

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – April 2014

Tuesday April 1, 2014



Nepal: Kathmandu

Pastor Chari Bahadur Gahatraj (secretary of the Federation representing Protestant Churches;

UPDATE: commented on the government spending 5 million rupees on a Hindu festival "It is not right for the state to support de facto one religion and ignore the others...[the authorities] have ignored every year our request for land to build a cemetery [and] banished us from our land near Pashupatinath temple. They continue to treat us second-class citizens. Meanwhile, they use taxes collected from everybody to help Hindus. This cannot be called a secular government")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Nepal's-religious-minorities-tell-government-to-be-secular-and-not-just-support-Hindus-30714.html>



Yemen: Al Hadidah

Fatima Mohammad As-Salem (aged 30, attorney, converted to Christianity after an al-Qaeda attack killed 200 at a hospital in the capital, arrested and confined to a psychiatric hospital, reported to have said "By no means do I want to say that Islam is bad, evil, or awful. In recent times it has simply attracted people who use it as a shield to protect their aims. These people consider themselves to be substitutes of God on the Earth, murdering millions of innocent people, casting a shadow over the religion itself")

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/69676.htm>



Egypt: Minya

Ashraf Atef Hanna (teacher, shot in the head by a Muslim Brotherhood student, hospitalized in 'very serious' condition)

Egypt: Quseya, Assiut province

Kyrillos (aged 16, high school student, **murdered**)

Fr Luka Radi (reported on the murder of 16 year old Kyrillos, said the murder was "in cold blood")

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53301#.Uz4fZcLQcfg>

http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53397#.U0N_ScLQcfg



Turkey

Pastor Emre Karaali (aged 33, convert, victim of an assassination plot detected and thwarted by Izmit police on **January 18, 2013**, 2 of the 14 conspirators had pretended to seek baptism and were church members for over a year; **UPDATE**: testified at the first trial of 6 of the defendants, stated that he forgave them)

http://www.persecution.com/public/newsroom.aspx?story_ID=Njcx&featuredstory_ID=NDMy



United Kingdom: Cardiff, Wales

Isaac Spencer (Cardiff University's Students For Life, described the student union's attempt to ban pro-life meetings and demonstrations, vote failed only because a quorum was not present)

United Kingdom: Manchester

John Craven (aged 57, arrested in **September 2011** for street preaching on traditional Christian morals, held overnight without food, water or medicine, no charges brought; **UPDATE**: awarded 13,000 pounds - US\$21,634 - in a wrongful arrest settlement)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/04/10/students-outraged-as-union-votes-to-ban-pro-life-rallies/>

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/religious-freedom/street-preacher-awarded-%C2%A313k-for-wrongful-arrest>

Wednesday April 2, 2014



Pakistan: Lahore

Fr Asher Arshad (described how civil society groups are resulting in Christians and Muslims joining in prayer and fasting for the freedom of Asia Bibi and Sawan Masih)

Fr John Barkat (said of the death sentences for Asia Bibi and Sawan Masih "It is indeed sad to see that what has become of Pakistan")

Sardar Mushtaq Gill (civil rights attorney; **UPDATE**: warned in court by a stranger that he may be involved in a fake criminal case, assaulted, or even killed)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Catholics-and-Muslims-fasting-and-praying-together-for-Asia-Bibi-and-Sawan-Masih-30729.html>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/35508->

[ASIA_PAKISTAN_Threats_to_the_lawyer_who_defends_Christians_accused_of_blasphemy#.Uz4Yh8LQcfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/35508-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Threats_to_the_lawyer_who_defends_Christians_accused_of_blasphemy#.Uz4Yh8LQcfg)



Sudan: El Gadarif

Faiza Abdalla (aged 37, arrested on a charge of apostasy on the basis of her Muslim name when she claimed to be a Christian, her family had converted to Christianity before her birth)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/05/second-woman-in-jail-for-alleged-apostasy-as-meriam-ibrahim-gives-birth-in-prison/>



Ukraine

Metropolitan Kliment (said of the Orthodox Church, Kiev Patriarchate in Crimea "Our churches could be thrown out onto the street today or tomorrow because we are not in line with Russian laws")

Patriarch Filaret (Orthodox Church, Kiev Patriarchate; **UPDATE**: said "It's hard to believe [Russian] promises at the moment - they promise one thing and then do something else, so if they don't fulfil their promises we will take the Crimean Muslims up on their offer [to host Orthodox Christian services in their mosques]")

<http://www.ecumenicalnews.com/article/kiev-loyal-orthodox-church-doubtful-of-its-future-in-crimea-23843>



United States – Florida: Oviedo

Gabriella Perez (aged 5, told by a lunch monitor that she could not pray at school, the school principal later called a meeting and reminded the staff that there is no policy against prayer in school)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/kindergartner-praying-allegedly-stopped-by-lunch-monitor-video-117240/>

Thursday April 3, 2014



China: Nanle County, Henan province

Yujuan (detained for several hours by police after delivering a sermon the prior day, subjected to mockery of Jesus, threatened with her child's expulsion from school, released, police seized musical instruments from other church members)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/04/persecution-continues-at-nanle-county.html>



Venezuela: Caracas

Archbishop Diego Rafael Padron Sanchez (published a statement signed by all Catholic bishops in the country stating that "the fundamental cause of the crisis Venezuela is experiencing, the demand of President Nicolas Maduro's government to try and impose the so-called 'Plan of the Fatherland', behind which hides the imposition of a totalitarian government")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/35507-AMERICA_VENEZUELA_The_Bishops_alarm_after_two_months_of_violence_Venezuela_government_seeks_totalitarian_regime#.Uz4ZqsLQcfg

Friday April 4, 2014



China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Zheng Leguo (described an attempt to demolish the official Sanjiang Church: “When the Party secretary Xia Baolong visited the local areas, he found the cross on top of the church very conspicuous. So he ordered that it be demolished. Then, the officials from Yongjia county demanded that the church tear down the cross and the top floor of the church”, thousands of Christians now stand guard around the church building)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/04/zhejiang-tspm-church-faces-forced.html>



India

Rev Valson Thampu (said "Election 2014 offers us little freedom of choice. The only option is between corruption and communalism...Money and media power has reached its nadir in this election. It is a media-powered election with the results being declared even before the voting has begun. This is an insult to democracy...[Hindu nationalist] Modi's hype is built on publicity")

http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/article_3089344.html/



Pakistan: Lahore

Shafaqat Emmanuel (aged 35, husband of Shagufta Bibi, father of two, handicapped, arrested for allegedly sending a blasphemous text message; confessed sending the blasphemous text message after being tortured and told by the police that his wife would be tortured; moved to the jail hospital with multiple bed sores which are reportedly more than 3 inches deep, will require surgery if he survives; **UPDATE**: found guilty at trial, sentenced to death)

Shagufta Kauser (aged 35, wife of Shafaqat Emmanuel, mother of two, school worker, arrested for allegedly sending a blasphemous text message; forced along with her children to watch the torture of her husband by the police; **UPDATE**: found guilty at trial, sentenced to death)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenews.php?hnewsid=4801>



Turkmenistan: Ashgabad

Juma Nazarov (spouse of Maral Nazarov, home raided by police without warrant, later fined US\$57, appeal pending)

Maral Nazarov (spouse of Maral Nazarov, home raided by police without warrant)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2047



Iraq: Bagdad

William Warda (chairman of the Hammurabi Human Rights Organization, **UPDATE**: described "dozens" of cases where unoccupied homes owned by Christians are seized and occupied by gangs)

Ahlam (British resident, said "A gang claiming to be allied to [Shiite cleric Moqtada] Sadr took over my house in Karrada, and my friends tried to take it back, but they have failed so far...The house is my only source of livelihood, and I refuse to sell it because I dream of returning back to Iraq, when the security situation stabilizes")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20140404132828.htm>



Egypt: Manshyet el-Tahrir, Ain Shams, Cairo

Fr Girgis Boules (said "The State apparatuses, the media and the community clearly distinguish in dealing between the murder of Mary Sameh George compared to their dealings with the killing of [female Muslim] journalist Mayada, who was killed on the same day [by the Muslim Brotherhood]")

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53342#.Uz-Pa8LQcfg>



Cameroon

Fr Giampaolo Marta (Italian citizen, abducted by Boko Haram gunmen)

Fr Gianantonio Allegri (Italian citizen, abducted by Boko Haram gunmen)

Sr Gilberte Bissiere (Canadian citizen, abducted by Boko Haram gunmen)

<http://thenationonlineng.net/new/gunmen-kill-20-worshippers-mosque/>

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/pope-francis-prays-for-kidnapped-priests-nun/>

Saturday April 5, 2014



Malaysia: Kuala Lumpur

Rev Dr Eu Hong Seng (chairman of the Christian Federation of Malaysia; **UPDATE**: demanded that the 321 Bibles seized in the [January 2 2014 Selangor state](#) police raid on the Bible Society of Malaysia be returned)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Selangor,-Christians-demand-Islamic-authorities-return-confiscated-Bibles-30753.html>



Russia: Khabarovsk

Vladimir Fukalov (church benefactor, financier of the renovation of St Alexander Nevsky Church, **murdered**, the church burned to the ground hours later, cause has yet to be determined)

Metropolitan Ignatius (reported on the murder of Vladimir Fukalov and the fire at St Alexander Nevsky Church)

Fr Oleg Hutorskoy (reported on the murder of Vladimir Fukalov)

Fr Basil Didenko (reported on the fire at St Alexander Nevsky Church)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2014/04/the-st-alexander-nevsky-church-in-khabarovsk-has-burned-down-and-its-benefactor-been-killed/>

