**NORTH KOREA**

**Total: 514**

North Korea is often called an opaque country in which there is no independent civil society and no human rights organisations as possible sources of information about prisoners of conscience. Only North Korean defectors and refugees can provide partial information when interviewed by the authorities of South Korea where they have found a safe haven.

[Korea Future](https://nkrf.io/) has tackled this daunting issue and is keeping a Database of documented FORB Prisoners (514 cases as of 1 August 2023), mainly Christians and Shamanists, and a Library of [890 cases](https://nkrf.io/en/library/table/?q=(allAggregations:!f,filters:(),from:517,includeUnpublished:!f,limit:30,order:asc,sort:title,types:!(%275e26ca3ef69ccb08bc0d7841%27),unpublished:!f)).

The reasons for sentences to prison terms are identified as follows: Religious practice – Religious activities in China – Possessing religious items – Contacts with religious persons – Attending a place of worship – Sharing religious beliefs – Arrest based on informant – Other – Unidentified religious activities – Withheld. See the related statistics on their website: <https://nkrf.io>

**USCIRF Database of FORB Prisoners**

**Christians - Protestants**

[ZHANG WEN SHI](https://www.uscirf.gov/religious-prisoners-conscience/forb-victims-database/zhang-wen-shi)