

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – September 2014

**Monday September 1, 2014**



### **Iraq: Bartala**

Salem Matti Kourki (aged 43, **beaten to death** by ISIL militants after refusing to convert to Islam)

### **Iraq: Baiyaa, Bagdad**

Fadi Nabil Ibrahim Abbush (aged 20, accounting major, **killed by a car bomb**)

Msgr Pius Qasha Khoury (reported on the murder of Fadi Nabil Ibrahim Abbush)

### **Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan**

Nawar (aged 25, pharmacist, bought a wheelchair for a 90-year old refugee woman)

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

<http://www.aina.org/news/20140908160446.htm>

[http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-man-tortured-and-killed-by-Islamic-State-militants-for-refusing-to-convert-to-Islam-3204"6.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-man-tortured-and-killed-by-Islamic-State-militants-for-refusing-to-convert-to-Islam-3204)



### **Italy**

Fr Luigi Ciotti (life threatened by a Mafia boss for his anti-crime activities)

Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco (**UPDATE**: signed a letter giving full support to Fr Luigi Ciotti)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/italian-bishops-support-priest-threatened-by-mafia-33882/>



### **United Kingdom: Bedford**

Margaret Jones (aged 54, registrar, fired in [May 2014](#) for stating that she could not in conscience officiate a same sex wedding, **UPDATE**: reinstated)

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/religious-freedom/victory-for-christian-registrar-dismissed-for-refusing-to-conduct-sam>

**Tuesday September 2, 2014**



**China: Hunan province**

**UPDATE: Authorities detained 14 Christians on [August 7 2014](#) in a crackdown on unregistered churches following the stabbing death of a woman in a McDonalds by members of the Church of the Almighty God cult, all released on bail**

Ning (reported on pressures on Christians "The [authorities] don't allow the church's worshippers to gather together, saying that our house church is not certified. They say we can gather together, but it must be at a Three-Self church...All together, there should be more than 10,000 worshippers in these counties. Now, they can only get together in threes or fives. The electricity for the worshippers was cut, and the eldest worshipper is 81. From Aug. 22 until [Sept. 2], more than a week has passed, and they have spent nights in darkness")

Yu (said "There is minor persecution on gatherings of small groups. They simply brand us whatever they can think of and call us an evil cult when they really should conduct an investigation before they say so")

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/09/more-than-dozen-hunan-believers.html>



**India: Khursipar village, near Raipur, Chhattisgarh state**

Fr Ligo Mathew (school headmaster beaten for 'insulting students' by sympathizers of the Hindu BJP party, sentenced to 14 days' detention, bail denied, office vandalized, teachers who came to his aid also beaten)

Archbishop Victor Henry Thakur (protested the attack on Fr Ligo Mathew and his teachers)

**India: Kue Mari village, Chhattisgarh state**

Antu Ram (paid US\$33 to avoid having his home burned down by Hindu extremists, home burned down anyway, family including three children and elderly parents now live under a plastic sheet)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/36258->

[ASIA\\_INDIA\\_Catholic\\_school\\_headmaster\\_beaten\\_and\\_detained\\_on\\_false\\_charges#.VAhDzsLwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36258-ASIA_INDIA_Catholic_school_headmaster_beaten_and_detained_on_false_charges#.VAhDzsLwsfg)

<http://www.churchinchains.ie/node/735>



### **Uzbekistan: Syrdarya**

Denis Absattarov (home raided by police for holding an illegal religious service, police proceeded to plant religious literature)

Kurbanay Abdiyeva (caught in the police raid on the home of Denis Absattarov)

Arina Kim (caught in the police raid on the home of Denis Absattarov)

Vladimir Mehseriyakov (caught in the police raid on the home of Denis Absattarov)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2018](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2018)



