

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom



Ukraine

Bishop Afanasy Yavorsky (reported on [August 12, 2014](#) to have been threatened with being shot by DPR militants, fled from [Lugansk region](#) after his automobile brakes were tampered with)

Metropolitan Agafangel Savvin (wrote on [December 28, 2015](#) in [Odessa](#) "There have been around 20 robberies or attempted robberies of churches in our city and across the Odessa region over the past month. The donations, brought in by the parishioners, little by little, for the beautification of the houses of God, for helping the refugees from the conflict in Donbass and the wounded, for supporting those of our neighbors whom no one helps—all these were stolen...");

said in [Odessa](#) in a [May 14, 2017](#) homily concerning pending legislation that would allow churches to be seized and turned over to a competing denomination and that he prayed that the legislature would reject “anti-people, ungodly laws, aimed at the destruction of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church on the territory of Ukraine...We always pray for our God-protected country, and for the authorities and we desire that God would enlighten them. Through crisis and catastrophe the Lord calls all to repent and change...Therefore, we need to strengthen our prayer...that the Lord would give us patience and courage, for he is always with us”)

Albert Pavenko (aged 24, brother of Reuben Pavenko, son of the church pastor, abducted from a church service on [June 8, 2014](#) in [Slavyansk city, Donetsk region](#) by pro-Russian forces who also fired weapons from inside the church;

tortured, released then **shot dead** while driving away)

Sr Alevtina (aged 62, **found murdered** in [Kiev](#) on [July 29, 2015](#), hands were tied and evidence of torture found)

Alexander (church warden in [Slavyansk](#), hit with shrapnel on [June 19, 2014](#) from a government artillery barrage while opening the church gate, **died** in hospital)

Archpriest Alexander Bakhov (said on [February 5, 2018](#) that the [Tithes Monastery of the Mother of God, Kiev](#) had full legal title to its land and buildings)

Alexander Gayvoronski (deacon in [Slavyansk city, Donetsk region](#), witnessed the [June 8, 2014](#) abduction of Ruvim and Albert Pavenko, Victor Brodarsky, and Vladimir ‘Vova’ Velichko)

Rev Alexander (pastor, father of 10 children, church and automobile in [Donetsk](#) seized by armed men on [November 14, 2014](#))

Archimandrite Alexander Dublyazhenko (reported on [August 13, 2015](#) to have been arrested in [Donbass](#) by the government while providing humanitarian aid)

Pastor Alexander Kobzev (abducted on [July 27, 2014](#) in [Donetsk](#), whereabouts unknown as of

[August 12, 2014](#))

Archpriest Alexander Ponomarev ([Lugansk church damaged by government shelling on August 6 and 21, 2014](#))

Archimandrite Alipy Svetlichny (condemned the [April 27, 2014](#) vandalism of a bas-relief of St Vladimir in [Kiev](#))

Alla Ratushnaya (gathered on [February 5, 2018](#) to protect the [Tithes Monastery of the Mother of God, Kiev](#) from further incidents following the January 25 arson attack , said "Because we will not fight. We will kneel, we will pray - but we will not give up our holy things")

Pastor Anatoly (said on [September 18, 2014](#) "When I was in prison [in the [Luhansk region](#)], a rebel soldier told me they have an order to kill all the Christian pastors who are not part of the Russian Orthodox Church")

Metropolitan Anatoly (on [December 22, 2014](#) condemned the desecration of seven churches in the [Sarny diocese](#) since the beginning of December)

Archpriest Anatoly Bogdanov (described the actions of members of the Kiev Patriarchate who locked members of the Moscow Patriarchate in their church in [Pticha village, Rivne region](#) without food and water on [March 30, 2016](#), church members released on [April 2, 2016](#) and replaced with volunteers)

Anatoly Gerasimenko (arrested and interrogated for holding an illegal public meeting on [May 10, 2015](#) in [Maryanovka village, Krasnogvardeiskoe district, Crimea](#) where they sang Easter hymns and preached, fined US\$190 on [May 19, 2015](#))

Archpriest Anatoly Mikhnevich (church in [Pereiaslav-Khmelnyskyi](#) attacked and occupied on [October 5, 2014](#) by pro-government militants, scufia [clerical hat] torn from his head, the local mayor is attempting to have the occupation ratified by popular vote on October 11, 2014)

Andrew Zhuravlev (church in [Gorlovka, Donetsk region](#) seized during a worship service on [May 25, 2014](#) for use as a Russian military headquarters, given three hours to remove religious items, told "that any denominations apart from the Eastern Orthodox [Moscow Patriarchate] are illegal on this territory")

Metropolitan Anthony (in [Boryspil](#) on [December 16, 2014](#) condemned the seizure or pending seizure of 20 of his churches by a rival Orthodox Church)

Archimandrite Anthony Netrobin (reported on the [February 7, 2017](#) burglary of his monastery in [Lyadova](#) and the theft of an icon which was later found in the snow stripped of decorations)

