

Today's Martyrs – December 2013

Monday December 1, 2013



China: Nanle County, Henan

Zhao Shengwei (detained for nine hours by the authorities)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/12/nanle-county-christian-church-spends.html>



Syria

Patriarch Gregorios III Laham (**UPDATE:** said in his meeting with Pope Francis at [Vatican City](#) "You spoke to us, asking us not to let the flame of hope die in our hearts...We want to be martyrs on this earth, martyrs in blood, as was the case for some of our faithful, including the three men from Maaloula: Mikhael Taalab, Antoun Taalab, and Sarkis el Zakhm...Holy Father, they are true martyrs. Ordered to give up their faith, they proudly refused. Three others however gave in and were forced to declare themselves Muslim, but later returned to the faith of their ancestors")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Gregory-III,-Syria's-Greek-Catholic-Church-has-three-true-martyrs-29707.html>

Monday December 2, 2013



Laos: Natahall village, Saybanghiang sub-district, Phin district

Five Christian families received eviction orders from their village

Mr A-boun (family of 4, received eviction order)

Mr Lahaw (family of 4, received eviction order)

Mr Bountun (family of 4, received eviction order)

Ms Achak (family of 2, received eviction order)

Mr Sorn (family of 10, received eviction order)

<http://hrwlr.net/?p=5>



Iran: Rajai Shahr Prison, Karaj

Pastor Saeed Abedini (aged 33, 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:** family allowed to visit him in prison, found his health is deteriorating due to denial of medication in prison, abdominal pain has returned, suffers from a urinary tract infection with kidney pain, is infested with lice, cellmates have taken all of his personal possessions including toiletries, has been threatened with knives including at night when sleeping)

Iran: Tehran

Rasoul Abdollahi (convert, arrested [December 26, 2010](#), sentenced to 3 years in prison for "collusion against the government and evangelism", transferred to ward 350 of Evin prison)

<http://aclj.org/iran/american-pastor-saeed-abedini-robbed-life-threatened-knifepoint-health-deteriorates-deadly-iranian-prison>

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7859:christian-convert-transferred-to-ward-350-of-evin-two-christian-bloggers-arrested&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Syria - Maaloula

Bishop Mario Zenari (apostolic nuncio, **UPDATE:** reported on the abduction of 12 Orthodox nuns by Islamist rebels and on the request from the Orthodox patriarch who "calls on all Catholics to pray for the women religious")

Patriarch Youhanna X aka Youhanna Yazigi (aged 58, **UPDATE:** appealed to the Islamic rebels to release the 12 abducted nuns and the 3 other women taken with them)

Mother Pelagia Sayaf (abducted by Islamist rebels, called her superior to say that all were safe)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Maaloula:-Islamist-rebels-abduct-12-nuns-from-the-St-Thecla-Orthodox-monastery-29701.html>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20131203193952.htm>

Tuesday December 3, 2013



Kazakhstan: Oral

Sergei Krasnov (arrested on [November 10, 2013](#) at an unregistered Sunday religious service;
UPDATE: fined 50 MFIs)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1915



Azerbaijan: Aliabad

Rauf Agayev (husband of Samira Agayeva, present during the [September 21, 2013](#) police raid at the home of Havva Aliyeva, detained several hours by police; **UPDATE:** fined US\$1,900)

Samira Agayeva (wife of Rauf Agayev, present during the [September 21, 2013](#) police raid at the home of Havva Aliyeva, detained several hours by police; **UPDATE:** fined US\$1,900)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1906



Netherlands

Mostafa Najafi (convert, Afghan citizen, asylum application rejected, jailed for 4 months, life threatened in the immigration camp, father said it would be his 'duty' to kill him for his conversion should he be deported back to Afghanistan)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7839:afghan-christian-convert-in-danger-of-deportation-from-netherlands&catid=81:regions&Itemid=278



United States - Michigan

Thomas Brejcha (President and Chief Counsel of Thomas More Society, said of the American Civil Liberties Union after it brought a suit against the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for requiring Catholic hospitals to refrain from performing abortions “They are

certainly trying to strike a body blow against religious freedom. They are coming at the Church in a way that seems to clash against religious liberty and the First Amendment”)

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/aclu-sues-u.s.-bishops-over-policy-forbidding-catholic-hospitals-from-doing>

Wednesday December 4, 2013



Pakistan

Sawan Masih (reported by a barber to have committed blasphemy on [March 8, 2013](#), arrested, threatened with death by a mob that later burned down over 200 Christian homes 2 Churches and 19 shops injuring 35 and causing hundreds to flee [Joseph Colony, Badami Bah, Lahore](#) on [March 9, 2013](#); **UPDATE**: trial underway, final prosecution witness to testify)

Nasir Saeed (wrote concerning the decision of the Federal Shariat Court which overturned the life imprisonment sentence for some charges of blasphemy, from now on all blasphemy sentences must be death)

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/640222/blasphemy-trial-last-prosecution-witness-to-testify-dec-7/>
<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/viewarticles.php?editorialid=1868>



Uzbekistan

"Brother C" (reported to have been found with a flash drive holding Christian e-books and other materials, detained and beaten, denied medical care for a concussion, released and fined \$500)

<http://crossmap.christianpost.com/news/uzbekistan-christian-arrested-beaten-7189>



Iran: Ahwaz, Khuzestan province

Pastor Farhad Sabokroh (husband of Shahnaz Sabokroh; **UPDATE**: released early from prison)

Naser Zamen-Dezfuli (**UPDATE**: released early from prison)

Shahnaz Sabokroh (wife of Pastor Farhad Sabokroh; **UPDATE**: still incarcerated)

Davoud [David] Alijani (**UPDATE**: still incarcerated)

Iran: Kerman, Kerman province

Kiavosh Sotoudeh (internet blogger, arrested at Kerman University, whereabouts unknown)

Jamshid Jabbari (internet blogger, arrested at Kerman University, whereabouts unknown)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7849:aog-pastor-and-minister-released-from-ahwaz-prison&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7859:christian-convert-transferred-to-ward-350-of-evin-two-christian-bloggers-arrested&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Syria

Maria Saddeh (member of parliament, said that crimes against humanity are occurring in Maaloula)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20131203193727.htm>



Belarus

Fr Vladislav Lazar (aged 46, arrested in Borisov on [May 31, 2013](#), rumored to be considered to be a spy; **UPDATE**: released from jail, now under house arrest in an unknown location)

Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz (has been questioned by the KGB over the Fr Vladislav Lazar case)

Fr Yuri Barok (**UPDATE**: said that Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz "is under pressure [from the KGB] - I don't know what he is expected to do, but believe me he is having very unpleasant moments")

Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti (papal nuncio; **UPDATE**: asked to collect Fr Vladislav Lazar after his release from the KGB detention center)

Fr Yury Sanko (Bishop's conference spokesman, **UPDATE**: said that the release of Fr Vladislav Lazar from the KGB detention center came as "a complete surprise")

Fr Aleksei Romanchuk (has replaced Fr Vladislav Lazar at his parish)

Fr Yury Martinovich (diocesan webmaster, expressed doubt that Fr Vladislav Lazar would be allowed to return to his parish)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1905

Thursday December 5, 2013



Indonesia: Pangkep, South Sulawesi province

Zakaria Ngelow (history professor, member of the Synod of the Protestant Churches, condemned the demolition of the Christian Church in South Sulawesi by local authorities as it was the only church in the district)

Woro Wahyuningtyas (head of the Christian NGO Network Indonesia, spoke against the local authority's demolition order of the Christian Church in South Sulawesi and their "zero tolerance" of religious minorities)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/South-Sulawesi:-Islamists-and-local-authorities-pull-down-Protestant-church-29730.html>



Kazakhstan: Oral

Aleksandr Nelepin (brother of Vladimir Nelepin, arrested on [November 10, 2013](#) at an unregistered Sunday religious service; **UPDATE**: fined 50 MFIs)