### **Turkmenistan: Dashoguz**

Bibi Rahmnova (aged 36, wife of Vepa Tuvakov, arrested on July 5, 2014 along with her husband and 4 year of son after receiving religious literature via train, threatened with death, beaten at the train station and in prison, released on July 7, 2014, charged with hooliganism for resisting police on July 31, 2014; sentenced on August 18, 2014 to four years' imprisonment; **UPDATE:** suffered "severe physical abuse" from prison staff and prisoners, sentence suspended on appeal, released, facing four years' probation)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2002](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2002)



### **Egypt: Deir Mawas, Minya**

Atta Khalifa Atta (aged 45, abducted on the week prior to July 29, 2014 while returning home from work; ransom of US\$28,000 paid before August 11, 2014, not released; **UPDATE:** still not released)

Youssef Khalifa (brother of Atta Khalifa Atta, reported on attempts to secure his brother's release)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=56600>



### **Ukraine: Yalta, Crimea**

Fr Bogdan Kostetsky (repeatedly questioned by Russian FBS agents, including on the subject of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky who died in 1944 and who had been the author of a 1900 sermon that was banned in Russia in 2013, seized along with 15 parishioners by undisclosed persons, released)

Fr Nikolai Gavrilyuk (reported on the interrogations of Fr Bogdan Kostetsky)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1992](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1992)



### **Central African Republic: Nana Bakassa**

Pastor Thomas Ouanam (aged 60, husband, father of four, **killed** by armed men along with three others)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/09/3382977/>



### **Mali**

Dr Mohamed Ibrahim Yattara (Baptist Church president, said that the UN has helped rebuild mosques damaged in the 2013 jihadi attacks but not the churches)

[https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/09/article\\_3331381.html/](https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/09/article_3331381.html/)

**Wednesday September 3, 2014**



### **India: Indabettu village, Karnataka state**

Sajan K George (President of the Global Council of Indian Christians, **UPDATE**: reported on demonstrations by non-Christian parents against a school uniform logo depicting Mary at a Catholic school that he charged was orchestrated by "the ultra-nationalist Hindu groups, who want to create distrust and disharmony among the different communities...Mary is

revered by all Indians, irrespective of their religion. Many non-Christians make pilgrimages to Marian shrines, and this makes what happened even more shocking")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Karnataka,-Hindu-radicals-against-Catholic-school:-Do-not-Christianize-the-uniform-32071.html>



**Pakistan: Chak no. 206, Tehsil Samandri district, Faisalabad**

**Unnamed Christian arrested for blasphemy, five person legal team in transit**

Joseph Francis

Katherine Sapna

Rama Rasheed

Sohail Habel

Hunny Bashir

**Warrants for the arrest of 55 Christians on blasphemy charges issued after the Muslim owner of a cemetery gave them permission to use it for Christian burials, 14 arrested, others fled due to arson threats against their homes**

Phool Masih (son of Manzoor Masih)

Haroon Masih (son of Robin Masih)

Farid Masih (son of Nazir Masih)

Bagga Masih (son of Khursheed Masih)

Arshad Masih (son of Aslam Masih)

Waris Masih (son of Khursheed Masih)

Mushtaq Masih (son of Bhagtu Masih)

Nazir Masih (son of Gundu Masih)

Arshad Masih (son of Liaqat Masih)

Tariq Masih (son of Ichhar Masih)

Zulfiqar Masih (son of Jeeb Masih)

Arshad Masih (son of Sharif Masih)

Hanif Masih (son of Fazal Masih)

Mohson Masih (aged 12, son of Safdar Masih)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4950>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4953>



### **Egypt: Muharraq Monastery, Assiut province**

#### **Gunmen rob residents of a Christian village as they leave it, two cousins shot**

Ernst Kamel (cousin of Eid Gendy, shot, left for dead, said “They were ambushing anyone from our village, as all the residents of our village are Christians, to attack him and rob him. The Christians in our village are targeted...Also after our incident the security forces deployed across the village for four days. After they had left the village, the Islamic gangs came back to our village carrying the weapons, terrorizing the Christians, imposing extortion money on them amid a state of indifference and complicity by the police”)

