

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ANNUAL REVIEW

Survey of International Legal Issues
Affecting Religious Freedom

Africa



Demographics

- Africa is the second-largest and second most populous continent on earth with an estimated population in 2013 of 1.033 billion people. Africa is home to 54 recognized sovereign states and countries, 9 territories and 2 de facto independent states.



True Size of Africa

COUNTRY	AREA x 1000 km ²
China	9.597
USA	9.629
India	3.287
Mexico	1.964
Peru	1.285
France	633
Spain	506
Papua New Guinea	462
Sweden	441
Japan	378
Germany	357
Norway	324
Italy	301
New Zealand	270
United Kingdom	243
Nepal	147
Bangladesh	144
Greece	132
TOTAL	30.102
AFRICA	30.221

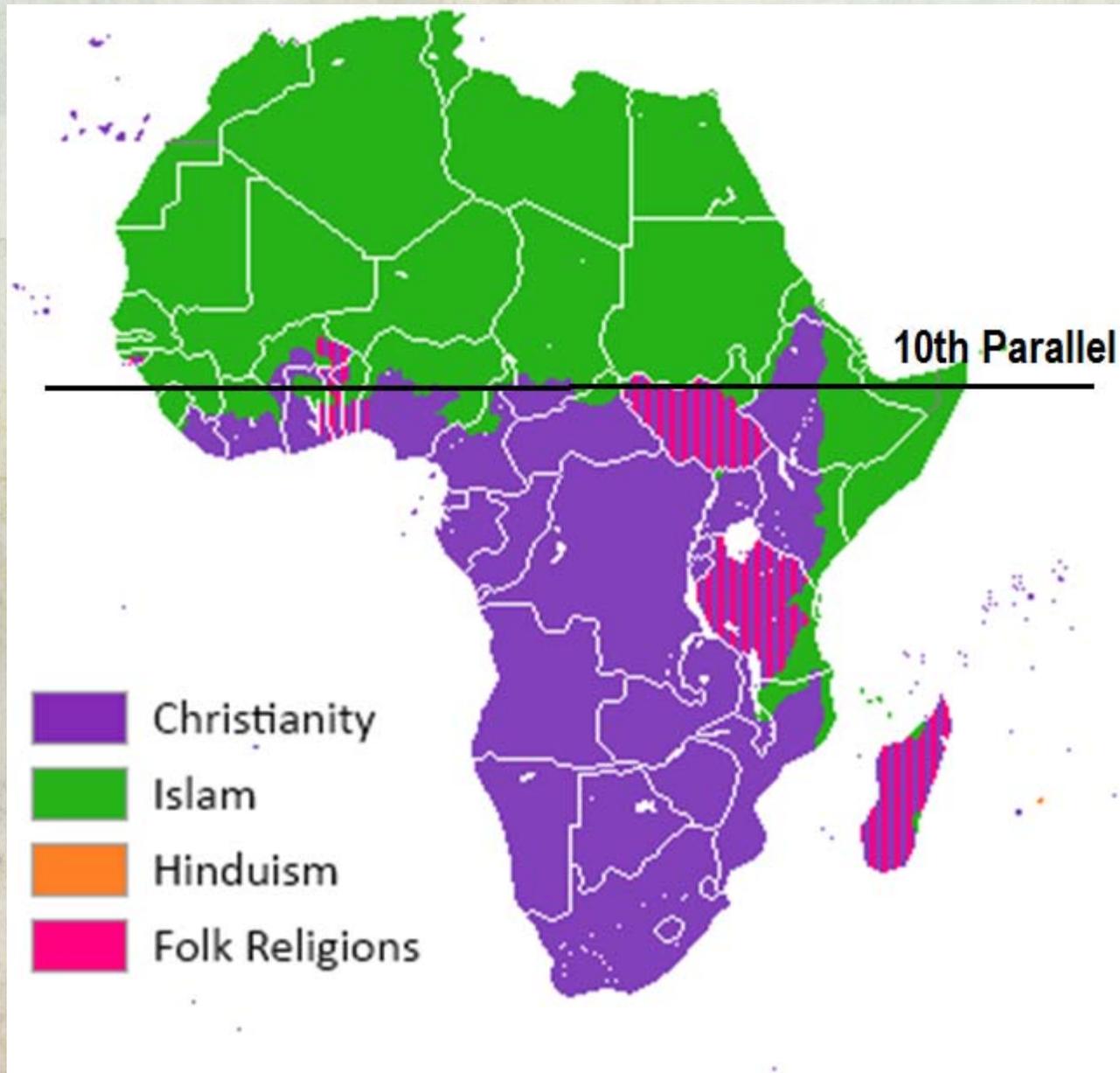


Africa – Religious Demographics

Region	Christian	Muslim	Other (including traditional)	Agnostic/ Atheist
North Africa	8%	89%	2.94%	0.6%
West Africa	36.5%	51%	12.2%	0.3%
East Africa	66%	21%	12.7%	0.3%
South Africa	82.4%	11.1%	11.1%	5%