Vladimir Nelepin (brother of Aleksandr Nelepin, arrested on [November 10, 2013](#) at an unregistered Sunday religious service; **UPDATE**: fined 50 MFIs)

Kazakhstan: Kyzylorda

Orynkul Tleuzhanova (fined 100 MFIs, **UPDATE**: appeal rejected)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1915

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1921



Iran: Tehran

Rev Vruir Avanesian (aged 60 [2012], held in Evin prison without charge, taken to a hospital for dialysis on [December 29, 2012](#), had been in critical condition; reportedly tried on [September 7, 2013](#) on charges of "action against national security" and "proselytizing Farsi-speaking citizens" in a Tehran court behind closed doors; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 3.5 - three and a half - years imprisonment)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7876:reverend-vruir-avanessian-is-sentenced-to-3-f-years-prison-by-the-revolutionary-court&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Sudan

Bishop Macram Max Gassis (**UPDATE:** spoke in [Washington, DC, USA](#) on the continuing civil war, said "[The Nubians] are on the cross in a special way because bombing is daily, the Khartoum government has sealed all the entrances into the Nuba Mountains. So, there is no food, no medicine, no fuel, no nothing")

<http://www.persecution.org/2013/12/05/sudan-government-policies-designed-to-purge-christians-from-territory/>



Egypt: Minya province

Bishoy Armiya (Egypt's 'most famous' convert, arrested and charged with "inciting sedition by communicating to a US-based [Coptic] channel unfounded information on Copts persecution in Egypt")

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/2196-famous-convert-hegazi-arrested-for-inciting-sedition>



Central African Republic: Bangui

Bishop Juan Jose Aguirre Munos (**UPDATE:** reported "An apocalyptic day...Early in the morning I was at the airport when all of a sudden hell broke out: repeated shots were heard. A family in the neighborhood welcomed me into their home. I stayed there for eight hours while the fighting raged...Several Muslim shops were looted. Seleka are killing young Christians in all districts. We counted at least a hundred bodies in the streets. Every parish in the capital is welcoming up to 2000-3000 people. We are looking for food for these people but insecurity makes everything more difficult to obtain")

Archbishop Dieudonne Nzapalainga (**UPDATE:** rescued Bishop Juan Jose Aguirre Munos with the help of a contingent of African Mission in Central Africa [MISCA] soldiers)

Central African Republic: Fondo

Pastor Raymond Doui (aged 46, husband, father of 11 children, **killed** by Seleka fighters in his home)

Central African Republic

Pastor Elisée Zama (aged 33, husband, father of 5 children, **killed** by Seleka fighters during an attack on a hospital)

Central African Republic: Begoua

Pastor Jean-Louis Makamba (aged 48, husband, father of 10, **killed along with one son** by Selenka fighters during an attack on his church compound, rest of his family is in hiding after it became known that the rebels were targeting them also)

Central African Republic: Bouzoum

Fr Aurelio Gazzera OCD (**UPDATE**: reported that up to 400 persons spent the night at the Carmelite mission after "a few" shots were fired in the town)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/34855-AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA Apocalypse in Bangui says Mgr Aguirre to Fides#.UqP4ksKA1gs](http://www.fides.org/en/news/34855-<u>AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA Apocalypse in Bangui says Mgr Aguirre to Fides#.UqP4ksKA1gs</u>)
<http://www.charismanews.com/world/42097-3-pastors-among-dead-in-central-african-republic>
[http://www.fides.org/en/news/34858-AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA The testimony of two missionaries who welcome the displaced people fleeing violence#.UqP1_8KA1gs](http://www.fides.org/en/news/34858-<u>AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA The testimony of two missionaries who welcome the displaced people fleeing violence#.UqP1_8KA1gs</u>)



United Kingdom: London

Celestina Mba (told by the Employment Appeals Tribunal in **January 2013** that her London employer may require her to work on Sundays since not all Christians observe Sunday as free from work and therefore Sunday worship is not a 'core' belief of Christianity; **UPDATE**: the Court of Appeals ruled that the Employment Appeals Tribunal's ruling was in error and that as a matter of law Sunday observance is a valid and genuine expression of faith for many Christians, however the Court of Appeals also refused to retry the case and to overturn her dismissal)

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/religious-freedom/court-of-appeal-recognises-in-law-sunday-as-christian-rest-day>

Friday December 6, 2013



China: Shanghai

Bishop Thaddeus Ma Daqin (ordained as bishop on July 7, 2012, then disappeared after stating in his first homily that he would resign from the state-sponsored church; **UPDATE**: still detained, posted on his blog the request "Let's pray for the late Mandela!" and three quotes from Mandela's autobiography that appeared to apply to his own situation)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/The-Bishop-of-Shanghai,-under-house-arrest,-prays-for-Mandela-and-recalls-his-fight-for-freedom-29739.html>



Egypt: Minya province

Bishoy Armiya (Egypt's 'most famous' convert, arrested before December 5, 2013 in Minya province and charged with "inciting sedition by communicating to a US-based [Coptic] channel unfounded information on Copts persecution in Egypt"; **UPDATE**: attorney claims all charges were fabricated by the national security agency)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/2201-state-security-agency-fabricated-charges-against-convert-says-lawyer>



Libya: Benghazi

Ronald Smith II (aged 33, chemistry teacher, husband and father, **shot dead**, had likely been engaged in proselytism)

Anita Smith (wife of Ronald Smith)

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/american-killed-in-benghazi-believed-faith-would-guide-him/>



Central African Republic: Bangui

Fr Frederico Trincherio OCD (reported that about 2,000 persons moved into the Carmelite mission after shots were fired in the neighborhood, said "Now we are trying to give these people something to eat. But it will be difficult because we cannot go out to do some shopping")

Appolinaire Donoboy (one of thousands who sought refuge at the airport after French troops landed via helicopter, said "They [Seleka] are slaughtering us like chickens")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/34858->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA The testimony of two missionaries who welcome the displaced people fleeing violence#.UqP1_8KA1gs](http://www.fides.org/en/news/34858-)

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/french-operations-launch-central-african-rep>

Saturday December 7, 2013



Iraq: Bagdad

Jan Nabil Josiph Malakha (**killed**)

Jonny Yoaash Hormoz (**killed**)

Roni Kareem Ishak (**killed**)

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



Egypt: Minya province

Bishop Armiya (Egypt's 'most famous' convert, arrested before [December 5, 2013](#) in Minya province; **UPDATE**: ordered detained for 15 days for questioning on suspicion of inciting “chaos and sectarian strife” and of “transmitting a false image of persecution of Egypt's Copts”)

<http://www.voiceofthecoeps.org/index.php/categories/islam/11201-egypt-detains-coptic-christian-reporter>



Central African Republic: north of Bangui

Fr Anicet Assingambi (reported "The whole country is terrorized...There are five thousand people hiding in our parish buildings. A woman told me she'd seen her brother gunned down. All men are shot at if they go outside. There is a young man dead on the street outside, but it's too dangerous to go outside to remove his body...We have nothing to give them. Their homes have been looted. They're mourning their dead. When they arrived in the church, the children were crying. We sang hymns and said prayers and that

has helped calm people down. We have never seen anything as bad as this before. We're at the mercy of God, please pray for us")

Central African Republic: Bangui

Abbot Dieu-Beni Mbanga (Archdiocesan Chancellor, wrote that "Church structures continue to take in people who fear for their lives, including some Muslims who are afraid they will be the targets of revenge attacks by Christians who themselves have been the victims of reprisals at the hand of other Muslims, Seleka militants or others")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/34860->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA The whole country is terrorized new testimonies on the drama of Central Africa#.UqPy sKA1gs](http://www.fides.org/en/news/34860-)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/central-african-republic-mired-in-violence-amid-threat-of-genocide/>



Mexico: Toluca

Bishop Francisco Javier Chavolla (complained to the authorities about the criminal threats and extortions made against the Church)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/34859->

[AMERICA MEXICO The Church is not afraid of threats says the Bishop of Toluca#.UqP3scKA1gs](http://www.fides.org/en/news/34859-)

