

TESFAZION GEBREMICHAEL

Eritrea

Though widely unknown, Eritrea is one of the world's worst religious freedom violators and has even been called "The North Korea of Africa." In Eritrea, people are often detained purely for their religious beliefs as its authoritarian government does not recognize most faiths, often imposing severe restrictions on its citizens and their freedom of belief or expression.

Though all religious groups face persecution in some form, Jehovah's Witnesses – alongside Christians – face particularly harsh restrictions and attacks in Eritrea. For Christians, thousands are fleeing the country in hopes of finding freedom to practice their faith without persecution. For Jehovah's Witnesses, at least 36 individuals are currently in prison unlawfully, including Tesfazion Gebremichael who has been incarcerated for nearly 14 years.

Tesfazion, now 80-years-old, is currently imprisoned in Eritrea for sharing his religious beliefs with others, specially, sharing passages from his religious text.

With Tesfazion's age, the state of Eritrean "prisons" is cause for concern as torture, solitary confinement, and other abysmal conditions are common – some "prisons" have even been shown to be actual shipping containers.

Pray with us for Tesfazion and others in Eritrea suffering greatly for their faith, and pray a change in government would come soon.



Religion: Jehovah's Witness

Sentence: Unclear but he has already served 14 years.

Motive for arrest: Discussing religious texts with others.

Read and share our CAAP Prayer Guide on Eritrea [here](#).

Read more about Eritrea's harsh policies on religion [here](#) and its persecution of Christians [here](#) and [here](#).

And see how global prayers efforts have helped shift the tide [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.

