

## Today's Martyrs – February 2014

Saturday February 1, 2014



### **Pakistan: Lahore**

Hina (sister of Marina, in hiding after attempts to abduct her and force her into an Islamic marriage)

Marina (sister of Hina, in hiding after attempts to abduct her and force her into an Islamic marriage)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4681>



### **Uzbekistan: Kokand**

Abdulhafis Ashiraliyev (home raided by police and personal computer seized)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1938](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1938)



### **Egypt: Barsha village, Minya province**

Marcos Ibrahim Ayoub (aged 10, abducted from his father's farm by a Muslim mob)

### **Egypt: Khanka city, Qalyubia province**

Sandy Girgis Ramses (aged 10, abducted by a Muslim mob)

Ihab Mourad (reported on the abduction of Sandy Girgis Ramses)

### **Egypt: Sahel Selim city, Assiut province**

Nazlat El Malak (aged 23, shop owner, abducted after he refused to pay extortion)

Nashat Khalf (reported on the abduction of Nazlat El Malak)

<http://www.persecution.org/2014/02/06/eight-egyptian-christians-abducted-in-the-last-week/>

Sunday February 2, 2014



**Vietnam: Vinh**

Anthony Chu Manh Son (**UPDATE**: released from prison)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Vinh:-crowd-greets-Chu-Manh-Son,-a-young-Catholic-released-from-prison-30219.html>



**Kenya: Mombasa**

Lawrence Kazungu Kadenge (aged 59, husband of Lydia, father of 13, assistant pastor, **killed** while guarding his church)

Lydia Kadenge (widow of Lawrence Kazungu Kadenge)

Pastor Andrew Msumbi Kioko (said of the murder of assistant pastor Lawrence Kazungu Kadenge: "It is very hard for me because we worked very closely together. His family has been hit very hard. All of us, the family and congregants, need prayers as we grieve his loss – we need God's comfort. Please pray for us")

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/01/2991603/>



**Syria: Homs**

Fr Frans van der Lugt SJ (aged 75, **UPDATE**: said hunger has begun "turning people insane...Some people are now suffering from mental illness; neurosis, panic attacks, psychotic and schizophrenic episodes and paranoia")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20140202174756.htm>



**Egypt: Bahgoura village, Nag Hammadi**

Christine Ibrahim (aged 40, abducted, rescued by police)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52130#.UvRM18KYY5s>



### **Spain: Madrid**

Cardinal Antonio Rouco Varela (attacked by Femem radicals)

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/topless-femen-activists-disrupt-mass-at-swedish-cathedral>

**Monday February 3, 2014**



### **Egypt: Giza**

Mina Emad Anwar (aged 28, hospitalized with a gunshot wound to the head after the attack on the Church of the Virgin Mary; **UPDATE: died**)

### **Egypt**

Ashraf Sobhi Khalil (abducted by a Muslim mob)

Magdy Fayez (abducted by a Muslim mob)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52184#.UvRNrcKYY5s>

<http://www.persecution.org/2014/02/06/eight-egyptian-christians-abducted-in-the-last-week/>



### **Kosovo: Babin Most village**

Fr Bosko Klicaric (church robbed, automobile stolen, admits to feeling unsafe)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2014/02/orthodox-church-in-kosovo-robbed/>

**Tuesday February 4, 2014**



### **China**

Gao Zhisheng (human rights lawyer, **UPDATE**: is now beginning his fifth year in prison, at the last family visit was emaciated and had a sore on his face)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/02/release-international-5yrs-on-free.html>



**Egypt: Toho village, Minya province**

Kyrills Adel Abdel-Malak (aged 25, driver, abducted)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52181#UvRMLMKYY5s>



**Nigeria: Kankia town, Katsina state**

Pastor Dike Ocha (aged 50, beaten by a mob after the discovery of a dead 6 year old girl near his home, hospitalized, dragged from the hospital and **murdered** when set afire, numerous Christian properties attacked and looted)

Rev Adewale Adediran (spoke on the murder of Pastor Dike Ocha “This is an unfortunate incident. Christian and Muslim communities have been living peacefully in Katsina state” and praised a Muslim leader who stood in front of a church to prevent its destruction by the mob)

<http://www.charismanews.com/world/42798-pastor-killed-church-torched-in-nigeria>

**Wednesday February 5, 2014**



**Iraq: Bagdad**

Alaa Amir Hissou (**killed** in a bombing at one of the gates of the Green Zone)

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

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52204#UvRLF8KYY5s>



### **Sudan: Nuba mountains**

Nahmia Ibrahim Omer Shaloka (**UPDATE:** has reported that the government has begun to use parachute bombs on the civilian population)

<http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2014/February/Parachute-Bombs-Rise-as-New-Threat-in-Sudan/>



### **Algeria: Chemini, Kabylie region**

Lahlou Naraoui (aged 24, **died from natural causes**, denied a Christian burial in a public cemetery)

Pastor Nordine Mahmoudi (officiated at the funeral of Lahlou Naraoui)

<http://www.charismanews.com/world/42672-christian-burial-refused-in-public-cemetery>

**Thursday February 6, 2014**



### **Egypt**

Izzat Ibrahim Ezzat (**UPDATE:** reported on the abduction of eight Christians within one week)

<http://www.persecution.org/2014/02/06/eight-egyptian-christians-abducted-in-the-last-week/>



### **Central African Republic**

Pierre (missionary, described the country as "hell on earth" and said that "The church in the CAR is poorly prepared, very poorly prepared to face persecution, and now it is paying a heavy price for its earlier lack of concern")

