

## Today's Martyrs – June 2013

Saturday June 1, 2013



### Nepal

Pastor Chhedar Bhote Lhomi (arrested in [October 2012](#) for eating beef, **UPDATE:** currently serving a 12 year sentence, family is struggling, his three children are mocked at school)

[http://www.prisoneralert.com/pprofiles/vp\\_prisoner\\_223\\_profile.html](http://www.prisoneralert.com/pprofiles/vp_prisoner_223_profile.html)



### Egypt: Assiut

Roman Murad Saad (attorney, convicted of blasphemy and sentenced in absentia to 1 year imprisonment with hard labor and US\$1400 in fines for ridiculing the Quran at a lawyers union library)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20130601224303.htm>

Sunday June 2, 2013



### Pakistan: Sereser Chak No.21 village, Kasur district

Shoukat Masih (landlord seized his goats after they wandered onto the landlord's land and refused to return them, the two exchanged heated words, landlord attacked his family, now threatened by the police with arrest in retaliation for his family filing charges)

Arshad Bibi (home invaded by area landlords after one landlord argued with Shoukat Masih, beaten, stripped of her clothing, and forced to parade naked through the village, now threatened by the police with arrest in retaliation for her family filing charges)

Sajida Bibi (home invaded by area landlords after one landlord argued with Shoukat Masih, beaten, stripped of her clothing, and forced to parade naked through the village, now threatened by the police with arrest in retaliation for her family filing charges)

Saruyia Bibi (home invaded by area landlords after one landlord argued with Shoukat Masih, beaten, stripped of her clothing, and forced to parade naked through the village, now threatened by the police with arrest in retaliation for her family filing charges)

Sadiq Masih (aged 70, leg amputee, home invaded by area landlords after one landlord argued with Shoukat Masih, beaten, now threatened by the police with arrest in retaliation for his family filing charges)

Rani Bibi (aged 73, home invaded by area landlords after one landlord argued with Shoukat Masih, beaten, now threatened by the police with arrest in retaliation for her family filing charges)

Boota Masih (described the attack on his family by area landlords after one landlord argued with Shoukat Masih, now threatened by the police with arrest in retaliation for his family filing charges)

<http://britishpakistanichristian.blogspot.com/2013/06/three-christian-women-beaten-tortured.html>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4338>



### **Syria: Aleppo**

Archbishop Jean Clement Jeanbart (**UPDATE:** "We see only chaos and destruction in a conflict that is against everything and everyone. In a country disfigured, with the civilian population led to the slaughter")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/33753->

[ASIA SYRIA Melkite Archbishop of Aleppo Chaos and rubble in Syria United with the Pope we call for dialogue#.Ua1Do4zD8fQ](http://www.fides.org/en/news/33753-ASIA_SYRIA_Melkite_Archbishop_of_Aleppo_Chaos_and_rubble_in_Syria_United_with_the_Pope_we_call_for_dialogue#.Ua1Do4zD8fQ)



### **Tanzania: Geita**

Pastor Robert Ngai (home invaded by a large group of radical Muslims, arms and hands seriously cut while protecting his head from machete blows, hospitalized, urged to be rushed to a larger hospital for better treatment)

[http://www.persecution.com/public/newsroom.aspx?story\\_ID=NTgy](http://www.persecution.com/public/newsroom.aspx?story_ID=NTgy)

**Monday June 3, 2013**



### **India: Teliamura village, West Tripura district**

Tapas Bin (aged 35, reported to have been **beheaded** by his father-in-law for refusing to convert to Hinduism)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Tripura:-Christian-man-beheaded-for-not-converting-to-Hinduism-28097.html>



### **Uzbekistan: Tashkent**

Khalmat Ashirov (executive director of the national Bible Society, spoke to counter the statements made by some officials that Bibles are prohibited in the country)

<http://www.interfax-religion.com/?act=news&div=10516>



### **Egypt**

Roman Murad Saad (attorney, on **June 1, 2013** was convicted of blasphemy in an Assiut court and sentenced in absentia to 1 year imprisonment with hard labor and US\$1400 in fines for ridiculing the Quran at a lawyers union library; **UPDATE**: conviction has been condemned by a number of human rights organizations)

<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2013/06/03/rights-groups-condemn-jail-sentence-for-coptic-lawyer/>



### **United Kingdom: London**

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby (spoke in the House of Lords against the same-sex marriage bill)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2013/06/04/bill-wil-abolish-traditional-marriage-says-archbishop-of-canterbury/>

Tuesday June 4, 2013



**India: Thukkugudu, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh state**

Rev B Robert (described an attack by Hindu extremists armed with iron bars on a meeting of about 20 pastors, sustained minor injuries, "Some pastors even wore their [motorcycle] helmets in order to protect their heads. However, the angry extremists beat them with iron rods and broke their helmets")

Pastor Krupiah (aged 73, bled profusely from blows to his head, hospitalized, required five stiches)

Pastor Bhagati Timothy (sustained a deep cut on his head)

Pastor Ganugapati Kumar (bones broken in both hands)

Pastor V. Timothy (sustained a leg injury)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2013/06/assault-on-pastors-meeting-in-india-shows-depth-of-extremist-hostility/>



**Iran**

Naghmeh Shariat Panahi Abedini (wife of Saeed Abedini, who has been sentenced to eight years imprisonment; **UPDATE**: spoke before the UN Human Rights Commission in [Geneva, Switzerland](#), said "Iran has kept Saeed imprisoned because he believes that Jesus Christ died on the cross for forgiveness of sin and to reconcile humanity to God")

[http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=6948:saeed-abedinis-wife-to-un-iran-punishing-pastor-for-his-christian-faith&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279](http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6948:saeed-abedinis-wife-to-un-iran-punishing-pastor-for-his-christian-faith&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279)



**Palestine: Gaza**

Fr Faysal Hijazin (told of an order by the Hamas government to enforce gender segregation in Christian schools for children over 10 and their teachers "We don't have the space and we don't have the money to divide our schools")

Patriarch Fouad Twal (**UPDATE:** is to speak with the Hamas prime minister about an order by the Hamas government to enforce gender segregation in Christian schools for children over 10 and their teachers)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2013/06/04/five-church-schools-in-gaza-face-closure-after-hamas-order/>



### **Egypt**

Demiana Ayoub Gad EL-Sayed Abdel Massih (aged 17, abducted while on her way home from tutoring on [May 17, 2011](#), still missing despite credible reports as to her location)

### **Egypt: Luxor**

Demiana Ebeid Abdel Nour (aged 24, detained due to accusations of insulting Islam and proselytizing among her Luxor primary school students; **UPDATE:** judge has delayed sentencing in her trial because the Islamist lawyers have prevented the defense's witnesses from appearing to testify on her behalf)