Sunday April 6, 2014



Vietnam

Dinh Dang Dinh (chemistry teacher, political prisoner for two years, **died of stomach cancer**, was released from prison only after the cancer became untreatable, was baptized a few days before he died)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Vietnamese-political-prisoner-Dinh-Dang-Dinh-dies-as-a-'son-of-God'-30806.html>



Uganda: Kamuli

Nanvunani Shamimu (aged 17, sister of Nawudo Hasifa, converted to Christianity, later that night was **beaten to death** by her father)

Nawudo Hasifa (aged 19, sister of Nanvunani Shamimu, converted to Christianity, later that night was beaten by her father, witnessed her sister's murder, escaped from her family, in hiding)

Pastor Musis James (aided Nawudo Hasifa after her escape from her family following her sister's murder)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/04/muslim-in-uganda-kills-daughter-for-leaving-islam-sister-says/>



Cameroon: Tthere

Fr Henri Djonyang (**UPDATE**: expressed indignation on the abduction of Sr Gilberte Bussiere, Fr Giampaolo Marta, and Fr Gianantonio Allegri)

http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/04/article_3096757.html/



Nicaragua: Wiwili municipality, Jinotega department

Fr Juan Francisco Blandon Meza (aged 42, **shot dead**, assailant killed himself and his wife)

Bishop Carlos Enrique Herrera (eulogized Fr Juan Francisco Blandon Meza, said that the perpetrator was unstable)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/35534-AMERICA_NICARAGUA_Pastor_killed_he_was_a_charismatic_sociale_cheerful_priest_he_inspired_young_people_to_follow_Jesus_Christ#.U0TIssLQcfg

Monday April 7, 2014



China: Wenzhou

Thousands of Christians continue to surround the Sanjiang Christian Church as human shields to prevent its demolition

Li Xile (said “We are not taking the cross down. It is a symbol of our love”)

Wang Jianfeng (human shield, said “[Mr. Xia Balong’s] behavior is illegal. He has abused his power. The construction of the church is not against the law”)

China: Batang county, Sichuan province

Yong Jin (wife of Zhang Feng, sentenced to 10 days administrative detention, **UPDATE:** released)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/04/touchstone-chinese-christians-defend.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/04/sichuan-couple-threatened-by-husbands.html>



Kyrgyzstan: Bishkek

Pastor Eduard Pak (ordered to vacate the land rented by Hope Baptist Church)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1945



Uzbekistan: Samarkand

Veniamin Nemirov (husband of Yelena Nemirov; **UPDATE:** home raided by police for non-payment of a 2012 fine but after a court order expired, automobile seized)

Uzbekistan: Tashkent

Vera Raupova (**UPDATE:** fined for "illegally storing" her own Christian books in her home)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1957

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



Syria: Homs

Fr Frans van der Lugt SJ (aged 75, **UPDATE**: pulled by armed men from the Jesuit residence and into its garden, beaten, **shot dead with two bullets in the head**)

Rev Ziad Hilla SJ (reported on the murder of Fr Frans van der Lugt)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Homs:-Fr-Frans-Van-of-the-Lugt,-who-fed-Christians-and-Muslims,-is-killed-30767.html>

http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/04/article_3092563.html/



Egypt

Dr Ashraf Ramelah (founder and president of Voice of the Copts, said of the **March 28, 2014** attack on the Virgin and Archangel Michael Coptic Church in which Mary Sameh George and four others were killed "As always, condemnation by international bodies of such terrorist acts is non-existent. Shall we regard silence as respect for Egypt's sovereignty, and, if so, how shall we view the recent international cries of concern for Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood members receiving guilty verdicts and death sentences?", also noted receiving threats from Islamists in India)

Egypt: Minya

Ashraf Atef Hanna (teacher, **shot in the head** by a Muslim Brotherhood student on **April 1, 2014**, hospitalized in 'very serious' condition; **UPDATE**: **has died from his wound**)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8428:coming-from-mosque-service-muslims-kill-christians-common-pattern-in-egypt&catid=81:regions&Itemid=278

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53398#.U0N-0sLQcfg>

Tuesday April 8, 2014



Pakistan: Lahore

Pastor Saleem James (victim of an armed robbery, Bible also taken, threatened with death unless he stopped preaching, attempted to file a police report but police demanded a bribe, report finally filed but for robbery only; has previously been stalked and threatened with the abduction of his children)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4858>



Syria: Aleppo

Fr Joseph Bazuzu (**UPDATE**: spoke on the martyrdom of Fr Frans van der Lugt "We are experiencing every day what it means to go through times of suffering. Now also Fr Frans Van der Lugt will help us with his example, he who testified his love for Christ and the Syrian people")

Fr Bimal Kerketta SJ (Indian citizen, eulogized his friend Fr Frans van der Lugt from [Minya, Egypt](#) and said "As for me, I am ready to go to Syria and work there, at any time. I am talking to my superiors. God save Syria")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Indian-Jesuit,-the-murder-of-Fr-Frans-is-a-loss-for-Muslims-in-Syria-30779.html>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/35535->

[ASIA SYRIA Difficult times will come After the assassination of Father Van der Lugt Christians continue to pray and reflect on martyrdom#.U0TBacLQcfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/35535-ASIA_SYRIA_Difficult_times_will_come_After_the_assassination_of_Father_Van_der_Lugt_Christians_continue_to_pray_and_reflect_on_martyrdom#.U0TBacLQcfg)



Ukraine

Bishop Bohdan Dzyurakh (said that all churches in Crimea must re-register with the new government, and that the church is replacing married pastors with unmarried priests from religious orders due to mistreatment of priests' families by pro-Russian activists, also said "the threats and accusations against us recall Soviet propaganda from when our Church was suppressed in 1945-46, and we've no illusions as to what this portends")

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/04/08/bishop-ukrainian-church-battling-to-remain-legal-in-crimea/>



United States – Oregon: Portland

Chauncy Childs (natural foods store owner, under threat from homosexual activists who demand that she close her store and leave the community after she posted a defense of traditional marriage on Facebook, the activists are organizing pressure on her vendors to force them to not do business with her)

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/gay-activists-aim-to-shut-down-oregon-health-food-store-over-owners-support>

Wednesday April 9, 2014



China: Batang county, Sichuan province

Zhang Feng (husband of Yong Jun, house church leader, detained on [March 18, 2014](#) for distributing Christian literature, sentenced to 10 days administrative detention, released, **UPDATE:** threatened with loss of his job after he filed a court case to reconsider his conviction)

Yong Jin (wife of Zhang Feng, sentenced to 10 days administrative detention, released on [April 7, 2014](#), **UPDATE:** filed a court case to reconsider her conviction)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/04/sichuan-couple-threatened-by-husbands.html>



Pakistan: Lahore

Shafaqat Emmanuel (aged 35, husband of Shagufta Bibi, father of two, handicapped, arrested for allegedly sending a blasphemous text message; confessed to sending the blasphemous text message after being tortured and told by the police that his wife would be tortured; 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; found guilty at trial, sentenced to death; **UPDATE:** appeal has been filed)

Shagufta Kauser (aged 35, wife of Shafaqat Emmanuel, mother of two, school worker, arrested for allegedly sending a blasphemous text message; forced along with her children to watch the torture of her husband by the police; found guilty at trial, sentenced to death; **UPDATE:** appeal has been filed)

Nadeem Hassain (attorney for Shafaqat Emmanuel and Shagufta Kauser, has been repeatedly threatened by Islamic extremists)

Eric John (attorney for Shafaqat Emmanuel and Shagufta Kauser, has been repeatedly threatened by Islamic extremists)

Farrukh H Saif (**UPDATE:** said "Even the judge who issued the first instance judgment was victim of harassment and intimidation on behalf of Islamic extremists")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/35542->

[ASIA PAKISTAN Appeal for Christians sentenced to death for blasphemy via sms has been filed at the High Court#.U0YdWMLQcfg](#)



Uzbekistan: outside Tashkent

Gayrat Buriyev (**died of natural causes**, denied a Christian burial in a state-owned but mosque-managed cemetery - the iman called his family "unclean and defiled infidels", his unregistered church has been denied the ability to purchase its own cemetery)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1951



Egypt: Minya province

Bishoy Armiya (Egypt's 'most famous' convert, arrested before **December 5, 2013** and charged with "inciting sedition by communicating to a US-based [Coptic] channel unfounded information on Copts persecution in Egypt"; attorney claimed on **December 6, 2013** that all charges were fabricated by the national security agency; ordered detained on **December 7, 2013** 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"; **UPDATE**: ordered held another 15 days - has not been released since his **December 2013** arrest)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53427#.U0YINcLQcfg>

Thursday April 10, 2014



China: Nanle County, Henan province

Pastor Zhang Shaojie (charged with "fraud" and "disturbing public order" due to his continuing conflict against government expropriation of church property; **UPDATE**: has obtained new legal counsel due to irregularities in the state's evidence, nine parishioners still in custody with no court appearances)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/04/henan-tspm-pastor-tried-rights.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/04/tspm-pastor-hires-new-lawyers-trial-to.html>



Bhutan: Khapdani village, Samtse district

Two pastors arrested for holding an unauthorized public meeting with 30 Christians but not officially charged, the meeting was for the ground breaking of a new house

Pastor M.B. Thapa aka Lobzang (arrested, **UPDATE**: still in custody)

Pastor Tandin Wangyal (arrested, **UPDATE**: still in custody)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/04/two-pastors-in-bhutan-jailed-without-charges/>