<http://simonguillebaud.com/blog/1-general/177-hell-on-earth>



### **Spain: Malaga province**

Cardinal Fernando Sebastian Aguilar (under criminal investigation for hate speech after stating orthodox Christian views on homosexuality)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/new-spanish-cardinal-to-be-probed-for-anti-gay-incitement/70239>



### **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**: conviction overturned by an appellate court for lack of evidence)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/02/proselytism-conviction-of-convert-from-islam-in-morocco-overturned/>

**Friday February 7, 2014**



### **North Korea**

Kenneth Bae (aged 44 [2012], father of three, U.S. citizen, arrested in [Rajin](#) on [November 3, 2012](#) for preaching Christianity; sentenced to 15 years hard labor on [May 5, 2013](#) in Pyongyang for “anti-government activities”; **UPDATE**: told a Swedish diplomat that "I have not lost hope")

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/kenneth.bae.i.have.not.lost.hope/35851.htm>



### **Malaysia: Tanjung Api, Kuantan District, Pahang State**

Datuk Jack How (described the recent desecration of a Christian cemetery)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Unknown-vandals-desecrate-eight-graves-in-a-Christian-cemetery-in-Kuantan-30251.html>



### **India: Ahmedabad**

Fr Cedric Prakash SJ (director of the Prashant Jesuit Centre for Human Rights, Justice and Peace; **UPDATE**: called on people to remember the role of Governor Narendra Modi in the 2002 Gujarat massacre of over 2000 Muslims, especially now that Modi will likely be the BJP Hindu nationalist candidate for Prime Minister in the upcoming election)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Fr.-Cedric-Prakash-SJ:-Never-forget-the-Gujarat-massacres-and-Narendra-Modi's-role-30250.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/what-if-modi-becomes-indian-premier/70249>



### **Syria: Al-Malikiyah**

Fr Mallek Mallous (supports the current government of Syria, said "You know what will happen to people like us if they [the Islamists] get here? They've announced a war against Christians. They are kidnapping and killing us")

### **Syria: Qamishli**

Barsoun Barsoun (opposed the current government of Syria, is working to distribute aid, said "We have lots of problems [with the government]. Kidnappings, arrests... We had two members taken, one in June, still missing, and another who they said had died in custody. But they've never shown us the body")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20140207150744.htm>



### **Belarus: Aleksandrovka village, Grodno region**

#### **Local government continues to attack a Christian-owned homeless shelter**

Aleksei Shchedrov (aged 28 [in 2013], as of [June 27, 2013](#) 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 2013 police raid and not returned, police investigation is continuing; criminal charges dropped on [September 11, 2013](#); **UPDATE**: fined US\$4 for electrical and chimney code violations, legal status of his shelter removed, failed a sanitary inspection despite no water testing of the well and no alternative allowed for bottled water, 13 people may be turned out into the streets, state media perpetrated a smear campaign against him which alleged drug use and cult activities, Bibles and religious literature returned)

Fr Yury Gritsko (said there was no evidence to back the state media smear campaign against Aleksei Shchedrov, said that he brings clergy from all denominations to minister to his shelter residents)

Fr Aleksandr Shemet (supported Aleksei Shchedrov's actions)

Pavel Severinets (**UPDATE**: visited Aleksei Shchedrov and his shelter, commented that the indoor toilets seen there are rare in the countryside)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1935](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1935)



### **Vatican City**

Fr Federico Lombardi (director of the Vatican Press Office, criticized the UN report on clerical sex abuse for demanding changes to church teaching on contraception, abortion, homosexuality, and changes to the practice of confession)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Fr-Lombardi,-UN-report-is-anomalous,-ideological,-goes-beyond-its-powers-30252.html>



### **Belgium: Brussels**

Archbishop Andre-Joseph Leonard (**UPDATE**: called on the faithful to fast and pray for the defeat of the extension of the Law of Euthanasia to children)

<http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/child-euthanasia-in-belgium-church-calls-day-of-fasting-prayer>

**Saturday February 8, 2014**



### **Tanzania: Kondo**

Bishop Bernadin Francis Mfumbusa (aged 51, expressed concern over the importation of radical Islamists)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/tanzanian-bishop-sees-hope-despite-growth-of-extremism/>





## Syria

Bishop Mario Zenari (apostolic nuncio; **UPDATE**: said after the beginning of a 3 day UN truce allowed food and medicine to arrive and for 83 civilians to be evacuated "We thank the Lord for this positive first step, though small and minimal. But let us not forget that not only the 2,500 civilians trapped in the old district of Homs are hungry and without access to humanitarian aid, but also 2.5 million Syrians throughout the rest of the country")

[http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Nuncio-in-Damascus:-Homs-truce-a-small-step",-but-do-not-forget-millions-of-other-Syrians-30256.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Nuncio-in-Damascus:-Homs-truce-a-small-step)



## Egypt

Abram Lewis (called on people to not politicize the abduction and forced conversion of Coptic girls)

### **Egypt: Kom Ombo, Aswan**

Madeleine Wagih Demian (aged 35, **killed** by a knife wielding man who attacked three Copt-owned pharmacies, 3 others wounded)

Fr Arsanius Kyrillos (said the killer of Madeleine Wagih Demian was a relative of a jailed Muslim Brotherhood leader)

Ayman Wagih Demian (brother of Madeleine Wagih Demian, said that his sister was murdered because she was a Christian)

Abanoub (pharmacy clerk, attacked by the killer of Madeleine Wagih Demian)

Marian Kamal Shafik (aged 19, stabbed in the back shoulder by the killer of Madeleine Wagih Demian, treated at a veterinarian facility)