### **Egypt: Assuit**

Fr Bakhomious (stated that hundreds of Christians came under attack and were robbed and beaten while visiting the el-Muharraq monastery)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/former-brotherhood-mps-son-kidnaps-coptic-girl-prosecutors-set-him-free-97276/>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20130604184831.htm>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20130604184633.htm>



### **Niger: Niamey**

Fr Mauro Armanino, SMA (missionary, stated that the attack on the prison in the capital in which 22 al-Qaeda and other Islamists were freed was related to the insurgency and French intervention in Mali and also to the continuing fighting by Boko Haram in Nigeria)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/33760->

[AFRICA NIGER The assault on the prison of Niamey reveals the links between Boko Haram and groups of Mali#.Ua6gKYzD8fQ](#)

**Wednesday June 5, 2013**



**China: Xinyang, Henan province**

Pastor Zhang Yinan (detained by police after he invited an American couple to speak at his underground church, refused to dissolve his church or join the official church, not mistreated)

Mary Gao (missionary, U.S. citizen, wife of Gao Yang, detained after speaking at the underground church of Zhang Yinan, not mistreated)

Gao Yang (missionary, U.S. citizen, husband of Mary Gao, detained after speaking at the underground church of Zhang Yinan, not mistreated)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/06/well-known-house-church-pastor-zhang.html>



**Bangladesh: Tumillia**

Fr Abel (beaten and robbed along with another priest)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Dinajpur:-dozens-of-extremists-raid-seminary,-attacking-rector-and-some-students-28134.html>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/33784->

[ASIA\\_BANGLADESH\\_A\\_seminary\\_attacked\\_for\\_unknown\\_reasons\\_says\\_the\\_Bishop#.UbKnSIzD8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/33784-ASIA_BANGLADESH_A_seminary_attacked_for_unknown_reasons_says_the_Bishop#.UbKnSIzD8fg)



**Sri Lanka: Angulana**

Fr Sunil De Silva (described the vandalism of St Francis Xavier Church by a group of drunken young men in which historic statues were destroyed and the tabernacle broken into and splashed with kerosene but not burned despite 30 matches being lit)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/cardinal-ranjith-forgives-sri-lanka-church-desecrators/>



**India: Mahehwaram Mandal, Ranga Reddy district, Hyderabad territory, Andhra Pradesh state**

## **Pastors beaten in a noontime attack on Telugu Baptist Church**

Fr Amal Yeruva (described the attack on Telugu Baptist Church in which twenty pastors were beaten and seven left unconscious in the road and later hospitalized, police did nothing to help them)

Pastor Timothy (beaten, hospitalized)

Pastor Kumar (beaten, hospitalized)

Pastor Krupaiah (beaten, hospitalized)

Pastor Roberts (beaten, hospitalized)

Pastor Rosaiah (beaten, hospitalized)

Pastor Lazarus (beaten, hospitalized)

Pastor Thinothy (beaten, hospitalized)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christians-in-Andhra-Pradesh-targeted-by-Hindu-extremists-28140.html>

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/33780-ASIA\\_INDIA\\_Twenty\\_pastors\\_of\\_the\\_Baptist\\_Church\\_attacked\\_by\\_Hindu\\_extremists#.UbKwUozD8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/33780-ASIA_INDIA_Twenty_pastors_of_the_Baptist_Church_attacked_by_Hindu_extremists#.UbKwUozD8fg)

<http://www.bosnewslife.com/28646-india-militants-attack-baptist-pastors-several-injured>



### **Syria: Daraya**

Austin Bennett Tice (aged 31, U.S. journalist, abducted in August 2012, **UPDATE**: reportedly still in captivity)

Debra Tice (mother of Austin Tice)

Marc Tice (father of Austin Tice)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/parents-of-kidnapped-journalist-grateful-for-popes-words/>



### **Central African Republic: Bangassou**

Bishop Juan Jose Aguirre Munos (**UPDATE**: stated "I am walking as usual. We have no other means because all the vehicles available to the diocese and the missionaries were stolen. They [the Seleka rebels who now run the country] stole everything: 28 cars, 3 motorcycles, all medicines in the pharmacy, the home of the Franciscan Sisters, that of the Holy Ghost Fathers were looted...the list is long. We are not making a fuss because it

is not the first time that such things happen to us. The important thing is to stay here and be close to the poor to evangelize. We were not the first to experience moments of such violence and pain, nor will we be the last. We remain just like the Apostles who said it is an honor to be beaten for the Lord")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/33769->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA The important thing is to be close to the poor says the Bishop of the devastated Diocese of Bangassou#.Ua u3YzD8fQ](http://www.fides.org/en/news/33769-)

**Thursday June 6, 2013**



**Bangladesh: Bolakipur, Tivipara, and Bagja**

Fr Uzzal (Jisu Niloy seminary, beaten along with some students by a mob of sixty persons, the same mob had previously attacked Christians in two nearby villages)

Fr George Gomes (Jisu Niloy seminary)

Bishop Sebastian Tudu (described the attack on Jisu Niloy seminary)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Dinajpur:-dozens-of-extremists-raid-seminary,-attacking-rector-and-some-students-28134.html>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/33784->

[ASIA BANGLADESH A seminary attacked for unknown reasons says the Bishop#.UbKnSIzD8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/33784-)



**Pakistan: Manawala village, Sheikhpura district**

Parveen Bibi (aged 24, victim of an attempted abduction by a wealthy Muslim landlord nine days before her wedding, abduction thwarted by her cousin Amir Masih, wedding celebrated)

Amir Masih (thwarted the abduction of his cousin Parveen Bibi by a wealthy Muslim landlord with a history of preying on Christian girls, the landlord fired his gun in the air and threatened to kill him)

Kalu Masih (father of Parveen Bibi)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4360>





**Kazakhstan: Atyrau City, Atyrau region**

Zarina Burova (spouse of Aydos Sydykbayev, detained on April 2, 2013, not allowed to call a lawyer; **UPDATE**: fined US\$1,130 for 'missionary activity without registration')

**Kazakhstan: East Kazakhstan region**

Sergei Kulikov (caught in two raids on worship services; **UPDATE**: fined one month's average salary)

Maksim Kandyba (caught in two raids on worship services; **UPDATE**: fined one month's average salary)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1870](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1870)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1868](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1868)

**Friday June 7, 2013**



**Laos: Sanam**

Ser family (official papers seized in 2012, now given official notice that they 'should' leave their home)

Taam family (official papers seized in 2012, now given official notice that they 'should' leave their home)