Iran

Hassan Saddat-Barikani (convert, twice imprisoned, fled with his family to Turkey and sought asylum, described the mental torture used in prisons including denial of toilet facilities, reported that the arrests of Christians in the smaller cities are generally not reported)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8445:christian-prisoner-mental-torture-is-common-practice-in-iranian-prisons&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Kenya: Mogotio

Hassan Hussein Mohammed (recent convert, beaten unconscious in a mosque when he admitted that he had become a Christian, received threatening text messages)

Pastor Victor Kurui (converted Hassan Hussein Mohammed)

Pastor Johana Cheruiyot (sheltered Hassan Hussein Mohammed in his home after he was beaten)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/05/convert-from-islam-in-kenya-beaten-arrested/>



United Kingdom: Farm Street Jesuit Church, London

Lord David Alton (human rights advocate; **UPDATE**: said "Fr Frans van der Lugt [of Homs, Syria]...joins a long list of Jesuit martyrs – some martyred a stone's throw from where we are gathered – and who have sacrificed their lives truly believing that a man has no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends...Fr Franz's death in Syria is a stark reminder of the systematic campaign by jihadists intent on the destruction of the region's ancient churches and the contemporary Passion and suffering being inflicted on the

Middle East's Christians...We in the West, who enjoy so many freedoms and liberties, need to ask ourselves some tough questions about the disproportionate nature of the causes which we so readily embrace whilst ignoring the systematic violent ideology of an Islamist "Final Solution" directed at the Christian minorities...Ultimately, [Western] parliamentarians are only as good as the people who elect them – so their electorates are also partly to blame or not organizing themselves in the way in which pressure groups do. If political leaders have been indifferent, where here are the western churches?")

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/commentandblogs/2014/04/10/jihadists-are-embarking-on-final-solution-in-middle-east/>



Canada

Peter LaBarbera (U.S. citizen, detained by Canadian Border Services for having the potential to violate "hate propaganda" laws by upholding traditional Christian moral views, detention overturned on appeal)

Maurice Vellacott (Saskatchewan member of parliament, supported Peter LaBarbera's appeal against his detention)

Marci Millette (Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association president, said of the detention of Peter LaBarbera "Are these tyrants going to detain Christian priests and pastors next? They preach the same Gospel messages")

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/breaking-us-pro-family-activist-wins-appeal-allowed-to-speak-in-canada>

Friday April 11, 2014



Myanmar: Yangon

Archbishop Charles Maung Bo (opposed a proposed law that limits interfaith marriages and religious conversions)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/35560-ASIA_MYANMAR_New_law_on_religious_freedom_The_Church_disagrees#.U0jBBMLQcfg



Sri Lanka: Colombo

Fr S.J. Emmanuel (aged 80, leader of the Global Tamil Forum, put on a government terrorist list because of his organization)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/35563-ASIA_SRI_LANKA_The_government_also_puts_a_priest_in_the_list_of_terrorist_because_he_defends_the_Tamil#.U0n6TcLQcfg



Pakistan: Lahore

Fr James Channan, OP (**UPDATE**: issued a report stating that 700 Christian girls and 300 Hindu girls are abducted and forced into Islamic marriage each year with the tacit approval of the police)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/700-christian-women-kidnapped-yearly-forced-into-muslim-marriages-in-pakistan/>



Uzbekistan: Tashkent

Yelena Kasparova (wife of Grigory Kasparov, home searched by police on [March 17, 2014](#), religious items seized, **UPDATE**: fined US \$40 for "illegally storing" her own Christian books in her home, has paid the fine)

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



Egypt: Luxor

Amira Hafez Waheeb (aged 15, abducted for more than 40 days, her attorney has appealed to the president for help)

Egypt: Qalyubia

Romany Makram Zakaria Ghali (**shot dead** in a [March 26, 2014](#) carjacking attempt; **UPDATE**: his family has stated that the police have not properly pursued the case)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53478#.U0jG1sLQcfg>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53472#.U0jH2MLQcfg>

Saturday April 12, 2014



India: Budrukia village, Kandhamal district, Odisha state

Sirba Digal (house demolished by Hindu extremists for the third time)

<http://www.persecution.org/2014/05/30/christian-home-destroyed-by-hindu-radicals-in-kandhamal-india/>



Turkmenistan: Ashgabad

Gelman Rahmetulov (husband of Svetlana Rahmetulov, home raided by police without warrant or identification, religious literature seized, later fined US\$57)

Svetlana Rahmetulov (wife of Gelman Rahmetulov, home raided by police without warrant or identification, religious literature seized)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2047



Egypt: Assiut

Michael Mohsen (abducted while returning home from work)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53504#.U0oB-8LQcfg>

Sunday April 13, 2014

Palm Sunday – Eastern and Western Calendars



Uzbekistan: Syrdarya region

Ten Christians detained along with their 12 children, four refused to sign police reports, released, all expecting administrative penalties

Andrey Shevchenko (husband of Galina Shevchenko; **UPDATE**: home raided during dinner, religious books and tapes seized, detained)

Galina Shevchenko (detained)

Stanislav Shegai (detained)

Nadezhda Matrosova (detained)

Sergei Yermakov (detained)

Aleksandr Kolomeytsev (detained)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1957



Iraq: Al Ghadeer, Bagdad

Lina Laith Josiph (**killed**)

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



Syria: Damascus

Archbishop Samir Nassar (**UPDATE**: said "This Holy Week was introduced by the murder of Fr Frans from Homs in the fourth year of war and violence. Shells raining down on our neighbourhoods, schools closed, we cannot give an account of the victims. We are abandoned to Providence...This small Syrian people, so kind, generous and patient, have become accustomed to suffering and die in silence. It is in this spirit that we live Holy Week and Easter holidays, knowing that the Way of the Cross...has marked our lives for three years, accompanies the fourth year. The end of the tunnel is invisible")

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/04/16/persecuted-facing-way-of-the-cross-this-easter/>

Monday April 14, 2014



Bangladesh: Mohammadour district, Dhaka

Mary Thigidi Purnima (aged 21, beautician, gang raped by four Muslims, threatened by her attackers' family members after filing a police report)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bangladesh,-tribal-Catholic-gang-raped:-Christians-and-Muslims-demand-justice-30856.html>



Pakistan: Lahore

Asia Bibi (mother of five still incarcerated in jail on blasphemy charges after a **November 2010** death sentence; **UPDATE**: appeal hearing begun and then adjourned after a presentation of arguments, no date set for the next hearing)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Lahore:-third-postponement-in-Asia-Bibi's-appeal-as-Islamist-threats-against-judges-continue-30828.html>



Syria

Fr Frans van der Lugt SJ (**UPDATE**: posted on Facebook just days before his **assassination** "Our faith helps us a lot to overcome this critical situation, provides us with hope and patience...Starving is threatening our lives, we miss the basic elements to survive, food and elementary needs...But somehow we are surviving, and push life forward. Moreover, we experience the goodness of people who are in need. They find some lentils and bulgur [all they can eat after two years] in front of their doors. Now, when we are poor and in need, we rediscover the goodness of human beings, when we receive from our brothers and sisters. We see evil is trying to find his way among us, but it can't turn us blind before the goodness...We are preparing ourselves to Easter, reflecting on crossing from death to resurrection. We feel like we are in the valley of the shadows, but we can see that light far away, leading us to life again")

Tony Homsy SJ (Syrian native, University of Aleppo graduate in biochemistry, from **Omaha, Nebraska, United States** wrote a reminiscence of his friend and mentor Fr Frans van der Lugt in which he quoted the murdered priest's last Facebook entry)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/I-will-miss-you-Fr-Frans,-you-inspired-us-all,-says-Syrian-Jesuit-30826.html>



Egypt: Minya

Bishoy Armiya (Egypt's 'most famous' convert, arrested before [December 5, 2013](#) and charged with "inciting sedition by communicating to a US-based [Coptic] channel unfounded information on Copts persecution in Egypt"; **UPDATE**: has been attacked in prison and threatened with death in an attempt to revert him back to Islam)

Egypt

Abanob Ashaiah Rawy Akhnoukh (aged 5, disappeared)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53540#.U0ywXMLQcfg>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53933#.U2RMWMLQcfg>



Nigeria: Nyanya, Karu urban area, Abuja

Fr Patrick Tor Alumuku (deplored an apparent Boko Haram suicide bombing in the capital that killed dozens of commuters "The place where the attack was carried out today is one of the largest suburbs of Abuja and is located 15-20 km from the center of Abuja. The bus depot where the explosion took place is normally used by a large number of commuters to get to work in the center of the capital. The victims are therefore normal people, who belong to the working class, who were on their way to work")

Chinazor Nwange (aged 15, daughter of Lydia Nwange, food vendor, **died in a Boko Haram bombing**)

Lydia Nwange (mother of Chinazor Nwange and four others, food vendor, witnessed her daughter's death, said "She was my first born, the closest to me, very hard working and a dedicated Christian...A day before she died, she told me that that day - the day of the bomb blast - would be her last to go with me because she would be travelling for a church retreat, the day after")

Nigeria: Chibok, Borno state

Over 200 schoolgirls abducted by Boko Haram

Abigel Bukar (abducted)

Agnes Gafane (abducted)

Aisha Lawan Zanna (abducted)

Amina Ali (abducted)

Ashe Ezekiel (abducted)

Bilkisu Abdullahi (abducted)