Artem (gathered on [February 5, 2018](#) to protect the [Tithes Monastery of the Mother of God, Kiev](#) from further incidents following the January 25 arson attack, said that the arsonists were misled by political slogans and should turn to faith)

Archpriest Bogdan Kibalyuk (said there were no conflicts in the area before the [October 16, 2014](#) arson attack on his church in [Nosovka village, Chernigov region](#))

Fr Bogdan Kostetsky (repeatedly questioned by Russian FBS agents, including on the subject of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky who died in 1944 and who had been the author of a 1900 sermon that was banned in Russia in 2013, seized on [September 2, 2014](#) in [Yalta, Crimea](#) along with 15 parishioners by undisclosed persons, released)

Bishop Bohdan Dzyurakh (said on [April 8, 2014](#) that all churches in Crimea must re-register with the new government, and that the church is replacing married pastors with unmarried

priests from religious orders due to mistreatment of priests' families by pro-Russian activists, also said “the threats and accusations against us recall Soviet propaganda from when our Church was suppressed in 1945-46, and we’ve no illusions as to what this portends”)

Fr Bohdan Kostoskiy (abducted by pro-Russian forces, released on [March 16, 2014](#) in [Yevpatoria, Crimea](#))

Denis Vinnikov (brother of Semyon Vinnikov, arrested and interrogated for holding an illegal public meeting on [May 10, 2015](#) in [Maryanovka village, Krasnogvardeiskoe district, Crimea](#) where they sang Easter hymns and preached, fined US\$190 on [May 19, 2015](#))

Fr Dimitry Safonov (said on [May 18, 2015](#) at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe conference in [Vienna, Austria](#) “There are dozens of priests who had to leave Ukraine. The exact statistic is currently impossible. They are pressured into leaving Ukraine. Their families are getting death threats, they themselves are facing the threat of physical violence. By now there have been credible reports about 19 churches of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church having been violently seized by the so-called 'Kiev Patriarchate'”)

Pastor Edward Dolzhikiv (said on [June 9, 2014](#) in [Crimea](#) "People threaten you, call you names and they became reluctant to help. My kids could not continue studying in school because it became Russian, and it became impossible to pay for the utilities when the Russian currency was implemented", added that his church will likely have to close due to the Russian laws that favor the Russian Orthodox Church)

Elena Velichko (widow of Vladimir ‘Vova’ Velichko, mother of eight children aged 2 through 16, said on [September 18, 2014](#) "I don't hate my husband's killers. It is easy to start asking questions. Why did this happen? But if I keep thinking about this it will only wear me out...People often ask me how I am doing. I tell them about a mighty God who can heal our hearts, maybe not as quickly as we would like it, but the process is going on and the prayers of people around the world help. The biggest thing you can do for me is to pray for me and my family, about the future of my children and my country")

Archbishop Evlogy (protested to the government on [September 20, 2014](#) that pro-government groups have attacked churches around [Sumy](#) and carried away icons and financial donations, and had called for violence against church members)

Patriarch Filaret Denysenko (aged 84, on [March 16, 2014](#) expressed concern that the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyiv Patriarchate would be outlawed by a Russian annexation of the Crimea;

said on [April 2, 2014](#) "It's hard to believe [Russian] promises at the moment - they promise one thing and then do something else, so if they don't fulfil their promises we will take the Crimean Muslims up on their offer [to host Orthodox Christian services in their mosques]";

reported on [November 9, 2015](#) to have given an award to several members of the Good News Evangelical Church for their work with orphans)

Galina Romanovich (arrested and interrogated for holding an illegal public meeting on [May 10, 2015](#) in [Maryanovka village, Krasnogvardeiskoe district, Crimea](#) where they sang Easter hymns and preached, fined US\$190 on [May 20, 2015](#))

Pastor Gennadiy Mokhnenko (on [March 31, 2014](#) described an attack by pro-Russian activists on a rehabilitation center bus used to transport orphans in which the driver was almost shot, and his decision to forgive the activists;

described the [June 10, 2014](#) evacuation of orphans from an orphanage in [Mariupol](#),

[Donetsk region](#);

reported on [August 16, 2014](#) that his adoptive son captured and held by pro-Russian DPR fighters in [Donetsk](#) for 10 days, handcuffed and beaten for 2 days in an attempt to force him to join their ranks, ribs broken, released)

Archpriest George Gulyayev (described the [August 17, 2014](#) shelling of his [Mospino village, Donetsk region](#) church with a missile;

reported on the [August 25, 2014](#) destruction of his church in [Trudovskiye settlement, Donetsk](#) by shelling, no injuries)

