

Today's Martyrs – January 2013

Tuesday January 1, 2013



Vietnam: Hanoi

Le Quoc Quan (aged 41, lawyer, blogger, and human rights activist, arrested for tax evasion,
UPDATE: is on a hunger strike)

Fr Dinh Huu Thoai (**UPDATE:** reported on the arrest of Le Quoc Quan)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Vietnam,-arrested-Catholic-activist-on-hunger-strike-26783.html>



China: Mengzhou city, Henan province

Zhang Keding (home raided by authorities during a prayer service on [December 31 2012](#),
UPDATE: officials returned and seized much of his personal property)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/02/henan-mengzhou-house-church-raided.html>



Syria: Ras Al-Ayn

Andrei Arbashe (aged 38, **beheaded** after his brother criticized the rebels)

Mother Agnes-Mariam de la Croix (**UPDATE:** reported on the death of Andrei Arbashe)

<http://mychristianblood.blogspot.com/archive/2013/01/01/syria-rebels-beheaded-a-christian-and-fed-him-to-the-dogs-as.html>

Wednesday January 2, 2013



Sudan: Soba Al Aradi

Pastor Mubarak Hamad (Presbyterian Church of Sudan, home demolished by the government for lacking a permit, the attached church has been slated for demolition, a nearby Pentecostal church was also demolished)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue18443.html>



Democratic Republic of the Congo: Watsa

Fr Franco Laudani (arrested and beaten by army soldiers for inquiring on the arrest of some pygmies, released)

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=32972&lan=eng>

Thursday January 3, 2013



Vietnam: Hanoi

Archbishop Peter Nguyen Van Nhon (protested the government demolition of a Carmelite monastery)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Carmelite-monastery-and-Church-property-targeted,-archbishop-of-Hanoi-says-26850.html>



Tanzania: Dar Es Salaam

Fr. Ambrose Mkenda (**UPDATE**: condition improving after being shot on [December 25, 2012](#))

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=32966&lan=eng>



Serbia: Vladicin Han

Mother Paraskeva (aged 62, described the complete vandalism of the Assumption of the Virgin Monastery)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2013/01/serbian-orthodox-monastery-of-assumption-of-the-virgin-destroyed/>

Friday January 4, 2013



China: Baihe township, Nanyang city, Henan province

Zhang Mingxuan (**UPDATE:** negotiated with police during a raid on a Bible study to allow the study to continue after a list of attendees was given to them)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/01/caa-news-flash-police-raid-chinese.html>



Pakistan: Khairpur Temawali, Bahawalpur district, Punjab province

Barkat Masih (aged 56, convert, incarcerated on blasphemy charges since [October 1, 2011](#), **UPDATE:** trial underway)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4039>



Uzbekistan: Urgench, Khorezm Region

Sharofat Allamova (**UPDATE:** home raided, charged with illegally storing religious literature)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1797

Sunday January 6, 2013



India: Manor, Vikramgad, Tamsai, Palghar, Malvan and Pochade villages, Thane district, Maharashtra state

Joseph Dias (secretary-general of Catholic-Christian Secular Forum, **UPDATE**: described how rural authorities denied Christians water, firewood, and decided "to impose economic sanctions, social boycott and restrictions on practicing of Christianity in the area")

Ravindra Jadhav (described how Christians must travel 20 kilometers to worship safely)

<http://www.christianpersecution.info/index.php?view=12085>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/christians-claim-hindu-repression/67065>



Belarus: Slutsk

Pavel Sergei (conscripted into the Railway Troops, ordered to not attend religious services)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1789

Monday January 7, 2013
Christmas – Eastern Calendar



Iran: Rasht

Pastor Yousef Nadarkhani (arrested on [December 25, 2012](#), **UPDATE**: has been released)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6100:nadarkhani-conditionally-released-for-the-second-time&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Iraq: Mosul

Shdha Elias aka Shaza Elias Abd Al Ahad (aged 54, teacher, **murdered**)

<http://indefenseofchristians.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Genocide-report.pdf>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-teacher-has-throat-cut-in-Mosul,-plunging-city-in-fear-again-26799.html>



Sudan

Pastor Ismail Bashir (arrested on [January 7, 2013](#) for his involvement with a Christian radio station)

<http://barnabasfund.org/US/News/News-analysis/Sudan-cracks-down-on-Christian-activity-with-arrests-and-school-closures.html>



Egypt

Mona Makram Ebeid (**UPDATE**: spoke in parliament after the approval of the new constitution)

Bishop Kyrillos William (**UPDATE**: said "We were waiting for a constitution that represents the whole of Egypt but instead we have one that only represents one group of people. We can see that the religious orientation of this constitution prepares the way for an Islamic caliphate")

Bishop Youhannes Zakaria (**UPDATE**: said that the new constitution prepares the way for an Islamic caliphate)

