



Focus on Religious Freedom

www.cffor.org

"The Religion then of every man must be left to the conviction and conscience of every man: and it is the right of every man to exercise it as these may dictate." —James Madison, 1785.

Recent Rise in Attacks on Some Religious Groups Threaten Everyone's Religious Freedom

New York City and Los Angeles: New York City, home to the largest population of Jews outside of Israel, reported over 80 anti-Semitic hate crimes so far this year compared to 62 last year. Outdoor diners in Los Angeles were physically attacked by a group carrying Palestinian flags. Violence and harassment targeting American Jews coast-to-coast rose following the fighting between Israelis and Palestinians in May, 2021. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL), which tracks incidents of anti-Jewish violence and bias, said they saw a 75% increase in anti-Semitism reports. "We've seen things like this before," said Brandeis Un. Professor Yehudah Mirsky. "But this seems a bit much. This seems more."⁽¹⁾

Portland, Oregon: A Christian prayer and worship event held in a Memorial Park, was attacked by a group of self-proclaimed Antifa protesters wearing full black gear that concealed their faces and heads while holding shields, weapons, and open umbrellas as well as pepper spray, rocks, fireworks, flash bombs and mace. One woman reported, "We were about to have a worship event and (they) rolled in like angry mobs macing everybody, (throwing) rotten eggs and black paint ..." ⁽²⁾ "Where is your God now?" said one Antifa member. ⁽³⁾ It was reported they also threw the sound system into the Willamette River. Families with children and infants were at the event that featured Polish-Canadian pastor Artur Pawlowski who was in the news during Easter when he was arrested for holding services at his church. The event was entitled "Courageous Truth."⁽⁴⁾

Canada: The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) is being urged to add Canada to its watch list after pastors have been jailed in the country for keeping their churches open. "I am troubled that our Canadian neighbors are effectively being forced to gather in secret, undisclosed locations to exercise their basic freedom to worship," wrote one U.S. Senator in a letter to USCIRF and the Ambassador to Canada.⁽⁵⁾

(bbc.com, 5/28/21(1); churchleaders.com, 8/10/21(2)(3); dailywire.com, 8/11/21, christiandaily.com, 8/9/21(4); dailywire.com, 6/24/21(5))

"God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?"

Thomas Jefferson, Author of America's Declaration of Independence, Founding Father

Focus on Religious Freedom

Catholics For Freedom of Religion

www.cffor.org

"The Religion then of every man must be left to the conviction and conscience of every man: and it is the right of every man to exercise it as these may dictate." —James Madison, 1785.

Recent Rise in Attacks on Some Religious Groups Threaten Everyone's Religious Freedom

New York and Los Angeles: New York City, home to the largest population of Jews outside of Israel, reported over 80 anti-Semitic hate crimes so far this year compared to 62 last year. Outdoor diners in Los Angeles were physically attacked by a group carrying Palestinian flags. "We've seen things like this before," said Brandeis Un. Professor Yehudah Mirsky. "But this seems a bit much. This seems more."⁽¹⁾

Portland, Oregon: A Christian prayer and worship event held in a Memorial Park, was attacked by a group of self-proclaimed Antifa protestors wearing full black gear that concealed their faces and heads while holding shields, weapons, and open umbrellas as well as pepper spray, rocks, fireworks, flash bombs and mace. The event featured Polish-Canadian pastor Artur Pawlowski who was arrested during Easter for holding services in his church.

Canada: The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) is being urged to add Canada to its watch list after pastors have been jailed in the country for keeping churches open.

(bbc.com, 5/28/21(1); churchleaders.com, 8/10/21; dailywire.com, 8/11/21;
christiandaily.com,8/9/21: dailywire.com, 6/24/21)

"God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed the conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?"

Thomas Jefferson, Author of America's Declaration of Independence, Founding Father