Comfort Habila (abducted)
Dabora Abbas (abducted)
Deborah Abari (abducted)
Dokas Yakubu (abducted)
Esther Ayuba (abducted)
Fanta Lawan (abducted)
Fibi Haruna (abducted)
Filo Dauda (abducted)
Gloria Yaga (abducted)
Godiya Bitrus (abducted)
Hajara Isa (abducted)
Hajara Isa (abducted)
Halima Ali (abducted)
Hanatu Nuhu (abducted)
Hannatu Ishaku (abducted)
Hauwa Abdu (abducted)
Hauwa Ali (abducted)
Hauwa Bitrus (abducted)
Hauwa Isuwa (abducted)
Hauwa M Maina (abducted)
Hauwa Mutan (abducted)
Hauwa Nkeki Mbalala (abducted)
Helen Musa (abducted)
Jummai Muta (abducted)
Kabu Mala (abducted)
Kabu Mala (abducted)
Kawuna Lalai (abducted)
Kawuna Luka (abducted)
Ladi Jajel (abducted)
Ladi Paul (abducted)
Laraba John (abducted)
Laraba Mamman (abducted)
Luba Afga (abducted)

Luba Sanda (abducted)
Lydia Emmar (abducted)
Lydia Habila (abducted)
Lydia Simon (abducted)
Magret Yama (abducted)
Mairama Ali (abducted)
Margaret Watsai (abducted)
Mary G Dauda (abducted)
Mary Ndamah (abducted)
Mary Nkeki (abducted)
Maryam Abbas (abducted)
Maryam Ali Maiyanga (abducted)
Maryama Bashir (abducted)
Moda Baba (abducted)
Monica Enoch (abducted)
Mwa Daniel (abducted)
Na'omi Bitrus (abducted)
Na'omi Bukar (abducted)
Na'omi Luka (abducted)
Na'omi Philimun (abducted)
Patient Jacob (abducted)
Rejoice Musa (abducted)
Rejoice Shanki (abducted)
Rifkatu Galang (abducted)
Roda Peter (abducted)
Ross Daniel (abducted)
Saratu Tauji (abducted)
Saraya Emos Ali (abducted)
Saraya Samuel (abducted)
Saraya Stober (abducted)
Saraya Yanga (abducted)
Shitta Abdu (abducted)
Solomi Pugu (abducted)

Susana Yakubu (abducted)

Yana Bukar (abducted)

Yana Joshua (abducted)

Yayi Abana (abducted)

Zainabu Yaga (abducted)

Sarah Lawan (aged 19, abducted along with over 200 other schoolgirls, escaped, said that she thought it better to be killed than to be abducted)

Joyce (aged 17, abducted with over 230 other schoolgirls, escaped)

Mercy Paul (schoolgirl, abducted by Boko Haram gunmen, escaped by jumping from a truck)

Rev Enoch Mark (two daughters among the over 200 abducted schoolgirls)

Yakubu Maina (father of one of the abducted schoolgirls, said “My grief is deep, I’d rather my daughter was dead than face this horror”)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/35576-AFRICA_NIGERIA_Bombing_in_Abuja_the_victims_of_the_Boko_Haram_and_Al_Qaeda_alliance_are_poor_workers_said_a_priest#.U0yqvcLQcfg

<http://www.osundefender.org/?p=165163>

<http://www.misna.org/en/other/kidnapped-schoolgirls-bishops-accusations-17-04-2014-813.html>

<http://thenationonlineng.net/new/parents-identify-77-girls-boko-haram-video/>

https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/05/article_3133261.html/

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/kidnapped-nigerian-girls-tell-stories-of-escape-over-200-others-sighted-119525/>

<http://thenationonlineng.net/new/military-probes-mutiny-borno-barracks/>

<http://thenationonlineng.net/new/girl-book-boko-harams-biggest-threat/>

<http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/missing-nigeria-schoolgirls/i-jumped-one-womans-story-escape-boko-haram-n257451>



Mexico: Aldama, Chihuahua

Samuel Gustavo Gomez Veleta (aged 21, seminarian, abducted and **murdered**)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/35619->

[AMERICA_MEXICO_Seminarian_kidnapped_and_murdered_during_Holy_Week#.U18a-MLQcfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/35619-AMERICA_MEXICO_Seminarian_kidnapped_and_murdered_during_Holy_Week#.U18a-MLQcfg)

Tuesday April 15, 2014



Kazakhstan: Almaty

Yuri Toporov (Russian citizen, charged with acting as an unregistered missionary; convicted,
UPDATE: appeal denied, has 30 days to leave the country with his Kazakh wife)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1950



Syria: Bab Tuma, Damascus

Fr George Bahi (described the death of a child and the wounding of 61 when a missile hit the
Armenian Catholic School)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/35588-
ASIA SYRIA A missile on an Armenian Catholic school a child killed 61 injured
#.U03zTMLQcfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/35588-ASIA_SYRIA_A_missile_on_an_Armenian_Catholic_school_a_child_killed_61_injured#.U03zTMLQcfg)



Egypt: Minya

Milad Fawzi Lutfi (shot and injured in a failed abduction attempt)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53573#.U032X8LQcfg>



Belarus: Mogilev

Fr Roman Schulz (Polish citizen, denied permission to stay in the country after serving a parish
for seven years, no reason given)

Belarus: Minsk

Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz (**UPDATE:** announced the government's decision to deny
permission to stay in the country for Fr Roman Schultz and a second unnamed priest)

Fr Yury Sanko (**UPDATE:** said that Fr Roman Schultz can remain in the country until his visa
expires, but that the government revoked his permission to conduct religious services,
then suspended the revocation to allow him to celebrate Easter)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1969

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1969

Wednesday April 16, 2014



South Korea: Gwanmaedo Island

Augustine Nam Yoo-chul (aged 35, teacher, **drowned** while saving dozens of his students in the Sewol ferry disaster, his last act was to give his life jacket to one of his students)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Augustine-Nam,-a-martyr-of-the-Sewol,-chose-to-save-his-students-instead-of-running-away-31095.html>



Pakistan: Lahore

Sunny Hyder aka Haroon (aged 22, son of Hyder Masih, father of two aged 2 years and 10 months, bank custodian, **shot dead** by a security guard after refusing to convert to Islam, assailant is in custody but police have been delaying the opening of a case because they are trying to report it as a suicide)

Hyder Masih (father of Sunny Hyder, said "There is no other staff in the bank, because the branch is being renovated. On April 15, my son told me that [security guard] Farooq had mocked his Christian faith and had asked him to 'embrace' Islam. He told my son, 'You are a good-looking boy, and I don't like to see you sweeping floors and cleaning the washrooms. If you embrace Islam, I'll connect you with people who will take good care of you, provide you with a decent job and even get you married into a wealthy Muslim family.' ...My son told me that when he snubbed Farooq, the guard had threatened him that he would have to face the consequences for refusing the Dawaat [an invitation to accept Islam]...Little did I know that my son would end up in a mortuary a day later")

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4822>

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/for-discussing-christian-customs-young-christian-boy-lost-his-life/>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/04/family-of-christian-shot-dead-in-pakistan-doubts-suicide-claim/>



Azerbaijan

Kamran Shikhaliyev (**UPDATE**: convicted of "fraudulently evading military service")

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1956



Palestine

Rifat Kassis (wrote on how large numbers of Palestinian Christians are denied permits to attend Holy Week services in Jerusalem)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/local-christians-barred-from-jerusalems-holy-week-events/70721>



Syria: Damascus

Hanna (wife and mother, **UPDATE**: wrote "Sometimes it seems like there is no end to all this misery. I know God is in control, but sometimes I feel so hopeless. I regularly fall on my knees and cry out to Him about why all of this is happening...While I'm telling you this, we're in the middle of a bombing. My husband and two girls just saw one bomb falling down over 200 yards from our house. We hurried downstairs to be safer...A mortar falling down sounds like a very strong voice near you; it's the same pressure. We don't know what will happen in five minutes, or even one minute. One moment you're here, the next moment you can be gone. A few days ago my relative was preparing Easter snacks in the kitchen when suddenly her life was over; a bomb fell through her apartment. We didn't find her body...I told the children [in the school where I work]: no matter what bad things are happening around us, our God is still good; even if we're in danger of death, our God is still good and worthy of praise. So we raised our hands and started worshiping God. The parents of one of our Muslim pupils were present while we did that, and they were so impressed they said: 'Our child is safe here. He is under the protection of God'")

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/syrian-christian-mother-praying-but-feeling-hopeless-as-bombings-occur-every-day-118160/>



Central African Republic: Sarah neighborhood, Bangui

Family of three shot dead by Muslim extremists the night they returned home from a refugee camp

Casimir Djeroma (husband of Pulcherie, father of Patou, **shot dead**)

Pulcherie (wife of Casimir Djeroma, mother of Patou, **shot dead**)

Patou (daughter of Casimir Djeroma and Pulcherie, **shot dead**)

http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/04/article_3112409.html/

Thursday April 17, 2014



India

Hindu nationalist Prime Minister candidate Narendra Modi said in a television interview that he was unaware of any attacks on Christians and their places of worship in India

Rev Richard Howell (Evangelical Fellowship of India general secretary, **UPDATE:** said “What he said was an utter lie. The onslaught against Christians by Right-wing groups has always been cause for concern. The Bajrang Dal, the youth wing of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, has been attacking members of the Christian community and vandalizing churches across India...How can he forget the gruesome attacks on tribal Christians in Gujarat’s Dangs district in 1998 during the NDA regime when members of the Right-wing cadres burnt down churches?”)

Vijayesh Lal (Religious Liberty Commission national director, said “Surprisingly, Modi pretends to be ignorant and unaware about such attacks on Christians. If this is the case then why should we trust his promises of a secular India as mentioned in the BJP’s election manifesto?”)