Youstina Nasser Gendy (aged 18, witnessed the stabbing of Marian Kamal Shafik)

[http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52234#.Uvb\\_7sKYY5s](http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52234#.Uvb_7sKYY5s)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52245#.UvgZvMKYY5s>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52244#.Uvgad8KYY5s>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/02/anti-christian-hostility-motivated-lethal-attack-on-copts-sources-in-egypt-say/>

**Sunday February 9, 2014**



### **Russia: Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Sakhalin Island**

**A man who cursed God and Christianity fatally shot a nun and a male parishioner in a church, six others were wounded, the nun had attempted to draw the shooter's attention to allow others to escape**

Fr Viktor Gorbach (described the fatal shooting of a nun and a male parishioner in his church)

Sr Lyudmila Pryashnikova (killed)

Vladimir Zaporozhets (killed)

[http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304558804579372152263316102?mod=trending\\_now\\_5](http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304558804579372152263316102?mod=trending_now_5)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Russia,-armed-youth-storms-church-killing-two-people-in-Sakhalin-30262.html>

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/77065.htm>



### **Pakistan**

Dr Paul Bhatti (brother of assassinated Minority Affairs Minister Shahbaz Bhatti; **UPDATE:** has fled the country and taken asylum in Italy after receiving death threats from the Taliban for his continuing efforts to find his brother's assassins)

Gul Sher (witness to the 2011 assassination of Shahbaz Bhatti, had been detained and tortured by the police in an attempt to implicate Christians in the assassination, now in hiding)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4689>

**Monday February 10, 2014**



### **India: New Delhi**

Rev David Grant (husband of Beth Grant, U.S. citizen, has worked as a missionary in the country for 35 years, arrested for alleged visa violations)

Beth Grant (wife of David Grant, U.S. citizen, arrested for alleged visa violations)

Sajan K George (President of the Global Council of Indian Christians, commented on the arrest of David and Beth Grant "In the West, it is common to see Hindu sadhus [holy men] freely proselytizing. Moreover, hundreds of foreign tourists visit our country and take part in religious services or hear public speeches by Hindu clerics without problems. Unfortunately, when Christian missionaries come to India, they are not accorded the same reciprocity and often end up facing threats, abuse and arrests")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/US-Christian-missionary-arrested-in-India-30310.html>



### **Azerbaijan**

Farid Mammedov (convicted of evading military service despite his declaration of conscientious objection, has lodged a case with the European Court of Human Rights)

Mushfiq Mammedov (convicted of evading military service despite his declaration of conscientious objection, has lodged a case with the European Court of Human Rights)

Samir Huseynov (convicted of evading military service despite his declaration of conscientious objection, has lodged a case with the European Court of Human Rights)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1926](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1926)



### **Sudan: Damardago village, South Kordofan state**

Timotuos (aged 30, **killed** in a bombing attack by a jet aircraft)

Zaienab Jebri Tuomba (aged 13, burned and wounded in a bombing attack by a jet aircraft)

Salim Kuku (aged 27, burned and wounded in a bombing attack by a jet aircraft)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/02/christians-killed-in-sudan-bombings/>

**Tuesday February 11, 2014**



### **China: Taiqing town, Yichun city, Heilongjiang province**

Yu Wenlan (house church occupied by a government registered church, both churches have agreed on financial compensation)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/02/three-self-church-meagerly-compensates.html>



## **Pakistan**

Dr Paul Bhatti (brother of assassinated Minority Affairs Minister Shahbaz Bhatti; **UPDATE:** said in [Milan, Italy](#) that he will eventually return to Pakistan despite the death threats against him and "...I call on all Christians and on the West to be close to us. We need help to continue our work for peace and dialogue...")

### **Pakistan: Karachi**

Dr Nazir S Bhatti (**UPDATE:** called on the government to protect the witnesses to the assassination of Minority Affairs Minister Shahbaz Bhatti, said "Why in Shahbaz Bhatti murder case his brother Sikander was asked to be complainant when government of Pakistan was supposed to be complainant in FIR it meant that from first day administration was not sincere to ensure justice in this brutal day light killing")

Sikander Bhatti (brother of assassinated Minority Affairs Minister Shahbaz Bhatti, witness to his assassination)

Akmal Bhatti (witness to the assassination of Minority Affairs Minister Shahbaz Bhatti)

### **Pakistan: Kohsar**

Sabir Masih (aged 24, detained by police for three days, allegedly died by hanging while in detention, family insists that he was tortured; autopsy showed that he **died from "severe internal injuries" caused by "torture and abuse"**)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Despite-threats,-Paul-Bhatti-to-continue-brother's-work-for-peace-in-Pakistan-30282.html>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4695>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Islamabad:-an-innocent-24-year-old-Christian-man-tortured-to-death-by-police-30298.html>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4697>



## **Central African Republic**

Pastor "Yannick" (alias, has three times escaped death from Seleka rebels, has lost all worldly possessions)

<http://www.charismanews.com/world/42748-pastor-escapes-death-asks-for-prayer-amid-central-africa-persecution>



### **United Kingdom: Banbury**

Bill Edwards (aged 73, pushed to the ground by six police officers for refusing to stop preaching in front of a courthouse where some employees found his speech to be 'offensive', charged with assault and breach of peace, court dismissed the charges, refused the police request for a restraining order against him and ordered the police to pay his court expenses)

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/religious-freedom/court-win-for-73-year-old-street-preacher-pinned-down-by-6-police-off>

**Wednesday February 12, 2014**



### **Indonesia: Cianjur regency, West Java**

Pastor Oferlin Hia (has been trying to reverse a government decision to close his church)