Sunday December 8, 2013



Iran: Tehran

Pastor Sargis Benyamin (ordered by authorities to prohibit Farsi speakers from attending his services)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7971:another-church-forced-to-close-its-doors-on-farsi-speaking-christians&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Central African Republic: Bangui

Elisee Zama (Bible translator, husband, father of young children, reported to have been **shot dead** while moving family members to a hospital compound for safety during the previous week)

Renee Lambert (country manager for Catholic Relief Service, reported that “there has been shooting on the streets and people hacked to death with machetes”)

<http://blog.godreports.com/2013/12/bible-translator-killed-in-central-african-republic/>
<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/central-african-republic-mired-in-violence-amid-threat-of-genocide/>

Monday December 9, 2013



Bangladesh: Dinajpur

Fr Franco Cagnasso (described how missionary activity has continued despite the growing unrest in the country)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/34865-ASIA_BANGLADESH_Among_social_and_political_unrest_missionary_activity_continues#.UqabiMKA1Lo



Kazakhstan: Komarovka village

Mikhail Milkin (stopped by police after leaving a religious service, books seized, **UPDATE:** fined 50 MFIs or 86,550 Tenge, has appealed)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1915



Sudan: Kober Prison, Khartoum

Zawengel Abraham Mikael (aged 41, deacon, husband and father, told in May 2013 that President Omar el-Bashir had revoked his citizenship and ordered him to leave the country, has applied to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for refugee status, was

awaiting an answer from the UNHCR when NISS agents arrested him without charge on October 26, 2013; **UPDATE:** still in detention, has been allowed only one family visit)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2013/12/sudan-revokes-citizenship-of-christian-jails-him-for-failing-to-leave-country/>



Central African Republic: Bangui

Bishop Juan Jose Aguirre Munos (**UPDATE:** reported that "The airport has finally reopened and I hope soon to be able to return to my diocese tomorrow or maybe the day after tomorrow. Taxis are circulating and shops are reopening. But there are still thousands of people in parishes, where food is scarce. During the night, safety is not guaranteed. The other night, some boys from displaced families ventured in their neighborhoods to see what the situation was like, but they were intercepted by some men of Seleka who killed them...there has been no violence in Bangassou and the situation is normal to the point that schools have reopened. This is due to the fact that the men of Seleka in Bangassou remained calm and did not try to take revenge on civilians for what was happening in the capital")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/34868->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA The situation in Bangui is slowly normalizing but t here are still thousands of refugees in parishes#.UqaaG8KA1Lo](#)

Tuesday December 10, 2013



Syria

Bishop Louka al-Khoury (**UPDATE:** denied that he had called on Christians to take up arms to defend themselves, urged people to be wary of media reports)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/34899->

[ASIA SYRIA Greek Orthodox Bishop Khoury I have never urged Christians to ta ke_up_arms#.UqvdsOsKA1Lo](#)



Egypt

Rev Dr Safwat al Bayadi (**UPDATE**: member of the constitutional committee, said after the Islamist clauses had been removed that "Christians have freedom of belief and practice. And for the first time in the history of Egypt's constitutions, building churches becomes a right")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20131210173608.htm>



Central African Republic

Abel Nguerefara (expressed his hopes on the arrival of foreign peacekeepers: “Thanks to France and the United Nations who want to save the Central Africans, soon the Seleka attacks on civilians will stop. We have had enough of Seleka killing, raping and stealing”)

<http://barnabasfund.org/UK/News/News-analysis/Christians-killed-like-flies-in-worst-outbreak-of-violence-since-CAR-coup.html>

Wednesday December 11, 2013



China: Nanle County, Henan

Zhang Shanshan (daughter of Pastor Zhang Xiaojie, reported on the continuing detention of her father and 21 other Christians that began on November 17, 2013, and on the closure of the church building)

Fan Ruiling (detained with Pastor Zhang Xiaojie and 20 other Christians; **UPDATE**: sick from the cold conditions in jail)

China: Tangshan, Hebei province

Bishop Emeritus Liu Jinghe (aged 92, **died of natural causes**, imprisoned 6 years and had spent 10 years in reform-through-labor working in factories and a quarry)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/12/nanle-county-christian-church-spends.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hebei,-death-of-emeritus-bishop-of-Tangshan-29800.html>



India: New Delhi

Mass arrests of priests, pastors, and nuns who were demonstrating for equal rights for Dalit [untouchable] Christians and Muslims, several were beaten by police

Archbishop Anil JT Couto (arrested)

Alwan Masih (general secretary of the Church of North India, **UPDATE**: arrested)

Dr Roger Gaikwad (National Council of Churches in India, arrested)

Prof Mary John (National Council of Dalit Christians President, **UPDATE**: arrested)

A C Michael (Delhi Minorities Commission member, arrested)

Dr John Dayal (All India Christian Council Secretary General; **UPDATE**: arrested)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/New-Delhi:-archbishop,-priests-and-nuns-arrested-during-peaceful-demonstration-29785.html>



Iran: Ghezal Hesar Prison

Pastor Behnam Irani (husband of Kristina Irani, father of two; **UPDATE**: no longer allowed to walk in the prison yard or to communicate with other prisoners)

<http://www.assistnews.net/Stories/2013/s13120090.htm>



Syria

Archbishop Selwanos Boutros Alnemeh (**UPDATE**: called for the release of the 12 nuns and the 2 bishops being held by Islamic militants)

Syria: Hassake

Archbishop Jacques Behnan Hindo (**UPDATE**: expressed disagreement with Bishop Louka al-Khoury's reported call for Christians to take up arms to defend themselves)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20131211145744.htm>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/34888->

[ASIA_SYRIA_Archbishop_Hindo_inciting_Christians_to_take_up_arms_is_insane#.Uqk8CMKA1Lo](http://www.fides.org/en/news/34888-ASIA_SYRIA_Archbishop_Hindo_inciting_Christians_to_take_up_arms_is_insane#.Uqk8CMKA1Lo)



Nigeria: Tixkan village, Barkin Ladi, Plateau state

Garos Bitrus (**killed** by Muslim Fulani gunmen)

Nzang Bitrus (**killed** by Muslim Fulani gunmen)

Davou Bitrus (**killed** by Muslim Fulani gunmen)

Simon Magit (**killed** by Muslim Fulani gunmen)

Rev Pam Jang Pam (**UPDATE**: reported on the murders of Garos Bitrus, Nzang Bitrus, Davou Bitrus, and Simon Magit)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2013/12/islamic-terrorist-groups-influence-on-herdsmen-seen-as-12-more-christians-die-in-plateau-state-nigeria/>

Thursday December 12, 2013



Malaysia: Kuching, Sarawak

Pastor James Ganie (supported a meeting of more than 10,000 Christians in support of religious freedom despite growing intolerance)

Dr James Masing (Sarawak state minister, responding to the decision by the Court of Appeal said: "We [Christians in Sabah and Sarawak] have been using the word Allah for over 100 years. Why suddenly are we now told we cannot use it?")

