

Today's Martyrs – May 2012

Tuesday May 1, 2012



Turkmenistan: Dashoguz City

Navruz Nasyrlaev (sentenced to two years in a labor camp for refusing military service)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1761

Friday May 4, 2012



Algeria: Oran

Siaghi Krimo (aged 29, sentenced to five years imprisonment on blasphemy charges for giving a CD on Christianity to a neighbor)

[International Christian Concern email](#)

Sunday May 6, 2012



Indonesia: Jakarta

Fr Gregorius Subanar SJ (researched the newly premiered film 'Soegija' on the life of Bishop Albertus Soegijapranata SJ - the film is being called a 'gimmick' by Islamists)

Tuesday May 8, 2012



Turkmenistan: Ashgabad

Juma Nazarov (arrested for refusing military service)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1761

Thursday May 10, 2012



Uzbekistan: Bukhara

Margarita Ten (detained for discussing religion with others, fined US\$650)

Oksana Shcherbenova (Kazakh citizen, detained for discussing religion with others)

Viktoria Gorshkova (detained for discussing religion with others, fined US\$3,440)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1725

Thursday May 17, 2012



China: Yushu City, Jilin province

Christians fought the seizure of the Chengjiao Street Christian Church by a developer

Fan Guolan

Fu Chengguo

Luo Zhanyun

Miao Fenghua

Sun Yan

Wang Yan

Zhang Shufang

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2012/09/a-tspm-church-in-yushu-city-jilin.html>



Azerbaijan: Mujuk

Akif Babaev (detained without charge for distributing Christian literature, later released)

Ilgar Mamedov (detained without charge for distributing Christian literature, later released)

Telman Yarmetov (detained without charge for distributing Christian literature, later released, automobile confiscated)



South Africa: Braemar

Thabile Mofokeng (expelled from college dormitory with 70 other students for protesting a school ban on the possession of a Bible)

Zanele Mgedezi (expelled from college dormitory with 70 other students for protesting a school ban on the possession of a Bible)

Friday May 18, 2012



China: Qili township, Langzhong city, Sichuan

Pastor Li (ordered by the government to close their 1,500 person church)



Uzbekistan: Urganch

Sharofat Allamova (fined US\$320 for illegally storing religious books in her home)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1729

Saturday May 19, 2012



Pakistan: Essa Nagri, Karachi

Aftab Bhatti (shot in the right foot, still bedridden)

Khurram Asif (shot in the right abdomen, still bedridden)

Khurram Masih (partially paralyzed after being shot in the spine)



Uzbekistan: Fergana Region

Sergei Ivanov (freed from prison)

Sunday May 20, 2012



China: Yushu City, Jilin province

Christians fought the seizure of the Chengjiao Street Christian Church by a developer

Luo Zhanyun (beaten by agents of the land developer, hospitalized)

Tao Yanbo (beaten by agents of the land developer, hospitalized)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2012/09/a-tspm-church-in-yushu-city-jilin.html>

Monday May 21, 2012



Pakistan: Pir Mahal, Toba Tek Singh

Pastor Johnson Gill (after Muslim human rights groups publicly supported the beaten Christian women said “It’s a positive sign that our Muslim brothers and sisters are raising their voices against the violations of Christian’s rights...They are thanked for their support”)

Rafia Salomi (activist for the rights of Christian women, said, “Violence against Christian women is increasing. Kidnapping, bonded labor, violence against working women, is becoming common. The violence against peaceful Christian women is a shameful act of the police”)

Shahbaz Masih (passenger van driver, beaten and arrested for protesting an illegal traffic fine, his passengers, all Christian women returning from a funeral, were also "badly beaten")



Uzbekistan: Bukhara

Elmnora Maksutova (detained for discussing religion with others, illegally sent to a rehabilitation center for homeless people)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1725

Tuesday May 22, 2012



Uzbekistan: Fergana Region

Olim Turaev (freed from prison)

Wednesday May 23, 2012



Turkmenistan: Dashoguz

Merdan Tachmuradov (sentenced to a 2 year suspended sentence and fined 20 percent of his income for refusing military service)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1733

Thursday May 24, 2012



Pakistan: Data Jhatt village

Pastor Joshua John (arrested on blasphemy charges, released, now in hiding)

Saleem Masih (arrested on blasphemy charges along with Pastor Joshua John, released)



Iran: Karaj, Teheran

Forough Dashtiani (wife of Mehrdad Sajadi, arrested, whereabouts unknown)

Mehrdad Sajadi (husband of Forough Dashtiani, arrested, whereabouts unknown)

Saturday May 26, 2012



Iran: Mashhad city, Khorasan-Razavi province

Vahid Zarday (convert, artist, arrested in a house church with his wife and a number of other new Christians, wife released due to the pending end of her pregnancy)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5514:christian-artist-released-after-136-days-in-prison&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279

Sunday May 27, 2012



Japan: Kawasaki City

Archbishop Jun Ikenaga (submitted a letter requesting an investigation into a police raid without warrant on a church conducting Pentecost Sunday Mass in search of illegal immigrants)



Indonesia: Jakarta

Bona Sigalingging (**UPDATE**: spoke at a church celebration of the Feast of Pentecost which was held in front of the presidential palace due to churches being closed: "the President [needs] to open his eyes and take action")



Iran: Gorgan

Alireza Ebrahimi (convert, blogger, home raided by police, still at large)