[http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/02/article\\_2998891.html/](http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/02/article_2998891.html/)



### **Kenya: Nyeri County**

Bishop Charles Muchiri (led 300 bishops of all denominations to protest a county bill that would charge clergymen to preach outside a church)

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/02/3007723/>

**Thursday February 13, 2014**



### **Kazakhstan: Oskemen**

Gulsuna Kadenova (**UPDATE**: fined)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1960](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1960)



**Azerbaijan: Jalilabad**

Kamran Shikhaliyev (inducted into a military unit despite his declaration of conscientious objection, subjected to physical abuse, verbal humiliation, psychological pressure, four months confinement, then charged with "fraudulently evading military service", **UPDATE**: trial to begin)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1926](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1926)



**Egypt: Abu Teshet**

Yosef Hassan Shaker (aged 13, abducted and **strangled to death** by Muslim neighbors who then spent six days assisting the search for the missing boy)

<http://www.voiceofthecoets.org/index.php/categories/reports/11501-child-kidnappings-on-the-rise-in-egypt>



**Central African Republic: Bangui**

Pastor Antoine Mboa Bogo (confirmed the discovery of a mass grave on a military camp used by Seleka rebels)

<http://www.ecumenicalnews.com/article/mass-grave-found-in-c-african-republic-un-warns-of-cleansing-22731>



**Mexico: Union Juarez village, La Trinitaria municipality, Chiapas state**

Luis Antonio Herrera (representing 25 families who have lost their water and electricity and are effectively under house arrest for refusing to pay fees to support "Traditionalist Catholic" festivals [which follow a syncretic mix of Catholic and native beliefs], state police who attempted to aid them also detained)

**Friday February 14, 2014**



**Pakistan: Nazareth Colony [Ghetto], Faisalabad**

Asim Saleem (aged 22, son of Saleem Masih, eloped with his Muslim girlfriend, has been accused of abduction and forced marriage, manhunt underway)

Saleem Masih (father of Asim Saleem, arrested after his son eloped with a Muslim girl, two other relatives of his also arrested, tortured by police, **suffered a fatal heart attack while in custody**, Christian neighbors fled their homes after they were threatened by their Muslim neighbors with destruction by arson if the girl was not returned)

Bashir Masih (aged 45, cousin of Asim Saleem, arrested and tortured by police after his cousin eloped with his Muslim girlfriend)

Shaukat Masih (aged 35, cousin of Asim Saleem, arrested and tortured by police after his cousin eloped with his Muslim girlfriend)

**Pakistan: Gojra, Punjab state**

Shafaqat Emmanuel (aged 35, husband of Shagufta Kauser, father of two, handicapped, arrested on or before July 21, 2013 for allegedly sending a blasphemous text message; confessed on or before August 5, 2013 to sending the blasphemous text message after being tortured and told by the police that his wife would be tortured; **UPDATE**: trial pending, has been moved to the jail hospital with multiple bed sores which are reportedly more than 3 inches deep, will require surgery if he survives)

Shagufta Kauser (aged 35, wife of Shafaqat Emmanuel, mother of two, school worker, arrested on or before July 21, 2013 for allegedly sending a blasphemous text message; forced along with her children to watch the torture of her husband by the police on or before August 5, 2013; **UPDATE**: trial pending)

Emmanuel Masih (father of Shafaqat Emmanuel, in hiding with his four grandchildren)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4702>

<https://us-mg204.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.partner=sbc&.rand=cr0uvfk1t6kpf>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4703>



**Kazakhstan**

Maxim Maximov (husband of Larissa Maximov, removed from an U.S. bound airliner and detained along with his wife, will be unable to attend the National Religious Broadcasters' conference in Nashville, Tennessee; **UPDATE**: allowed to leave the country to attend the National Religious Broadcasters' conference, credited 2 high ranking officials with helping them leave)

Larissa Maximov (wife of Maxim Maximov, allowed to leave the country to attend the National Religious Broadcasters' conference in Nashville, Tennessee)

<http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2014/February/Kazakh-Christian-Blocked-from-NRB-Conference/>

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue22656.html>



### **Central African Republic: Bangui**

Archbishop Dieudonne Nzapalainga (**UPDATE**: reported that there are growing signs of genocide “When I arrived there [in Bouar], part of one area of the town has been completely burned down. I also saw that people had been burnt alive. I saw human bones and human heads. I had only ever seen that sort of thing in films about Rwanda before, but never here with us. I think that evil was there. Now the evil has touched us. It shows itself in the desire to kill, to destroy. This is the devil...If there is no one to hold back the hand of the devil here, he will achieve his goal. Many people will be hunted down and killed”)

### **Central African Republic: Boali**

Fr Xavier Fagba (**UPDATE**: is still sheltering about 650 Muslims in his church, the Christians who are aiding him have come under attack from the anti-balaka militia)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/archbishop-warns-of-genocide-in-central-african-republic/>

**Saturday February 15, 2014**



### **Kenya: Eastleigh area, Nairobi**

Mohamud Yusuf Ahmed (convert, stabbed by three Muslims of Somali descent, told “You infidel, you are not supposed to be alive, and we must kill you”, assailants later released)



<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/05/somali-muslims-in-kenya-freed-after-stabbing-attack-in-nairobi/>



### **Central African Republic: Bangui**

Archbishop Dieudonne Nzapalainga (**UPDATE:** is currently supporting 10 Muslim refugees in his residence)

<http://vaticaninsider.lastampa.it/en/world-news/detail/articolo/repubblica-centrafricana-repubblica-centroafricana-central-african-republic-nzapalainga-32097/>