Bishop Antonios Aziz Mina (**UPDATE**: said that the new constitution prepares the way for an Islamic caliphate)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2013/01/07/coptic-leader-says-egypts-constitution-prepares-the-way-for-islamic-caliphate/>



Zambia

Fr Viateur Banyangandora (deported for his homily in [Lundazi](#) on [July 30, 2012](#) in which he mentioned cotton prices; **UPDATE**: has been allowed to return)

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=33002&lan=eng>



Colombia: Saravena, Arauca department

Alicia Castilla (widow of murdered evangelist Nelson Ramos, **shot dead** by guerrillas in front of her children and father after evening devotionals)

Hernan Ramos (aged 18, son of Alicia Castilla)

http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/english/country/colombia/article_2006360.html

Tuesday January 8, 2013



China: Mengzhou city, Henan province

Zhang Keding (home raided by authorities during a prayer service on [December 31 2012](#), the following day the officials returned and seized much of his personal property, **UPDATE:** has filed an official complaint and lawsuit against the authorities)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/02/henan-mengzhou-house-church-raided.html>



Pakistan: Lahore, Punjab province

Younis Masih (father of four, arrested in 2005 and sentenced to death in 2007 for blasphemy, appealed his sentence in a Lahore court on [November 13, 2012](#); **UPDATE:** suffered a serious heart attack in prison in northern Punjab, is now in MianWali Hospital where he is at risk of vigilante attack)

Meena Masih (wife of Younis Masih, has had difficulty visiting him since his transfer to a prison in northern Punjab)

<http://www.churchinchains.ie/node/579>



Kyrgyzstan

Galina Kolodzinskaia (Inter-religious Council, said that proposed Code of Administrative Offences which increase the range of prohibited religious activities have religious leaders "without exception...very worried about the amendments. If adopted, the punishments will definitely be used. We regard them as a way for the authorities to collect money from religious communities")

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1788



Turkmenistan

Matkarim Aminov (**UPDATE**: resentenced to two years imprisonment for refusing military service)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1802



Iraq: Mosul

Ayyoub Fauzi Auyyoub Al Sheikh (medical student, **killed** by a car bomb)

<http://indefenseofchristians.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Genocide-report.pdf>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/More-Christian-blood-in-Mosul,-car-bomb-kills-Christian-university-student-26811.html>



Nigeria

Pastor Joshua Daudu (attempted to evacuate villages attacked by Fulani 'mercenaries')

<http://thenationonlineng.net/new/how-fulani-mercenaries-attacked-my-people/>

Wednesday January 9, 2013



Vietnam: Nghe Ne

Christians convicted of "carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the people's administration" for posting accounts of official corruption on the internet

Dang Thi Ngoc Minh (**UPDATE**: convicted, sentenced to 3-8 years imprisonment)

Francis Xavier Dang Xuan Dieu (**UPDATE**: convicted, sentenced to 13 years imprisonment)

Peter Ho Duc Hoa (**UPDATE**: convicted, sentenced to 13 years imprisonment)

Paul Ho Van Oanh (**UPDATE**: convicted, sentenced to 3-8 years imprisonment)

Paulus Le Van Son (**UPDATE**: convicted, sentenced to 13 years imprisonment)
Nong Hung Anh (**UPDATE**: convicted, sentenced to 3-8 years imprisonment)
Nguyen Dang Minh Man (**UPDATE**: convicted, sentenced to 3-8 years imprisonment)
Nguyen Dang Vinh Phuc (**UPDATE**: convicted, sentenced to 3-8 years imprisonment)
Peter Nguyen Đình Cuong (**UPDATE**: convicted, sentenced to 3-8 years imprisonment)
John Nguyen Van Duyet (**UPDATE**: convicted, sentenced to 3-8 years imprisonment)
John Nguyen Van Oai (**UPDATE**: convicted, sentenced to 3-8 years imprisonment)
Peter Nguyen Xuan Oanh (**UPDATE**: convicted, sentenced to 3-8 years imprisonment)
John Thai Van Dung (**UPDATE**: convicted, sentenced to 3-8 years imprisonment)
Paul Tran Minh Nhat (**UPDATE**: convicted, sentenced to 3-8 years imprisonment)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Catholic-activists-in-Nghe-An-get-up-to-13-years-in-prison-26824.html>



Turkmenistan: Dashoguz

Arslan Dovletov (convicted and sentenced to one year imprisonment for refusing military service)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1802



Iran: Tehran

Shahrzad Y (convert, aged 25, arrested without warrant at her home, finally charged with "formation and promotion of house churches and holding gatherings intended for committing crimes")

Sam S (convert, aged 27, arrested without warrant at his home, finally charged with "formation and promotion of house churches and holding gatherings intended for committing crimes")

Shirin J (convert, home raided by police in her absence, now in hiding, may have fled the country)

Ali M (convert, home raided by police in his absence, now in hiding, may have fled the country)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6424:sam-shahrzad&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Kenya: Nairobi

Wellington Mutiso (head of the Evangelical Alliance of Kenya, stated that jihadists are trying to recruit converts from predominantly Christian tribes in an attempt to counter the security forces)

David Gathanju (head of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, stated that jihadists are recruiting Christians due to a 40% unemployment rate "A member of my church was given 50,000 Kenyan shillings (us\$570), and he immediately converted to Islam, There is also the issue of young men looking for quick money and not wanting to soil their hands in hard work.")