Eid Gendy (cousin of Ernst Kamel, **shot dead**)

Fr Mossa Shaker (said “just a few days after the incident of the shooting of the two Copts, some armed masked Muslim thugs stopped a pickup-truck owned by a Christian man loaded with mango fruit. They seized his pickup-truck and 500 Egyptian pounds from the owner. The Christian residents of Muharraq Monastery village are living in a state of tyranny, bullying, and oppression by the Islamic gangs of three neighboring villages called Alaghima village, the Great Manshiyya village, and Khashba village without any intervention from the police to protect them”)

<http://www.persecution.org/2014/11/26/a-deadly-shooting-in-upper-egypt/>



### **Vatican City**

Pope Francis aka Jorge Mario Bergoglio SJ (**UPDATE**: security upgraded after ISIL threats against his life reported)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/security-of-pope-francis-increased-over-alleged-isis-plot-to-kill-him/>

**Thursday September 4, 2014**



### **India: New Delhi**

**Fifty Christian leaders issued a report on 600 acts of persecution during the first 100 days of the new BJP government against Christians and Muslims, including the reported Hindu conversion of a Christian congregation in Asroi village, Aligarh district**

Sundar Singh (investigated the Asroi village, Aligarh district incident, said "This is mere propaganda and a ploy to intimidate Christian congregations as a whole. Saffron [Hindu fundamentalist] groups are behind it")

Fr Dominic Emmanuel (investigated the Asroi village, Aligarh district incident in which the Hindus videographed the 'reconversion' of 72 Christians on YouTube, alleged it was fabricated "It was organized by Hindu fundamentalist outfits capitalizing on the lapse of the pastor. But there are only five Christian families with 30 members in the area")

Osmond Charles (advocate, said "The series of atrocities did not end with Asroi. At Hasayn in the same district, the pracharaks [Hindu activists] wanted to conduct the same purification inside the church but were stopped by the police")

Pramod Singh (attorney, reported on the arrest of 12 pastors in Kulesra village, Surajpur district, Uttar Pradesh state "The police chief of the area even told us that 'this is a Hindu nation.' The police have changed colors with the change of government")

John Dayal (**UPDATE:** said "these incidents are not isolated. There is a clear strategy and plan behind it. Such instances are only spreading")

Rev Richard Howell (**UPDATE:** is documenting atrocities against Christians)

[https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/09/article\\_3343009.html/](https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/09/article_3343009.html/)



**Iran: Karaj Central Prison**

Pastor Behnam Irani (**UPDATE:** reportedly has been charged with 18 new offenses, including 'spreading corruption on Earth' which carries the death penalty)

**Iran: Isfahan**

**Five Christians reported to have been detained in a police raid**

Mohammad Taslimi

Hamidreza Borhani (husband of Zainab Akbari)

Zainab Akbari (wife of Hamidreza Borhani)

Moluk Ruhani (sister of Sepideh)

Sepideh Morshedi (sister of Moluk Ruhani)

<http://www.bosnewslife.com/33689-iran-evangelical-pastor-facing-death-penalty>



### **Iraq: Qaraqosh**

Khiria Al-Kas Isaac (aged 54, held by ISIL fighters with 46 other women, all were beaten and whipped for 10 days for repeatedly refusing to convert to Islam, had a sword held to her neck and told she would be beheaded if she refused to convert, replied “I am happy to be a martyr”, released and expelled to Kurdish controlled territory, has trouble sleeping)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/09/11/iraqi-christian-isis-terrorist%e2%80%88held-a-sword-to-my-throat-but-i-refused-to-convert/>



### **Egypt: Al-Taiaba village, Samalout, Minya province**

Fr Eilia Shafik (reported that three houses owned by Copts were burned down in a sectarian attack)

### **Egypt: Gabal al-Tair village, Samalout, Minya province**

Eman Morcos Saroufim (housewife, mother of five, abducted by her husband’s former business partner)

