

YAHAYA SHARIF-AMINU

Nigeria

Nigeria is considered one if not the most dangerous countries in the world for Christians today who suffer greatly for their faith in Christ. Nigeria has even become known as “the world’s center of Christian martyrs,” as extremists groups kill at least 4,000 Christians every year (which, according to [Global Christian Relief](#), is often more than the rest of the world combined). Violence across the country is extreme, with radical Islamic extremists seeking to eradicate Christianity from Nigeria’s northern states and this hate spreading south by way of terrorist group, Boko Haram.

“The violence,” writes Global Christian Relief, “has resulted in refugees now numbering over four million, mostly Christian farmers. The government of Nigeria has proved unwilling to condemn the levels of violence which some call genocidal, or inept in its attempts to engage and neutralize extremist movements.”

And even with such extreme numbers affecting Christians today in Nigeria, people of other religious practices suffer alongside persecuted Christians there, even including those who do not hold faith in any type of higher power.

Yahaya Sharif-Aminu is one example. A Nigerian Sufi Muslim and musician who often expresses his faith through music, Yahaya has been imprisoned since March 2020 after WhatsApp audio recordings of him went viral. His accusers claim he blasphemed the Prophet Muhammed because “he praised an imam” from *his* community of faith, the Sufi Tijaniyyah Order.

Only 22 at the time of his arrest, Yahaya’s family home was burned down by protestors over allegations he “insulted the religious creed.” Shortly after his arrest, the court found him guilty and sentenced him to death. Because of the good work of domestic and international Christian religious freedom advocates, his death sentence was overturned on appeal and his attorneys filed a new appeal in 2022 with the Nigerian Supreme Court. Yahaya remains detained.



Religion: Sufi Muslim

Sentence: Originally sentenced to death (now overturned on appeal), Yahaya was found guilty of blasphemy and is currently imprisoned waiting on a retrial.

Motive for arrest: Blasphemy and religious expression through music.

Read more about Nigeria’s extreme persecution [here](#), and why it has been called the most dangerous country in the world for Christians today [here](#) and [here](#).

For more on Yahaya’s case and blasphemy in Nigeria, [watch](#) here.

See the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom’s Victims List [here](#) and pray with us for all who suffer for their beliefs.