### **Nigeria: Izghe village, Borno state**

Archbishop Ignatius Ayau Kaigama (**UPDATE:** spoke out against the latest Boko Haram attack that killed more than 100 people)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/35238-AFRICA\\_NIGERIA\\_The\\_latest\\_massacre\\_of\\_civilians\\_unfortunately\\_does\\_not\\_surprise\\_me\\_says\\_the\\_Archbishop\\_of\\_Jos\\_to\\_Fides#.UwLeAMKYY5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/35238-AFRICA_NIGERIA_The_latest_massacre_of_civilians_unfortunately_does_not_surprise_me_says_the_Archbishop_of_Jos_to_Fides#.UwLeAMKYY5s)



### **Venezuela: Valencia**

#### **Two religious stabbed to death by two teenage robbers at Don Bosco College**

Fr Jesus Plaza (aged 80, **stabbed to death**)

Brother Luis Sanchez (aged 84, **stabbed to death**)

Brother David Marin (aged 64, gagged by robbers, stabbed, treated at a local clinic, out of danger)

Fr José Luis Salazar (gagged by robbers)

Fr Luciano Stefani (Salesian provincial general in the country, asked for prayers for the robbery victims)

Fr Fernando Santana (called on the media to not politicize the murders)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/two-salesian-religious-murdered-during-robbery-in-venezuela/>

**Sunday February 16, 2014**



**Sri Lanka: Asgiriya, Kandy district, Central province**

Pastor Susantha (dragged from his home along with his wife and physically assaulted by Buddhist extremists who demanded that he stop religious services, his 18 year old daughter was verbally abused)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/03/buddhist-nationalism-fuels-attacks-on-christians-in-sri-lanka-2/>



**Egypt: Taba, Sinai**

Kim Dong-hwan (injured in the suicide bombing of a tourist bus carrying Korean Christians on a pilgrimage, wife also injured, four were killed)

Kim Young-cheol (described how a tour guide pushed the suicide bomber off of the bus before the bomb exploded, killing the guide and three others)

Yoon (mother killed on the tourist bus, said in Korea "My mother was a devout Christian. I don't know how such a thing could happen. I don't know how to react to this")

Sami Joseph (aged 51, bus driver, **killed** by a suicide bomber, three Koreans also killed and 13 wounded)

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20140217001425>

[http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html\\_dir/2014/02/18/2014021801076.html](http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2014/02/18/2014021801076.html)

<http://www.ecumenicalnews.com/article/bombers-target-bus-carrying-south-korean-christians-in-egypt-22737>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Jihadist-group-claims-Taba-attack-on-Korean-pilgrims-30341.html>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52414#.UwQwhcKYYfg>

**Monday February 17, 2014**



### **Kazakhstan: Astana**

Pastor Bakhytzhan Kashkumbayev (aged 66 [2013], convert from Islam, **UPDATE**: convicted of harming the health of a church member, sentenced to four years imprisonment, sentence suspended, ordered to pay US\$ 10,800 to the alleged victim who continues to deny that she was harmed, will appeal the sentence)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1929](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1929)



### **Egypt: Beni Suef**

**Six Copts have been detained since August 11, 2013 when Muslims rioted over the installation of a speed bump**

Girgis Abdallah (aged 42, detained)

Maher Ayad Tanious (aged 32, detained)

Milad Nady (aged 31, son of Nady Ghaly, detained)

Milad Youssef Rizq (aged 35, husband of Magda Adli, father of Youssef, Romany, Kyrillos, microbus driver, detained despite having been outside the village when the rioting began)

Nabil Awad Tanious (aged 42, husband of Nabila Habib, father of Nader, Mariam and Awad, paint manufacturer, detained despite having been recovering from surgery at the time of the riot)

Nady Ghaly (aged 70, father of Milad Nady, detained)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/2419-six-months-after-being-attacked-diabiya-copts-still-in-custody>

**Tuesday February 18, 2014**



### **North Korea: Pyongyang**

John Short (aged 75, husband of Karen Short, Australian citizen, arrested for distributing religious material)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-missionary-arrested-in-Pyongyang-for-distributing-religious-material-30346.html>



### **Vietnam: Hanoi**

Le Quoc Quan (aged 41 [2012], lawyer, blogger, and human rights activist, convicted on tax evasion charges in a two-hour long trial in Hanoi on October 2, 2013, sentenced to 30 months in prison and a US\$56,000 fine; **UPDATE**: conviction upheld on appeal)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hanoi:-conviction-of-Catholic-lawyer-Le-Quoc-Quan-upheld-on-appeal-30338.html>



### **China: Nanle County, Henan**

Zhang "Shanshan" Linxin (daughter of Pastor Zhang Shaojie and Wang Fengrui; **UPDATE**: reported that the arrested Christians from her father's church were discovered to be held in an illegal 'black' jail which was then quickly abandoned “We only went to the first floor, and there are seven rooms in a row. As for the room where Li Cairen was detained, we found many surveillance cameras were removed, and they were very new...Inside the jail, we saw ripped clothes and leftover steamed buns. We also found bananas, tangerines and steamed buns. The steamed buns were cold, and they looked like buns from yesterday or this morning. We also found several bottles of...urine”)

Guo Zhongqiang (missionary, held until recently in the illegal 'black' jail)

Shi Zhixuan (missionary, held until recently in the 'black' jail)

Li Cairen (held in the illegal 'black' jail)

Zhao Guoli (**UPDATE**: seen in the illegal 'black' jail)

