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## More reports of arrests, persecution of Christians in Iran

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Almost daily arrests of Christians in Iran, along with the jailing of priests, are the latest reports out of the Middle East country.

Members of the shrinking Christian communities that remain in the country are reportedly observing sacraments in private, under the fear of arrest and attacks by Islamists.

According to reports, such instances of religious intolerance come amid the 40-year anniversary of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Since 1979, religious minorities in the country, known for centuries as Persia, have obliged to comply with strict Islamic rules, while a ban on promoting their religions is firmly in place.

Increasingly, members of religious minorities in Iran have avoided using their native language in public or displaying their religious rites and traditions, although theoretically they enjoy the freedom to do so.

There have also been instances where Christians have been arrested or mistreated

because they took part in the Holy Communion, with the ostensible reason being that alcohol is strictly forbidden in theocratic Iran.