Thong family (official papers seized in 2012, now given official notice that they 'should' leave their home)

<http://www.releaseinternational.org/laos-christian-families-face-expulsion-for-their-faith/>



**India: Bhubaneshwar, Orissa state**

Archbishop Emeritus Raphael Cheenath (released a study showing that the victims of the 2008 anti-Christian pogrom have received only a fraction of the compensation needed to restore their lives)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Orissa:-after-the-pogroms,-Christians-get-a-fraction-of-the-damages-28163.html>



### **Kazakhstan: Esil**

Sergei Chuvashkin (administrative case against him filed in court on [March 14, 2013](#); fined US\$1,130 for 'missionary activity without registration'; **UPDATE:** fine upheld on appeal)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1870](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1870)



### **Somalia: Jamaame district**

Hassan Hurshe (aged 28, convert, **shot dead** for leaving Islam, family has fled)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2013/06/islamic-extremists-in-somalia-kill-christian/>



### **Eritrea: Adi Kihe and Asmara**

Patriarch Abune Antonios (**UPDATE:** still in captivity, 42 Christians arrested last week - the total Christians arrested for 2013 stands at 191)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2013/06/in-eritrea-persecution-greater-than-ever-and-getting-worse/>



### **Ethiopia: Dodola**

Alemlayehu Legese (arrested in late March 2013 for a "crime against Islam" despite the lack of such in the penal code, crime was for possessing literature entitled "The history of Islam from a Christian perspective", still in jail)

<http://www.persecution.org/>

**Saturday June 8, 2013**



### **China**

Lisa Peng (aged 16, daughter of imprisoned democracy leader Peng Ming, resident of [Shaker Heights, Ohio](#), is petitioning the U.S. government to work for her father's release)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/06/shaker-heights-teen-asks-president.html>



### **Pakistan: Mirzapur, Manawala Village, Shekhupura district**

Iqbal Bibi (described how the Muslim landowner who had attempted to abduct Parveen Bibi had earlier abducted her daughter Rana and kept her as a sex slave for three years while the police did nothing)

### **Pakistan: J Block Model Town, Lahore**

Aftkhar Masih (street sweeper, abducted by four Muslims including two policemen, held illegally overnight in a private cell, beaten and tortured, experienced renal system damage)

Ashfaq Masih (brother of Aftkhar Masih)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4360>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4354>

**Sunday June 9, 2013**



### **China: Urumqi, Xinjiang**

Tan Wen (led a worship service when police without identification entered the home and spent over an hour interrogating the worshippers, taken to a police station where he was charged with leading an "illegal gathering" and sentenced to 10 days detention and fined 500 yuan)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/07/two-more-house-churches-raided-in.html>



### **Tajikistan**

Nadia (convert, beaten by her family and forced to say the Muslim profession of faith, sobbingly called a Christian but her telephone now appears to be disconnected)

<http://www.christiansincrisis.net/latest-news/1633-tajikistan-young-convert-suffers-severe-persecution.html>



### **Uzbekistan: Gazalkent, Tashkent region**

Lidiya Maksimenko (aged 83, detained after hosting a Sunday service in her home, threatened with beatings)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1857](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1857)



### **Iran: Tehran**

Mohammed-Hadi Mostafa Bordbar (aged 26, convert, arrested in Tehran while celebrating Christmas in 2012; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 10 years imprisonment)

[http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=7290:iranian-christian-activist-sentenced-to-ten-years-in-prison&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279](http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7290:iranian-christian-activist-sentenced-to-ten-years-in-prison&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279)



### **Kenya: Mrima village, Mombasa district**

Assistant Pastor Collins Maseno (legs broken, in critical condition after an explosive device was thrown into Earthquake Miracle Ministry Church, 14 others also injured)

Senior Pastor Dominic Osano (sustained serious injuries to his hand and the back of his neck after an explosive device was thrown into Earthquake Miracle Ministry Church, 14 others also injured)

Dominic Maseno (aged 10, injured after an explosive device was thrown into Earthquake Miracle Ministry Church, 14 others also injured)

Pastor David Njoroge (described the bomb attack on Earthquake Miracle Ministry Church in which 15 were injured)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2013/06/explosion-in-attack-on-church-in-kenya-injures-15/>



### **Syria: Aleppo**

Archbishop Jean Clement Jeanbart (**UPDATE:** commented on the jihadist killing of a 14-year old Muslim coffee vendor for blasphemy "Christians are terrified by these militias and fear that in the event of their victory they would no longer be able to practice their religion and that they would be forced to leave the country...As soon as they reached the city, Islamist guerrillas, almost all of them from abroad, took over the mosques. Every Friday, an imam launches their messages of hate, calling on the population to kill anyone who does not practice the religion of the Prophet Muhammad. They use the courts to level charges of blasphemy. Who is contrary to their way of thinking pays with his life")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Aleppo-bishop,-boy's-brutal-killing-shows-jihadist-danger-28170.html>

**Monday June 10, 2013**



### **India: Dangarguda village**

Rev K. Raju (described a series of attacks on Christians)

Rev Bijay Purusu (described the attacks on Mongli Madhi and others)

Mudha Madhi (beaten into unconsciousness by Hindu extremists, hospitalized and released)

Irma Madhi (beaten by Hindu extremists, hospitalized)

Mangli Madhi (beaten by Hindu extremists, hospitalized and released)

Sambru Khurami (beaten by Hindu extremists, hospitalized and released)

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2013/06/2585425/>



### **Pakistan: Sharak Pur Sharif, Sheikhpura**

Adnan Masih (aged 18, refrigeration mechanic, **tortured to death** in a police station during six days of interrogation over a missing Muslim girl)

Master Riaz (father of Adnan Masih, retired Head Master of Government Elementary School)

Pastor Mushtaq Masih (is investigating the murder of Adnan Masih and is aiding his family)

Joseph Francis (is investigating the murder of Adnan Masih and is aiding his family)

Asher Sarfraz (is investigating the murder of Adnan Masih and is aiding his family)

Sohail Habel (is investigating the murder of Adnan Masih and is aiding his family)

Saleem Gabriel (is investigating the murder of Adnan Masih and is aiding his family)

Samuel Piyara (is investigating the murder of Adnan Masih and is aiding his family)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4349>



### **Kazakhstan East Kazakhstan region**

Nail Agatanov (caught in two raids on worship services; **UPDATE:** fined one month's average salary)

Sergei Pelipenko (caught in two raids on worship services; **UPDATE:** fined one month's average salary)

Marina Kulikova (caught in two raids on worship services; **UPDATE:** fined one month's average salary)