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/january-february/wolves-in-sheeps-clothing.html>



Sudan: Dabi

Simon Juma (**killed** by bombs from government aircraft during a worship service)

Abdu Jadaih (**killed** by bombs from government aircraft)

Nadia Arna (aged 68, leg severed by shrapnel in a government aircraft bombing attack)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue19166.html>



Belarus: Gomel

Dmitry Smyk (cautiously welcomed news that an Alternative Service Law for conscientious objectors will be considered)

Pavel Yadlovsky (expressed hope that the considered Alternative Service Law for conscientious objectors will be modeled on its Russian counterpart)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1789

Thursday January 10, 2013



China: Alateng-aobao township, Alxa Right Banner, Inner Mongolia

Four Christians detained without charge for visiting and praying with a sick man, sentenced to 15 days administrative detention

Nashengwuliji

Huridailuan

Aotenghua

Enkebaweir

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/03/christians-in-inner-mongolia-hire.html>



India: Dantewada district, Chhattisgarh state

Pastor Ritesh Basra (reported on the disruption of the dedication of a 'Prayer Tower' by protesters)

Nanda (donated land for the 'Prayer Tower', forced to flee the dedication ceremony by protesters)

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/english/country/india/2344488/>



Pakistan: Quetta

Fr Inayat Gill OMI (stated that three Christians, two of them Catholic, were killed in the terror attacks and several were wounded)

Fr. Maqsood Nazir OMI (celebrated the funerals of the two Catholics killed in the terror attacks and is taking care of six wounded)

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=33019&lan=eng>



Uzbekistan: Mubarek, Kashkadarya region

Yelena Tursunova (**UPDATE**: police confiscated a vacuum cleaner from her residence in lieu of unpaid fines)

Said Tursunov (husband of Yelena Tursunova, complained that the vacuum cleaner confiscated by police was worth three times the unpaid fine and that no papers were given to them by the police)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1824



Iran: Tehran

Rev Vruir Avanesian (aged 60, held in Evin prison without charge, **UPDATE:** released on bail)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6109:temporary-and-conditional-freedom-for-rev-vruir-avanessian-bail-posted&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279

Friday January 11, 2013



China: Alateng-aobao township, Alxa Right Banner, Inner Mongolia

Four Christians detained without charge for visiting and praying with a sick man on January 10, 2012, sentenced to 15 days administrative detention

Nashengwuliji (**UPDATE:** has hired a defense attorney)

Huridailuan (**UPDATE:** has hired a defense attorney)

Aotenghua (**UPDATE:** has hired a defense attorney)

Enkebaweir (**UPDATE:** has hired a defense attorney)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/03/christians-in-inner-mongolia-hire.html>



Bangladesh: Dhaka

Fr John Chinnappan SJ (professor of philosophy and theology at Holy Spirit Major Seminary, described the pressures on Christians to sell land to Muslims and to convert)

Fr Joseph Gomes (lauded by Fr John Chinnappan for his work defending human rights)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Catholics-in-Bangladesh-hit-by-land-expropriation-and-forced-conversions-to-Islam-26837.html>



India: Sawantwadi taluka, Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra state

Joseph Dias (**UPDATE**: reported on an attack on a prayer meeting in which Christians including women, children, and the elderly were beaten, police took no action)

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/english/country/india/2344488/>



Uzbekistan: Kokand, Fergana region

Rasulon Ahmedov (fined US\$775 for illegal missionary activity when he discussed his beliefs with his neighbor)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1824



Turkey: Istanbul

Ilker Sahin (aged 40, Armenian, computer science teacher, **murdered**)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2013/01/computer-teacher-at-armenian-school-murdered-in-istanbul/>

Saturday January 12, 2013



Laos: Vientiane

Boontheong (disappeared on **July 3, 2004** along with his wife and 7 year old son, **UPDATE**: whereabouts unknown and still sought)

Khamsone Baccam (taken by police in **January 2007**, **UPDATE**: whereabouts unknown and still sought)

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=33027&lan=eng>

Sunday January 13, 2013



India: Ghaspara, Raipur district, Chhattisgarh state

Pastor Sanjay Nag (beaten in an attack on a worship service)

India: Kandhamal district, Orissa state

Fr Nithiya Sagayam (spoke on the fifth anniversary of the Orissa pogrom in which 100 Christians died and 54,000 displaced after 300 churches were destroyed, told how many victims live in appalling conditions and cannot return to normal life because they cannot obtain replacement IDs, driver licenses, title deeds, and other legal papers lost in the pogrom)

