0.0	2.0	4.0
Togo	1.0	4.3	3.3	5.3	1.4	0.3	4.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
Uganda	3.0	1.0	2.7	4.0	3.6	2.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	6.7	0.9	7.1	0.0	1.1	0.0	10.0
Zambia	6.7	7.7	4.0	5.3	1.4	1.0	0.5	3.1	0.0	1.1	0.0	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
Zimbabwe	1.7	3.5	2.0	2.7	2.4	1.7	4.0	3.8	4.4	5.6	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0

\* South Sudan was coded for the first time in 2011.