A report by United Christian Forum in Delhi warns that in 19 to28 **Indian** states Christians face threats to life for practising their faith (21 March 2024). In Uttar Pradesh, 30 Christians, including a Catholic priest, Dominic Pinto were arrested and charged with illegal conversion activities (February 2024). The state has strict anti-conversion laws.

The **Pakistan** ministry of education has approved a new curriculum for 2024-25 which removes the compulsory study of Islam for non-Muslims and allows Christians and other minorities to study their own faiths. Observers feel that implementation of this freedom will be another matter.

The **Democratic Republic of Congo** has lifted a more than two-decade-old moratorium on the death penalty as authorities struggle to curb violence and militant attacks in the country (13 March 2024).

The **UK** Inspector of Prisons reports that the crumbling, 170-year old HMP Wandsworth is rat-infested, with inmates locked in cells for 22 hours a day, chronic staff shortages and 'chaotic' wings plagued by violence and drug abuse (10 May 2024). These are inhumane conditions of detention and the prison has been placed in emergency measures.

Abductions in **Nigeria** have increased dramatically ―in March 2024 alone, over 200 in Borno State, 300 schoolchildren in Kudana State and 15 in Sokoto ― and are spreading from the north of the country to the south.

An Orthodox priest has reportedly been tortured to death in occupied southern **Ukraine** (February 2024). In the past two years 30 Ukrainian priests have been killed by Russian forces and 26 imprisoned, according to Ukrainian human rights groups.

According to a report by RC bishops in **Malawi** 78 elderly people were tortured and killed for 'witchcraft' in 2023. In one case a gang buried a 66 year-old woman up to her neck and interrogated her for alleged witchcraft.

Prison officers in some **US** death penalty states are being traumatized by the ‘non-stop', conveyer-belt rate of executions. Reporting physical and mental signs of stress, including alcohol abuse, they are asking for the executions to be staggered (April 2024).