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/english/country/india/2344488/>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Five-years-after-the-Orissa-pogroms,-Christians-still-live-in-appalling-conditions-26858.html>



Iran: Tehran

Pastor Saeed Abedini (aged 32 years old, convert, US citizen, father of two, arrested during a family visit; **UPDATE**: case has been assigned to a judge known for several death sentences, reports in a letter that he is being beaten and tortured)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6129:us-pastor-jailed-in-iran-tells-family-of-death-threat-read-more-at-httpwwwchristianpostcomnewsus-pastor-jailed-in-iran-tells-family-of-death-threat-88142qek3kyukuqs9yw199-&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279

http://ag.org/top/downloads/Abedini_Letter.pdf



Egypt: Beni-Suef, Beba city

Seven family members sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for converting to Christianity

Nadia Mohamed Ali

Mohab abdel-Wahab (child of Nadia Mohamed Ali)

Maged abdel-Wahab (child of Nadia Mohamed Ali)

Sherif abdel-Wahab (child of Nadia Mohamed Ali)

Amira abdel-Wahab (child of Nadia Mohamed Ali)

Amir abdel-Wahab (child of Nadia Mohamed Ali)

Nancy Ahmed Mohamed abdel-Wahab (child of Nadia Mohamed Ali)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/1104-egyptian-court-sentences-family-to-15-years-in-prison-for-converting-to-christianity>

Monday January 14, 2013



India: Manor village, Palghar district, Maharashtra state

Joseph Dias (**UPDATE:** described an attack on Christians who were playing hymns and gospel music on a mobile phone)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/mob-attacks-christians-for-playing-hymns/67128>



Egypt: Alexandria

Fr Mina Adel (spoke on the fear among his congregants of a Muslim Brotherhood takeover
"Most of our people are afraid. Not a few are leaving - for America, Canada and
Australia. Dozens of families from this church alone are trying to go too")

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/1107-egypt-s-coptic-christians-fleeing-country-after-islamist-takeover>



United States – District of Columbia

Rep Frank Wolf (sent a letter to 300 Christian leaders in the U.S. requesting that they speak out on behalf of persecuted Christians around the globe: "From my perspective the Church in the West, specifically in America, is failing in this regard")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20130114192655.htm>

Tuesday January 15, 2013



Kazakhstan: Aktau

Nadezhda Shefer (found guilty of illegal missionary activity, fined a maximum of 100 MFIs - 1 MFI can equal several months minimum wage income)

Natalia Lashova (found guilty of illegal missionary activity, fined a maximum of 100 MFIs - 1 MFI can equal several months minimum wage income)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1792



Kenya: Mahanga

Missionaries from New Zealand killed in an automobile accident

Dr. Brian Johnston (**killed**)

Grace Johnston (**killed**)

Caitlin Dickson (aged 19, **killed**)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue18608.html>



Syria: Aleppo

Sr Rima (**died in a rebel bomb blast** on Aleppo University that killed 87)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Sister-Rima-and-the-other-hundreds-of-war-victims-should-not-be-forgotten,-says-Vatican-nuncio-26920.html>



Egypt: Fanous village, Tamia district, Fayoum province

Nader Shukry (**UPDATE**: described the demolition of a Coptic Church social services building by 5000 Muslims)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20130115185246.htm>



United Kingdom

Gary McFarlane (appealed his termination as a counselor for refusing to give relationship counseling to same sex couples to the European Court of Human Rights; **UPDATE**: the European Court in [Strasbourg, France](#) denied his appeal)

Lilian Ladele (appealed her disciplining for refusing to conduct same sex civil partnership ceremonies to the European Court of Human Rights; **UPDATE**: the European Court in [Strasbourg, France](#) denied her appeal)

Nadia Eweida (appealed her suspension and loss of pay from British Airways for wearing a cross to the European Court of Human Rights; **UPDATE**: the European Court in [Strasbourg, France](#) upheld her appeal)

Shirley Chaplin (appealed her forced transfer from a ward nurse to a desk position for wearing a cross to the European Court of Human Rights; **UPDATE**: the European Court in [Strasbourg, France](#) denied her appeal)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2013/01/15/european-court-rules-on-religious-freedom-cases/>

Wednesday January 16, 2013



Uzbekistan: Urgench, Khorezm Region

Sharofat Allamova (home raided on [January 4, 2013](#), charged with illegally storing religious literature, **UPDATE**: home raided a second time, charged again)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1797



Azerbaijan: Gyanja

Rashad Niftaliyev (**UPDATE**: case against the government for police raids on his home during religious services is pending before the European Court of Human Rights)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1790



Cyprus: Karpasia

Archbishop Chrysostomos II (complained that the UN and the Turkish occupation government fail to recognize the Church of Cyprus as the rightful owners of the historic Apostolos Andreas Monastery)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2013/01/archbishop-apostolos-andreas-belongs-to-us/>



