

ASKing for the Nations



UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP

Algerian Arabs in Spain

Population: 63,051 are Unengaged and Unreached
Religion: Islam-Sunni
Language: Algerian Arabic

Background:

Between 711 and 1492, Berbers and Arabs from what is now Morocco and Algeria dominated all or part of Spain. In 1492, Spain drove out the Algerian Arabs. Some Algerians now demand the right to return to Spain as Spanish citizens.

As North Africa's economic and political instability rise, thousands of Algerians risk their lives crossing the Mediterranean Sea in makeshift boats to Spain in hope of work. Many migrants pay smugglers approximately 2,500 euros per person. Once they arrive on shore, they are housed in prisons due to the lack of space in immigration detention centers. The Spaniards feel threatened by the rapid increase of Muslims in their midst. Algerian small businessmen feel harassed by Spanish authorities because they cater to their Muslim communities.

- Ask for God to do wonderful deeds of deliverance and provision for Algerians that they may know Jesus as the Savior. "For you are great and perform wonderful deeds. You alone are God... For your love for me is very great. You have rescued me from the depths of death." Psalm 86:10-13

- Ask for believers to reach out to their Muslim neighbors in love. "...we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, not to please men but God," 1 Thessalonians 2:3-4; "We cared so deeply that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our own lives as well." 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8; 11-13

Spain's strategic location on the Iberian Peninsula, and its long and rich history, makes it a nation of influence around the world. Spanish is the second most common language spoken in the world; this speaks to its expansive influence during the age of exploration. Although it now has a secular parliamentary democracy, the Spanish are 67% Roman Catholic. Spain is considered a high-income nation.

Political divisions exist in Spain, with extremist movements influencing the main parties and dividing society. President Sanchez has introduced some new ideas and ministers are able to govern, but he struggles to maintain the budget and the economy.

In the context of a 'second wave of Covid-19', Spanish intercessors are ASKing God for a wave of revival that will shake the structures of the historic church and conventional denominations. Many families are suffering – about 2 million need food help if they follow the emergency protocols. Churches are helping. While Spanish society is responding with maturity to the Covid protocols, the Canary and Balearic Islands follow a plan of alarm and control.

About 16,000 people arrived in Spain via the Canary Islands and the SE Coast of the Peninsula. Immigration as a European dilemma is also a problem for Spain. The church in Spain is living and active. After 2 years of teaching about home groups and multiplication, the living church, has a new way of thinking to accomplish God's goal to 'go and make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28:19)

Let's ASK:

- For God to liberate true praise and miraculous power by His authority for the spiritual battle Spain is in. *When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?" Then Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink. There the Lord issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test. He said, "If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you. Exodus 15:23-26*
- For the current wave of Covid 19 to lead to revival and refreshing by the Holy Spirit. *Repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord. Acts 3:19*
- For boldness to share the gospel accompanied by true miracles from the Lord. *Lord, look ... and grant it to Your bond-servants to speak Your word... while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through Your holy servant Jesus. Acts 4: 29-30*



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FINLAND

Finland is a constitutional republic (after gaining independence from Russia in 1917) with 5.5 million people, large forests, thousands of lakes and beautiful landscape. It enjoys one of the freest press in the world. It has an industrialised economy as part of the EU, but was hit hard by the 2008 recession and fear of the future weighs heavily on the aging population as productivity is decreasing, threatening competitiveness, fiscal sustainability and economic growth.

Finland has been traditionally a Christian country where most people have had some connection to a church. Officially 74% of Finns are members of the Lutheran church, but only 8% of Finns claim to attend any kind of religious service each month. In recent years there has been growth in smaller independent churches, mainly located in larger cities. The church is known for sending out missionaries to all nations.

Islam and fringe religions are growing. Meanwhile, many churches are adopting a secularized view of the Gospel. The last revival occurred during the 1960s. Within the Lutheran church, independent and lay movements with a revivalist background have appeared but face increasing restrictions from the liberal hierarchy. Young leaders with a vibrant faith are often frozen out. These tensions have resulted in some leaving to set up separate churches.

Let's ASK:

- For Finns to have a renewal of love for the Lord Jesus, and a desire to be part of the larger body of Christ. ASK also for protection of the authority of the Bible within the Lutheran church and for a new generation of believers with courage to serve the Lord in the face of opposition *"holding on to faith and a good conscience"*. 1 Timothy 1 18-19
- For political decisions that protect freedom of religion and for Finns leading comfortable lives to see their need for a Saviour. *"What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?"* Matthew 16:26-27
- For teachers (in particular those with Christian faith) to have courage and strength in their work. *"For the Lord gives wisdom, from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding."* Proverbs 2:6
- Pray for churches to send more missionaries to neighbouring Baltic nations. *"So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off."* Acts 13:2-3

See also at Operation World www.operationworld.org and www.prayercast.com



UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP

Somalis of Finland

Population: 7,600
Primary Religion: Islam
Language: Somali & Finnish

Background

Somali are one of the largest immigrant groups in Finland, most living in Helsinki. They first came to Finland as asylum seekers in the 1990s, some coming via Russia. As time went on more and more asylum seekers arrived.

It has been hard for Somalis to find work in Finland and there are only a few Somali-owned businesses in Finland. Many Somalis have gone into education to find employment.

There have been tensions between Somalis and the local Finnish and this is said to have caused employers to refuse the Somalis work, further complicating the economic situation. There has been some improvement as some Somalis have found work amongst their own people; some through Somali language work; and others have found short term work.

- ASK that the problems Somalis face will lead them to Jesus Christ. Psalm 118:5-7
- ASK that God will give them dreams and visions leading them to salvation. Psalm 118:22-24
- ASK for positive relationships to enable local Christians to share their faith with Somalis. Psalm 118:19