Bishop Bolly Lapok (criticized the ban on Christian use of the word 'Allah')

Malaysia: Sabah

Bishop Dr Thomas Tsen Lip Tet (criticized the ban on Christian use of the word 'Allah')

<http://www.charismanews.com/world/42071-christians-in-malaysia-report-dangerous-levels-of-religious-intolerance>



Pakistan: Karachi

"R" (aged 26, sister of Bernard Peter, abducted and beaten in an attempt to find his whereabouts, gang raped when she refused, police refused to file a report except against 'unknown assailants')

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/christian-sanitary-workers-forcefully-expelled-from-their-homes-in-karachi/>

Friday December 13, 2013



Indonesia: Cimahi, West Java

Rev Titus (church closed by the authorities for operating without a permit, has received constant telephone calls from the police)

Indonesia: Papanan Dermolo village, Jepara county, central Java

Pastor Teofilus Tumijan (described how his congregation had to move from their new church due to threats of violence)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2013/12/pastors-in-west-java-indonesia-struggle-with-church-closures/>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/01/beleagured-church-in-indonesia-forced-out-of-its-building/>



Pakistan; Lahore

Dr Nazir Bhatti (**UPDATE**: criticized the Punjab state government for accepting payment from the Archdiocese of Lahore to buy back St Francis School and then refusing to return title to the property back to the archdiocese)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4627>



Central African Republic

Rev Nicolas Guerekoyame-Gbangou (**UPDATE**: reported to have sheltered 20,000 people in his church who had sought refuge from Seleka fighters)

<http://www.charismanews.com/world/42097-3-pastors-among-dead-in-central-african-republic>

Saturday December 14, 2013



India: Mumbai

Nagma (convert, actress, threatened with "a lesson VHP-style" - the VHP is a Hindu nationalist party - after publishing her conversion story)

Johnny Lever (convert, actor, threatened with "a lesson VHP-style" - the VHP is a Hindu nationalist party - after publishing his conversion story)

<http://www.christiantoday.co.in/articles/VHP-threatens-actors-Nagma-Johnny/7896.htm>



Iraq

Patriarch Louis Sako (**UPDATE:** said in [Rome, Italy](#) of the continuing persecution of Christians "We feel forgotten and isolated. We sometimes wonder, if they kill us all, what would be the reaction of Christians in the West? Would they do something then?")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20131215171608.htm>



Turkey: Istanbul

David Byle (aged 44, Canadian-U.S. citizen, husband and father of five, denied a residency permit and has filed suit in response, denial most likely due to his evangelical activities)

http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2013/12/article_2893297.html/



Ukraine: Sevastopol, Crimea

Oleg Maximov (doused with water while street preaching, perpetrator apologized)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue22047.html>



Nigeria: Gwol village, Barkin Ladi, Plateau state

Chom Philip (aged 23, shot by Muslim Fulani gunmen while purchasing a cell phone card, crawled under a parked car to escape, saw two Christians killed, hospitalized, father Philip Gyang Pam killed by Muslim gunmen in 2001)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2013/12/islamic-terrorist-groups-influence-on-herdsmen-seen-as-12-more-christians-die-in-plateau-state-nigeria/>

Sunday December 15, 2013



China: Beijing

Pastor Zhang Mingxuan (president of the Chinese Association of Christian Family Churches;

UPDATE: reported on persecution in eight provinces, said he and his wife were accosted by police “As soon as I arrived in Beijing, I was restricted by them and I couldn’t leave the house. They also wouldn’t process my passport. I will sue them”)

China: Eran town, Neihung county, Henan province

Ms Wei (reported on a police raid on the service in her home that was attended by 80-90 people, told that they will be arrested in the next raid)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/12/house-churches-across-china-experience.html>



India: Mumbai

Cardinal Oswald Gracias (**UPDATE:** condemned the vandalism of a 133 year old crucifix)

Fr Theodore Fernandes (condemned the vandalism of a 133 year old crucifix at his parish)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Ancient-Mumbai-crucifix-desecrated.-Card-Gracias-:-A-wound-for-the-entire-population-29820.html>



Pakistan: Islamabad

Salamat Bhatti (stopped on August 31, 2013 near his home by a motorcyclist with a pistol, threatened with death if he did not stop defending 'poor Christian women', police saw the

incident and the motorcyclist fled; **UPDATE:** home invaded by 5 Muslims, brother Karamat beaten)

Karamat Bhatti (beaten by 5 Muslims during an invasion of his brother Salamat's home)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4643>



Iran: Karaj

Pastor Behnam Irani (**UPDATE:** home raided by intelligence authorities while he is in prison, laptop and Christian material seized, five year old son followed the authorities around the house asking "Do you want to arrest my mom as well? Do you want to take her away too?" and vomited from the stress)

Kristina Irani (wife of Pastor Behnam Irani, mother of two, home raided by security forces, verbally abused in front of her children, laptop and Christian literature seized)

Silas Rabbani (home raided by security forces)

Amin Khaki (home raided by security forces)

<http://www.assistnews.net/Stories/2013/s13120090.htm>

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7952:intelligence-authorities-raided-a-non-trinitarian-christians-home&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Iraq: Doura suburb, Bagdad

Isaac Napoleon (brother and son killed by terrorists, said "I will leave whenever I can. Christians are finished here in Iraq")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20131215171314.htm>



Vatican City

Pope Francis aka Jorge Mario Bergoglio SJ (**UPDATE:** said "For me ecumenism is a priority. Today there is an ecumenism of blood. In some countries they kill Christians for wearing a cross or having a Bible and before they kill them they do not ask them whether they are Anglican, Lutheran, Catholic or Orthodox. Their blood is mixed. To those who kill we are Christians. This is what ecumenism of blood is. It still exists today; you just need to

read the newspapers. Those who kill Christians don't ask for your identity card to see which Church you were baptized in. We need to take these facts into consideration. We are united in blood, even though we have not yet managed to take necessary steps towards unity between us and perhaps the time has not yet come. Unity is a gift that we need to ask for")

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/pope-francis-christians-worldwide-are-united-in-blood/>

Monday December 16, 2013



China: Zizhou county, Shaanxi province

Feng Tiandong (detained, denied legal and family visits)

Jiang Mao (detained, denied legal and family visits)

Zhang Baolin (detained, denied legal and family visits)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/12/house-churches-across-china-experience.html>



India: Avaraikulam village, Tamil Nadu state

Pastor Joseph Thomas (husband of Merlin, attacked by more than 30 Hindu nationalists during a Bible study attended by 45, beaten, church burned to the ground)

Merlin (wife of Pastor Joseph Thomas, attacked by more than 30 Hindu nationalists during a Bible study attended by 45, beaten, hospitalized)

<http://www.bosnewslife.com/31451-india-pastor-wife-survive-arson-attack-on-evangelical-church>



Pakistan: Lahore

Pastor Adnan Prince (aged 25, accused of blasphemy on [October 7, 2013](#) by Muslim clerics who are members of Jamait-ul Dawa (JUD) - an affiliate of al-Qaida; **UPDATE**: described being tortured in jail: "The police were on the verge of killing me after I surrendered to

them, but God kept me safe by His grace. When I came to my senses [after one round of torture], I was told that a heavy machine would be rolled over my thighs, which would not only be painful but would render me permanently impotent. Then the deputy superintendent of police pushed the barrel of a pistol into my mouth and told me to confess that I had written abusive words in the book. He said he would count to three and that if I didn't confess, he would pull the trigger")

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2013/12/2891083/>



Syria: Aleppo

Msgr Giuseppe Nazzaro, OFM (**UPDATE**: described the Islamic militant takeover of another Christian village: "In Kanaye, they have not imposed on the population to leave but to live according to the Islamic law. This could be the first step: tomorrow they will force them to convert to Islam")

Syria: Damascus

Archbishop Samir Nassar (**UPDATE**: said "Jesus is not alone in his misery. The Syrian children, abandoned and marked by scenes of violence, dream of being in Jesus' place, who always has his parents around him and fondle him...Some envy the divine Child who found a stable where to be born and have shelter, while among these unfortunate children there are those who were born under the bombs")

Hanna (wife and mother; **UPDATE**: wrote "We will have some special prayers in church, but we don't have any decorations. Having Christmas decorations outside the church would provoke the terrorist attacks. They already send the Christians a message — [t]hey have special 'Christmas gifts' prepared for us: three bombed-out cars. We don't know what to expect next...It has been quiet the last week; we only rarely hear the sounds of bombs anymore. It is what we have been praying and fasting for. But I feel strange and I don't know why. It's like this is the silence before the storm and they are waiting to suddenly attack us...Last week I went to the market to get some hats, socks and candy for the kids in our church. Normally we would buy them some games, but toys are way too expensive now. At least they will have something to keep them warm. That's more important than toys in this situation. I want to give those gifts to the children and hope that they will know that Jesus still loves them, no matter what's going on around us. Please keep praying for us")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/34907->