Egypt: Cairo

Bishop Ibrahim Isaac Sidrak (aged 57, elected Patriarch of the Coptic Catholic Church)

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=33081&lan=eng>



Turkey: Istanbul

Christians complained about the unfairness of government subsidies for Muslim funerals while non-Muslims must shoulder high costs for their funerals

Burgazada Hagia Yanni

Andon Parisyanos

Garo Paylan

<http://www.aina.org/news/20130116205251.htm>



Colombia: El Albergue neighborhood, Buga

Fr Jose Francisco Velez Echeverri (aged 55, **stabbed to death** in an apparent robbery)

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=33188&lan=eng>

Thursday January 17, 2013



India: Saranggarh, Raigarh district, Chhattisgarh state

Pastor Rajesh Yadav (assaulted during an invasion of a prayer meeting, arrested, released on bail)

Pastor Raju Dewangan (assaulted during an invasion of a prayer meeting, arrested, released on bail)

Paastor Dashrath Prasad (reported on the arrest of Pastors Rajesh Yadav and Raju Dewangan)

India: Chandi Nagar, Raipur district, Chhattisgarh state

Pastor Ankush Bariyekar (prayer meeting interrupted, has relocated for safety reasons)

India: Gudikhamari village, Baripada district, Orissa state

Bahadur Murmu (aged 23, leader of a small Christian community, arrested during a prayer meeting in a private home on charges of proselytism)

Rama Soreng (aged 21, arrested during a prayer meeting in a private home on charges of proselytism)

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/english/country/india/2344488/>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Orissa:-Hindu-extremists-have-Christians-arrested-on-false-accusations-of-proselytism,-27035.html>



Azerbaijan: Baku

Ilya Zenchenko (**UPDATE**: described how the Baptist Union is trying to obtain the return of an historic church that had been confiscated in 1930)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1791



Mali: Segou

Bishop Augustin Traore (described the war as follows "Although our churches are still intact, people are becoming afraid to enter them. Our entire Catholic culture will clearly be in danger if this conflict drags on. Until the havoc caused by the French bombing ends and the hostilities cease, no one will be in a position to know what has happened")

<http://www.maghrebchristians.com/2013/01/17/christians-in-mali-are-afraid-to-even-enter-church-for-worship/#ixzz2IHvdZi2m>

Friday January 18, 2013



India: Saranggarh, Raigarh district, Chhattisgarh state

Pastor Rajesh Yadav (assaulted during an invasion of a prayer meeting, arrested, released on bail)

Pastor Raju Dewangan (assaulted during an invasion of a prayer meeting, arrested, released on bail)

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<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Orissa:-Hindu-extremists-have-Christians-arrested-on-false-accusations-of-proselytism,-27035.html>



Iraq: Airport Road, Kirkuk

Saad Matta Botros (killed)

<http://indefenseofchristians.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Genocide-report.pdf>



Turkey: Izmit

Pastor Emre Karaali (aged 33, convert, victim of an assassination plot detected and thwarted by police, 2 of the 14 conspirators had pretended to seek baptism and were church members for over a year)

http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/english/country/turkey/article_2018075.html

<http://www.churchinchains.ie/node/583>



Egypt: el-Marashda village, Quena province

Nader Masoud (aged 55, falsely accused of assaulting a 6 year old Muslim girl, cleared by police but Islamists still used the allegations as a pretext for a riot)

Bishop Anba Kyrollos (described an attack by 1000 Islamists that resulted in the arson of the homes and shops of Christians and vandalism to a church)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Upper-Egypt,-thousands-of-Islamic-extremists-attack-a-Christian-village-26908.html>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20130118184819.htm>

Sunday January 20, 2013



Kazakhstan: Petropavl [Petropavlovsk], North Kazakhstan region

Aleksandr Pukhov (arrested during a religious service without charge, later charged with "leading, participating in, or financing an unregistered, halted, or banned social or religious organization")

Kazakhstan: Taiynsha, North Kazakhstan region

Aleksandr Kerker (arrested during a religious service, charged with "leading, participating in, or financing an unregistered, halted, or banned social or religious organization")

Kazakhstan: Kishkenekol, North Kazakhstan region

Roman Pugachev (arrested during a religious service, charged with "leading, participating in, or financing an unregistered, halted, or banned social or religious organization")

Kazakhstan: Satpaev, Karaganda [Qaraghandy] region

Aygul Kdirniyazova (religious service interrupted by police, threatened with being charged with holding a religious service at a different address than the registered address of the community)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1798

Monday January 21, 2013



Kazakhstan: Aktobe

Dana Abykenov (found guilty of offering Christian books to pedestrians on a street, fined a maximum of 50 MFIs - 1 MFI can equal several months minimum wage income)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1792



