

## ERITREA

### General Information

- Population: 6 million.
- Religion: Muslim 50.2%, Christian 47.3%
- Situated along the Red Sea. One of the first Christian countries in the world having officially adopted [Christianity](#) as the state religion in the 4th century
- Ideology: Marxist Dictatorship/Communism. Head of State: President Isaias Afworki



### Challenges

- Those that practice "unregistered" religions are arrested and put into prison.
- Domestic and international human rights organizations are not allowed to function in Eritrea.
- According to the Barnabas Fund, in April 2010 a 28-year-old student died after she was held in a metal shipping container for 2 years, after being arrested for attending a [Protestant](#) Bible study.

### Pray For

- In 2002, the Eritrean government banned all Christian denominations except the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Roman Catholicism and Evangelical Lutheranism. Non-registered groups could not gather in numbers of more than five. No new churches have been registered since 2002.
- Security forces continue to disrupt private worship, conduct mass arrests at prayer meetings, and detain those arrested for indefinite periods without charge. At least 3,000 Christians are imprisoned in Eritrea. Nearly every evangelical has been arrested at least once. Most are never formally charged and never receive a court hearing. Prisoners are tortured and subjected to extremely poor living conditions, often locked in metal shipping containers or underground bunkers. Several have died in custody.

### Reference

- <http://www.persecution.com/public/restrictednations.aspx?clickfrom=bWFpbl9tZW51>
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity\\_in\\_Eritrea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity_in_Eritrea)

### Verse

- Malachi 1:11 *“From the rising of the sun, to its setting, my name will be great among the nations.”*