[ASIA SYRIA Kanaye another Christian village invaded by jihadists that impose the Islamic law#.Uq_bXMKA1Lo](http://www.fides.org/en/news/34907-ASIA_SYRIA_Kanaye_another_Christian_village_invaded_by_jihadists_that_impose_the_Islamic_law#.Uq_bXMKA1Lo)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/34913->

[ASIA SYRIA Archbishop Nassar Syrian children envy the stable where Jesus was born#.Uq_aCsKA1Lo](http://www.fides.org/en/news/34913-ASIA_SYRIA_Archbishop_Nassar_Syrian_children_envy_the_stable_where_Jesus_was_born#.Uq_aCsKA1Lo)

<http://www.charismanews.com/opinion/42102-no-christmas-celebration-for-christians-suffering-in-damascus>



Lebanon: Beirut

Fr Simon Faddoul (President of Caritas Lebanon; **UPDATE**: said of the 800,000 Syrian refugees now in the country: "The situation in the Bekaa Valley is terrible. Many people are dying because of the exceptionally cold weather. Refugees have only tents and shacks to protect themselves from the cold and the snow...Mothers are trying to keep their children warm by building bonfires inside the huts. This is highly risky. Last night, in a camp in southern Lebanon, a small fire spread from one hut to the entire camp, killing a one-year-old baby, and injuring a number of people")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Caritas-Lebanon,-thousands-of-Syrian-refugees-could-die-from-the-cold-and-the-snow-29826.html>



Hungary

Pastor Gabor Ivanyi (condemned the government's moves to investigate "whether the [Methodist Evangelical] church complies with its own beliefs and rituals, and whether the church has maintained an active congregation over the past 20 years")

<http://www.bosnewslife.com/31407-news-alert-hungarian-government-investigates-evangelicals-us-concerned>

Tuesday December 17, 2013



Vietnam: Ayun municipality, Kontum province

Fr Tran Si Tin CSSR (reported on Communist Party attacks on Christians delivering Christmas presents)

Kpuih Bop Plei Chep (beaten and tortured by the Communist Party leadership for delivering Christmas presents, hospitalized with multiple internal injuries)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Vietnamese-Catholics-attacked-while-carrying-Christmas-gifts-to-orphans-29919.html>



China: Tangshan

Bishop Emeritus Paul Liu Jinghe (aged 92, died of natural causes on [December 11, 2013](#);
UPDATE: demanded that he be buried in a cemetery that had been taken by the government in the 1950s, church refused to hold the funeral for the bishop until the cemetery is returned, government is taking clergy into custody for questioning)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/china-government-church-standoff-over-bishops-burial/69938>



Nigeria

Deborah Stephen (aged 28, mother of Promise and Mary, daughter of Titi Gyang, was away on a business trip when her village was attacked)

Promise Stephen (aged 4, son of Deborah Stephen, **killed** by Muslim Fulani gunmen in body armor and camouflage)

Mary Stephen (aged 6, daughter of Deborah Stephen, wounded by Muslim Fulani gunmen, in critical condition, has had two surgeries)

Miracle Ishaya (aged 2, **killed** by Muslim Fulani gunmen in body armor and camouflage)

Bidami Ishaya (aged 10, **killed** by Muslim Fulani gunmen in body armor and camouflage)

Jerry Dalyop (aged 8, **killed** by Muslim Fulani gunmen in body armor and camouflage)

Izine Emeka (aged 6, **killed** by Muslim Fulani gunmen in body armor and camouflage)

John David (aged 30, **killed** by Muslim Fulani gunmen)

Dalyop Gyang (aged 40, wounded by Muslim Fulani gunmen)

Titi Gyang (aged 65, mother of Deborah Stephen, wounded by Muslim Fulani gunmen)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2013/12/islamic-terrorist-groups-influence-on-herdsmen-seen-as-12-more-christians-die-in-plateau-state-nigeria/>



United States – Oklahoma: Norman

Toby Harmon (spat upon by an abortion clinic customer, threatened with being shot)

Jeremy Brown (punched by an abortion clinic customer, threatened with being shot)

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/youre-lucky-i-didnt-have-my-pistol-video-shows-pro-lifers-violently-attacke>

Wednesday December 18, 2013



China: Xiaodian district, Taiyuan, Shanxi province

Ren Lacheng (convicted on June 17, 2013 of illegally operating a business [his bookstore], sentenced to five years imprisonment; **UPDATE**: sentence upheld on appeal)

Li Wenxi (bookseller, husband of Li Caihong and father of two, arrested and beaten, convicted on June 17, 2013 of illegally operating a business [his bookstore], sentenced to two years imprisonment; **UPDATE**: sentence upheld on appeal)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/12/original-verdict-upheld-after-second.html>



Bangladesh: Dhaka

Nirmal Rozario (general secretary of the Bangladesh Christian Association, asked the government to protect Christians during Christmas)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Catholics-call-on-Bangladesh-government-to-protect-churches-at-Christmas-29867.html>



Kazakhstan: Oral

Nikolai Novikov (arrested on November 10, 2013 at an unregistered Sunday religious service; **UPDATE**: fined 50 MFIs)

Andrei Labinsky (arrested on November 10, 2013 at an unregistered Sunday religious service; **UPDATE**: fined 50 MFIs)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1915



Nigeria: Sasawa village, Gwoza LGA, Borno state

Pastor Luka Bitrus (moved his congregation after a Boko Haram attack)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/02/boko-haram-islamists-massacre-christian-villagers-in-borno-state-nigeria/>

Thursday December 19, 2013



Uzbekistan

Pastor Mikhail Neizvestny (home searched by NSS secret police and religious items seized)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1958



Syria: Qamishli

Gabriel Mushi Gowriyeh (detained by government security forces)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20131220182337.htm>

Friday December 20, 2013



Pakistan: Karachi

Dr Nazir S Bhatti (**UPDATE:** said “Christians in Pakistan are preparing for Christmas celebrations under fear after Peshawar Church attack”, demanded additional security)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4635>



Kazakhstan: Oral

Vladimir Trifonov (arrested on [November 10, 2013](#) at an unregistered Sunday religious service;
UPDATE: fined 50 MFIs)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1915

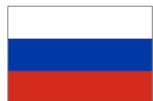


Egypt

Demiana Ayoub Gad EL-Sayed Abdel Massih (aged 14, abducted while on her way home from tutoring on [May 17, 2011](#), **UPDATE:** still missing despite creditable reports as to her location)

Peter Mikhail (attorney for the family of Demiana Ayoub Gad EL-Sayed Abdel Massih)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/2241-ismailia-authorities-mishandled-coptic-minor-abduction-case-family-lawyer>



Russia

Aleksandr Bannykh (fined 20,000 roubles - US\$600 – on [November 8, 2013](#) in [Buzuluk district, Orenburg](#) oblast for conducting a public event without permission after passing out religious literature and preaching; **UPDATE:** fine overturned on appeal)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1920

Saturday December 21, 2013



China: Nanle County, Henan

Zhang "Shanshan" Linxin (daughter of Pastor Zhang Xiaojie, **UPDATE:** disappeared with Ren Tiantang and Fan Ruimin, possibly abducted)

Ren Tiantang (disappeared with Zhang "Shanshan" Linxin and Fan Ruimin, possibly abducted)

Fan Ruimin (disappeared with Zhang "Shanshan" Linxin and Ren Tiantang, possibly abducted)

Wang Fengrui (wife of Pastor Zhang Xiaojie, mother of Zhang "Shanshan" Linxin, home invaded by over 30 unidentified persons, pushed to the floor along with her mother-in-law, police now guard the doors and prevent anyone from entering)

Cai Ren (detained after a raid by unidentified persons on the home of Pastor Zhang Xiaojie)

http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/12/update-nanle-county-christian-church_23.html



