

## Millions of views, thousands of comments

23 November 2017 | Gulf, Middle East, News Articles, North Africa



### *TV program about incest is going viral*

At this moment the television series *Hope for Tomorrow* can be watched online and is broadcast on satellite TV in the Arab World. The interest in this series is overwhelming. Issues discussed include domestic violence, trafficking of women, child marriage and incest.

The episode about incest reached more than nine million people on Facebook. Half of them actually watched the video online. About 75.000 people responded via social media. The stories are based on real life situations, but because of the sensitive nature of the subjects professional actors were used. During the filming the crew (some of them Muslims) were very impressed that this taboo issue is discussed and openly broadcast on Christian TV channels in the Arab World.

In the Middle-East the follow-up team of Arab Vision is extremely busy dealing with all the questions. Farid (member of the follow-up team) is working extra hours: *"We hadn't expected that this program about incest would trigger such a response. At this moment many women are sending us private messages via Facebook and they share heartbreaking stories with us. We listen and advise and if possible refer them to counsellors and pastoral teams of churches in the various countries of the region. I knew that the subject of incest was taboo in the Arab culture, but that so many people would respond... we are really impressed."*

## Jordan: You can't marry your victim – article 308 abolished

10 August 2017 | Middle East, News Articles



Jordan Times, Rana Hussein – In a historic vote on Tuesday 1 August, the Lower House of Parliament decided to abolish the controversial Article 308 of the Penal Code that allowed sexual assault perpetrators to escape punishment by marrying the victims.

“The abolishment of Article 308 today and the amendment of Article 98 are long awaited achievements for the rights of Jordanian women and for all Jordanians who stand for justice and equality,” Princess Basma posted on her Facebook page.

“My warmest congratulations to everyone who worked so hard, as well as those whose convictions helped to bring about this historic milestone in the rule of law,” Princess Basma added.

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## Yemen – the country is experiencing a 'humanitarian catastrophe'

22 May 2017 | Gulf, News Articles



BBC News – Two years of conflict have devastated Yemen, left 18 million people in need of some kind of humanitarian assistance and created the largest food security emergency in the world. The UN says more than 7,600 people – mostly civilians – have been killed and close to 42,000 others injured since the conflict escalated in March 2015.

[Read the full article on BBC](#)

## Morocco's High Religious Committee Says Apostates Should Not Be Killed

13 February 2017 | News Articles, North Africa



Morocco World News, E.Jabrane, 6 Feb.2017:

Morocco's High Religious Committee has retracted its Islamic ruling stating that apostasy is punishable by death and has decided to permit Muslims to change their religion. The High Religious Committee issued a document titled "The Way of the Scholars," in which it backtracked on its position of killing apostates. Instead, it redefined apostasy not as a religious issue but as a political stand more closely aligned with "high treason."

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## Harassment of elderly Iraqi Christian widow

24 January 2017 | Middle East, News Articles



World Watch  
Monitor, 18  
January 2017:

One of the major themes explored in Martin Scorsese's film, *Silence*, is the question of how to respond when faced with a choice between denying one's faith or facing death.

Christians in 17th century Japan were

given this choice, and the same choice was given to Zarefa, an elderly Iraqi Christian woman, when the Islamic State captured her town in 2014. During a raid on the house where she was staying, IS fighters found a few crucifixes and other Christian images – strictly illegal under IS rule. "They forced me to spit on the Cross," Zarefa recalls. "I told them that it was not appropriate, that it was a sin. He said that I must spit...."

[Read more](#)

## Christians in Arab World face serious persecution according to Open Doors world watch list 2017

12 January 2017 | Africa, Gulf, Middle East, News Articles, North Africa



12 January 2017: The Open Doors World Watch List highlights the 50 countries where it is most difficult to live as a Christian. These are the places where followers of Christ must keep their beliefs hidden and where living the gospel means facing beatings, imprisonment, discrimination and abuse.

Most of the countries of the Arab World have a ranking on the list of 50 countries. **Five of the first ten** are countries in the Arab World: Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

**Strengthening the church** in the Arab World is one of the purposes of Arab Vision.

Read more about all the countries on the [Open Doors World Watch List](#).

[World Watch list](#)