Sameh Erian (husband of Eman Morcos Saroufim, filed a police report after her disappearance, police said she went willingly with his Muslim former business partner, she had not appeared in public to confirm this account)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=56636>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=56707>

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/2981-egyptian-interior-minister-promises-to-investigate-gabal-al-tair-incident>



### **United Kingdom: Basildon**

Rob Hughes (street preacher, arrested, released after 11 hours due to insufficient evidence)

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/freedom-of-speech/street-preachers-cleared-of-all-charges>





## **Liberia**

Dr Rick Sacra (aged 51, missionary, contracted Ebola, is expected to arrive in Nebraska for treatment)

<http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/healthscience/2014/September/Third-American-Sick-Window-to-Stop-Ebola-Closing/>

**Friday September 5, 2014**



## **China: Bengbu, Anhui province**

Zhang Lin (father of Zhang Anni, illegally interrogated by police on [February 27, 2013](#), private possessions seized, 10 year old daughter removed from school and held alone in a room without food for over three hours; arrested on [August 22, 2013](#) on a charge of assembling a crowd to disturb order in a public place, the 'crowd' was a gathering of fellow dissidents who assembled to aid his daughter after her detention; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 42 months' imprisonment)

Zhang Anni (daughter of Zhang Lin)

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/school-09052014141700.html>



## **Pakistan: Lahore**

Sairish (forced into an Islamic marriage in 2009, ran away and in hiding, afraid that publicly returning to Christianity will endanger her life)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/36280-ASIA\\_PAKISTAN\\_Two\\_Christian\\_women\\_abducted\\_forced\\_to\\_convert\\_to\\_Islam\\_and\\_marry\\_Muslim\\_men#.VAvpXsLwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36280-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Two_Christian_women_abducted_forced_to_convert_to_Islam_and_marry_Muslim_men#.VAvpXsLwsfg)



## **Uzbekistan: Navoi**

Artur Alpayev (husband of Irina Alpayev, home raided by police without warrant during an [August 17, 2014](#) worship service, Christian books seized, mother expelled back to Israel; **UPDATE:** fined US\$2,000, told "We will continue fining you unless you stop storing religious literature in your home")

Irina Alpayev (wife of Artur Alpayev, home raided by police without warrant during an [August 17, 2014](#) worship service, Christian books seized; **UPDATE:** fined US\$1,600 for failing to register her foreign guest [her mother-in-law])

### **Uzbekistan: Tashkent**

#### **Christians fined after a [July 30, 2014](#) police raid on a church summer camp**

Vladislav Potrapelyuk (fined US\$134)

Arkadiy Belik (**UPDATE:** fined US\$134)

Pavel Peychev (**UPDATE:** fined US\$134)

Sergey Zakharov (**UPDATE:** fined US\$134)

Gulnara Khokhlova (fined US\$89)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1998](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1998)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2018](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2018)



### **Iraq**

Abu Mustafa (aged 50, wife killed, three daughters have cerebral atrophy, converted to Christianity while in a refugee camp)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/iraq-crisis-people-accepting-christ-all-the-more-despite-humanitarian-crisis/>



### **Syria**

Metropolitan Boutros Marayati (**UPDATE:** reported at a church synod in [Beirut, Lebanon](#) that "Beside the usual day to day difficulties regarding supplies of water, electricity and food, in Aleppo fear is growing. The militants of the Islamic State [ISIL] are only 40 kilometers away. No one knows if or when they will decide to attack. So, as soon as they can, many, many people continue to abandon Aleppo")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/36284->

[ASIA\\_LEBANON\\_Armenian\\_Catholic\\_Synod\\_in\\_agenda\\_Genocide\\_centenary\\_martyrs\\_beatification\\_situation\\_of\\_Middle\\_East\\_Christians#.VAvq8sLwsfh](#)