Nigeria: Makurdi, Benue state

Archbishop Yiman Orkwar (**UPDATE:** said "From all indications, the terrorism being witnessed in the country is purely in pursuit of Jihad. In Benue state, Fulani terrorists in collaboration with Boko Haram and other foreign mercenaries are causing wanton destruction of lives and property")

Nigeria: Barkin Ladi, Plateau state

Emmanuel Loman (said that months of attacks on Christians have devastated their communities)

Nigeria

Pastor Augustine Igor (aged 40, is supplying displaced Christians with food and clothing, said "We will continue to pray and hope that someday God will hear our prayers and bring these attacks on Christians to an end")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2013/12/islamic-terrorist-groups-influence-on-herdsmen-seen-as-12-more-christians-die-in-plateau-state-nigeria/>

Sunday December 22, 2013



Vietnam

Ngo Van Khoi (aged 53, arrested for "disturbing the public order" on May 22, 2013, sentenced to seven months imprisonment on October 25, 2013; **UPDATE:** released from prison)

Nguyen Van Hai (aged 43, arrested for "disturbing the public order" on May 22, 2013, sentenced to seven months imprisonment on October 25, 2013; **UPDATE:** released from prison)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Vinh:-Christmas-celebration-for-the-release-of-two-Catholics,-jailed-for-defending-religious-freedom-29978.html>



Belarus: Gomel

Deacon Andrei Tupalsky (**UPDATE**: home raided by police during a worship service, charged with holding an 'unauthorized mass public event')

Oleg Danilevsky (preached a sermon during the police raid, charged with holding an 'unauthorized mass public event', Bible seized)

Pastor Aleksandr Zolotorev (charged with holding an 'unauthorized mass public event')

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1914

Monday December 23, 2013



Indonesia: Bandung, West Java

Pastor Sura Purba Saputra (described how his church was closed by the authorities only five months after its completion and how it could not be used for Christmas this year)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2013/12/pastors-in-west-java-indonesia-struggle-with-church-closures/>



China: Zizhou county, Shaanxi province

Feng Tiandong (detained on [December 16, 2013](#), denied legal and family visits; **UPDATE**: charged with "organizing and using an evil cult to obstruct the law")

Jiang Mao (detained on [December 16, 2013](#), denied legal and family visits; **UPDATE**: charged with "organizing and using an evil cult to obstruct the law")

Zhang Baolin (detained on [December 16, 2013](#), denied legal and family visits; **UPDATE**: charged with "organizing and using an evil cult to obstruct the law")

China: Xucheng town, Xuyi county, Jiangsu province

Li Guangfang (arrested and sentenced for 5 days detention for "preaching the Gospel on Christmas Day")

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/12/families-of-detained-shaanxi-believers.html>
<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/03/jiangsu-woman-submits-administrative.html>



Nepal

Ganga Lama Tamang (convert, home burned in an arson attack by nine Hindu extremists)

Lama Bahadur Tamang (convert, home burned in an arson attack by nine Hindu extremists)

Lama Bokta (convert, home burned in an arson attack by nine Hindu extremists)

Bikram Lama (convert, home burned in an arson attack by nine Hindu extremists)

Pastor Chari Bahadur Gahatraj (**UPDATE**: said after the homes of four Christian converts had been burned "The authorities are reluctant to meet our requests and are ignoring cases when the victims are Christian")

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/nepal.christian.homes.and.church.in.arson.attack/35324.htm>



Pakistan

Rashid Mehmood (convert, former attorney, preacher, **shot dead**)

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/losing.life.after.converting.to.christianity/35955.htm>



Azerbaijan: Sheki

Aziz Aliyev (**UPDATE**: conviction and fine upheld on appeal)

Havva Aliyeva (**UPDATE**: conviction and fine upheld on appeal)

Jeyhun Aliyev (**UPDATE**: conviction and fine upheld on appeal)

Vagif Aliyev (**UPDATE**: conviction and fine upheld on appeal)

Gamar Aliyeva (**UPDATE**: conviction and fine upheld on appeal)

Yevdokiya Sobko (**UPDATE**: conviction and fine upheld on appeal)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1926



Egypt: Tarshoub village, Beni Suef province

Fr Malak Shehata (described how the Muslim Brotherhood attempted to veto the appointment of a new priest to a church and then rioted to stop a 'reconciliation' meeting, church closed)

Magdy Fathi Rizk (truck burned during the Muslim Brotherhood rioting)

Badr Maher (store burned during the Muslim Brotherhood rioting)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20131227164842.htm>

Tuesday December 24, 2013



China: Beigang village, Qianxi county, Tangshan, Hebei province

Bishop Emeritus Paul Liu Jinghe (aged 92, **died of natural causes** on **December 11, 2013**, demanded that he be buried in a Tangshan cemetery that had been taken by the government in the 1950s, church refused on **December 17, 2013** to hold the funeral for the bishop until the cemetery is returned; **UPDATE**: buried after the government agreed to buy a new plot for the diocese)

China: Langzhong, Sichuan

Li Mingbo (house church employee, fined US\$82 for organizing a Christmas gathering, sentenced to 15 days administrative detention when he refused to pay the fine)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/china-church-government-row-ends-as-bishop-is-buried/69974>
<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/01/sichuan-house-church-employees-denied.html>



Pakistan: Kot Lakhpat jail, Lahore

Christian inmates beaten by Muslim prisoners

Aftab (prison inmate, beaten)

Rehmat Yaqoob (prison inmate, beaten)

Karamat Shahana (prison inmate, beaten)

Parvaiz Masih (prison inmate, beaten)

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/657078/prisoners-clash-33-kot-lakhpat-inmates-isolated-after-clash/#.UtQ0pz00x7Q.facebook>



Iran: east Tehran

Mr Hosseini (arrested with four other Christians while celebrating Christmas in his home)

Ahmad Bazyar (arrested with four other Christians while celebrating Christmas in the home of Mr Hosseini)

Faegheh Nasrollahi (arrested with four other Christians while celebrating Christmas in the home of Mr Hosseini)

Mastaneh Rastegari (arrested with four other Christians while celebrating Christmas in the home of Mr Hosseini)

Amir-Hossein Ne'matollahi (arrested with four other Christians while celebrating Christmas in the home of Mr Hosseini)

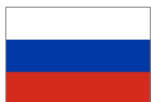
http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7963:iranian-christian-converts-arrested-as-they-celebrated-christmas&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Iraq: Bagdad

William Warda (human rights activist; **UPDATE:** said that 10-20 Christians were leaving the country each day just hours before two car bombs exploded in Christian neighborhoods, killing at least 34)

<http://www.ecumenicalnews.com/article/another-dark-christmas-for-iraqs-christians-22645>



Russia

Dima Vatoulya (told by the government that it will not issue a license for New Life Radio and that it must cease broadcasts over the Tricolor satellite by [February 1, 2014](#))

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue22280.html>



Germany: Cologne

Cardinal Joachim Meisner (said to his congregation after a topless FEMEN protester jumped onto the altar during the Christmas vigil Mass "I'm 80 years old. I've lived through so much. First the Nazi period, then the entire Communist period. Something like this can't shock me after that")

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/topless-pro-abort-fined-1500-after-jumping-on-altar-during-cologne-cathedral>



Nigeria

Rt Rev Peter Akinola (aged 68 [2012], the former primate of the Anglican Church, **UPDATE:** abducted by "hoodlums" along with his driver after delivering food for church workers, threatened with death, driven for hours into the bush, released without shirt or shoes)

Jonah (driver for Rt Rev Peter Akinola, abducted by "hoodlums" along with the archbishop after delivering food for church workers, threatened with death, driven for hours into the bush, released without shirt, shoes, and pants, hospitalized)

<http://pmnewsnigeria.com/2013/12/25/primate-akinola-my-abductors-took-my-shoes-my-shirt/>



Belize

Brian Townsend (Canadian missionary, abducted)

<http://news.adventist.org/all-news/news/go/2014-01-06/missing-canadian-adventist-missionary-confirmed-dead-media-reports-say/>