### **Kazakhstan: Karagande region**

Ivan Yantsen (fined two months' average salary, fine upheld on appeal)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1868](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1868)



### **Egypt: Luxor**

Demiana Ebeid Abdel Nour (aged 24, detained on or before **May 10, 2013** due to accusations of insulting Islam and proselytizing among her primary school students; **UPDATE:** found guilty and fined US\$14,300, sentence is being protested by Islamists who are demanding more severe punishments)

Ebed Abd Al-Nour (father of Demiana Ebeid Abdel Nour, said that she is on the verge of a nervous breakdown)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20130611124939.htm>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2013/06/teacher-in-egypt-sentenced-for-defaming-islam/>



**United States – Connecticut: Shelton**

Fr John J Stronkowski (St Margaret Mary Church vandalized and desecrated)

Fr Nello Barachini (described the desecration of St Margaret Mary Church "This is a hate crime. They knew the symbols of the Roman Catholic religion and targeted them")

Joseph Tassitano (memorial Mass for his son cancelled by the desecration of St Margaret Church, said "This destruction is pretty terrible. It was calculated")

David Nordin (described the desecration of St Margaret Mary Church "It's a disgrace. It wasn't a spur-of-the-moment act. It had to be planned")

Andrew Sheldon (described the desecration of St Margaret Mary Church "It's so sad someone would do this. This is like my second home")

<http://www.ctpost.com/police-reports/article/Shelton-church-vandalized-4590909.php>

**Tuesday June 11, 2013**



**Uzbekistan: Gazalkent, Tashkent region**

Nikolai Savorovsky (aged 65, fined US\$3,000 for attending the Sunday service at the home of Lidiya Maksimenko)

Timur Zagvozdin (fined US\$150 for "resisting the orders of police", the court records appear to have been falsified)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1857](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1857)



**Egypt: Sinai**

Mulugeta (aged 40, Eritrean refugee, tortured and likely sexually assaulted in a trafficker camp, two teen daughters sexually assaulted, freed after ransom paid and brought to Israel, daughters kept by the traffickers)

<http://www.dw.de/anguish-for-eritrean-refugee-over-daughters-sinai-fate/a-16870454>



### **Pakistan: Cantt Lahore**

Riaz Masih (sanitation worker, purchased a television set on credit, after it was paid off four armed men entered his home on [February 12, 2013](#) and demanded additional payments, beat him and his family, threatened to bring criminal charges against him, police refused to bring a case against his attackers, **UPDATE**: criminal charges are now filed against him and his sons, one son has been arrested)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4351>

**Wednesday June 12, 2013**



### **Kazakhstan: Astana**

Pastor Bakhytzhan Kashkumbayev (convert from Islam, pastor of Grace Church, arrested on May 17, 2013 on charges of 'harming health', ordered held for two months' pretrial detention on May 19, 2013; **UPDATE**: still detained, alleged to have used stupefying substances to control the minds of parishioners - who in turn say the substance was red tea used as a non-alcoholic substitute for communion wine)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1846](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1846)



### **Egypt: Alexandria**

Fr Henri Boulad, SJ (aged 82, director of the Jesuit Cultural Center, said “Grassroots people are more and more convinced these people [the Muslim Brotherhood] are liars...The United States, France and Great Britain are supporting this. It’s crazy. Intellectual and factual terrorism is being implemented not only in Egypt but all over the world. You cannot speak up. They go to court; they accuse you. As long as Islam is not reformed, we are going to catastrophe”)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2013/06/12/jesuit-says-britain-and-us-are-crazy-for-backing-islamists-in-egypt/>





**United Kingdom: Glasgow, Scotland**

Brian McGuigan (board member of St Margaret's Children and Family Care Society, said that the government threat to close it for its refusal to support homosexual adoption "The reality is that the issue is not one about equality or diversity, but about freedom of religion and belief")

Archbishop Philip Tartaglia (said that St Margaret's Children and Family Care Society is "a treasure of the Church in Scotland")

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/scottish-catholic-adoption-agency-threatened-with-closure-over-gay-adoption>

**Thursday June 13, 2013**



**Belarus: Minsk**

Pastor Viktor Goncharenko (New Life Church, in hospital after suffering a stroke)

Sergey Lukanin (lawyer for New Life Church, is fighting the government's repeated attempts to evict the church)

Vitaly Antonchikov (New Life Church administrator, thanked a government official the last time the government ended an eviction attempt, that official is now unavailable)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1847](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1847)



**France: Strasbourg**

M E (Coptic Christian, fled to France with his family in 2007 following threats and attacks, ordered deported back to Egypt in 2011, deportation has been declared to be a violation of his human rights by the European Court of Human Rights)

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/news/european-court-asks-france-not-deport-egyptian-copt>

Friday June 14, 2013



**Vietnam: Da Nang**

Bishop Joseph Chau Ngoc Tri (criticized by the government for celebrating a Mass in honor of Fr Vincent Capodanno MM, who was posthumously awarded the U.S. Medal of Honor for his 1967 battlefield ministry and who in 2002 had his cause for sainthood opened)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/navy-chaplain-honored-in-vietnam-despite-communist-objections/>



**Myanmar: Mung Ya Hka Zup village**

Zahkung Lum Hkawng (aged 45, tortured and **shot dead** by army soldiers)

<http://dynamic.csw.org.uk/article.asp?t=press&id=1550>



**Pakistan**

Asia Bibi (mother of five still incarcerated on blasphemy charges after death sentence, has been beaten unconscious by a prison warden, in solitary, health declining, reportedly has been informed that her appeal will not be heard until 2015; **UPDATE**: has without notice been transferred from Sheikhpura jail to Multan jail, which adds hundreds of miles to the distance her family will have to travel for a visit, reportedly is being taught to read the Quran by prison authorities in an attempt to convert her)

Pastor Karama Patras (accused of blasphemy in [Sanghia Hill, Punjab province](#) on [October 13, 2012](#) for praying for the good health of Muslims, beaten by a mob, arrested; **UPDATE**: acquitted after the accuser told the court he was mistaken)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4370>

[http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2013/06/article\\_2584552.html/](http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2013/06/article_2584552.html/)



**Uzbekistan: Urgench, Khorezm region**

Sardorbek Nurmetov (illegally detained, beaten, denied medical treatment, water, or sanitary facilities for hours, memory stick seized, home searched and laptop and Christian books and DVD seized, When he attempted to have his injuries documented at the local hospital the hospital called the police who then removed him, later charged with illegally storing religious material at his home)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1861](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1861)



### **Niger**

Rev Kimso Boureima (commented on the growing al-Qaeda and Boko Haram activity “The militants’ activity is a global threat that goes beyond Niger...The church must persevere in teaching of the good news. It must preach peace and love of neighbor”)