<http://www.ucanindia.in/news/christian-leaders-condemn-modi%E2%80%99s-ignorance-on-antichristian-attacks/24633/daily>



Pakistan

Asloob George (aged 43, husband of Ulfat Rani, father of Shahid, Shawn, and Edward, Pakistani refugee, fled the country for Thailand following blasphemy allegations against one son)

Ulfat Rani (aged 48, wife of Asloob George)

Shahid (aged 27, son of Asloob George)

Shawn (aged 12, son of Asloob George)

Edward (aged 14, son of Asloob George)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/a-beleagured-christian-family-fleeing-persecution-are-calling-for-release-of-their-father-on-promise>



Kyrgyzstan: Bishkek

Vakhtang Fyodorov (Russian citizen, catechist, accused of 'illegal missionary work', asserts that he is not breaking the law since he teaches only to church members, is concerned that if he visits Russia he will be denied re-entry to the country)

Yuliya Farbstein (declined to comment on a police raid on a Lenten service held in the Russian Orthodox cathedral in the capital)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1949



Iran: Evin prison, Tehran

Revolutionary Guards beat dozens of political and religious prisoners, more than 30 injured, prison doctors prohibited from treating the inmates until 'trusted' doctors from the intelligence services arrived)

Alireza Seyyedean (beaten)

Ebrahim Firouzi (convert, aged 28 [2013]; **UPDATE**: beaten)

Farshid Malayeri Fathi (in jail since [December 2010](#); **UPDATE**: beaten, hospitalized with a damaged joint and a broken toe)

Rasoul Abdollahi (convert; **UPDATE**: beaten)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8496:farshidfathi&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8503:pastor-farshidfathi-transferred-to-hospital-after-being-beaten-in-prison&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Kazakhstan: Sergeyevka

Denis Yenenko (aged 31, married and father of three, home raided during a religious service, fined US\$475, appeal denied, **UPDATE**: jailed for six days for refusing to pay his fine)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1950



Syria: Aleppo

Prof Jany Haddad (humanitarian aid distributor, wrote "Till now, and from three directions and axes, the rebels are trying to invade the Christian and Armenian areas and regions. So far, more than 120-130 rockets and mortars have been hitting our quadrants. No one in the streets. No shop is open, or hard to find some. The army is controlling our areas and not allowing people to move around. No single car moves around as well. Everyone is hidden at his house or office. Everything is standstill, as if you are in a dead city...Your intercessory prayers are highly valued and needed")

<http://barnabasfund.org/US/News/News-analysis/Editorial-Remember-suffering-Syrian-Christians-in-prayer-this-Easter.html>



Egypt: Malawi, Minya province

Maher Hanna Al-Koms (aged 60, taxi driver, abducted by two masked men)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53624#.U1HdzMLQcfg>



Central African Republic: Batangafo

Bishop Nestor-Desire Nongo Aziagbia (**UPDATE**: abducted by Seleka rebels at a checkpoint, released, said "I was accompanying three priests of my diocese by car to their parish when around 5 pm we were intercepted by the rebels of the Seleka coalition under the command of a colonel who was in charge in Bossangoa when the rebels occupied the city. I was taken to this colonel who accused me for ruining his plan to regain Bossangoa, of having put defamatory statements against him on the Internet, of having gathered information in Bantangafo that I would have had to pass on to the international forces present in Central Africa, the Sangaris (French) and the MISCA (African)...the rebels removed the pectoral cross and episcopal ring. Then my three priests and I were brought to Sidot to be killed. At the height of Kabo our convoy was stopped thanks to the intervention of the international community and especially of the commander of the local military area of Seleka, a general, who did not agree with the order of execution. All this happened on Holy Thursday, on Good Friday we were brought back to Bantangafo where the commander of MISCA came to pick us up by helicopter in order to take us back home")

Fr Clet Magloire Golo (abducted along with Bishop Nestor-Desire Nongo Aziagbia, threatened with death, released)

Fr Dieudonné Yanfeibona (abducted along with Bishop Nestor-Desire Nongo Aziagbia, threatened with death, released)

Fr Denis Koyedama (abducted along with Bishop Nestor-Desire Nongo Aziagbia, threatened with death, released)

<http://www.misna.org/en/other/bishop-of-bossangoa-and-three-priests-free-17-04-2014-813.html>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/35604->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA The rebels wanted to kill me says the Bishop of Bossangoa kidnapped by the rebels who murdered a priest in his diocese#.U1nKLcLQcfg](#)

http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/04/article_3112409.html/



Nigeria: Chibok and Maiduguri, Borno state

Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme (**UPDATE:** criticized the government following the abduction of over 100 schoolgirls from Chibok by Boko Haram “First the attack against the bus station in Abuja, then the kidnapping of the schoolgirls: Nigeria is paying a price for this extremism, but also the corruption that impedes the government and army to efficiently combat the Boko Haram”)

Fr Timothy Cosmas (said that the schoolgirls were abducted "to become slaves")

<http://www.misna.org/en/economy-and-politics/orno-girls-abducted-to-become-slaves-16-04-2014-813.html>

Friday April 18, 2014

Great and Holy Friday – Eastern Calendar

Good Friday –Western Calendar



Kazakhstan: Taraz, Jambyl province

Oksana Alekseyeva (aged 37, unemployed, fined US\$ 1,000 for sharing her faith with another, **UPDATE:** appeal dismissed)

Tatyana Vongai (aged 59, pensioner, fined US\$ 1,000 for sharing her faith with another, **UPDATE:** appeal dismissed)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1960



Iran: Tehran

A number of Christians were arrested in a raid on a house church during an Easter service and removed in two vans, whereabouts unknown

Ehsan Sadeghi (arrested)

Nazi Asadi (homeowner, arrested)

Maryam Asadi (homeowner, arrested)

Vahid Safi (arrested)

Amin Mazloomi (arrested)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8527:a-number-of-christian-converts-arrested-at-easter-service&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Sudan: Khartoum

Meriam Yahia Ibrahim (wife of Daniel Wani, mother of Martin Wani, arrested and jailed in [February 2014](#) on a charge of apostasy for being a Muslim woman - her father is Muslim - who married a Christian and adultery since Islamic law does not recognize their marriage, pregnant, beaten, denied medical care, threatened with 100 lashes and death upon conviction, court has requested witnesses to verify that she never practiced Islam)

Daniel Wani (U.S. citizen, husband of Meriam Yahia Ibrahim, father of Martin Wani, U.S. passport seized, threatened with charges of proselytism for having married her without converting to Islam)

Martin Wani (aged 20 months, son of Daniel Wani and Meriam Yahia Ibrahim, incarcerated with his mother because Islamic law prohibits his Christian father from having custody, the U.S. Embassy will not assist him without a DNA test proving that he is the son of Daniel Wani but the jail will not allow the testing)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/04/pregnant-woman-in-sudan-could-be-executed-for-apostasy-whipped-for-adultery/>



Egypt: Delga village, Der Moas, Minya province

Shenouda Naeem (aged 10, abducted)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53766#.U1s5i8LQcfg>



Belarus: Minsk

Pavel Selyun (aged 24, son of Tamara Selyun, **executed** for murder, denied visit by a minister prior to execution, denied a Christian burial, family not notified of his execution)

Tamara Selyun (mother of Pavel Selyun, requested her son's body for burial after being told of his execution - his attorney had arrived at the prison to be told he had "left", she had been scheduled to visit her son the following week, told that in accordance with Article 175, Part 5 of the Criminal Enforcement Code "Bodies are not handed over for burial and the place of burial is not communicated")

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1969



Central African Republic: near Paoua

Fr Labbe Christ Formane Willbona (**shot dead** by suspected Fulani gunmen)

<http://www.agi.it/english-version/world/elenco-notizie/201404191557-cro-ren1022-catholic-priest-is-killed-in-central-african-republic>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/35604->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA The rebels wanted to kill me says the Bishop of B
ossangoa kidnapped by the rebels who murdered a priest in his diocese#.U1nKLcL
Qcfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/35604-)



Mexico: Santa Rosalia, Chiapas state

Family driven from their home by ‘Traditionalis’ syncretic Catholics [who blend Catholic and native rituals], now returning home under a state government settlement

Fidencio Jiménez (husband of Petrona Díaz)

Petrona Díaz (wife of Fidencio Jiménez)

http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/04/article_3105563.html/

Saturday April 19, 2014



Iran: Rajai Shahr prison, Karaj

Pastor Saeed Abedini (aged 32 [2013], convert; convicted on [January 27, 2013](#) of undermining the government by spreading Christianity and sentenced to eight years in prison; recently hospitalized and tested for his chronic stomach pain - which resulted from prison beatings; **UPDATE:** wrote "On the Eve of Good Friday and Easter I was praying from my hospital room for my fellow Christians in the world. What the Holy Spirit revealed to me in prayer was that there are many dead faiths in the midst of Christians today. That Christians all over the world are not able to fully reach their spiritual potential that has been given to them as a gift by God so that in reaching that potential, the curtain can be removed and the Glory of God would be revealed...[signed] Prisoner in the Darkness in Iran, but free for the Kingdom and Light")

<http://aclj.org/iran/american-pastor-saeed-writes-easter-message-as-a-prisoner-in-the-darkness-of-iran>



Central African Republic: Mbata

Rev Thoma Ndakouzou (aged 42, married and father of seven, **killed** by anti-Balaka fighters)

http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/04/article_3112409.html/



Nigeria

Pastor William F Kumuyi (**UPDATE:** collapsed while hosting an Easter retreat, hospitalized)