Wednesday December 25, 2013

Christmas – Western Calendar



Indonesia: Curug, West Bogor, West Java

Dori Susanto (aged 60, attended Christmas service in a makeshift shelter due to the local government's 2006 closure of the GKI Yasmin church, said “We do the right thing and we are not afraid”)

Nathan Setiabudi (presided at the GKI Yasmin Christmas service in a makeshift shelter)

Bona Sigalingging (church spokesman, **UPDATE**: said “Underground religious activities are actually a message for the government that in this democratic country, there is still the discriminatory practice of sealing religious places”)

Ngatwono (aged 57, attended Christmas service in a makeshift shelter due to the local government's 2006 closure of the GKI Yasmin church, said he hoped that a new mayor would implement the Supreme Court's rulings in favor of the church)

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/news/bogor-congregation-celebrates-christmas-in-temporary-shelter-hopes-for-shuttered-church-remain-strong/>



Pakistan: Peshawar

Shaukat Ghulam (in mourning at Christmas for his brother William Ghulam, nephew Noel William, and niece Merab William, all killed in the [September 22, 2013](#) bombing of All Saints Church)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/bleak-christmas-at-the-all-saints-church/>



Kazakhstan: Taldykorgan, Almaty region

Yuri Rudenko (led a religious service raided by police, later charged with leading an unregistered religious service, **UPDATE**: fined 100 MFIs or 173,000 Tenge)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1915



Syria: Aleppo

Bishop Antoine Audo SJ (**UPDATE**: spoke of attacks on Christmas Day which killed over 500 people)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Aleppo-archbishop:-The-Church-is-helping-everyone-without-distinction-of-religion-or-faction-29926.html>



Kenya: Mombasa

Moses Andayi (church destroyed by arson, graffiti on the gate associated with the MRC secessionist movement)

<http://www.firstpost.com/world/kenyan-police-seek-youths-over-christmas-day-church-burnings-1308953.html>



Nigeria: Pompomari, Borno state

Comfort Isuwa (said "I am very glad to tell the world that we, the Christian faithful in Borno, have in all peace witnessed a glorious Christmas. We peacefully held our services, paid congratulatory visits to one another and exchanged gifts")

Nigeria: Kano, Kano state

Bishop Ransom Bello (**UPDATE**: said "This year's Christmas celebration is very peaceful and better than that of the previous year. The peace attained may not be unconnected with the security beef up and the state government's commitment in ensuring that lives and property are protected")

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201312260718.html>

Thursday December 26, 2013



Pakistan

"Rebecca" (daughter of a Christian pastor, abducted and forced into Islamic marriage, mother of "Sarah")

"Sarah" (daughter of "Rebecca", converted to Christianity at age 19 after her mother explained that she was abused within the family because she was a Christian, fled after a marriage had been arranged with a cousin, abducted by her cousin, tied to a wall and beaten and raped, escaped after a doctor's visit, married "Samuel", mother of "John", now a refugee in Thailand)

"Samuel" (husband of "Sarah", father of "John", almost killed in a beating for having married a Muslim apostate, now a refugee in Thailand)

<http://www.raymondibrahim.com/islam/kidnapped-raped-and-forced-to-flee-christian-experiences-in-pakistan/>



Uzbekistan: Tashkent

Pastor Mikhail Neizvestny (home searched by NSS secret police on [December 19, 2013](#), religious items seized, **UPDATE:** fined US \$400 for "illegally storing" religious literature)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1958



Vatican City

Pope Francis aka Jorge Mario Bergoglio SJ (**UPDATE:** spoke on the Feast of St Stephen "In martyrdom, violence is conquered by love, death by life. The Church sees in the sacrifice of the martyrs their 'birth in heaven'...Therefore, today, we pray in a special way for Christians who are discriminated against for their witness to Christ and the Gospel. We are close to these brothers and sisters who, like St. Stephen, are unjustly accused and subjected to various types of violence. I am sure that, unfortunately, they are more numerous today than in the early days of the Church. There are so many! This occurs especially where religious freedom is not guaranteed or not fully developed. It also occurs in countries and areas who, on paper protect freedom and human rights, but where in fact believers, and especially Christians, find limitations and discrimination. I would like to ask you all to pray for a moment in silence for these brothers and sisters")

<http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/on-the-feast-of-st-stephen--2>



Morocco: Fez

Mohamed El Baladi (aged 34, convert, arrested in Ain Aicha, Taounate region on August 28, 2013 and sentenced on September 2, 2013 to 2.5 years in prison and fined US\$600 for evangelism and shaking the faith of a Muslim; **UPDATE:** appellate court hearing held, verdict expected February 6, 2014)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2013/12/appeal-by-moroccan-convert-from-islam-sentenced-for-proselytism-expected-feb-6/>



Mali: Bamako

Noel Somboro (expressed concern that Islamist attacks on Christians will begin again after French troops are withdrawn)

Michel Diarra (aged 30, told of how his friends who are 90% Muslim celebrate Christmas together following customs that predated the Islamists)

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2013/12/25/mali-christmas-muslims/4198045/>

Thursday December 27, 2013



China: Nanle County, Henan

Zhang "Shanshan" Linxin (daughter of Pastor Zhang Xiaojie, disappeared with Ren Tiantang and Fan Ruimin, possibly abducted; **UPDATE**: released from detention)

Ren Tiantang (disappeared with Zhang "Shanshan" Linxin and Fan Ruimin, possibly abducted; **UPDATE**: released from detention)

Fan Ruimin (disappeared with Zhang "Shanshan" Linxin and Ren Tiantang, possibly abducted; **UPDATE**: released from detention)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/01/believers-from-nanle-county-christian.html>



Palestine

Suzy (aged 22, denied permission by Israel to travel from Gaza to Bethlehem at Christmas)

Samer (aged 30, denied permission by Israel to travel from Gaza to Bethlehem at Christmas)

<http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/gaza-christians-denied-entry-to-bethlehem-for-christmas>

Friday December 28, 2013



Iraq: Ankawa district, Erbil city, Kurdistan

Rostom Sefarian (aged 63, recounted the beatings and attempted forced conversion to Islam he suffered during his 2006 abduction, that and his 2005 abduction cost his family US\$84,000 in ransom, wife's cousin also abducted but found dead)

Keldo Ramzi (secretary of the Chaldo-Assyrian Youth Union, spoke on how Christians are targeted because “We are the weakest link in the Iraqi mosaic”)

Naurad Youssif (aged 41, postal worker, stated that Christians are being bought out of their homes “They are building new, very expensive apartment towers that nobody here will be able to afford. Christians here are a poor community and those apartments will not be for us”)

Farouk Anna Atto (director of the Ankawa Syriac Heritage Museum, said “If political Islam will take control of the government here, I don’t know what might happen to us in 50 years”)

Sr Afnan de Jesus (aged 43, convert, supports church opposition to plans to create a Christian separatist enclave)

Savina Rafael Daoud (aged 22, said “If we reclaim our rights under the name of Christianity we will be very weak, because churches cannot interfere with governments”)

Salim Kako (politician, said “Christians are not very brave here. Yes, there are problems to solve, but this doesn’t mean we should leave this country. We cannot look for the shadow all our life. We have to go under the sun and fight for our rights”)

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/features/a-persecuted-people-face-life-in-exile/story-e6frg6z6-1226790834249#>



Nigeria: Yashan-Alede village and Kwajffa village, Borno state

Yohana Jafa (schoolteacher, commented that Boko Haram attacks which killed at least 12 - including at least 8 at a wedding reception - came only hours after their leader "clearly stated that his war is against Christians")

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/world-news/nigeria-gunmen-target-christians-29875664.html>

Saturday December 29, 2013



India: Jashpur town, Chhatisgarh

Pastor Lalit Kumar (Aged 35, husband of Meena, father of four, Worship service interrupted by police, illegally detained)

Meena Kumar (wife of Pastor Lalit Kumar, gave birth to their fourth child while her husband was in illegal detention)

<http://www.christiantoday.co.in/articles/pastor-illegally-continue-to-jailed-for-the-past-25-days-in-chhattisgarh/7934.htm>



Kenya: Siunta village, Samburu county

Ezekiel Lenato (aged 35, husband of Susan, raising two nephews orphaned by AIDS, robbed and **killed** after preaching)

Susan (widow of Ezekiel Lenato, had been a newlywed)

<http://blog.godreports.com/2014/01/young-pastor-preaches-then-robbed-and-killed-by-bandits/>



Ethiopia: Addis Ababa

Patriarch Abune Mathias (aged 71, temporarily held in house arrest after criticizing the government)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2013/12/patriarch-of-ethiopian-orthodox-church-arrested-temporarily/>

Sunday December 30, 2013



Pakistan: Lahore

Napoleon Qayyum (**UPDATE**: criticized the Federal Shariat Court's decision that all blasphemy convictions must be sentenced to death "This ruling will only embolden elements who

use the blasphemy laws to target the weak and marginalized communities of this country. How many more innocent lives would it take for the government to realize that it needs to do something to bring an end to this victimization?"