Archpriest George Tsyganov (reported on the attack in which a church in [Kirovskoe](#) was hit by a shell during an [August 23, 2014](#) vigil service, the church was destroyed, 3 killed, and 7 seriously injured;

said on [July 9, 2015](#) "We mostly give food to the people who cannot take care of themselves...These are very different people: some of them were left by their relatives, others are simply very old, lonely and feeble people. We only bring food to some of them and they cook it themselves. Among them there are even several former 'big bosses' who once were mine superintendents, but now they are aged and needed by nobody. There is one old woman who during the World War II went through three concentration camps. All in all, we are helping everyone...We cook food at home and our volunteers deliver it to the houses of the most needy. Thus we provide over 50 people with food, and more than 20 people take regular meals in our dining-room. Our food is adequate. For those who are bedridden we even cook meals of milk and meat products. The 'Favor' charitable foundation has provided us with food, but our real problem is medicines. The pharmacies are near-empty, and what they have is extremely expensive")

Archimandrite Gideon Kharon (U.S. citizen, issued a statement on [February 3, 2018](#) regarding ultranationalist threats against the [Tithes Monastery of the Mother of God, Kiev](#) "We have appealed to the Ukrainian Security Service, the Mayor of Kiev, and the President of Ukraine...We have appealed to the United Nations. We have appealed to the ambassadors of many countries. We have also appealed to the President of the United States of America Donald Trump with a request to protect the Tithes Monastery";

said on [February 5, 2018](#) following a January 25 arson attack "We decided to act in a Christian way, with mercy, that [the arsonists] are released, we will officially submit documents to the appropriate authorities to take them on bail")

Archpriest Igor Dergach ([Chervonohrad](#) church burglarized on [August 19, 2014](#))

Igor Kozlovsky (religious scholar from [Donetsk](#), as of [March 21, 2017](#) has been held hostage for a year by a pro-Russian militia)

Archpriest Igor Margita (home in [Hrybovytsia village, Ivanychi region, Volhynia province](#) seized on [October 26, 2017](#) by members of a competing Orthodox church)

Rev Igor Sergienko (accused by armed men of hiding separatists in [Krasnoarmiisk](#) on [July 30, 2014](#), ordered to leave in two days under threat of death)

Fr Ihor Gabryliv (abducted by pro-Russian forces, released on [March 16, 2014](#) in [Yalta, Crimea](#))

Sr Irena Olszak (Polish citizen, told by Russian authorities in [Simferopol, Crimea](#) on [September 9, 2014](#) that her residency permit will not be renewed)

Iryna Horodchuk (aged 35, hospitalized on [December 21, 2015](#) in serious condition after being besieged in her church in [Pticha village, Rivne region](#) by Kiev Patriarchate and Right Sector militants who heckled her when she was removed on a stretcher, police have taken

- no action, a second parishioner was later hospitalized)
- Fr Ivan Katkalo (beaten along with parishioners by pro-Russian separatists who invaded their [Perevalnoe, Crimea](#) church on [June 1, 2014](#), daughter with cerebral palsy also beaten, told that they had no place there after Russian annexation;
as of [June 26, 2014](#) has left for Canada)
- Bishop Jacek Pyl (Polish citizen, told by Russian authorities that he will be allowed to remain in [Simferopol, Crimea](#) as of [January 15, 2015](#))
- Metropolitan Kliment Kushch (said on [April 2, 2014](#) of the Orthodox Church, Kiev Patriarchate in Crimea "Our churches could be thrown out onto the street today or tomorrow because we are not in line with Russian laws";
described on [June 25, 2014](#) how the new pro-Russian government has decided to charge commercial rates on their lease of the local cathedral in [Simferopol, Crimea](#) "If I lose the Cathedral the Diocese will not be able to function and will be liquidated as an organization. The Crimean authorities are doing all they can to liquidate us";
described on [June 26, 2014](#) how five of his ten priests have been forced out of [Crimea](#) by pro-Russian forces "The authorities couldn't guarantee their security. Some were told they'd be killed. They were threatened by phone, in writing, and face to face";
home in [Mramornoe village, Simferopol region, Crimea](#) destroyed by arson on [July 21, 2014](#))
- Patriarch Kirill aka Vladimir Mikhailovich Gundyayev (aged 65, Russian citizen, attacked at the airport by a half-naked FEMEN protestor who had the words 'Kill Kirill' on her back and shouted the words "Go to Hell" from the Rite of Exorcism at him)
- Kristina Matafonova (arrested and interrogated for holding an illegal public meeting on [May 10, 2015](#) in [Maryanovka village, Krasnogvardeiskoe district, Crimea](#) where they sang Easter hymns and preached, sentencing postponed on [May 20, 2015](#) to June 15, 2015)
- Fr Krzysztof Kontek (spoke on [January 15, 2015](#) on the ouster of Catholic clergy and religious from Russian controlled areas surrounding [Simferopol, Crimea](#) "The sisters tried to get Russian papers to remain in Crimea but couldn't. Some chose not to apply for Russian papers – Migration Service officials had 'recommended' to them not to apply...Now we have only the bishop, six priests and five sisters")
- Fr Leonard Aduszkiewicz (said from [Mariupol](#) on or before [October 2, 2014](#) "We are woken at night by explosions, and the fighting is continuing, despite the truce. The people here feel utterly helpless; they are coming into the churches, praying and weeping")
- Fr Leonid Mironenko (reported on [August 13, 2015](#) to have been arrested in [Donbass](#) by the government while providing humanitarian aid, later released)
- Bishop Leonid Padun ([Donetsk](#) church seized by pro-Russian PRD militants on [August 13, 2014](#))
- Metropolitan Luka Kovalenko (wrote in [Zaporizhia](#) on [May 14, 2017](#) concerning pending legislation that would allow churches to be seized and turned over to a competing denomination "Using their methods of pressure on the Church, they propose to adopt new legislation aimed at destroying the prayer life of our Mother Church, the established Church-administrative structure for centuries")
- Lyubov (hospitalized after a church in [Kirovskoe](#) was hit by a shell during an [August 23, 2014](#) vigil service)
- Lyubov (hospitalized after a church in [Kirovskoe](#) was hit by a shell during an [August 23, 2014](#)

