

Op-Ed:

A Genocide of Christians is Underway - and the West Sleeps

A new document attests to the genocide that is being ignored by the world.

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Every year, more than 100,000 Christians are murdered just because of their faith. This means that 11 Christians are murdered every hour. The numbers are contained in a new document presented by John McAreavey, president of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Bishops of Dublin. A genocide of Christians is under way.

In many Middle Eastern cities, from Aleppo to Mosul, the Islamists have dealt with each and every Christian by displacing, killing or forcibly converting them, and just like the Nazis painted the Star of David on the Jewish homes, the jihadists have painted the "N" letter on Christian houses to identify them before destroying them.

The churches have been demolished, the crosses burned and replaced with flags of the Islamic State, entire communities have been displaced, children and women massacred. Everything has been done in plain sight. The Islamists proclaim that they will not stop until Christianity is wiped off the face of the earth.

These Christians are killed just because they didn't agree to convert. How many in the West would have done the same? In the video of the recent massacre of Coptic Christians in Libya, it has been noted that many of them, before being beheaded, invoked the name of Jesus in Arabic and chanted prayers.

“Aleppo will be left without Christians within one month”, the Chaldean bishop of the Syrian city, Antoine Audo, has announced. He accused not only the Islamic State, but also “the countries of the region with their Wahhabi Islam and anxiety of historical revenge toward Christianity”.

More than 5,000 Catholics have been killed since 2009 by Boko Haram in the diocese of Maiduguri in northern Nigeria. In total, more than 13,000 Christians were killed by these terrorists. 100,000 Catholics expelled from their homes, 350 churches destroyed, many more than once, after they had been rebuilt.

But you don't need to go to Mosul to see the crosses removed by bulldozers. Just take a train to Rennes, in France, because according to a court, the statue to Pope John Paul is “too ostentatious” in the square of Ploermel and must be removed.

Or take a train to Luxembourg, the “happy country” where the MP Xavier Bettel has just become the first gay prime minister to marry his partner.

In Belgium, religion will disappear completely from schools and will be replaced by courses in “ethics” and “secular values”. Behind the happy face of this small and rich nation of castles, picturesque forests and towers lies a kind of hypnotic nihilism.

The problem is not the Islamic fanatics who burn the churches and kill the pastors. The problem is that the apathetic, indolent West is letting them to do so because it has ceased to believe in itself.