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2013/06/2546935/>

**Sunday June 16, 2013**



### **Uzbekistan: Karshi**

Svetlana Andreychenko (Sunday worship service in her home raided by police, religious literature seized, all 78 adult and child worshippers loaded onto buses and detained for three hours where they were threatened with being shot; **UPDATE:** fined 50 times the minimum monthly salary)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1857](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1857)



### **Kazakhstan: Zaporozhye**

Vyacheslav Flotch (home raided during a religious service, later fined one month's average salary)

Valdimir Flotch (questioned by police after the raid on the home of Vyacheslav Flotch)

Aleksandr Leven (questioned by police after the raid on the home of Vyacheslav Flotch)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1868](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1868)



**Iran: Shiraz, Fars province**

Homayoon Shokoohi-Gholamzadeh (convert, husband of Fariba Nazemian, arrested during a home church meeting on February 8 2012, charged with “acts harmful to the Islamic Regime”; **UPDATE**: sentenced to a total of four years and two months in prison)

Mohamad-Reza Partoei Kourosh (convert, arrested during a home church meeting on February 8 2012, charged with “acts harmful to the Islamic Regime”; **UPDATE**: sentenced to three years and eight months in prison)

Mojtaba Seyyed-Alaedin Hosseini (convert, arrested during a home church meeting on February 8 2012, charged with “acts harmful to the Islamic Regime”; **UPDATE**: sentenced to a total of four years and two months in prison)

Vahid Hakkani (convert, arrested during a home church meeting on February 8 2012, charged with “acts harmful to the Islamic Regime”; **UPDATE**: sentenced to three years and eight months in prison)

Fariba Nazemian (convert, wife of Homayoon Shokoohi-Gholamzadeh, arrested during a home church meeting on February 8 2012, charged with “acts harmful to the Islamic Regime”; **UPDATE**: sentenced to two years in prison, sentence suspended)

Nima Shokoohi (son of Homayoon Shokoohi-Gholamzadeh and Fariba Nazemian, arrested during a home church meeting on February 8 2012, charged with “acts harmful to the Islamic Regime”; **UPDATE**: sentenced to two years in prison, sentence suspended)

[http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=7009:six-christian-converts-convicted-amid-presidential-election-fuss-&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279](http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7009:six-christian-converts-convicted-amid-presidential-election-fuss-&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279)



**Nigeria: Hwa'a, Kunde, Gathahure and Gjigga communities, Gwoza Hills, Borno state**

Archbishop Ignatius Ayau Kaigama (**UPDATE**: described a Boko Haram attack that resulted in four churches burned)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/33828-AFRICA NIGERIA Four churches burned by Boko Haram Mgr Kaigama regional approach to defeat them#.Ub MF4zD8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/33828-<u>AFRICA NIGERIA Four churches burned by Boko Haram Mgr Kaigama regional approach to defeat them#.Ub MF4zD8fg</u>)

**Monday June 17, 2013**



**China: Xiaodian district, Taiyuan, Shanxi province**

Li Wenxi (**UPDATE:** convicted of illegally operating a business [his bookstore], sentenced to two years imprisonment, appeal is planned)

Ren Lacheng (convicted of illegally operating a business [his bookstore], sentenced to five years imprisonment, appeal is planned)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/06/verdict-regarding-enyu-bookstores-case.html>



**Kazakhstan: Oskemen, East Kazakhstan region**

Arman Abdullinov (detained, interrogated, and charged with discussing or sharing faith with others on [February 20, 2013](#); fined US\$1,130 for 'missionary activity without registration'; **UPDATE:** fine upheld on appeal)

Marat Saleubayev (detained, interrogated, and charged with discussing or sharing faith with others on [February 20, 2013](#); fined US\$1,130 for 'missionary activity without registration'; **UPDATE:** fine upheld on appeal)

Zhangazy Biimbetov (detained on [March 20, 2013](#), charged with discussing or sharing faith with others; fined US\$1,130 for 'missionary activity without registration'; **UPDATE:** fine upheld on appeal)

**Kazakhstan: Astana**

Pastor Bakhytzhan Kashkumbayev (convert from Islam, pastor of Grace Church, arrested on [May 17, 2013](#) on charges of 'harming health', ordered held for two months' pretrial detention; **UPDATE:** the woman described by the state as his psychiatric abuse victim, Lazzat Almenova, has appealed for his release)

Lazzat Almenova (confined to a mental institute due to her membership in Grace Church; released; **UPDATE:** has denied that she has psychiatric problems and has appealed for the release of Pastor Bakhytzhan Kashkumbayev)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1870](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1870)

<http://barnabasfund.org/US/News/News-analysis/Kazakh-pastor-retained-in-custody-despite-appeal-from-victim.html>



**Egypt: Tanta**

Milad (complained that unknown persons dressed as Salafists "invited" him to convert to Islam and threatened to abduct his wife and children if he did not, crucifix snatched from around his neck)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/cs-releases/1572-egypt-christians-threatened-to-convert-to-islam>

**Tuesday June 18, 2013**



### **Nigeria**

Rev Soja Bewarang (described the closing of the Christian schools in Borno state due to attacks)

Deborah Mohzo (elder brother killed in a recent attack)

Rev. Obed Dashan (said "Boko Haram terrorist activities especially in Borno and Yobe states have not only impacted negatively on Christians there but also led to creating communities that are traumatized and paralyzed economically")

### **Nigeria: Bakin Rijiya village, Wase area, Plaeau state**

Toma Vongjen (aged 40, **killed** by Fulani Muslims)

### **Nigeria: Bakin Rijiya, Kumbur, Wase Tofa, and Angwan Sayawa villages, Wase area, Plaeau state**

Rev Dinfa Lamda (described the Fulani Muslim attacks that killed Toma Vongjen and destroyed churches in four villages, said "There are Christian villages that have been completely wiped out by these Muslim terrorists" and that a jihad is being waged against Christians)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2013/06/islamic-extremists-kill-two-christians-in-nigeria/>

**Thursday June 20, 2013**



### **India: Mumbai**

Joseph Dias (**UPDATE**: complained about the film *Policegiri* in which the actress Kavitta Verma is seen in seductive poses with a rosary around her neck, the scene is being removed from the film)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/33843->

[ASIA INDIA Blasphemous poses the Indian model apologizes to Christians#.UcUSIoZD8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/33843-ASIA_INDIA_Blasphemous_poses_the_Indian_model_apologizes_to_Christians#.UcUSIoZD8fg)



### **Pakistan: Faisalabad**

Saba Waris (aged 13, abducted from her home and forced in an Islamic marriage)