vigil service)

Lyudmila Piven (wife of Archpriest Sergey Piven, hospitalized after a church in [Kirovskoe](#) was hit by a shell during an [August 23, 2014](#) vigil service)

Bishop Marian Buczek (described the [May 28, 2014](#) abduction of Fr Pawel Witek in [Donetsk](#), added "Local Catholics are living in conditions of great danger — the terrorists are doing what they like and shooting at people indiscriminately...In places where there's shooting, the Catholic and Orthodox churches have simply stopped functioning...Kramatorsk, where our chapel was machine-gunned by separatists last week, and Sloviansk, where the whole town is blocked")

Mark Dombrovsky (arrested and interrogated for holding an illegal public meeting on [May 10, 2015](#) in [Maryanovka village, Krasnogvardeiskoe district, Crimea](#) where they sang Easter hymns and preached, fined US\$190 on [May 19, 2015](#))

Fr Mariusz Wozniak OP (fined US\$70 for working under a tourist visa, expelled from [Crimea](#) in [February 2015](#))

Mikhail Cherenkov (former rector of Donetsk Christian University, reported on the [July 9, 2014](#) seizure of the university by DPR militants)

Archbishop Mitrophan (said in an [August 19, 2014](#) homily in [Gorlovka](#) "Today we are celebrating the feast of the Transfiguration. We cannot ring the church bells, because people will immediately run here shouting, "Why are you ringing? They'll bomb us for that!" although we don't know where they got that idea. There is no electricity, no running water. We are serving using proshpora we baked earlier, and when they are all gone we will have to think about what to do next. But in our souls there is no depression, no anguish, only joy. What are we, crazy? No, we are simply Christians...We do not know what tomorrow will bring; we do not know what will happen to us now, along the road from church. But we believe that the Lord will set it all straight, that all will be well";

said in [Horlivka](#) on [December 12, 2014](#) "...it was not the Church that started this war. But the Church can do something to make it so that hatred may not increase and animosity may not get stronger; so that people, after all, would regard each other as human beings, and not as animals to be killed...The fact of the matter is that there is much prevarication in this war...our spiritual children are in both parties, there are Christians both here and there...")

Fr Mykhailo Milchakovskiyi (said in [Kerch, Crimea](#) on [March 14, 2014](#) that many Ukrainian Catholics fear Russian annexation of the Crimea "Our church has no legal status in the Russian Federation, so it's uncertain which laws will be applied if Crimea is annexed. We fear our churches will be confiscated and our clergy arrested...Many have already stopped coming to church, after being branded nationalists and fascists by local provocateurs...We're counting on the prayers of Christians abroad...";

as of [March 25, 2014](#) has fled Crimea with his family and at least two-thirds of his parishioners, said that only one priest and deacon from the Ukraine Catholic church remain)

Fr Mykola aka Nicholas Kvych (abducted twice by pro-Russian forces, released twice on [March 15-16, 2014](#) in [Sevastopol, Crimea](#))

Nadezhda (hospitalized after a church in [Kirovskoe](#) was hit by a shell during an [August 23, 2014](#) vigil service)

Metropolitan Nathanael (wrote in [Volhynia](#) on [May 15, 2017](#) concerning pending legislation that would allow churches to be seized and turned over to a competing denomination "It is hard to believe, but today, in the democratic Ukrainian society, which declares its desire to

embody European values and freedoms, a new persecution is unfolding, against the Ukrainian Orthodox Church...I appeal to all the faithful of Volynia, who value peace and do not desire new conflicts in the state, to stand against hatred with prayer, love, and faith... We, who are the 'light of the world,' must first of all convey to the public the truth that the Church is not a political institution, but the Body of Christ. Today, the future of Orthodoxy is in our hands...The clergy and laity are trying to get the people's representatives to hear the opinion of the religious part of society and to prevent the legalization of discrimination on religious grounds in Ukraine")