Aneeqa Maria (**UPDATE:** said of the Federal Shariat Court's decision that all blasphemy convictions must be sentenced to death "Everyone knows how these laws are used as a tool for settling personal disputes, and now the FSC has taken this skeleton out of the closet after so many years")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2013/12/death-penalty-order-deepens-hard-line-islamist-trend-in-pakistan-critics-say/>



Kazakhstan: Petropavl

Inna Semyonova (detained, **UPDATE:** convicted and fined 100 MFIs)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1921



Cameroon

Fr Georges Vandenbeusch (aged 42, French citizen, abducted on [November 13, 2013](#) near [Nguetchewe](#) by suspected Boko Haram gunmen from Nigeria, had spent much of his time helping Nigerian refugees; **UPDATE:** released from captivity)

<http://www.charismanews.com/world/42255-french-priest-kidnapped-in-cameroon-set-free>

Monday December 31, 2013



Bangladesh: Dhaka

Archbishop Patrick D'Rozario (described the events leading up to the general election "The situation is very tense. For months we have been experiencing strikes, blockades, violent conflict, terrorist attacks, arson and hatred here in Bangladesh. There have been deaths and hundreds of people have been injured. The most recent events have further exacerbated the situation. That is why I am asking all Christians in the country and elsewhere to pray for peace and reconciliation in Bangladesh")

<http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1388453781.html>



Kyrgyzstan: Oktyabr village

Erkayim Jeyinbekova (aged 73, mother of Sanjar Jeyinbekov, **died of natural causes**, denied a Christian burial in the municipal cemetery by a local imam)

Sanjar Jeyinbekov (son of Erkayim Jeyinbekova, told by the local imam that he could bury his father in the municipal cemetery if he abandoned Christianity, refused)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1966



Iran: Fardis village, Karaj province

Sara Rahiminejad (convert, beaten and arrested during a police raid on the home of George Issaian, whereabouts unknown)

Majid Sheidaee (convert, beaten and arrested during a police raid on the home of George Issaian, whereabouts unknown)

Mostafa Nadri (convert, beaten and arrested during a police raid on the home of George Issaian, whereabouts unknown)

George Issaian (convert, beaten and arrested during a police raid on his home, whereabouts unknown)

Iran: Evin prison, Tehran

Farshid Malayeri Fathi (**UPDATE**: wrote a letter stating "We are celebrating Christmas in prison with honor and unexplainable joy in Christ. 2013 is going to end and we are very thankful to the Lord for everything we were given this year...God calls us to walk before him and be blameless, as he said to Abraham. So far, walking before him is very sweet and so exciting. It is filled with great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, sleepless nights, hunger, purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech and the power of God. So my dear brothers and sisters, if you read this, be ready for a very exciting journey in 2014. Thank you so much for remembering me in your prayers after 1,100 days")

<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2014/01/christian-new-year/>

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7970:iran-christian-prisonerwe-celebrate-christian-in-prison&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Nigeria: Maihakorin Gold village, Plateau state

Fulani Muslim gunmen attack an outdoor worship service

Kore Usman (aged 34, husband of Faith Kore Usman, father of four and stepfather of one, **killed**)

Faith Kore Usman (aged 29, widow of Kore Usman, mother of five children, first husband had also been killed by Fulani Muslim gunmen in 2002, called on the gunmen to repent)

Naomi Tejan (aged 41, wife of Luka Tejan, mother of six, **killed**)

Luka Tejan (aged 47, widower of Naomi Tejan, father of six, said “We see these killings of Christians as evil acts aimed at truncating the spread of the gospel in this country. The devil has been using these Fulanis to kill Christians. The good thing is that we have hope that in spite of the pains, the suffering and the tears, we shall overcome in Jesus’ name”)

Nandi Jamok (aged 14, **killed**)

Marium Random (aged 35, wounded)

Tyamol Maram (aged 14, wounded)

Uvwat James (aged 15, wounded)

Shagul James (aged 32, wounded)

Rita James (aged 8, wounded)

Yibal Philemon (aged 8, wounded)

Mashat Geoffrey (aged 10, wounded)

Macif Mabul (aged 17, wounded)

Alex Yunana (aged 41, wounded, had also been injured in a 2012 Fulani Muslim attack)

Emmanuel Ishaku (aged 30, wounded)

Malo Marium (aged 50, wounded)

Victor Barnabas (wounded)

Rev Danlami Yatu (described the attack on his congregation that killed 3 and wounded 12, said it was the fourth such attack in over two years)

Sunday Mabas (church secretary, escaped unhurt from a 2012 Fulani Muslim attack)

Joel Mafyil (home attacked in a previous Fulani Muslim attack)

Hosea Haruna (assistant church secretary, said that many church activities have been curtailed due to threats of armed attack)

Jemimah Isaac (Women's fellowship leader, said that many church activities have been curtailed due to threats of armed attack)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/01/once-widowed-christian-in-nigeria-loses-second-husband-to-muslim-extremists/>

December 2013, date unknown



China: Guangzhou, Guangdong province

Pastor Mark Ma Chao (said “In the past week or two, the police came here three or four times. They always came to disrupt us. Ours is not a big gathering of several hundred people. They asked me whether our organization has filed its information and whether we have a license. They also asked me to file for the Christmas activities [we have planned]. I said we won’t come here for Christmas, and we will go somewhere else”)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/12/house-churches-across-china-experience.html>



India: Narketpally, Andhra Pradesh state

Rev Nama Moses (accused of conducting false conversions, church attacked by extremists)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Andhra-Pradesh:-rising-anti-Christian-violence-by-radical-Hindus-30207.html>



Pakistan: Khanewal district, Lahore, Punjab

Family fled from their city after Muslim clerics told them that their daughters' exposure to mandatory Islamic instruction in the public school had effected their conversion to Islam and thus required them to be raised by Muslims

Nadeem Maqbol (aged 45, husband of Nabeela Nadeem, father of Ngam, Noor-e-Sahar, and Nisha)

Nabeela Nadeem (aged 42, teacher, wife of Nadeem Maqbol, mother of of Ngam, Noor-e-Sahar, and Nisha)

Ngam (aged 14, son of Nadeem Maqbol and Nabeela Nadeem, brother of Noor-e-Sahar and Nisha)

Noor-e-Sahar (aged 12, daughter of Nadeem Maqbol and Nabeela Nadeem, sister of Ngam and Nisha)

Nisha (aged 8, daughter of Nadeem Maqbol and Nabeela Nadeem, sister of Ngam and Noor-e-Sahar)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/36318->

[ASIA_PAKISTAN_Christian_family_flees_to_save_their_daughters_from_forced_conversion_to_Islam#.VBJAEMLwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36318-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Christian_family_flees_to_save_their_daughters_from_forced_conversion_to_Islam#.VBJAEMLwsfg)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Lahore:-Christian-family-forced-to-flee-because-of-religious-hatred-38441.html>