<http://www.osundefender.org/?p=159991>

Sunday April 20, 2014

Holy Pascha – Eastern Calendar

Easter–Western Calendar



Indonesia: Bogor, West Java

Bona Sigalingging (GKI Yasmin Church spokesman; **UPDATE:** church celebrated Easter in front of a government office building, expressed hope that the new mayor would allow their church building to be reopened)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bogor:-Christians-appeal-to-new-mayor-to-let-Yasmin-Church-reopen-30903.html>



Pakistan: Mallyki village, Daska city, Sialkot district, Punjab state

Sara (aged 7, daughter of Iqbal Masih, raped by 3 or 4 men, hospitalized in critical condition, police have made no effort to apprehend her attackers)

Iqbal Masih (father of Sara, abducted by his daughter's rapists when he attempted to notify police, police have not only made no effort to free him but allegedly were involved in the abduction)

Fr John Arshad (condemned the rape of Sara and the abduction of her father)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Punjab:-clan-gang-rapes-seven-year-old-Christian-and-kidnaps-father-to-stop-him-reporting-them-30906.html>



Eritrea: Asmara

Five Christians arrested after their church announced on April 20, 2014 that they would be ordained to the ministry, whereabouts unknown

Petros Yosief (arrested)

Bemnet Tesfay (arrested)

Aklilu Tesfay (arrested)

Ermias Hadgu (arrested)

Aron Mehretu (arrested)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/05/eritrea-again-persecutes-christians-of-officially-recognized-faith/>



Syria

Syrian Christians fled persecution now celebrate the Pascha [Easter] in the U.S. in Roselle, Illinois and fear for the relatives and friends left behind

Edeette Chukro (aged 51, sister of Mikhael Chukro)

Mikhael Chukro (aged 58, brother of Edeette Chukro)

Abu Bessam (aged 71)

Patriarch Gregorios III Laham (aged 80; **UPDATE**: called the destruction of the churches in Maaloula a "war crime")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20140421125343.htm>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Gregorios-III,-the-destruction-of-Ma'aloula-churches-is-a-war-crime-30883.html>

Monday April 21, 2014



China: Yongjia county, Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Guo (Sanjiang Church elder, detained by police)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/04/thousands-of-christians-again-guard.html>



Bangladesh: Bhajati South village, Gazipur district

Albert D'Silva (home destroyed by arson, grandfather of Bituny Asru who died in 2008 from poison while hospitalized for rape)

Sydney D'Silva (brother of Albert D'Silva)

Bangladesh: Savar

Hemonto Costa (aged 47, brother of Br Proshanto Costa, abducted, no ransom demanded)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Dhaka:-arson-razes-home-of-Catholic-family-30887.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Dhaka,-rise-in-abductions-as-a-Catholic-businessman-kidnapped-30900.html>



Pakistan

Arshad Masih (described how 3,000 Christians are systematically and legally denied rights and aid within the Federally Administered Tribal Areas [FATA])

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/fata-christians-are-still-without-domicile/>



Egypt

Maher Hanna Al-Koms (aged 60, taxi driver, abducted by two masked men; **UPDATE**: freed after a US\$2,860 ransom was paid by his family)

Egypt: Malawi, Minya province

Milad Sadek (**died from a head injury** suffered in an attack on an Evangelical Church)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53687#.U1c5XsLQcfg>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53694#.U1c4lcLQcfg>

Tuesday April 22, 2014



Malaysia: Penang state

Halimah (reflexologist, convicted in **December 2011** of violating the Sharia [Islamic] law against close proximity despite the constitutional ban on applying Sharia to non-Muslims, sentenced to 14 days jail and US\$ 916, appeal underway)

<http://directory.ucanews.com/news/indonesian-catholic-woman-trapped-in-shariah/1123>



China: Yongjia county, Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Daozhen (Sanjiang Church deacon, detained by police)

Guoguang (Sanjiang Church member, detained by police)

Rong Hua (placed in criminal detention)

Preacher Wang (detained)

Ji (detained)

Pastor Lin (did not initially respond to a police summons because he was out of town)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/04/thousands-of-christians-again-guard.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/04/two-zhejiang-churches-demolished.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/05/names-of-more-than-40-detained-near.html>



Bhutan: Khapdani village, Samtse district

Two pastors arrested on March 5, 2014 for holding an unauthorized public meeting with 30 Christians

Pastor Mon B. Thapa aka David Lobzang (**UPDATE**: released on bail, scheduled to appear in court May 8 2014)

Pastor Tandin Wangyal (**UPDATE**: released on bail, scheduled to appear in court May 8 2014)

http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/04/article_3111092.html/



India

Fr Cedric Prakash SJ (**UPDATE**: wrote an article which quoted leading BJP party members as saying that they will pass laws to ban religious conversions and to prohibit Muslims from living in Hindu neighborhoods - the article also quoted BJP leader Giriraj Singh as saying 'those who opposed Narendra Modi had no place in India. They would have to go to Pakistan after the elections', and concluded "So when Giriraj speaks the obvious, however silly it sounds, he is only manifesting the fascist agenda of those who seek to rule us")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Indian-Jesuit,-Narendra-Modi-is-vindictive-and-a-threat-to-India's-minorities-30886.html>



Syria

Bishop Boulos al-Yazigi (brother of Patriarch Youhanna X, abducted at gunpoint by rebels on [April 22, 2013](#) near Kfar Dael, Aleppo; **UPDATE**: has now been in captivity for one year)

Bishop Yuhanna Ibrahim (abducted at gunpoint by rebels on [April 22, 2013](#) near Kfar Dael, Aleppo; **UPDATE**: has now been in captivity for one year)

Syria: Maaloula

Sr Raghad (personally witnessed atrocities against Christians by Islamists, including shootings and threats of crucifixion, and reported that two youths were crucified by Islamists for refusing to convert to Islam)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20140421214020.htm>

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/2596-maaloula-christians-told-convert-to-islam-or-you-will-be-crucified-like-your-master>

<http://www.raymondibrahim.com/islam/christians-crucified-again-for-refusing-islam/>



South Sudan: Bentiu

Bishop Emeritus Vincent Mojwok Nyiker (reported on a rebel attack that killed over 200 in a church, a mosque, and a hospital)

<http://www.misna.org/en/other/bentiu-emeritus-bishop-a-blow-to-future-22-04-2014-813.html>

Wednesday April 23, 2014



China: Yongjia county, Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Fu Gangqiao (interrogated by police, released, subjected to electronic monitoring)

Chen Haiyan (detained)

Zhao Qianjun (summoned to the public security bureau)

Zhou (church elder, detained)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/04/thousands-of-christians-again-guard.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/04/two-zhejiang-churches-demolished.html>
<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/05/names-of-more-than-40-detained-near.html>



Pakistan: Kasur

Saleem Masih (beaten by his Muslim employer for having taken two days off for Easter)

<http://britishpakistanichristian.blogspot.com/>



Kazakhstan: Oskemen

Akmaral Serikova (fined US\$ 1,000, **UPDATE**: appeal dismissed)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1960



Egypt: Minya province

Bishoy Armiya (Egypt's 'most famous' convert, arrested before [December 5, 2013](#) and charged with "inciting sedition by communicating to a US-based [Coptic] channel unfounded information on Copts persecution in Egypt"; **UPDATE**: told his attorney that he had been beaten, tortured, and electrocuted in prison)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53721#.U1h5NMLQcfg>



Nigeria: Borno state

Rev Titus Dama Pona (**UPDATE**: reported on the abduction of 234 Church of the Brethren girls from a boarding school by Boko Haram gunmen on [April 14, 2014](#) "We have been praying for the kidnapped girls and hoping that God will intervene. So far, God has answered our prayers as 20 of the girls have escaped from their captors and have returned safely")

Nigeria

David Mark (Federal Senate president; **UPDATE**: described the abduction of the 234 schoolgirls as “embarrassing, sacrilegious...The situation is fast degrading and devaluing us as against the age long cherished love for younger persons”, another government minister said “It is almost like a story out of this world. It goes to show the level of depravity, lack of human feeling that is going on in this clime of terror in this country”)

<http://barnabasfund.org/US/News/News-analysis/Over-200-schoolgirls-kidnapped-from-Christian-town-in-Nigeria.html>

<http://thenationonlineng.net/new/search-girls-continues-says-govt/>

Thursday April 24, 2014



China: Beijing

Zhang Huixin (daughter of Pastor Zhang Shaojie, on **November 17, 2013** received more than ten phone calls threatening to "wipe out her family" if she continued to send reports to the international media concerning the persecution of her father's church, fled from Nanle County, Henan with her husband and 10-month old daughter; **UPDATE**: attempted to apply for a visa to enter the United States at the U.S. Embassy, denied a visa and physically thrown out of the Embassy, injured and left semi-conscious with her daughter outside the Embassy gates)

China: Zhoushan, Zhejiang province

Liu Shan hong (missionary, detained prior to the illegal demolition of the Sanjiang Church, whereabouts unknown)

Yan (church staffer, detained)

Zhao (church elder, detained)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/04/nanle-county-pastors-daughter-violently.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/04/two-zhejiang-churches-demolished.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/05/names-of-more-than-40-detained-near.html>



Afghanistan: Kabul

Dr Jerry Umanos (aged 57, husband of Jan Schuitema, father of Ben Umanos, **shot dead** in his hospital by a police officer, two other Christian doctors also killed)

Jan Schuitema (widow of Dr Jerry Umanos, forgave her husband's murderer)

<http://www.assistnews.net/Stories/2014/s14040126.htm>



Uzbekistan: Samarkand

Police raid two private homes, Bibles, books, and cell phones seized

Galina Sirotina (home raided during a religious service)

Ella Tsoy (present during the raid on the home of Galina Sirotina)