Wu Guishan (**UPDATE**: seen in the illegal 'black' jail)

Yan Beibei (**UPDATE**: seen in the illegal 'black' jail)

### **China: Liuzhou, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region**

Cheng Jie (wife of Pastor Du Hongbo, mother of two young children, detained, charged with "engaging in illegal business operation" for running a Christian kindergarten)

Mo Xiliu (detained, charged with "engaging in illegal business operation" for running a Christian kindergarten)

Pastor Du Hongbo (husband of Cheng Jie)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/02/black-jail-exposed-in-nanle-county.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/02/two-women-taken-into-custody-from.html>



### **Uzbekistan: Muynak, Karakalpakstan**

Aygul Khamidullayeva (aged 50, **died of cancer**, denied a Christian burial in a state-owned but mosque-managed cemetery)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1951](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1951)



### **Central African Republic: Bozoum**

Fr Aurelio Gazzera OCD (**UPDATE:** said "The Anti Balaka [militia] are doing more damage than Seleka...The behavior of the Anti Balaka varies from area to area. In the provinces where international forces have been deployed [the African MISCA and the French mission Sangaris], like here in Bozoum, the situation is calmer, but the situation is to be followed day by day because tension can rise suddenly", and added "The heavy concentration of Seleka in Kaga-Bandoro is a worrying fact...Before leaving Bozoum, Seleka destroyed seed stores, so there will be huge problems to start the next harvest. Funds donated by international organizations for food security were also eliminated")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/35251->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA The Anti Balaka are doing more damage than Seleka says a missionary#.UwQmRsKYYfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/35251-)

**Wednesday February 19, 2014**



### **Venezuela: Maracaibo**

Fr Jose Palmar (attacked by police)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/35387->

[AMERICA VENEZUELA Churches subject to violence and sacrilegious acts even during Mass#.Ux\\_nQMKUMfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/35387-)

**Thursday February 20, 2014**



### **Syria: Damascus**

Hanna (wife and mother, **UPDATE**: wrote "I'm in church while I'm telling you this. In the room next to me, there is a service going on for refugees. We have two meetings a day now, because prayer is the only thing that we can still do...More and more the bombs seem to be aimed at churches. The roof of the school of our church was also hit. Fortunately, the children were in the church at that time and thanks to God nobody got hurt...Recently I was at a youth meeting of our church where we spoke about forgiveness; quite a challenging topic in our situation as you might understand. But God asks us to forgive our enemies, no matter what. Jesus' words about forgiveness really touched the heart of a 12-year-old girl that attended the meeting. She stood up in tears and asked if she could share something. Still crying, she told about her 18-year-old brother, who had been beheaded because he was a Christian. We all knew this boy. The sister was so angry at his murderers. But now, she told us, she realized for the first time that she had to forgive them, like Jesus has forgiven us. All in the room were deeply impressed by the story of this girl. We had a deep realization of what forgiving means...God bless all of you who are praying for us. Please continue praying")

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-family-in-damascus-often-runs-for-their-lives-after-bombings-but-places-trust-in-gods-hands-114958/>

**Friday February 21, 2014**



### **Turkmenistan: Dashoguz**

Zulfiya Ametova (home raided by organized crime police without warrant, elderly parents mistreated, detained along with her mother and forced to sign statements against their will)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2047](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2047)



### **Egypt: Mir village, Quseya, Assuit province**

Christina Marzouk Mahrous Hanna (aged 17, abducted)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52465#.UwgyVsKUM5s>



### **Central African Republic: Bossangoa**

Bishop Nestor-Desire Nongo Aziagbia (**UPDATE**: praised the missionary priests and nuns who have refused to leave the country during the current fighting “That most have remained here is the greatest act of witness our Church has given. Even when life is insecure, people still look to their priests and religious as a sign of hope and to Catholic missions as places of refuge”)

### **Central African Republic: Bangui**

Archbishop Dieudonne Nzapalainga (**UPDATE**: said “They [the missionaries] should be given support to remain as a light in the night. In every crisis, when the missionaries stay, their presence has a mitigating effect”)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/02/20/catholic-leaders-praise-missionaries-in-central-african-republic/>:



### **Belgium**

Herman Spaargaren (President of the Evangelical Alliance, spoke on the legalization of child euthanasia "The problem is that nobody thinks about what is coming after death. Also the meaning of life in the sight of God has become a non-issue”)

Kris Vleugels (called on King Philippe to refuse to sign the child euthanasia bill despite the fact that it would trigger a constitutional crisis and possibly end the monarchy)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2014/02/belgium-christians-fear-consequences-of-legalising-child-euthanasia/>

**Saturday February 22, 2014**



### **India: Malakpet, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh state**

Pastor Christopher (church burnt to the ground)

<http://www.persecution.org/2014/04/28/attacks-on-christians-spike-as-hindu-nationalists-set-to-take-control-of-india/>



### **Iran: Karaj**

Pastor Behnam Irani (**UPDATE:** still imprisoned, underwent surgery for stomach ulcers, recovering)

<http://www.assistnews.net/Stories/2014/s14020106.htm>



### **Nigeria: Maiduguri**

Rev Bitrus Bdliya (said at the end of a month in which over 500 people have been killed by Boko Haram "upon the security challenges we face, we will not relent to emphasize the role of the Church as an agent of peace. I call on all Christians to acknowledge this responsibility and to pursue it vigorously. I admonish every Christian to re-examine his or her relationship with God and with his neighbor, knowing well that to be able to maintain peace, you have to be at peace with God and with your brother or sister")