Iran: Tehran

Pastor Saeed Abedini (aged 32 years old, convert, US citizen, father of two, arrested during a family visit, held in Evin Prison in Tehran and threatened with death; as of [January 13, 2013](#) his case has been assigned to a judge known for several death sentences, reports in a letter that he is being beaten and tortured; **UPDATE:** trial for converting to Christianity and for undermining the government by spreading Christianity has started but he has been banned from the trial)

Mostafa Bordbar (aged 26, convert, arrested while celebrating Christmas on [December 27, 2012](#), **UPDATE:** being held in Evin Prison)

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/english/country/iran/2021748>

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6181:a-christian-convert-arrested-at-christmas-remains-in-prison&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279

Tuesday January 22, 2013



Kazakhstan: Almaty

Yuri Bronitsky (told he will face trial for illegal religious activity)

Fedor Karabeinikov (told he will face trial for illegal religious activity)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1792



Iran: Tehran

Pastor Saeed Abedini (aged 32 years old, convert, US citizen, father of 2, arrested during a family visit, held in Evin Prison in Tehran and threatened with death; **UPDATE**: allowed to attend the final day of his trial, now awaiting the verdict)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6197:pastor-saeed-abedinis-release-uncertain&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



United Kingdom

Dr Michael Davidson (under professional investigation and suspension for his views on homosexuality)

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/religious-freedom/christian-therapist-faces-expulsion-for-views-on-homosexuality>



Mexico: Netzahualcoyotl

Bishop Luis Hector Morales Sánchez (stated that at least 10 priests in his diocese have been threatened with death by organized crime and have paid extortion money to avoid being killed)

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=33101&lan=eng>

Wednesday January 23, 2013



China: Team 19, Area 5, Prison No. 3, Dongzhan Road, Urumqi, Xinjiang. Zip: 830013

Alimujiang Yimiti (husband of Gulinuer, sentenced on [August 6, 2009](#) to 15 years in prison for his religious beliefs, **UPDATE**: has had family visits curtailed)

Gulinuer (wife of Alimujiang Yimiti, **UPDATE**: has had visits to her husband in prison curtailed)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/01/caa-news-visitation-privileges-for-wife.html>



Laos: Chumpoy village, Sanamsai district, Attapeu province

Sakien (convert, aged 52, husband of Dong, ill, banned from his home due to his conversion, now living in an unfinished building without walls)

Dong (convert, wife of Sakien, banned from her home due to her conversion, now living in an unfinished building without walls)

Sanien (convert, son of Sakien, husband of Pitsamai)

Pitsamai (convert, wife of Sanien)

<http://www.hrwlrf.net/pages/Elderly-Couple-Kicked-Out-of-Their-Home-and-Village-Due-to-Their-Embracing-of-the-Christian-Faith.html>



Pakistan: Lahore, Punjab province

Shifa Gill (aged 10, daughter of Rev Kamran Gill, is in hiding due to death threats against her resulting from her father's evangelization activities)

Younis Masih (father of four, arrested in 2005 and sentenced to death in 2007 for blasphemy, appealed his sentence in a Lahore court on [November 13, 2012](#); suffered a serious heart attack on [January 8, 2013](#) in prison in northern Punjab, is now in MianWali Hospital where he is at risk of vigilante attack; **UPDATE**: the court has extended the hearing date to give the state attorney more time)

<http://mychristianblood.blogspot.com/archive/2013/01/27/daughter-pakistan-evangelist-hides-amid-death-threats.html>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenews.php?hnewsid=4063>

Thursday January 24, 2013



Malaysia: Kuala Lumpur

Dr K.J. John (said that the Sultan of Selangor had no authority to ban the use of the word 'Allah' by Christians)

Bishop Paul Tan Chee Ing (said “If the Malaysian Government forbids people of faiths other than those who profess Islam from using the word Allah, we would be the laughing stock of more enlightened people in other countries”)

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/english/country/malaysia/2026538>



Turkmenistan: Dashoguz

Tahir Nasyrlyayev (arrested during an illegal police raid on his home, beaten)

Abdurasul Nasyrlyayev (son of Tahir Nasyrlyayev, arrested during an illegal police raid on his home, beaten, released)

Bahram Shamuradov (arrested during an illegal police raid on the Nasyrlyayev home, beaten, passed out after being tied to the cell bars so that he could not touch the floor)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1801

Friday January 25, 2013



Pakistan

Ayub Masih (converted to Christianity along with his wife, in hiding, unemployed and in need of support)

Emmanuel Shah (convert, witnessed to Ayub Masih)

Pastor Munir Phool (baptized Ayub Masih and his wife)

Pakistan: Roday village, Kasur district, Punjab state

Fouzia Bibi (aged 15, daughter of Malooka Masih, abducted and raped, police initially refused to open a case, perpetrators have threatened to have the family arrested on criminal charges if they continue to pursue the case)

Malooka Masih (father of Fouzia Bibi, threatened with criminal charges if he continues to pursue a case against his daughter's rapists)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4084>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4068>