Fatima Kim (present during the raid on the home of Galina Sirotina, own home later raided)

Fiala Kim (present during the raid on the home of Galina Sirotina, own home later raided)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1974



Egypt: Abutig, Assuit province

Fr Samaan Fahim Shehata (**UPDATE**: threatened by the family of a man who burned his automobile and land)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53748#.U1nSgsLQcfg>

Friday April 25, 2014



China: Yongjia county, Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Wu Jiale (cell phone seized by police)

Zheng Leguo (**UPDATE**: reported that three Christians were detained for giving photos of detained Christians to the media)

Chen (church staffer, detained while on his way to Sanjiang Church)

Pastor Li (detained for a week for “disrupting public order”)

Zhao (detained)

Pastor Huang (detained along with his wife)

China: Rui'an, Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Pastor Wang (has hired legal counsel to fight a threatened church demolition)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/04/thousands-of-christians-again-guard.html>
<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/05/names-of-more-than-40-detained-near.html>



Pakistan: Sheikhpura district, Punjab province

Maria Sarfraz (aged 11, daughter of Sarfraz Andrew, abducted while on her way to school by members of a Muslim religious party, gang raped for three days, released)

Sarfraz Andrew (father of Maria Sarfraz, filed a police report upon his daughter's abduction)

Sohail Johnson (**UPDATE**: reported on the abduction and gang rape of Maria Sarfraz)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4857>



Egypt: Minya

Rev Dr Ekram Lamie (condemned the explosion near St Moses Church)

Egypt: Abu Talat, Samalout, Minya province

Ashraf Lewis (said the Copts were "afraid to go to their fields due to the siege imposed on them by Muslim militants")

Egypt: Naga Suyyagh, Luxor

Sally Munir (sister of Ramir Munir, disappeared, likely abducted)

Ramir Munir (brother of Sally Munir, reported on his sister's disappearance)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53770#.U1s4dMLQcfg>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53769#.U1s4-cLQcfg>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53854#.U18tuMLQcfg>



Central African Republic: Bozoum

Fr Aurelio Gazzera OCD (**UPDATE**: said that most funds donated to the country end up "in the pockets of people who have absolutely no right" and that the international peacekeepers lack a common strategy and do not defend the local population)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/35613-AFRICA_CENTRAL_AFRICA_Aid_does_not_reach_those_who_need_it_complains_a_missionary#.U1szRsLQcfg



Kosovo: Decan

Abbot Archimandrite Sava (complained of the appearance of Kosovo Liberation Army graffiti on the gate of the historic Visoki Decani Monastery, which has previously been attacked four times by armed Albanian extremists since UN peacekeeping operations began)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2014/04/kla-graffiti-appear-on-gate-of-serb-orthodox-monastery/>



Nigeria

Three researchers from the Political Violence Research Network have published *Our Bodies, Their Battleground: Boko Haram and Gender-Based Violence against Christian women and children in North-Eastern Nigeria since 1999*, which documents the Islamist motivations of Boko Haram

Atta Barkindo

Benjamin Gudaku

Caroline Wesley

http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/04/article_3113594.html/



United States – Maryland: Baltimore county

Brandon Jenkins (denied a college admission after he admitted he was a Christian)

<http://www.charismanews.com/opinion/43630-student-claims-community-college-rejected-application-because-of-christian-faith>

Saturday April 26, 2014



Pakistan: Mallyki village, Daska city, Sialkot district, Punjab state

Sara (aged 7, daughter of Iqbal Masih, raped by 3 or 4 men on [April 20 2014](#), hospitalized in critical condition, police have made no effort to apprehend her attackers; **UPDATE**: her family has been expelled from their village)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4828>

Sunday April 27, 2014



China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Over 40 Christians have been detained in connection with the recent demolition of the Sanjiang Church

Mr Wang (detained)

Xu (detained)

Sister Li (detained eight days)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/05/names-of-more-than-40-detained-near.html>



Kenya: Dadaab

Abukar Mohammed (aged 36, convert, married, Somali refugee, threatened with death, shot in the legs, wife also shot and miscarried, both hospitalized and released for rehabilitation)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/07/stay-or-leave-somali-christians-in-kenyan-refugee-camps-face-danger/>



Syria: Aleppo

Metropolitan Boutros Marayati (**UPDATE**: described a rebel mortar attack in which 21 civilians were killed)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/35623-ASIA SYRIA Armenian Catholic Archbishop Marayati Aleppo again in the grip of war#.U18X9cLQcfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/35623-ASIA_SYRIA_Armenian_Catholic_Archbishop_Marayati_Aleppo_again_in_the_grip_of_war#.U18X9cLQcfg)



Egypt: el-Marg, Cairo

Karam Shehata Zachary (abducted and assaulted, arrested on a motorcycle theft charge when he attempted to file a police report on his abduction)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=54019#.U2hl6sLQcfg>



Ukraine: Kiev

Archimandrite Alipy Svetlichny (condemned the vandalism of a bas-relief of St Vladimir)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/70258.htm>

Monday April 28, 2014



China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Baiquan and Sanjiang Churches illegally demolished

Pastor Xu Kede (Tengqiao Church, detained prior to the illegal demolition of Sanjiang Church, at least five Sanjiang Church leaders were also detained)

Chen Yilu (Nanjing Union Theological Seminary, condemned the demolition of the churches in Zhejiang province and called on the government in Beijing to intervene)

Lin (church staff member, detained for taking pictures of the demolition of Sanjiang Church)

Shang (detained for taking pictures of the demolition of Sanjiang Church, held for one week)

Mr Chen (detained for taking pictures of the demolition of Sanjiang Church)

Mr Chen (detained for taking pictures of the demolition of Sanjiang Church)

Mr Chen (detained for taking pictures of the demolition of Sanjiang Church)
Ms Wu (detained for taking pictures of the demolition of Sanjiang Church)
Ms Wu (detained for taking pictures of the demolition of Sanjiang Church)
Sister Zhou (detained for taking pictures of the demolition of Sanjiang Church)
Sister Yu (detained for taking pictures of the demolition of Sanjiang Church)
Sister Li (detained for taking pictures of the demolition of Sanjiang Church)
Brother Cai (detained for taking pictures of the demolition of Sanjiang Church)

http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/04/Article_3117772.html/
<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/04/the-telegraph-china-accused-of-anti.html>
<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/05/names-of-more-than-40-detained-near.html>



Sri Lanka: Colombo

Godfrey Yogarajah (Executive Director National Christian Alliance, said that 120 churches were attacked by Buddhist mobs in 2013 and that so far 40 churches have been attacked in 2014, indicating that the attacks are growing)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/sri-lanka-launches-police-team-to-tackle-religious-disputes/70806>



India: Chadurupally village, Andhra Pradesh state

Rev B. Rajarathnam (beaten in his home by more than 15 radical Hindus on [March 17, 2014](#), wife beaten unconscious and hospitalized, a wall of his home was demolished,

UPDATE: said “There is an increasing trouble emerging for the Christian community with Modi projected as Prime Minister. It is a matter of deep distress for Christians”)

India

Rev Ronald John (said “There is huge discrepancy when it comes to delivery of justice for religious minorities in this country, and with Modi as Prime Minister, India will become an even more unsafe place for religious minorities”)

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

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



Uzbekistan: Samarkand

Alisher Abdullayev (husband of Oksana Abdullayev; home raided by police for non-payment of a 2012 fine but after a court order expired, vacuum cleaner, electric heater, and mobile phone seized, **UPDATE**: sentenced to another fine of US\$ 420 for unregistered church activity, is refusing to pay the new fine for effectively praying in his friend's home)

Oksana Abdullayev (**UPDATE**: sentenced to another fine of US\$ 420 for unregistered church activity, is refusing to pay the new fine for effectively praying in her friend's home)

Veniamin Nemirov (husband of Yelena Nemirov; home raided by police for non-payment of a 2012 fine but after a court order expired, automobile seized, **UPDATE**: sentenced to another fine of US\$ 420 for unregistered church activity, is refusing to pay the new fine for effectively praying in his home)

Yelena Nemirov (**UPDATE**: sentenced to another fine of US\$ 420 for unregistered church activity, is refusing to pay the new fine for effectively praying in his home)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1957



Egypt: Cairo

Bishoy Armiya (Egypt's 'most famous' convert, arrested before [December 5, 2013](#) and charged with "inciting sedition by communicating to a US-based [Coptic] channel unfounded information on Copts persecution in Egypt"; **UPDATE**: attorney has requested a medical exam to document torture)

Egypt: Assiut

Mohsen Morris (aged 40, abducted, freed after paying ransom)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53843#.U18upMLQcfg>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53870#.U2CIosLQcfg>



Ukraine: Yalta, Crimea

Nikolai Martsenyuk (attacked while passing out religious literature, kicked unconscious, police refused to come to the crime scene, hospitalized)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1972



Central African Republic: Bossangoa

Bishop Nestor-Desire Nongo Aziagbia (**UPDATE:** said "No one wants to talk about it, but it is a reality. Two days ago, the jihadists clashed with the French troops deployed in the Bangui Sangaris operation. The Muslim population in Bangui, is taken hostage by jihadists. It is public knowledge that the Central Mosque of the city has become a powder keg, because the extremists have transformed it in their arsenal. The jihadists come from other countries, particularly from Sudan and Chad...There is a situation of total chaos in my diocese. The rebels continue to kill and plunder. Last weekend in a village on the border with Chad, 4 people were killed, among them 2 catechists. In Nanga Boguila the Doctor Sans Frontiers hospital was attacked, killing 16 [or 22] people who were in a meeting")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/35621-AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA The Bishop of Bossangoa The Muslim population of Bangui is held hostage by jihadists#.U18ZE8LQcfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/35621-<u>AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA The Bishop of Bossangoa The Muslim population of Bangui is held hostage by jihadists#.U18ZE8LQcfg</u>)



