MOROCCO

General Information

Population: 35 million.

- Christians in Morocco constitute approximately 1.1%. However, most believers believe in secret, thus an accurate estimate is very difficult.
- Rated "Restricted" by Voice of the Martyrs for establishment of laws leading to Christians being harassed, imprisoned, killed, or deprived of possessions or liberties due to their witness.

Challenges

 Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant churches are recognized in Morocco, but they are only for foreigners living in the country. Moroccan Christians have no right to pray in these churches. But many of the converts are baptized secretly [1].



- The Anglican <u>Church of St John the Evangelist</u>, Casablanca, is centrally located, near to the <u>Hyatt Regency</u>, a landmark hotel in the city centre. It has a well-established congregation, and holds two services every Sunday morning to accommodate all worshipers.
- Article 220 of the Moroccan Penal Code states: "Anyone who employs incitements to shake the faith of a Muslim or to convert him to another religion" incurs a 3 to 6month imprisonment and fine" [2].
- Anti-Christian sentiment is common in the media. Since March 2010, Morocco has deported at least 135 foreign Christians for proselytism. The government justified the deportations by claiming the Christians posed a threat to the state [3].

Pray For

Article 220 to be overturned.

- Believers currently in prison for converting. Pray their faith will remain strong and God will use their testimony.
- In Nov-Dec 2012, Bibles Unbound distributed 5000Arabic Bibles within Morocco. Let us join them inpraying that God will empower the men and women who study His word [4].

Reference

- 1. http://journalchretien.net/5369-converted-christians-in-morocco-need-prayers?lang=fr
- 2. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity_in_Morocco
- 3. http://www.persecution.com/
- 4. Details: http://www.biblesunbound.com/qry/mc_home.taf?_function=detail&_optn_id=293