Moon Waris (brother of Saba Waris, employed by his sister's abductor but was not paid, her abduction was likely in revenge for his complaint against him)

Naseem Bibi (mother of Saba and Moon Waris)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Pakistan:-Christian-girl-of-13-abducted,-converted-to-Islam-and-forced-to-marry-29623.html>



### **Azerbaijan**

Kamran Mirzayev (aged 18, convicted for refusing military service and sentenced to nine month's imprisonment, appeal heard on [May 14 2013](#); **UPDATE**: has been released under an amnesty)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1852](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1852)



### **Syria: a village north of Aleppo**

Fr Hanna (Franciscan, has resisted the Islamists who want him to stop ringing church bells, is aided by local Muslims who respect his work)

### **Syria: Damascus**

Archbishop Mario Zenari (**UPDATE**: described the work of Fr Hanna, said "The war in Syria now affects the entire population, by the end of it the displaced people could reach a record 10 million, almost half the population")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Witnessing-to-the-love-of-Christ-in-Syria,-plagued-by-hatred-and-war-28257.html>



## **Egypt**

Marianne Aziz (aged 25, pharmacist, brother-in-law moved to California after being stabbed in the face by a Muslim neighbor over his parking space, said she turned down a job that required travel to remote areas for fear of abduction, is hoping to join her family in California)

<http://worldnews.nbcnews.com/news/2013/06/20/19042756-egypts-coptic-christians-say-they-are-no-longer-safe?lite>



## **Colombia: road between Cerete and Monteria**

Fr Nestor Dario Buendia (aged 35, missing)

Bishop Ramon Alberto Rolon Guepsa (reported the disappearance of Fr Nestor Dario Buendia)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/33873-AMERICA\\_COLOMBIA\\_There\\_is\\_still\\_no\\_news\\_of\\_a\\_priest\\_who\\_has\\_been\\_missing\\_for\\_4\\_days#.UcpPPYzD8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/33873-AMERICA_COLOMBIA_There_is_still_no_news_of_a_priest_who_has_been_missing_for_4_days#.UcpPPYzD8fg)

**Friday June 21, 2013**



## **Vietnam**

Paul Tran Minh Nhat (**UPDATE:** has begun a hunger strike to protest prison conditions, including abuse and denial of religious books)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Catholic-activist-goes-on-hunger-strike-against-prison-conditions-28300.html>



**Pakistan: Bheel Nagar aka "Nazareth Colony [Ghetto]", Rahim Yar Khan village, Punjab state**



Sam (aged 8, son of Patras Sadeeq, accused of insulting a Muslim girl)

Patras Sadeeq (father of Sam and Ashley, scuffled with the father of the girl reportedly insulted by Sam)

Ashley (aged 12, son of Patras Sadeeq, arrested by police, released)

Qamar Iqbal (attorney, obtained the release of Ashley son of Patras Sadeeq from police custody)

Maqsood Barkat (beaten by forty armed men, seriously injured)

Ilyas Masih (beaten by forty armed men, seriously injured)

Fr Francis Akuve (presented a letter to police asking them to protect the local Christians)

### **Pakistan: Nasrat Colony [Ghetto], Bheel Nagar, Rahim YarKhan**

Sadiq Masih (family had a dispute with Muslim neighbors, the neighbors retaliated by invading their home and firing into it, police were called and the attackers left, later the mosques' loudspeakers called on everyone to attack the Christian neighborhood, the Muslim mob was dispersed by police only after the Christians protested against police inaction, the entire neighborhood has been threatened with arson)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/33877->

[ASIA PAKISTAN From social conflict to religious violence fear of Christians in Punjab#.Ucur3IzD8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/33877-ASIA_PAKISTAN_From_social_conflict_to_religious_violence_fear_of_Christians_in_Punjab#.Ucur3IzD8fg)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4363>



### **Kazakhstan: Kokshetau**

Andrei Rakin (administrative case against him filed in court on [March 18, 2013](#); **UPDATE:** fined US\$1,130 for 'missionary activity without registration')

Andrei Korolev (administrative case against him filed in court on [March 18, 2013](#); **UPDATE:** fined US\$1,130 for 'missionary activity without registration')

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1870](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1870)



### **Nigeria**

Rev Johnson Kikem (reported on several Christians killed in the Wase area this year)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2013/06/islamic-extremists-kill-two-christians-in-nigeria/>

**Saturday June 22, 2013**



**India: Goudaguda village**

Bina Madhi (husband of Ermi Madhi, beaten by Hindu extremists in an unsuccessful attempt to drive him from his land)

Ermi Madhi (wife of Bina Madhi, beaten by Hindu extremists in an unsuccessful attempt to drive her from her land)

Jagarnath Maekani (beaten by Hindu extremists along with Bina and Ermi Madhi)

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2013/06/2585425/>



**Kazakhstan: Ekibastuz, Pavlodar region**

Sofya Bunyak (fined one month's average salary after a number of raids on worship services at her home)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1868](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1868)



**Syria**

Metropolitan Bishop Timothy Matta Fadil Alkhouri (commented in [Balamand, Lebanon](#) on the April 2013 abductions of Bishops Boulos al-Yazigi and Yuhanna Ibrahim "We are not sure whether they are still alive, we hope so. We have asked many times to be able to hear their voices and it was not possible. But so far we have not received bad news, and this gives us and our people hope" We thank "Pope Francis, all Christians and also Muslims who pray with us in this moment of sorrow")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/33856-ASIA\\_SYRIA Prayers for the bishops of Aleppo kidnapped two months ago#.UcZdO4zD8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/33856-ASIA_SYRIA_Prayers_for_the_bishops_of_Aleppo_kidnapped_two_months_ago#.UcZdO4zD8fg)

**Sunday June 23, 2013**



### **China: Urumqi, Xinjiang**

Sister Lu Xia (attended a house church gathering that was invaded by police without identification, taken away and sentenced to 5 days detention)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/07/two-more-house-churches-raided-in.html>



### **India: Madhya Pradesh state**

Indira Iyengar (president of the Madhya Pradesh Christian Association, has asked the state governor to reject the anti-conversion law that passed the state legislature, the law requires that religious converts register with the police two weeks before their conversion - violators may be sentenced to three years imprisonment - and criminalizes the conversion of women and protected minorities)

Sujit Williams (president of the Grand Council of Christians [Isai Maha Sangh], said that the new anti-conversion law “violated the provision of various Articles in the Constitution of India”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2013/07/bill-passes-in-india-jailing-converts-clergy-for-failure-to-give-notice-of-conversion/>



