Today’s Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – July 1979

Friday July 6, 1979

Zimbabwe – then Zimbabwe Rhodesia

Dr Luisa Guidotti Mistral (aged 47, Italian citizen, Women's Medical Missionary Association, arrested on June 28, 1975 for treating an alleged guerrilla at her hospital; released on bail on July 2, 1975, charges later dismissed; UPDATE: shot dead at a government checkpoint while driving the hospital ambulance)

https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luisa_Guidotti_Mistrali - with translation

Thursday July 12, 1979

Ethiopia: Addis Ababa

Patriarch Abuna Tewophilos (aged 70, arrested by the Derg [Communist junta] on February 17, 1976, later escaped but was recaptured; UPDATE: removed from prison, executed)

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

Saturday July 14, 1979

Guyana: Georgetown
Fr Bernard Darke SJ (aged 53, British citizen, teacher, **stabbed to death** during a riot between anti- and pro-government demonstrators, had been taking photographs for the diocesan newspaper)

Fr John Hopkinson SJ (headmaster, said “It is easy to label Fr Darke as a scout leader, as a photographer, as a teacher, as a priest, but the labels should not mask the unity and motives of a likeable and hardworking Jesuit striving to do all for the greater glory of God”)


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**Monday July 16, 1979**

![Uganda flag](image)

**Uganda: Amuria**

Fr Hans Tauber MHM (aged 61, Italian citizen, **killed**)


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**Saturday July 28, 1979**

![Ethiopia flag](image)

**Ethiopia**

Rev Gudina Tumsa (aged 50, theologian, arrested in **October 1978** after refusing to attend a government sponsored religious seminar; jailed in **June 1979**, released after foreign appeals, refused to leave the country; **UPDATE**: abducted by the Derg [Communist junta], **murdered by strangulation**)

[https://dacb.org/stories/ethiopia/gudina-tumsa/](https://dacb.org/stories/ethiopia/gudina-tumsa/)

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**July 1979, date unknown**