Nigeria

Rev Shuaibu Byal (appealed to the Federal government to intensify its efforts to free the remaining 187 abducted schoolgirls)

Nigeria: Chibok, Borno state

Dr Pogu Bitrus (reported that 43 schoolgirls escaped from Boko Haram; reports from the escapees show that the girls still in captivity are being forcibly married to their abductors)

Nigeria: Lagos

Yahaya Chiwar (led a protest against the government due to their inability to free the abducted schoolgirls)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/christians-in-nigeria-ask-for-prayers-as-187-school-girls-still-held-captive-by-suspected-boko-haram-group-118570/>

<http://thenationonlineng.net/new/chibok-elders-fed-govt-failed-us/>

<http://thenationonlineng.net/new/protesters-jonathan-want-abducted-girls-back/>

Tuesday April 29, 2014



China: Nanle county, Henan

Pastor Zhang Shaojie (**UPDATE**: trial for fraud and disturbing public order restarted)

Zhang "Shanshan" Linxin (daughter of Pastor Zhang Shaojie and Wang Fengrui, **UPDATE**: reported that her father appeared "dispirited" and "emaciated" in court)

Zhang Huixin (daughter of Pastor Zhang Shaojie and Wang Fengrui, attempted to apply for a visa to enter the United States on [April 24, 2014](#) at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, denied a visa and physically thrown out of the Embassy, injured and left semi-conscious with her daughter outside the Embassy gates; **UPDATE**: reportedly has been detained and placed in a black jail just prior to the restart of her father's trial)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/05/henan-pastors-trial-resumes-with-little.html>



Laos

“Kai” (Church leader and evangelist, police called to arrest him after he arrived at his new assignment, released him after they recognized him as a high school classmate and friend who told them he was "visiting Christians")

http://www.persecution.com/public/newsroom.aspx?story_ID=%3d363737&featuredstory_ID=%3d343337



India: Irinjalakuda diocese

Fr Joju Kutikad (described the vandalism of three chapels)

<http://www.christiantoday.co.in/articles/three-chapels-attacked-christian-procession-objected-by-radicals-in-kerala/7945.htm>



Egypt: Asafra, Alexandria

Youssef Halim (attorney, described the demolition of a church by police and army personnel)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=54238#.U3L5A8LQcfg>



Nigeria: Abuja

Naomi Mukhtar (mother of one of the schoolgirls abducted by Boko Haram, demanded government action)

Nigeria

Dr Pogu Bitrus (**UPDATE:** said that parents of the abducted schoolgirls went to an army base with information on the whereabouts of the girls, and the army refused to do anything until the parents submitted a report in writing, sobbed "What is happening with the Nigerian nation?", the girls have reportedly been sold to their new 'husbands' for US\$ 12.47 each)

<http://thenationonlineng.net/new/parents-protest-abducted-girls-2/>
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201404290560.html?viewall=1>



United States – Illinois: Chicago

Joe Scheidler (anti-abortion activist, has finally prevailed in a 28 year-long lawsuit brought against him by the National Organization of Women, the original verdict against him was thrice overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals has refused NOW's attempts to continue the case)

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/breaking-28-years-later-now-v.-scheidler-court-case-is-over-pro-lifers-vind>

Wednesday April 30, 2014



Nepal

Pastor Chari Bahadur Gahatraj (**UPDATE:** criticized the government plan to ask Christians and Muslims to "reconsider their faith" before it will issue their national identity cards)

Bishop Anthony Sharma SJ (**UPDATE:** said that the church does not force people to join and cannot turn people away)

Rev Isu Karki (said that all citizens should be issued identity cards under the same procedures regardless of religion)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Some-Nepalis-to-be-asked-to-reconsider-their-faith-to-get-their-ID-papers-30957.html>



India: Ahmedabad

Fr Cedric Prakash SJ (**UPDATE:** said in an interview "From his youth, Narendra Modi has been a member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh: RSS. The core ideology of this extremist organization, born in the 1930s and having its inspiration from Hitler and the Nazis, was the formation of a Hindu nation state. In this ideology, minorities - particularly the Muslims and the Christians - were meant to be treated as second-class citizens. However, India's freedom fighters like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Babasaheb Ambedkar, worked and ensured that India becomes a secular and democratic State where every citizen is treated equally with rights and freedom guaranteed in the Constitution...The RSS was never satisfied with this. One of their men Godse assassinated Mahatma Gandhi in 1948. Over the years, they spawned many other groups including their political wing Bhartiya Janata Party BJP; together they are all known as the 'Sangh Parivar'...Modi has proved to be an extremely divisive person; he is a skillful orator able to spin myths and to take credit for achievements which are not his. With a well-oiled campaign, backed by a large section of India's corporate sector and by media houses owned by them, many feel that his party will be the largest single party when the results are announced and he may also be India's next Prime Minister")

India: Budruka village, Kandhamal district, Orissa state

Praful Digal (home has been destroyed by Hindu extremists for the third time since 2007)

Fr Ajaya Kumar Singh (described the persecution of the family of Praful Digal by Hindu extremists)

Fr Pradosh Kumar Nayak (confirmed the third destruction of the home of Praful Digal, said "The last demolition shows that these groups are strong and determined to keep Christians out of the country")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Indian-Jesuit:-General-Election,-amid-a-political-vacuum-and-emergence-of-Narendra-Modi-30958.html>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/35637->

[ASIA_INDIA_Intimidation_and_abuse_of_Christians_in_Orissa_homes_destroyed_faith_ful_thrown_out#.U2G238LQcfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/35637-ASIA_INDIA_Intimidation_and_abuse_of_Christians_in_Orissa_homes_destroyed_faith_ful_thrown_out#.U2G238LQcfg)



Pakistan: Karachi

Dr Nazir S Bhatti (**UPDATE**: wrote a letter to the UN High Commission for Refugees stating that more than 10,000 Christians have fled the country due to persecution, called on the UNHCR to create camps for them in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Thailand, Hong Kong, and Singapore)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4837>



Kazakhstan: Astana

Pastor Emeritus Bakhytzhan Kashkumbayev (aged 66 in 2013, convert from Islam, convicted on [February 17, 2014](#) 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; **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1976



Iraq: Duhok

Adnan Franco Amraia (candidate for parliament, said that legislation is required to protect Christians)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53897#.U2RNdsLQcfg>



Egypt: Naga Suyyagh, Luxor

Sally Munir Ayoub (disappeared on [April 25, 2014](#), likely abducted; **UPDATE**: returned to her family, confirmed the abduction)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53894#.U2G65cLQcfg>



Mexico: Santa Cruz, Chilapa, Guerrero state

Fr John Ssenyondo MCCJ (Ugandan citizen, disappeared after celebrating a wedding)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/36767->

[AMERICA MEXICO A Comboni missionary found dead in a mass grave among other bodies#.VGg598Lwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36767-AMERICA_MEXICO_A_Comboni_missionary_found_dead_in_a_mass_grave_among_other_bodies#.VGg598Lwsfg)

April 2014, date unknown



China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Over 40 Christians have been detained in connection with the recent demolition of the Sanjiang Church

Zhou (detained in a hospital in April 2014 due to poor health)

Brother Zhou (detained for seven weeks beginning in early April 2014)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/05/names-of-more-than-40-detained-near.html>



Turkmenistan: Dashoguz

Umid Gojayevev (aged 29 [2012], husband of Malahat Gojayevev, father of three, arrested after a scuffle with neighbors, neighbor asked for charges to be dropped but police refused when they learned he was a Christian, sentenced to four years imprisonment, not amnestied with other prisoners because he reads the Bible)

Malahat Gojayevev (wife of Umid Gojayevev, due to their children's needs is unable to work while her husband is imprisoned)

http://www.prisoneralert.com/pprofiles/vp_prisoner_238_profile.html



Somalia: Mogadishu

"Sufia" (alias, dragged out of her home in early April 2014 and shot dead)

http://www.persecution.com/public/newsroom.aspx?story_ID=%3d363734&featuredstory_ID=%3d343335



Kenya: Dadaab

Abdikadir (aged 48, convert, Somali refugee, home burned, wife and four children abducted)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/07/stay-or-leave-somali-christians-in-kenyan-refugee-camps-face-danger/>



Egypt: Aswan

Rasha Aghabios (abducted)

Egypt: Beni Suef

Adel Sobhi Youssef (brother of Eshak Sobhi, killed by a traffic police lieutenant)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=55187#.U6ufqcLQcfg>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59713>



Ukraine: Slavyansk

Peter Dudnik (**UPDATE**: evicted from his church [days after April 12, 2014](#) by insurgents including two Russian Orthodox priests - one of whom carried a gun)

<http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2014/September/Ukraine-Protestants-Target-of-Russian-Orthodox-Jihad/>



Nigeria

Rev Bitrus Yah (abducted by Boko Haram in [mid-April 2014](#), whereabouts unknown)

Rebecca Dali (reported on the [mid-April 2014](#) abduction of Rev Bitrus Yah, also reported on the [May 11, 2014](#) abduction of a minister's wife and teenage son)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/05/boko-haram-kills-at-least-29-christians-in-gwoza-area-nigeria/>



United States – Florida: Broward county

Giovanni Rubeo (fifth grade student, told by his teacher that he could not read the Bible in the free reading period)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/fla-teacher-on-bible-those-books-not-permitted-in-my-classroom-119164/>