Sudan

Bishop Andudu Adam Elnail (while in [Addis Ababa, Ethiopia](#) called on African leaders to work to end the conflict in the southern states of South Kordofan and Blue Nile: "This is a war of horror where children are dying every day")

<http://www.maghrebchristians.com/2013/01/28/call-for-action-to-end-sudan-war-of-horror/#ixzz2JKckawBz>



Egypt

Bishop Yohanna Anba Qulta (Deputy Patriarch of the Coptic Catholic Church, UPDATE: said that the church's withdrawal from the national dialog happened when "it became clear that the Muslim Brotherhood and the Salafis wanted to impose an Islamic Constitution. We discussed with their leaders, but they did not want to listen. We realized that our function was only decorative")

Christian leaders signed a joint letter stating that they were withdrawing from the national dialog sessions "due to non-commitment by some participants to its outcome"

Dr Susan Nashid

Dr Sameh Fawzi

Fr Rafik Greish (**UPDATE**)

Rev Refaat Fathi

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/1148-representatives-of-churches-issue-formal-statement-on-withdrawal-from-national-dialogue>
<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=33129&lan=eng>

Saturday January 26, 2013



Turkmenistan: Dashoguz

Tahir Nasyrlyayev (arrested during an illegal police raid on his home, beaten, **UPDATE:** found guilty of participation in an illegal religious group and fined two months' wages)

Bahram Shamuradov (arrested during an illegal police raid on the Nasyrlyayev home, beaten, passed out after being tied to the cell bars so that he could not touch the floor, **UPDATE:** found guilty of participation in an illegal religious group and fined two months' wages)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1801

Sunday January 27, 2013



Pakistan: Phool Nagar

Shamoun Patras (shot at by Muslim drug dealers who told him "you are Christians insects and have no power to do anything against us...you are slaves and trivial and tiny before us...we will burn your houses and church")

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4075>



Iran: Tehran

Pastor Saeed Abedini (aged 32 years old, convert, US citizen, father of two; **UPDATE:** convicted of undermining the government by spreading Christianity and sentenced to eight years in prison)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6225:saeed-abedini-iranian-american-pastor-sentenced-to-eight-years-in-prison&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Syria: Ras Al-Ayn

Constantine Junan (aged 75, forced to flee his residence with his son by the rebels who proceeded to desecrate the local churches, this desecration was documented after Kurdish forces drove away the rebels)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2013/02/damaging-christian-symbols-in-ras-al-ayn-syria-exclusive/>



Mexico: Guanajuato

Archbishop Christophe Pierre (papal nuncio, concelebrated a Mass attended by 35,000 for the suffering of Fr Santiago Alvarez Figueroa, who disappeared on [December 27, 2012](#), and thousands of others who have disappeared)

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=33143&lan=eng>

Monday January 28, 2013



India

Pastor M. Emmanuel (robbed of money and Gospel tracts and warned to not return, police took no action)

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/english/country/india/2344488/>



Kazakhstan: Petropavl [Petropavlovsk], North Kazakhstan region

Aleksandr Pukhov (arrested during a [January 20, 2013](#) religious service without charge, later charged with "leading, participating in, or financing an unregistered, halted, or banned social or religious organization", **UPDATE**: fined at trial at least two months income)

Kazakhstan: Kishkenekol, North Kazakhstan region

Roman Pugachev (arrested during a [January 20, 2013](#) religious service, charged with "leading, participating in, or financing an unregistered, halted, or banned social or religious organization", ", **UPDATE**: fined at trial at least two months income)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1798



Italy: Rome

Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco (stated at the Italian bishops conference "In too many countries, Christians are not allowed any sign of religious affiliation, except by camouflage or in hiding. Experts speak a total of over one hundred thousand Christians of various denominations killed in 2012...Those who suffer and die for Christ, do so for us, and they are our brothers regardless of the distance that divides us...If our parishes can keep alive, even nourish, a systematic memory of our brothers and sisters who are persecuted in the world, then even the local faith would be re-vitalized")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Card.-Bagnasco:-Shock-at-the-persecution-of-Christians-in-Asia-26987.html>

Tuesday January 29, 2013



Pakistan: Narowal, Punjab province

Babar Masih (has lost his employment benefits to a Muslim)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4078>



Yemen

"Ibn Yemen" (alias of a Christian convert, stated that even though the old regime "was not Islamist, Christians were still subjected to persecution and scrutiny by the police apparatus under that regime. Authorities did not allow us to practice our religion openly or allow us to build a private church, all because of Islam's apostasy law. What do you think it will be like now that the Islamists are in power?")