### **Nigeria: Rapyem village and the villages between Barakin-Ladi and Bokokos, Plateau state**

Rev Soja Bewarang (**UPDATE:** said after 43 were killed "So many were killed for no reason. We do not know to whom to report as everybody that matters is aware of the situation. We keep looking up to God for our protection and an end to the matter")

Rev Yunusa Nmadu (**UPDATE:** said after 43 were killed "Families are targeted because the whole idea is to wipe away an entire community. In some cases prominent families such as community or religious leaders are targeted so that the followers can be weakened...They [the killers] must have some very wealthy sponsors that are faceless [as shown by the sophistication of their weapons]")

<http://dailypost.com.ng/2014/02/22/boko-haram-borno-christians-pray-gods-protection/>  
<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/02/3027145/>

**Sunday February 23, 2014**



### **China: Beijing**

**Several Christians are released from detention, illegal assembly charges dropped**



Xu Yonghai (**UPDATE**: released)

Yang Jing (**UPDATE**: released, suffered a heart attack in detention but was not treated, sought treatment after release)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/02/some-beijing-believers-released-3.html>



**India: Marepalli village, Andhra Pradesh state**

Pastor Devaraju (verbally abused by more than 30 radical Hindu youths who barged into a Christian home during a prayer meeting, said “Surviving as a pastor in India at the hands of Hindu radicals is every day a challenge. There is no guarantee that I will come back home if I go for gospel work”)

<http://www.persecution.org/2014/04/28/attacks-on-christians-spike-as-hindu-nationalists-set-to-take-control-of-india/>



**Pakistan**

Kashmala Munawar (first year high school student, legs injured in the [September 22, 2013](#) bombing of All Saints Church in [Peshawar](#), right leg became infected and was amputated, told as of [October 20, 2013](#) that she needs treatment in a Western hospital; **UPDATE**: has been flown to Australia for treatment in the hope that her remaining leg can be saved)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4711>



**Kazakhstan: Zyryanovsk, East Kazakhstan region**

Yegor Prokopenko (aged 87, led a religious service of 70 people that was raided by police, **UPDATE**: found guilty of leading an unregistered religious meeting and fined US\$1000)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1937](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1937)



**Sudan: Omdurman**

Rev Yahya Abdelrahim Nalu (Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church, arrested while preaching in church, told he would "face justice" if he did not resign from his position and allow a government-appointed successor)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/sudan-arrests-threatens-pastor-during-sermon-as-authorities-try-to-intimidate-preacher-into-resigning-115448/>



## Egypt

Gamal Abdou Massoud (beaten by fellow students for allegedly posting a drawing of Muhammad on Facebook, subsequently arrested, parent's and neighbors' homes burned, sentenced on April 4, 2012, to three years imprisonment; **UPDATE**: released from prison for good behavior)

## Egypt: Qena

Safwat Girgis Ruzeiqi (aged 6, returned home after being abducted for 60 days)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52499#.UwrBC8KUM5s>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52486#.UwrChcKUM5s>



## Libya: Grotha area, Benghazi

### Seven Coptic Christians abducted by Islamists after finding the cross tattoo common on Copts' wrists, all were later shot dead on a beach

Talaat Sadeek Bibawi (father of Nashat Bibawi, **murdered**)

Hani Habib Girgis (aged 24, married, father of 1, brother of Ndha Habib Girgis, **murdered**)

Ndha Habib Girgis (aged 26, married, father of 2, brother of Hani Habib Girgis, **murdered**)

Fathi Fawzi Sadeek (**murdered**)

Edward Nashed Boles (**murdered**)

Ayoub Sabri Tawfik (**murdered**)

Sameh Tawfik Roman (**murdered**)

Nashat Bibawi (son of Talaat Sadeek Bibawi, escaped abduction; **UPDATE**: said "The Christians who come here for work are always subjected to persecution from the Ansar al-Sharia groups" and that the walls near his apartment building are written with "Those who guide us to a Christian will receive a reward of 10,000 Libyan Dinar [\$8,000 USD]")

Anwi Bibawi (brother of Talaat Sadeek Bibawi)

<http://www.persecution.org/2014/02/25/seven-egyptian-christians-killed-in-libya/>  
<http://www.raymondibrahim.com/from-the-arab-world/seven-christians-executed-in-libya/>  
<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52531#.Uw1mmMKUM5s>  
<http://www.persecution.org/2014/03/05/they-attacked-god-himself-a-message-for-seven-christians-murdered-in-libya/>

**Monday February 24, 2014**



**China: Beijing**

**Several Christians are released from detention, illegal assembly charges dropped**

Kang Suping (released)

Wang Chunyan (**UPDATE**: released)

Wang Sue (**UPDATE**: released)

Xu Caihong (**UPDATE**: released)

Xu Xiaoling (**UPDATE**: released)

Yang Min (**UPDATE**: released)

Yang Qiuyu (**UPDATE**: released)

Zhang Wenhe (**UPDATE**: released)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/02/some-beijing-believers-released-3.html>



**Sudan: Omdurman**

Rev Yahya Abdelrahim Nalu (Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church, arrested while preaching in church, told he would "face justice" if he did not resign from his position and allow a government-appointed successor; **UPDATE**: released)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/sudan-arrests-threatens-pastor-during-sermon-as-authorities-try-to-intimidate-preacher-into-resigning-115448/>

**Wednesday February 26, 2014**



### **China: Beijing**

**Several Christians are released from detention, illegal assembly charges dropped, three still held**

Lu Dongli (**UPDATE**: still detained)

Yu Yanhua (**UPDATE**: still detained)

Zhang Haiyan (**UPDATE**: still detained)