<http://www.thearda.com/internationaldata/regions/profiles>





Religious Freedom Indexes

Region	Government Restriction	Social Regulation	Government Favoritism
North Africa	7.1	2.6	7.5
West Africa	1.4	4.4	3.5
East Africa	3.4	3.6	3.8
South Africa	0.4	4.6	2
Global	3	4.5	4.6

Average government score over Association of Religious Data Archives researchers' coding of 2003, 2005 and 2008 U.S. Department of State's International Religious Freedom Reports (0-10, lower means less favoritism)

At or below global averages in all categories and regions except North Africa (but note Social Regulation score)



Unique African Challenge

- Religious Freedom Protection for Traditional Rites and Ceremonies
 - Difficult to define: Cultural practices or religious practices or a hybrid?
 - Many Christians and Muslims participate and believe in traditional rituals and ceremonies which still inform social, economic and political life in many African societies
 - Is a part of family and community identity
 - Suffered persecution and human rights abuses during colonial era which persist today
 - Recent movement to obtain same protections as mainstream religions



Failures

- Tier 1 “Countries of Particular Concern”
 - Eritrea
 - Religious organizations must register, no new registrations since 2002
 - Sudan
 - Meriam Ibrahim case
 - Central African Republic
 - Virtual civil war between Muslim Seleka rebels and Christian militias
 - Egypt
 - Dozens of churches, attacked, Coptic Christians killed
 - Nigeria
 - Boko Haram, mass kidnappings, several thousands killed, few prosecutions, recent death sentences for blasphemy



Successes

- On a scale of 1-10 (0- being best) several countries score below 1 in government and social restrictions (eg. Namibia, Botswana, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, etc.)
- Sierra Leone
 - 77% Muslim, 21% Christian (approximate)
 - Intermarriage common
 - No restrictions or stigma for conversions
 - Several thousand Sierra Leonean have become “ChrisMus,” believers in both religions

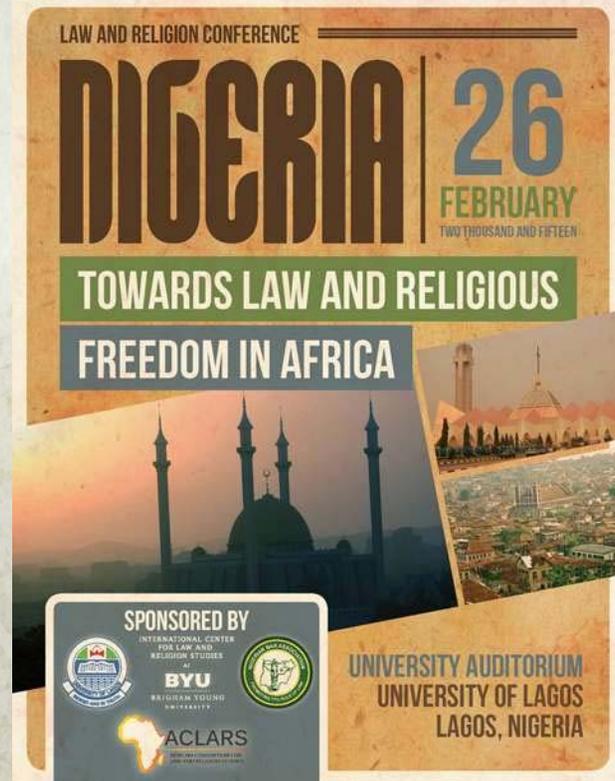


Successes (continued)

- Annual African Conferences on Law and Religion



Successes (continued)



Successes (continued)

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UNILAG to establish Center for Law and Religion Studies

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Successes (continued)

- Africa West Area of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
 - 69,000 members joined the Church between 2011 and 2014
 - Although comprising only 1.5% of global Church membership
 - 8% of baptisms
 - 40%+ of increase in sacrament meeting attendance
 - 2 operating temples, 3rd announced



Projections

Sub-Saharan Africa's current population, at 856m, is little more than Europe's and a fifth of Asia's. By 2050 it could be almost three times Europe's and by 2100 might even be three-quarters of the size of Asia. By any measure, Africa is by far the fastest-growing continent. Nigeria alone is projected to grow as much as 800% in the next 100 years.