Archpriest Nikolai Fomenko (stated on [June 16, 2014](#) in [Sloviansk](#) that the bell tower roof of the Cathedral of St. Alexander Nevsky were damaged by government artillery, as was the courtyard of the Church of St. Seraphim of Sarov;

described pro-government shelling of the [Sloviansk](#) cathedral during the [June 29, 2014](#) Divine Liturgy "Shelling began at 10 AM during the Liturgy. The parishioners had just started singing "Our Father", when the first volley was fired...When the shelling began, everybody rushed into the church. The cathedral was packed with people; the worshippers were kneeling and praying to God with tears. Several stained glass windows fell from the dome and broke because of the shock wave, and this made the people pray more fervently. The volleys lasted for about half an hour...During the first strike I was just holding the Body of Christ in my hands. It is such a stressed state – you are holding the Sacrament and suddenly such things are happening";

denied on [September 30, 2014](#) that Russian Orthodox priests had blessed pro-Russian tanks at Peter Dudnik's [Slavyansk](#) church)

Fr Nikolai Gavriyuk (reported on [September 3, 2014](#) on the interrogations of Fr Bogdan Kostetsky)

Nikolai Martsenyuk (attacked on [April 28, 2014](#) while passing out religious literature in [Yalta, Crimea](#), kicked unconscious, police refused to come to the crime scene, hospitalized)

Pastor Nikolay Kalinichenko (church and automobile seized by pro-Russian militants in [Donetsk](#) on [June 21, 2014](#), released but threatened with death if he continued his religious activities)

Fr Nikolay Sisonyuk (yard and automobile reported on [December 15, 2015](#) to have been vandalized in [Ptichaya village, Rovno region](#), apparently by supporters of the Kiev Patriarchate)

Pastor Oleg (said on [September 18, 2014](#) "If I went to Donetsk today I would be arrested at the first checkpoint and put in jail. The last time I was in prison they beat me up so badly, but I kept preaching the gospel and telling them to repent...Many heroes were born out of this conflict - men and women who are boldly sharing their faith and helping those caught in the war")

Oleg Maximov (doused with water on [December 14, 2013](#) while street preaching in [Sevastopol, Crimea](#), perpetrator apologized)

Oleg Shtein (Donetsk Christian University Vice Rector for Administrative Affairs, said on [August 8, 2014](#) "Currently, armed men are housed in the DCU dormitories. The gates have been barricaded, there are checkpoints all around, prisoners are being held on the premises, along with a lot of equipment and arms for the fighters")

Archpriest Oleg Tochinsky (reported on the illegal [October 26, 2017](#) eviction of Archpriest Igor Margita and his family from his home in [Hrybovytsia village, Ivanychi region, Volhynia province](#) by members of a competing Orthodox church)

Olga Radchenko (**killed** when a church in [Kirovskoe](#) was hit by a shell during an [August 23, 2014](#)

vigil service)

Metropolitan Onuphry (on [June 27, 2014](#) sent a letter to the country's president complaining of attempted church arsons in [Kiev](#), media misrepresentations of church positions, and added "We are especially concerned about the fact that on June 22, 2014, a large number of armed people with aggressive behavior gathered near the Kiev Caves Lavra. All this looked like an attempt of seizure of the Lavra")

Archpriest Paul Fazan (consoled Archpriest Bogdan Kibalyuk and his parishioners during the [October 16, 2014](#) arson fire at the church in [Nosovka village, Chernigov region](#))

Fr Paul Zhuchenko (aged 40, father of three, **shot dead** on [May 8, 2014](#) in his automobile on the [road between Druzhkivka and Kostiantinivka, Donetsk region](#) by persons unknown)

Metropolitan Pavel Lebed (monastery abbot at [Monastery of the Kiev Caves](#), monastery disrupted by 30 nationalists on [January 8, 2018](#) with fireworks, met with the nationalists at the gate, joined by seminarians who sang Christmas songs, the nationalists left, later said "The young men came in balaclavas and masks, with video cameras and political posters, in order to provoke disorder and fights, hoping for a violent response. But I came out to them and they apparently didn't expect this, supposing that the monks are scared by their aggressive actions. I came up to them and invited them to come to church and pray on that holy Christmas day. Of course they refused, although several of them were taken aback")

Fr Pavel Tomaszewski (as of [October 2, 2014](#) has assisted Fr Leonard Aduszkiewicz in [Mariupol](#))

Fr Pawel Witek (Polish citizen, abducted in [Donetsk](#) on [May 28, 2014](#) by pro-Russian rebels;

hit on the knee, released on [May 29, 2014](#), captors asked him to pray for peace, said "War is the devil's creation, but people remain people. People have a lot of bad things inside them, but also a lot of good")

Pastor Peter Dudnik (Orphan Project leader, wrote on [March 31, 2014](#) of the attack against a rehabilitation center bus on Facebook "What kind of evil did the orphans do to you? Why would you raise your hand to the property of the orphans and almost kill the driver?";

described how separatists looted and vandalized a Christian orphanage in [Slovyansk, Donetsk region](#) on [June 10, 2014](#);

evicted from his [Slavyansk](#) church days after April 12, 2014 by insurgents including two Russian Orthodox priests - one of whom carried a gun, reported on [September 30, 2014](#) to have received photos of arms stored in the church cellar and a video of tanks on the property in combat and being blessed by the priests, said "The war in my country is more than just about the capture of Ukrainian territory or a change in the government. There's a real war against the Protestant Church by radical elements within the Russian Orthodox Church";

reported on [November 9, 2015](#) to have been given an award by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Kiev Patriarchate for his church's work with orphans)