Sadegh Mirzaei (convert, friend of Alireza Ebrahimi, arrested, whereabouts unknown)

Saeed Mirzaei (convert, friend of Alireza Ebrahimi, arrested, whereabouts unknown)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5752:iranian-cyber-police-raided-christian-bloggers-home&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279

Monday May 28, 2012



Uzbekistan: Fergana Region

Eduard Kim (religious service in his home raided by police on [April 29, 2012](#), **UPDATE**: under investigation for "Teaching religious beliefs without specialized religious education and without permission from the central organ of a [registered] religious organization, as well as teaching religious beliefs privately")

Iosif Skaev (present during the religious service in the Kim home when it was raided by police on [April 29, 2012](#), **UPDATE**: under investigation for "Teaching religious beliefs without specialized religious education and without permission from the central organ of a [registered] religious organization, as well as teaching religious beliefs privately")

Yelena Kim (religious service in her home raided by police on [April 29, 2012](#), **UPDATE**: under investigation for "Teaching religious beliefs without specialized religious education and without permission from the central organ of a [registered] religious organization, as well as teaching religious beliefs privately")



Canada: Toronto

Fr Raymond J de Souza (wrote against the Ontario provincial government's mandate that Catholic schools create 'gay-straight alliances' to counter bullying: “[I]t is simply intolerant to say that Catholic schools must in this regard teach something contrary to the Catholic faith, namely that there is no moral difference between homosexual acts and heterosexual acts”)

Tuesday May 29, 2012



Indonesia: Medan

Fr Markus Manurung, OFMCap (stated "On the island of Sumatra there are six dioceses: the Archdioceses of Medan and Palembang; the dioceses of Sibolga, Padang, Pangkal Pinang and Tanjung Karang. Problems are occurring for Christians in Padang, Medan and Sibolga. In Padang, in rural and isolated areas, there are churches that despite lengthy bureaucratic procedures, have never had the permission to be built or to be restored. The community of Tirtanadi is not granted the permission to found a church and the faithful are forbidden to pray together. The church in west Pasuruan Ijin has not obtained the permission for the necessary repairs, as well as the church in Tembilahan, damaged by fire, where the faithful gather within the walls which are still blackened. In the church in Sawalunto , the faithful are not allowed to meet. In Bukit Tinggi the permission to build a new church, as happens in Kerinci-Kayu Aru has been denied. The license for the church in Pasir Pangarean was revoked, which had already been granted in the past")

Indonesia: Sidikalang, Singkil district, Aceh province

Fr Teguh Bernard, O Carm (stated "The Islamic Defender Forum, composed of radical organizations, puts pressure on the government to close the churches that are considered illegal, unauthorized churches or prayer halls. The local Government, fearing these violent organizations, is giving in")



China: Zhanggongqiao village, Qili-banshichu, Langzhong city, Sichuan province

Chen Dawei (husband of Xie Deyue)

Xie Deyue (seven months pregnant, arrested without warrant for running a house church in her home, interrogated and released)

China: Nanyang, Henan province

Xi (described how the government ordered members of local churches to join official churches)

China: Anhui province

Zhang Mingxuan (president of the Chinese Association of Christian Family Churches,
UPDATE: stated "In places where there are many family churches, the local government may have a better understanding of them, and officials will be more prudent. But in places where you have only a few believers, local authorities will treat them as an 'evil cult.'")

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2012/08/sichuan-langzhong-church-leader.html>



Iran: Tehran

Pastor Robert Gege Tepev (ordered by the government to close his church)

Wednesday May 30, 2012



China: Zhanggongqiao village, Qili-banshichu, Langzhong city, Sichuan province

Chen Dawei (husband of Xie Deyue)

Xie Deyue (seven months pregnant, arrested without warrant for running a house church in her home, interrogated and released, **UPDATE:** rearrested after church furnishing were seized)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2012/08/sichuan-langzhong-church-leader.html>



Uzbekistan: Tashkent

Tereza Rusanova (pending prosecution for "Illegal travel abroad or illegal entry to the Republic of Uzbekistan" when it was noticed during her application to renew her Uzbek passport that she had travelled legally from her residence in Kyrgyzstan to Turkey but without formal Uzbek permission)



Russia: Yoshkar-Ola, Mari El Republic

Maksim Kalinin (on trial for inciting hatred)

Thursday May 31, 2012



Canada: Toronto

Cardinal Thomas Collins (issued a letter noting that Catholic schools are committed to Gospel principles that ensure respect for all persons, and so characterized the Ontario government's mandate for 'gay-straight alliances' to be "micromanagement" and troubling for parents who wish their children to receive a Christian education)

May 2012, date unknown



Laos: Alowmai village, Phin district, Savannakhet province

Khamsorn (discharged from the military [late May 2012](#) as a result of his conversion to Christianity)

Tonglai (discharged from the military [late May 2012](#) as a result of his conversion to Christianity)



India: Kandhamal district, Orissa state

Pastor Nirakant Pradhan (arrested [October 6, 2011](#) on a charge of assisting Maoist rebels,
UPDATE: died in prison reportedly due to illness)

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=32342&lan=eng>



Iran: Neyshabur city, Khorasan province

Ali-Reza (arrested [after May 26, 2012](#), whereabouts unknown)

Hadi (arrested [after May 26, 2012](#), whereabouts unknown)