<http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/3563/yemen-christians>

Wednesday January 30, 2013



Pakistan: Punjab province

Barkat Masih (aged 56, convert, incarcerated on blasphemy charges since [October 1, 2011](#), trial underway as of [January 4, 2013](#) in Khairpur Temawali, Bahawalpur district; **UPDATE**: acquitted on blasphemy charges)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Punjab:-Christian-sentenced-to-death-for-blasphemy-acquitted-on-appeal-27000.html>



Kazakhstan: Shymkent

Fauzi Gubaidullin (fined 100 MFIs - 1 MFI can equal several months' minimum wage income)

Kazakhstan: Taiynsha, North Kazakhstan region

Aleksandr Kerker (arrested during a [January 20, 2013](#) religious service, charged with "leading, participating in, or financing an unregistered, halted, or banned social or religious organization", ", **UPDATE**: fined at trial at least two months income)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1814

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1798



Syria: Aleppo

Archbishop Boutros Marayati (stated "The effect of the condition in which we have been living for more than a year is that we are now addicted to horror everyday. There is always new news of massacres, there is the constant noise of bombing, one lives in a state of tension

and fear day and night, there is a struggle to survive in a daily life in which there is not even water to drink and fuel to heat homes. As we are overwhelmed by all this, there is not almost time to become aware of the terrible things in which we are immersed. The massacre at the University a few days ago, where we lost poor Sister Rima, already seems a distant thing")

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=33164&lan=eng>



Sudan

Pastor Ismail Bashir (arrested on [January 7, 2013](#) for his involvement with a Christian radio station, **UPDATE:** deported)

Cecilia Jamu (detained under suspicion of aiding Sudanese churches, deported)

Anthony Jamu (husband of Cecilia Jamu, detained and deported)

<http://barnabasfund.org/US/News/News-analysis/Sudan-cracks-down-on-Christian-activity-with-arrests-and-school-closures.html>

Thursday January 31, 2013



Syria: Damascus

Nina Jamil Oshana (**killed** when her bus came under gunfire)

Syria: Deir Ezzor, Mesopotamia

Archbishop Eustathius Matta Roham (described the destruction of Syrian Orthodox Church of St. Mary and the Christian school of Al-Wahda in the crossfire between government and rebel forces)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20130131161233.htm>

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=33172&lan=eng>



Egypt: Qena, Upper Egypt

Engi Samuel Ghali (missing after visiting an orphanage)

Mina Erian Nazeer (husband of Engi Samuel Ghali)

Fr Amonios Fares (working for the return of Engi Samuel Ghali)

Bishop Sharobim (working for the return of Engi Samuel Ghali)

Egypt: El-Marg

Alber Saber (Court of Appeals upheld his sentence of three years imprisonment and a 1000LE fine for insulting religion by reportedly posting the film *Innocence of Muslims* on his Facebook page)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/take-action/advocacy-work/1177-dozens-of-copts-rally-to-protest-a-woman-s-disappearance>

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/1167-court-of-appeals-confirms-prison-sentence-for-coptic-blogger>



Libya: Benghazi and Tobruk, Cyrenaica

Archbishop Giovanni Innocenzo Martinelli (stated "'On February 20, large-scale demonstrations throughout Cyrenaica are expected so the Apostolic Vicar of Benghazi has been warned to leave the church from 13 February to take shelter...In past days the Congregation of the Holy Family of Spoleto who had been there for nearly 100 years were forced to abandon Derna, and a Polish Salesian priest, who was abused by some fundamentalists. In Beida another women's religious community was forced to escape even if in this case, for internal reasons. In Barce the Franciscan Sisters of the Child Jesus will leave their home in coming days...As a Church we will take our precautions, but we cannot abandon the Christians who remain here. Two religious communities will remain in Benghazi, a small community in Tobruk and finally another small community of Indian sisters in Beida")

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=33171&lan=eng>

January 2013, date unknown



Iran: Esfahan

Fatemeh Yar-Ahmadi aka Yasaman or Yassi (arrested on [December 26, 2010](#), interrogated for 37 days; **UPDATE**: fled from the country)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7113:christian-prisoner-tells-story-of-her-persecution&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Eritrea: Asmara

Christians detained after a failed coup, suspected of being kept in shipping containers

Petros Araya (telecom employee)

Aster Ghermay (telecom employee)

Ferewini Hagos (telecom employee)

Daniel Mesfin (recent convert, university student)

Samson Tekle (recent convert)

Haile Gebremiskel Wodi Keshi (father of three)

Azib Hadgu (mother of five)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue18882.html>



Sudan: Geneina, West Dafur

Ibrahim Ismaeil Ibrahim (aged 34, convert, human rights author, husband, father of a son aged 7 and a daughter aged 5, attacked in his home after it was discovered he had left Islam, fled the country for another undisclosed African country, now resides in a UNHCR refugee camp)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/10/human-rights-defender-in-sudan-without-home-country-after-muslim-extremist-gun-attack/>



United Kingdom: London, England

Celestina Mba (told by the Employment Appeals Tribunal that her employer may require her to work on Sundays since not all Christians observe Sunday as free from work)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue18408.html>

