

RISING RESTRICTIONS

RUSSIA

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION INTENSIFIES.

2019-2020

313 Jehovah Witnesses face trial, imprisonment or other forms of restrictions. Hundreds of Jehovah Witnesses' homes are raided. Christians (Baptists) begin to receive similar treatment. A church near Novorossiysk is raided and its pastor is accused of engaging in "illegal missionary work". Authorities in the North Caucasus region and Russia occupied Crimea disrupt religious services, destroy religious buildings and books. 24 Crimean Tartars belonging to the Islamic group Hizb-ut Tahrir (HT) are charged. Most of those charged had affiliations with a secular human rights group that opposed the Russian occupation of Crimea.

JEHOVAH WITNESSES ARE BANNED.

2017 -2018

Russia's Justice Ministry bans Jehovah Witnesses. Russia's Supreme Court upholds this decision deeming Jehovah Witnesses and its 170,000 Russian followers an "extremist" organization. Jehovah Witnesses are subject to surveillance, seizures of property and attacks. Upwards of 80 Jehovah Witnesses are detained and put under house arrest. Thousands flee Russia.

RUSSIA ENACTS ANTI-TERRORISM LEGISLATION.

2016

Religious minorities deemed "extreme" are targeted. Russia's Yarovaya Law purportedly designed to penalize terrorists is used to ban missionaries from sharing their beliefs in public places. The law prevents missionaries from obtaining humanitarian visas and denies them entry into the federation.