Sr Philomene Tiernan (aged 77, Australian citizen, **killed** in the [July 17, 2014](#) shooting down of the Malaysian Airlines flight over [Hrabove, Donetsk Oblast](#) while returning from a spiritual retreat in France)

Fr Piotr Rosochacki (Polish citizen, told by Russian authorities in [Simferopol, Crimea](#) on [September 9, 2014](#) that his residency permit will not be renewed;

as of [October 24, 2014](#) has left the area, said "Although other priests and nuns have Ukrainian residence permits for Crimea valid into next year [2015], the Russian authorities have said they will regard them as valid only until the end of this year. This means all our

- priests and nuns will have to leave by the 2014 year end";
said on [March 24, 2015](#) that he would like to resume his ministry "But there is no opportunity to return. There is no possibility at present to get a visa to serve as a priest because our parishes aren't registered")
- Pastor Pyotr Dudnik (said on [June 8, 2014](#) that separatists are using heavy artillery in [Slavyansk city, Donetsk region](#))
- Fr Roman Ignatyuk (described on [September 24, 2014](#) the invasion of a [Khodosy village, Rovno region](#) church by pro-government militants)
- Fr Roman Nikolaev (shot outside his home in [north Kiev](#) on [July 25, 2015](#), hospitalized in critical condition;
died on [July 29, 2015](#))
- Fr Rostislav Sapozhnik (husband, father of 11 and 17 year old sons, church in [Ugrinov village, Horikhiv district, Volhynia region](#) illegally seized by the Kiev Patriarchate on [September 10, 2014](#);
ordered evicted on [August 18, 2015](#) along with his family from their adjoining home which they have occupied for 17 years, ordered to pay US\$2,690 in 'back rent')
- Captain Ruslan Zuyev (Salvation Army, fled from [Crimea](#) in [June 2014](#) due to repeated interrogations by Russian FSB agents)
- Ruvim Pavenko (aged 30, brother of Albert Pavenko, son of the church pastor, abducted from a church service on [June 8, 2014](#) in [Slavyansk city, Donetsk region](#) by pro-Russian forces who also fired weapons from inside the church;
tortured, released then **shot dead** while driving away)
- Semyon Vinnikov (brother of Denis Vinnikov, arrested and interrogated for holding an illegal public meeting on [May 10, 2015](#) in [Maryanovka village, Krasnogvardeiskoe district, Crimea](#) where they sang Easter hymns and preached, fined US\$190 on [May 19, 2015](#))
- Pastor Sergei Litovchenko (abducted by masked gunmen during a [September 27, 2014](#) communion service in separatist-controlled [Horlivka](#), whereabouts unknown)
- Archpriest Sergei Taran (removed his vestments and used them to cover an icon during a [July 2016](#) religions procession when it was attacked by radicals [near Boryspil](#))
- Sergei Vladimirovich Luchenko (aged 44, cathedral employee, husband, father of two, **killed** in an artillery duel in [Horlivka](#) on [February 13, 2015](#))
- Sergey Demidovich (church leader in [Slavyansk city, Donetsk region](#), said on [September 18, 2014](#) "I never thought in the 21st century, in free country as Ukraine, it was possible to experience this level of persecution. The separatists saw Protestant Christians as enemies. They viewed us as cults. All the Protestant churches in the city were either taken over by rebels or forced to close. We were forbidden to meet for services and the leadership forced to leave or be under risk of arrest")
- Pastor Sergey Kosyak (described the seizure of a church owned rehabilitation center in [Donetsk](#) by pro-Russian militants on [June 17, 2014](#) and the abduction of 29 persons from the facility, half of whom are chronically ill;
reported on the [November 14, 2014](#) attack on Rev Alexander in [Donetsk](#))
- Archpriest Sergey Piven (husband of Lyudmila Piven, hospitalized after a church in [Kirovskoe](#) was hit by a shell during an [August 23, 2014](#) vigil service)

Pastor Sergey Reuta (husband, father of three, **killed by an artillery shell** while leading a service on [November 24, 2014](#) in [Pesky village, Donetsk region](#))

Sergey Shokha (arrested and interrogated for holding an illegal public meeting on [May 10, 2015](#) in [Maryanovka village, Krasnogvardeiskoe district, Crimea](#) where they sang Easter hymns and preached, fined US\$380 on [May 19, 2015](#))

Pastor Sergey Skorobagach (**killed** by DNR militants on [June 14, 2014](#) in [Mariupol](#))

Pastor Sergey Tarasik (church rental in [Crimea](#) terminated by pro-Russian authorities after 18 years, parishioners as of [June 9, 2014](#) now meet in a Baptist church)