### **Pakistan: Quetta, Baluchistan**

Fr Abid Saleem OMI (described how a young Muslim "manipulated by fundamentalists" climbed to the roof of the Church of the Immaculate Conception and damaged the cross, he was then detained by the caretaker and other parishioners and arrested by police, the charges were dropped in exchange for forgiveness and a written promise to not repeat such acts)

Bishop Victor Gnanapragasam, OMI (**UPDATE**: visited the Church of the Immaculate Conception after the vandalism)

### **Pakistan: Bypass Multan road between Pattoki and Bhai Pheru**

Sardar Mushtaq Gill (attorney, **UPDATE**: stopped at gunpoint and threatened with death while returning home after representing Christians who were paraded naked in public and then arrested when they filed a criminal complaint against their attackers, said "we are not coward, we will not stop to do which we were assigned by Jesus to do and to fulfill His Mission in Pakistan")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/33888->

[ASIA PAKISTAN Acts of vandalism and insults against a church a Muslim man forgiven#.Uc5cY4zD8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/33888-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Acts_of_vandalism_and_insults_against_a_church_a_Muslim_man_forgiven#.Uc5cY4zD8fg)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4367>



### **Uzbekistan: Karshi**

Svetlana Andreychenko (Sunday worship service in her home raided by police, religious literature seized, all 78 adult and child worshipers loaded onto buses and detained for three hours where they were threatened with being shot, fined 50 times the minimum monthly salary; **UPDATE:** home raided a second time, Biblical posters and air conditioners were seized, home threatened with seizure)

Obid (detained following the police raid at the home of Svetlana Andreychenko, released after writing a statement that read "I went to the meetings and will continue to go to the meetings")

Viktor Tashpulatov (**UPDATE:** present during the police raid at the home of Svetlana Andreychenko, detained when he went to the police to inquire on the detention of Obid, released)

Mikhail Balykbayev (**UPDATE:** present during the police raid at the home of Svetlana Andreychenko)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1857](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1857)



### **Syria: Ghassanieh village, Jisr al-Shughur district, Idlib province**

Fr Francois Mourad (aged 49, **shot dead** during an Islamist assault on his monastery, possibly by a stray bullet)

Fr Halim Noujaim (reported on the shooting death of Fr Francois Mourad)

Archbishop Jacques Behnan Hindo (commented on the shooting death of Fr Francois Mourad "Lately, Fr Mourad sent me some messages that clearly showed how conscious he was of living in a dangerous situation, and offered his life for peace in Syria and around the world")

Fr Ibrahim Alsabagh (commented on the killing of his friend Fr Francois Mourad that it made him feel "bitter, happy, and a little bit of envy" and it reminded him of "how close martyrdom is", will be spending two months in Damascus this summer to help the Franciscan mission before returning to finish his doctorate)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Idlib:-monk-killed-at-Franciscan-convent-in-Al-Ghassaniyah-28288.html>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/33866->

[ASIA SYRIA A Catholic priest killed Bishop Hindo he offered his martyrdom for peace#.Ucjyp4zD8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/33866-ASIA_SYRIA_A_Catholic_priest_killed_Bishop_Hindo_he_offered_his_martyrdom_for_peace#.Ucjyp4zD8fg)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/murdered-syrian-priests-friend-feels-closeness-of-martyrdom/>

**Monday June 24, 2013**



**Indonesia: Jakarta**

Jeirry Simampow (executive secretary of the Indonesian Church Association; **UPDATE:** criticized the pending mass organizations legislation that will allow the government to regulate how churches are created and run)

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/news/mass-organization-bill-set-to-become-law/>



**India: Canalpada village, Duagarh district, Orissa state**

Pastor Sura Mahat Samal (attempted to leave a pastoral meeting that was raided by Hindu extremists, injured when the attackers blocked the car in which he was riding with motorcycles)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/33886->

[ASIA INDIA Christians beaten and boycotted in Orissa on charges of forced conversions#.Uc5ZzIzD8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/33886-ASIA_INDIA_Christians_beaten_and_boycotted_in_Orissa_on_charges_of_forced_conversions#.Uc5ZzIzD8fg)



**Iraq: Karrada, Bagdad**

Abu Warda (food preparation business car-bombed, one employee killed)

Ashur Younan Botros (**killed** in the car bombing of Abu Warda's business, survived by a wife and three children)

**Iraq: Sinaa, Bagdad**

Mariana (wife of Rahhim, store car-bombed)

Rahhim (husband of Mariana, store car-bombed)

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

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/A-series-of-attacks-shakes-the-country,-a-church-hit-in-Baghdad-28299.html>

**Tuesday June 25, 2013**



### **Kazakhstan: Atyrau City, Atyrau region**

Zarina Burova (spouse of Aydos Sydykbayev, detained on [April 2, 2013](#), not allowed to call an attorney; fined US\$1,130 for 'missionary activity without registration'; **UPDATE**: fine upheld on appeal)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1870](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1870)



### **Iraq: Bagdad**

Raad Mekha (aged 26, church guard, shot in the leg, hospitalized and released)

Yakoob Zabook (aged 31, church security guard, shot in the stomach. hospitalized in serious condition)

Rev Martin David (described the gunfire attack on St Mary Assyrian Catholic Church in which two security guards were wounded)

Dr Yousef Francis Matta Eklimis (University of Hamdania, is working against injustice against Christians, "Iraqi Christians have suffered much injustice and marginalization. Even their rights are being ignored in the new constitution")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2013/06/two-christians-wounded-in-church-attack-in-iraq-another-killed-in-store-bombing/>

<http://global.christianpost.com/news/iraq-christians-being-ignored-suffering-injustice-and-marginalization-98366/#tyYOgsRE3YyPZC5C.99>



## Sierra Leone

Fr Giuseppe Berton (aged 81, **died of natural causes** in [Parma, Italy](#), had worked for years during and after the civil war to befriend and rehabilitate child-soldiers)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/33884->

[AFRICA SIERRA LEONE Death of Bepi Berton the apostle of child soldiers in Sierra Leone#.Uc5eZYzD8fg](#)

**Wednesday June 26, 2013**



## Malaysia

Bishop Paul Tan Chee Ing (**UPDATE**: protested a pending bill that would allow the unilateral conversion of children to Islam, stated "I understand this amendment contravenes a decision by the Cabinet announced on April 23, 2009 that a single parent cannot convert a minor. If so, this would not be the first time that the Cabinet is overridden by civil service functionaries -- the main drivers of creeping Islamization in this country")

