

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – unknown month 1960



Russia: Moscow

Maria Veniaminovna Yudina (aged 61, convert, pianist, professor, dismissed from the Conservancy in [Leningrad](#) in 1930, spent “a couple” of years unemployed and homeless; alleged in an unconfirmed report to have been awarded 20,000 rubles after Stalin overheard her broadcast piano concerto in [Moscow](#) in 1944 or 1948 [she was pulled from bed later that night to record the concerto since no one would tell Stalin the broadcast was not recorded, the recording was made in 1948], wrote to Stalin in reply "I thank you for your aid. I will pray for you day and night and ask the Lord to forgive your great sins before the people and the country. The Lord is merciful and he'll forgive you. I gave the money to the church that I attend", Stalin showed the letter to his cronies who agreed she deserved arrest, but let the matter drop; **UPDATE**: dismissed from the Gnessin Institute, banned from making recordings, later banned from recitals until 1966)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maria_Yudina



Latvia

Fr Julijans Vaivods (aged 65, reputed KGB agent, arrested in 1958; **UPDATE**: released)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julijans_Vaivods



Czechoslovakia

Anton Srholec (aged 30, sentenced to 11 years in prison in 1951 for attempting to illegally cross the border to pursue a theological education; **UPDATE**: released)

Fr Augustin Machalka CCOP (aged 43, had spent three years' in German concentration camps, arrested [early 1950](#); sentenced to 25 years imprisonment on treason and espionage charges on [April 4, 1950](#); **UPDATE**: released in an amnesty)

Fr Bohumil Vít Tajovsky CCOP (aged 48, arrested in [January 1950](#); sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment on treason and espionage charges on [April 4, 1950](#); **UPDATE**: released in an amnesty)

Fr Jan Blesik CSSR (aged 40, arrested [March 1950](#); sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment on treason and espionage charges on [April 4, 1950](#); **UPDATE**: released in an amnesty)

Fr Jan Evangelista Urban OFM (aged 64; sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment on treason and espionage charges on [April 4, 1950](#); **UPDATE**: released in an amnesty, had contracted tuberculosis in prison)

Paul Korbuly (judge, former Communist, arrested in [1959](#) by the StB secret police after it was discovered that he secretly converted to Christianity; **UPDATE**: released in an amnesty, worked as a laborer)

Fr Stefan Kostial (aged 47, arrested in church in [1951](#) while hearing confessions, tortured; escaped from a hospital in [Bratislava](#) on [February 19, 1952](#), had been hospitalized to recover from torture; recaptured in [March 1952](#); sentenced to 19 years' imprisonment on [May 19, 1952](#); **UPDATE**: released in an amnesty, required to finish his sentence maintaining roads as a forced laborer)

https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustin_Machalka - with translation

https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bohumil_V%C3%ADt_Tajovsk%C3%BD - with translation

https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jan_Bles%C3%ADk - with translation

https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jan_Evangelista_Urban - with translation

<http://spectator.sme.sk/c/20070713/priest-former-dissident-srholec-died.html>

<https://www.familiemariens.org/html/en/pdf/48.pdf>