Archpriest Sergiy Chumak (supported Archpriest Vasily Kovalenko and his parishioners, church in [Belozerye village, Cherkassy district, Cherkassy region](#) subjected to anti-Russian pressure to fire Fr Kovalenko, parishioners surrounded the church on [October 19, 2014](#) to defend it)

Bishop Stanislav Szyrokoradiuk (said on [August 6, 2014](#) in [Kharkiv-Zaporizhia](#) "there is a hunt for Catholic priests";

said in [Kharkiv](#) on [January 3, 2015](#) "The situation in the war zones is catastrophic. There is hunger. More than 80 people have already died of it in Luhansk and Donetsk...We are trying to help where we can. Just a few weeks ago, we were at least able to give 300 pairs of shoes to children...Twenty years ago, we didn't have a single parish - today there are more than 50. The faithful have Ukrainian, Polish, Russian as well as Vietnamese roots")

Major Archbishop Svyatoslav Shevchuk (received a letter from the government on [January 6, 2014](#) alleging illegal religious activity by priests at a political event and threatening 'cancellation of the Church's activities', replied publicly in [Kiev](#) that the faithful asked for spiritual care at the event "We thought that the repression [of the Soviet era] has already passed, but these letters made us think about it again";

wrote on [March 19, 2014](#) that "These attacks are nothing new. In them we trace an echo of everything our martyr-Church experienced in the not-so-distant Communist past";

called on [June 19, 2014](#) from [Lyiv](#) for reconciliation between the Greek Catholic and the Russian Orthodox churches "Do not believe propaganda! We are not your enemies, we are brothers; we want to be good neighbors, have friendly relations and close cooperation with you...We regret that state propaganda is creating an image of the Ukraine as an enemy. We do not want to do anything that harms or is likely to spurn the dignity or freedom of the Russian Orthodox Church. We just want an open and honest dialogue, which might eventually lead one day to reconciliation")

Tatiana (hospitalized after a church in [Kirovskoe](#) was hit by a shell during an [August 23, 2014](#) vigil service)

Sr Tatiana Shirolapova (reported on [August 13, 2015](#) to have been arrested in [Donbass](#) by the government while providing humanitarian aid, later released)

Tatyana Lysenko (reported on the [June 8, 2014](#) church attack and abductions in [Slavyansk city, Donetsk region](#) by pro-Russian forces)

Fr Theophan Kratirov (arrested by the Ukrainian army in the [Donetsk region](#) on [March 3, 2015](#), tortured, reported on [April 20, 2015](#) to have been released)

Fr Tikhon Fomenko (stated that government artillery fell 10 meters from his [Sloviansk](#) church on [May 26, 2014](#) and killed a woman standing near his church, several others also died in their homes)

Fr Tikhon aka Sergey Kulbaka (abducted on [July 3, 2014](#) by DPR militants in [Donetsk](#) after fascist

symbols were painted on his automobile, released on [July 14, 2014](#) after suffering health issues from maltreatment)

Valentina Kudryavskaya (gathered on [February 5, 2018](#) to protect the [Tithes Monastery of the Mother of God, Kiev](#) from further incidents following the January 25 arson attack ,said "We are united by a common impulse to protect our holy places. People with a pure heart go to protect their home, their saints")

Archpriest Vasily Kobelsky (said "On that day [[June 4, 2017](#)] activists and priests of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic [aka Uniate] Church organized a traditional procession to the grave of the streltsy [Russian military corps in the sixteenth to seventeenth centuries] of Sech, not far from our church [in [Kolomiya, Transkarpatya region](#)]. A representative of the Ukrainian Security Service approached me and asked me to allow them to come into the church to pray. We gave them permission. But the Uniate priests—and there were thirteen of them—immediately proceeded to the sanctuary to serve their liturgy. We did not expect that...";

Divine Liturgy disrupted and parishioners attacked by Greek Catholics on [October 22, 2017](#) in the continuing church dispute)

Archpriest Vasily Kovalenko (pastor under pressure to leave his parish, church in [Belozerye village, Cherkassy district, Cherkassy region](#) subjected to anti-Russian pressure to fire him, parishioners surrounded the church on [October 19, 2014](#) to defend it)

Fr Vasily Moysyuk (reportedly threatened in [Stenka village, Buchach district, Ternopil region](#) on [March 22, 2015](#) by members of the Freedom party, the Right Sector paramilitary group, and Ukrainian Catholic clergy, 80 police officers intervened)

Bishop Vasyly Ivasyuk (said on [March 18, 2014](#) "During Soviet times, we were always accused of being 'agents' of the Vatican. Of course not all people in Crimea think we are spies, but there is a very active pro-Russian group there that does")

Victor Brodarsky (aged 40, abducted from a church service on [June 8, 2014](#) in [Slavyansk city, Donetsk region](#) by pro-Russian forces who also fired weapons from inside the church; tortured, released then **shot dead** while driving away)