Liang Yanhe (**UPDATE**: released at an earlier unknown date)

Wang Biao (**UPDATE**: released at an earlier unknown date along with his son)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/02/some-beijing-believers-released-3.html>



### **Pakistan**

"J" (convert from Islam, cousin of "Lily", on the run from the Taliban)

"Lily" (cousin of "J", **shot dead** by the Taliban in an attempt to kill "J")

<http://britishpakistanichristian.blogspot.com/2014/02/taliban-kill-christian-cousin-of-convert.html>



### **Turkmenistan: Ashgabad**

Pavel Paymov (aged 23, sentenced to one year's imprisonment for refusing military service, is waiting for the written verdict)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1940](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1940)

**Thursday February 27, 2014**



## **North Korea: Pyongyang**

Kim Jeong-wook (aged 50 [2014], missionary, entered the country from China on [November 11, 2013](#) to determine the fate of North Koreans forcibly returned by the Chinese government, arrested as a spy; **UPDATE:** publically confessed to having spied for the South Korean NIS, denied that he had been mistreated)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Pyongyang:-Christian-missionary-from-South-confesses-his-crimes-on-TV-30419.html>



## **China**

Wang “Joshua” Dao (reported on the events leading up to the arrest of kindergarten teachers Cheng Jie and Mo Xiliu, including Cheng Jie's constant relocations to avoid the population control personnel during her second pregnancy)

### **China: Yuhang district, Hangzhou city, Zhejiang province**

Sheng (Pastor of an officially sanctioned Three-Self Patriotic Movement church, complained about local government officials who removed a cross from the church's roof because it was 'too conspicuous', said two other official churches in the province were also subjected to the same demand)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/02/former-chinese-house-church-pastor.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/03/three-self-churches-in-zhejiang-anhui.html>



### **India: Pradhanpada village, Kandhamal district, Odisha state**

Sajan K. George (President of the Global Council of Indian Christians; **UPDATE:** called the destruction of a church hall by Hindu fundamentalists "shameful")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Kandhamal-Christians-live-in-fear-because-of-Hindu-fundamentalists-30464.html>



### **Pakistan: Central Jail Adyala, Rawalpindi**

Peter John (inmate in jail, trial for theft pending, beaten by the staff while on his way to the jail chapel, hospitalized)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4736>



### **Iraq: Bagdad**

Rev Andrew White (**UPDATE:** requested urgent prayers for Christians in Iraq after more than 1,000 people of all faiths were killed in January 2014 "Hundreds of our people have left the church because they have left the country. The hundreds left are those who cannot afford to leave, so the poverty and needs seem greater than ever. I honestly cannot tell you how terrible things are. We are in more than a desperate crisis. We need your prayers...I will not leave my people here, however bad it is. I am not leaving, and neither is God")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20140227152901.htm>



### **Palestine: Zeitun, Gaza**

Bishop William Shomali (**UPDATE:** said "The episode is serious, however the parish priest and his assistants refuse to be intimidated" after a church was bombed amid threats)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/35312-ASIA\\_HOLY\\_LAND\\_Attack\\_on\\_Catholic\\_parish\\_in\\_Gaza#.UxPQCskUM5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/35312-ASIA_HOLY_LAND_Attack_on_Catholic_parish_in_Gaza#.UxPQCskUM5s)

**Friday February 28, 2014**



### **Uzbekistan: Muynak, Karakalpakstan**

Bibiazhar Zhanabergenova (aged 66, **died of natural causes**, denied a Christian burial in a state-owned but mosque-managed cemetery)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1951](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1951)



### **Russia: Kemerovo**

Bishop Aristarkh (opened an exhibit on the persecution of Christians by the Soviets, said “We should not forget what happened to our Church, to our people. To be interested in martyrs means to be interested in the same core of Christianity, in the witness to Christ”)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2014/03/the-light-of-martyrs-shines-in-siberia-once-again/>



### **Congo, Democratic Republic: Kinshasa**

Fr Jean-Pierre Ndulani AA (abducted on [October 19, 2012](#) in Mbau; **UPDATE:** body reported to have been found in a mass grave, still unconfirmed)

Bishop Melchisedec Sikuli Paluku (**UPDATE:** said that “I have been informed of the discovery of two mass graves containing various bodies, but it is not certain that among them are the bodies of one or all three of the Assumptionist fathers abducted in October 2012, the matter is being verified”)

Fr Anselme Wasikundi AA (abducted on [October 19, 2012](#) in Mbau; **UPDATE:** none)

Fr Edmond Bamutute AA (abducted on [October 19, 2012](#) in Mbau; **UPDATE:** none)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/35315->

[AFRICA DR CONGO We have yet to verify the presence of the bodies of the three Assumptionist priests in mass graves discovered says the Bishop Butembo Beni#UxPZ3sKUM5s](#)



### **Vatican City**

Cardinal Leonardo Sandri (said of today's persecutions in the Middle East and recent persecutions in Latin America “In the light of the Word of God and in the light of so many witnesses who have gone before us, we can weave together with the scarlet thread of the blood of our martyrs, the common history of our America with the Eastern Churches: it is Christ crucified who unites...these two parts of the People of God”)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/35318->

[VATICAN The blood of martyrs scarlet thread linking Latin America and the Middle East#UxPdssKUM5s](#)

**February 2014, date unknown**



### **Central African Republic: Ngaoundaye**

Fr Benedykt Paczek OFM Cap (mission burned by rebels in early February, reported that 38 Polish missionaries had refused to evacuate from nine locations)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/02/20/catholic-leaders-praise-missionaries-in-central-african-republic/>