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Pew Center: Christians the most persecuted group worldwide



Shocking reports continue to emerge over the persecution of Christians in various parts of the world.

According to a new study by the Pew Research Center, Christians are now the most persecuted religious group in the world, with believers who declare their faith in Christ facing violence and intimidation in 144 countries, up from 125 last year.

The report comes days after a bombing spree against churches and hotels in Sri Lanka on Catholic Easter Sunday, which left more than 310 people dead.

Tens of thousands of Christians in many parts of Nigeria now face abduction, rape and murder by Islamist terrorists active in the country's north.

The weekend's terror attack in Sri Lanka was "particularly shocking given that it took place on Easter Sunday, the holiest feast of the Christian year", according to Catherine Pepinster, a former editor of The Tablet.

In an opinion piece this week in the UK daily Telegraph, Pepinster, who writes on

theology, church history and religion, said the attacks in Sri Lanka are “horribly familiar, for we are now living through an unprecedented era of Christian persecution”.

She added that the bombings reflected an era of global Christian persecution that “is fast becoming a rival” to the one experienced during the late Roman era and Stalinist regime.