Viktor Chernyshev (**killed** when a church in [Kirovskoe](#) was hit by a shell during an [August 23, 2014](#) vigil service)

Fr Viktor Katkalo reported on [January 27, 2017](#) to have been (hospitalized after a bottle was broken over his head during a fight with 3 other priests from another church in [Katerinopol, Cherkasy region](#))

Fr Viktor Vonsovich (abducted by pro-Russian rebels in [Gorlovka, Donetsk](#) on [July 15, 2014](#), released ten days later, ordered to leave under threat of death)

Archpriest Viktor Zemlyanoy (reported on the [December 21, 2015](#) church siege in [Pticha village, Rivne region](#))

Vitaly Arsenyuk (aged 67, **died of a massive heart attack** in his [Dzhankoi, Crimea](#) home on [June 27, 2017](#), hours earlier had appeared in a Russian court for illegal missionary activity, had been persecuted during the Soviet era)

Fr Vitaly Buga (reported on the [April 20, 2015](#) arrest of another priest for leaving the church grounds on [Pticha village, Rivne region](#) to investigate the vandalism of some automobiles, hit with a police baton when he attempted to intervene, threatened by police with a beating)

Fr Vitaly Gurev (described how his parishioners stayed overnight on [February 25, 2017](#) in their church in [Kynakhivtsi village, Ternopil region](#) to prevent it from seizure by members of

another church)

Bishop Vitaliy Skomarovsky (said in [Lutsk](#) on [January 3, 2015](#) “The war may seem far away. But in reality, many young men from the western part of the country have joined the war. Just recently, a row of fir trees was felled in the cemetery of Lutsk to bury 13 young soldiers”)

Metropolitan Vladimir (criticized the government for its seizure on [April 9, 2015](#) of the Holy Dormition Pochayiv Lavra [Cathedral and monastery complex] in [Pochayiv, Ternopil region](#) “On Holy Thursday the Church remembers the Last Supper and the betrayal of Judas who betrayed Christ the Savior for thirty pieces of silver. These events happened twenty centuries ago. Time passes, but the personalities and the deeds remain the same”)

Pastor Vladimir Franchuk (forced out of his [Donetsk](#) church along with his parishioners on [November 12, 2014](#), threatened with death if they returned)

Archpriest Vladimir Kreslyanskiy (**killed** by pro-government artillery shelling in [Lugansk](#) in the week before [August 6, 2014](#), five children orphaned)

Fr Vladimir Navozenko (church service in [Chervonaya Motovilovka village, outside Kiev](#) reported on [August 15, 2014](#) to have been interrupted by anti-Russian militants, red paint thrown at him)

Fr Vladimir Ocheretyanin (reported on [May 22, 2014](#) to have been abducted from a hospital in [Khartsyzk city, Donetsk region](#) by unknown persons)

Archpriest Vladimir Slobodyan (described the [October 5, 2014](#) seizure of a [Butin village](#) church by pro-government militants)

Vladimir ‘Vova’ Velichko (aged 41, husband of Elena Velichko, father of eight children aged 2 through 16, abducted from a church service on [June 8, 2014](#) in [Slavyansk city, Donetsk region](#) by pro-Russian forces who also fired weapons from inside the church; tortured, released then **shot dead** while driving away)

Fr Volodymyr Zhdan (said on [March 18, 2014](#) “At this moment all Ukrainian Greek Catholic life in Crimea is paralyzed” due to the Russian intervention, added of the abductions of Fathers Mykola [Nicholas] Kvych, Bohdan Kostaskiy , and Ihor Gabryliv: “multiple kidnappings are not an accident”)

Yelena Kuskova (arrested and interrogated for holding an illegal public meeting on [May 10, 2015](#) in [Maryanovka village, Krasnogvardeiskoe district, Crimea](#) where they sang Easter hymns and preached, fined US\$190 on [May 19, 2015](#))

Yevgeny Butsy (ordered by Russian prosecutors in [Sevastopol, Crimea](#) on [May 24, 2016](#) to change the church name listed on posted fire evacuation notices to match its registered name, later fined, case dismissed twice by the courts; case reopened a second time by prosecutors on [June 1, 2017](#))

Archpriest Yevgeny Podgorny (held by government military personnel on [July 30, 2014](#) in [Amvrosiyevka district](#), beaten, cross torn from him, tied and hooded, residence searched, automobile and money seized, 16-year old son threatened with death, rescued by parishioners)

Archbishop Yevglogy (threatened in [Sumy](#) on [March 1, 2015](#) by 20 masked men belonging to the pro-government group Right Sector)

Fr Yuriy Ivanov (abducted on [July 8, 2014](#) in [Donetsk](#), released on [July 30, 2014](#))

Archpriest Zakharia Kerstyuk (reported on the arrest of Sr Tatiana Shirolapova, Archimandrite Alexander Dublyazhenko, and Fr Leonid Mironenko)

Zinaida Meluga (killed when a church in Kirovskoe was hit by a shell during an August 23, 2014 vigil service)