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VIETNAM



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PERSECUTION LEVEL VERY HIGH

Leader: President Truong Tan Sang**Population:** 92.7 million (9.9 million Christians)**Main Religion:** Buddhism**Government:** Communist state**Source of Persecution:** Communist oppression

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is one of the five remaining countries in the world which is still ruled by a communist party. How communist the country still is can be discussed in some length, suffice it to say that in terms of administration and control it still functions pretty much in the communist way and is hence not a real democracy. The Catholic Church is by far the largest Christian community in the country, but government authorities have a shaky relationship with the Catholic Church as the latter is tied to a foreign power and is often seen as

colonial. Stereotypes such as “Catholics are French and Protestants are American” are still heard, especially in rural areas. The government announced it will publish a revised version of its notorious Law No. 92, the law on religion, next year and has invited selected Christians to participate in the drafting process. But since the government’s overarching goal remains one of control, it is not expected that things will change substantially, when it comes to registration or the construction of religious buildings, for example.


PRAY

- + Pray for proper discipleship of the many ethnic minorities coming to faith in rural areas.
- + Pray for family members pressuring their relatives to return to traditional faiths and rituals.
- + Pray that Law No. 92, no matter the outcome, would serve to further God’s purposes.

Two-thirds of all Protestants in Vietnam are members of ethnic minorities, leading to even greater persecution for them.