<http://www.assistnews.net/Stories/2013/s13070012.htm>



## Pakistan: Lahore, Punjab state

Khalil Tahir Sindhu (aged 42, attorney, **UPDATE**: has obtained 37 acquittals for blasphemy victims, "we are talking about 37 families destroyed, of innocent people who have spent years in prison, of people forced to uproot and change jobs and cities")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/33881->

[ASIA PAKISTAN The Minister for Minorities and Human Rights in Punjab is Catholic but the budget is low#.UcuuNYzD8fg](#)



## Iran: Tehran

Pastor Saeed Abedini (aged 32 years old, convert, US citizen, father of 2, arrested during a family visit, convicted on [January 27, 2013](#) of undermining the government by spreading Christianity and sentenced to eight years in prison; **UPDATE**: health is improving)

<http://www.maghrebchristians.com/2013/06/26/pastor-saeed-abedini-getting-better-with-his-health/>



**Colombia: Los Cordobas**

Fr Nestor Dario Buendia (aged 35, **UPDATE: found dead**)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/33876->

[AMERICA COLOMBIA Priest who disappeared days ago found dead#.UcurA4zD8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/33876-AMERICA_COLOMBIA_Priest_who_disappeared_days_ago_found_dead#.UcurA4zD8fg)



**Mexico: San Cristobal, Chiapas state**

Pastor Armando (hung by a rope and doused with gasoline after he tried to return to his home, released)

Pastor Esdras Alonso (seized by village leaders after he tried to return to his home, released)

<http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2013/June/Evangelicals-Tortured-in-Mexico-Released/>

**Thursday June 27, 2013**



**United States – California: Santa Rosa**

Audrey Jarvis (aged 19, ordered by a Sonoma State University supervisor to remove her cross necklace because it might offend others or make new students feel unwelcome, refused and left work early due to being upset, university has apologized to her)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/stand-up-for-your-faith-says-student-told-to-hide-cross-necklace/>



**Belarus: Aleksandrovka village, Grodno region**



Aleksei Shchedrov (aged 28, faces a possible maximum sentence of two years imprisonment for operating an unregistered religious organization because he took homeless people into his home for food and prayer, Bibles taken for "expert analysis" during a February police raid and not returned, police investigation is continuing)

Fr Aleksandr (visited the home of Aleksei Shchedrov, no longer does due to his bishop's orders, said "So according to the law it's a crime to pray together and one should do it alone hiding under the blanket or under the bed")

Fr Antony Gremza (said it was "possible" that Fr Aleksandr was ordered by his bishop to not visit the home of Aleksei Shchedrov due to government pressure)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1853](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1853)



## Algeria

Mustapha Krim (President of the Protestant Church of Algeria aka EPA; **UPDATE**: called for the return of churches that had been seized by the government and given to other users)

Mohamed Ibaouene (aged 36, convicted in absentia of pressuring a Muslim to change his religion on [July 4 2012](#) - though his accuser was not present and he was not notified until [December 11 2012](#), sentenced to one year in prison and fined 50,000 dinars, on [January 23, 2013](#) has appealed his trial and conviction; **UPDATE**: no date set on a new trial)

Habiba Kouider (teacher, charged in 2008 for illegal possession of Bibles, case is still ongoing)

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2013/06/2583073/>

**Friday June 28, 2013**



## Pakistan

Rimsha Bibi Masih (aged 11 or 14, has Down's Syndrome, arrested on a charge of blasphemy on [August 18, 2012](#) for burning pages of the Quran after crowds threatened police that they would burn the homes of Christians in Meherabadi, Islamabad; **UPDATE**: unconfirmed reports state she has been granted asylum in Canada)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4371>



## Ethiopia

Alemlayehu Legese (arrested in late [March 2013](#) in [Dodola](#) for a "crime against Islam" despite the lack of such in the penal code, crime was for possessing literature entitled "The history of Islam from a Christian perspective"; **UPDATE**: the public prosecutor attempted to charge him with treason and terrorism, the court ordered the charges modified after his attorney objected, with the result that he is now jailed without charge and could remain so for years)

<http://www.christianpersecution.info/index.php?view=12460>



## Central African Republic: Bangui

Pastor Gaston Kossingou (describe the looting of the office of the Bible Society in Central Africa by Seleka rebels on the eve of the dedication ceremony of the translation of the Bible into Sangho, the local language)

[http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2013/07/article\\_2617003.html/](http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2013/07/article_2617003.html/)



## Democratic Republic of the Congo: Rwahwa

Fr Anselme Wasikundi AA (abducted on [October 19, 2012](#) in [Mbau](#); **UPDATE**: still no news regarding his fate)

Fr Edmond Bamutute AA (abducted on [October 19, 2012](#) in [Mbau](#); **UPDATE**: still no news regarding his fate)

Fr Jean-Pierre Ndulani AA (abducted on [October 19, 2012](#) in [Mbau](#); **UPDATE**: still no news regarding his fate)

Bishop Melchisedec Sikuli Paluku (**UPDATE**: reported that there has been no news regarding the three abducted Assumptionist priests in nine months, said that the situation is "explosive" after an unknown armed group invaded a church and removed the Blessed Sacrament)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/33935->

[AFRICA CONGO DR The desecration of a church in Beni has not been confirmed The Bishop explosive situation#.UduLaYzD8fg](#)

Sunday June 30, 2013



**Bangladesh: Bolakipur**

Bishop Sebastian Tudu (**UPDATE**: wrote that the seminary that had been attacked by local Muslims is now guarded by 30 policemen)

<http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1372396417.html>



**Uzbekistan: Karshi**

Svetlana Andreychenko (**UPDATE**: home raided again due to her refusal to pay her fine, refrigerator, oven, sewing machine, and DVD player seized, along with church property)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1878](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1878)



**Iran**

Naghmeh Shariat Panahi Abedini (wife of Saeed Abedini, who has been sentenced to eight years imprisonment; **UPDATE**: when asked if she believes God will return her husband to her said "I do, but even if He doesn't, He's still a good God.... we can't push God for certain outcomes")

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/pastor-saeeds-wife-says-gods-good-even-if-her-husband-doesnt-come-back-99097/#6b7VY4huwUI8iwQA.99>



**Sierra Leone: Freetown**

Br Themis Adams (former rock musician, reported to have been threatened with violence during a riot at the Orthodox Mission, said that he has been in "imminent danger" at least 50 times but "My escape each time was due solely to the grace of God")

<http://www.assistnews.net/Stories/2013/s13060128.htm>

**June 2013, date unknown**



**Egypt: Dakhaleya province**

Jessica Nadi Gabriel (aged 7, abducted from a family wedding in [early June 2013](#), held for  
US\$100,000 ransom)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/cs-releases/1562-seven-year-old-coptic-girl-kidnapped-held-for-ransom>