### **Lebanon: Beirut**

Fr Paul Karam (**UPDATE**: said that 350 Christian families from Mosul in Iraq have found refuge in Lebanon and "the numbers continue to rise every day", most express a desire to leave the Mideast for good)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/36281->

[ASIA LEBANON Head of Caritas Lebanon we welcome Iraqi Christian refugees but they are determined to leave the Middle East#.VAvr9MLwsfg](#)



### **Egypt: Alexandria**

Michael Nassem (Father of Logy, lost custody of his 3 year old daughter after his wife converted to Islam)

Logy (daughter of Michael Nassem)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=56646>



### **United Kingdom: Taunton**

Mike Overd (street preacher, questioned by police concerning complaints over his preaching)

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/freedom-of-speech/police-urge-public-to-film-street-preacher-for-evidence-of-offensive->

**Saturday September 6, 2014**



### **Iran: Ghezal Hesar Prison, Karaj**

Pastor Matthias Haghnejad (**UPDATE**: charged with 'spreading corruption on earth' which carries a potential death sentence)

Silas Reza Rabbani (**UPDATE**: charged with 'spreading corruption on earth' which carries a potential death sentence)

<http://www.bosnewslife.com/33697-more-evangelicals-facing-death-penalty-in-iran>



### **Lebanon: Ras Baalbek and Beirut**

Suleiman Semaan (described how Christian villages bordering Syria are rearming due to the possibility of an ISIL attack)

Amir (aged 41, refugee from Hassakeh, Syria)

Umm Milad (aged 27, refugee from Mosul, Iraq)

Sahira Hakim (refugee from Bagdad, Iraq)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20140906031908.htm>



### **Egypt: Mantai district, Shubra al-Kheima, Qalubiya**

Mina Bareh (aged 26, found **murdered**)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=56663>



### **Nigeria**

Rev Samuel Dante Dali (husband of Dr Rebecca Dali, **UPDATE**: wrote that in the previous week “Boko Haram violence has been getting worse every day, and our members are fleeing the area by the thousands. Recent attacks in Borno and Adamawa states where our churches are located have seen Boko Haram take over the Army base. As a result, about 350 Christians have been killed...Every night at the EYN headquarters, our staff and their families go to bed with hearts bound in fear for their lives. This has forced them to be prepared to flee at any time of the night in an event an attack occurs during the hours of darkness”)

Dr Rebecca Dali (wife of Rev Samuel Dante Dali, **UPDATE**: wrote “We are still under turbulence because of Boko Haram – last week they captured a lot of villages in the Madagali areas. Five days ago they overcame the soldiers, occupied the army barracks, and killed more than 350 Christians. Yesterday and today [Sept. 5 and 6] the Boko Haram insurgents were in Gulak, killing a lot of Christians...[A pastor in Gulak] told us

that they vandalized the church and his own property. He also said the gunmen killed a lot of Christians who are from Shuwa, Michika, Watu, and others...We are closing Kulp Bible College for now. Pray for us please”)

**Nigeria: Gulak**

Luka Sabo (said “They went from house to house shooting and killing those they came in contact with. I have seen bodies of some of those killed, but it is difficult to say how many have died.”)

**Nigeria: Michika**

Emmanuel Kwache (said many Christians were killed or displaced “We are trapped here and don’t know where to run to, please pray for our rescue”)

**Nigeria: Maiduguri**

Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme (**UPDATE:** reported that at least 90,000 Catholics were displaced by Boko Haram)

**Nigeria: Abuja**

Fr Patrick Tor Alumuku (**UPDATE:** said “Several churches are in ruins and tens of thousands, mainly Christians, are running to escape Boko Haram. I spoke to priests in Maiduguri who speak of terrifying happenings. Boko Haram is determined to eliminate every sign of Christian presence...Unfortunately a good number of these displaced persons cannot escape from the combat areas and getting humanitarian aid to them is very difficult. Only people outside these areas can be reached by assistance. If a city like Maiduguri with a population of more than one million were to be attacked by the Boko Haram offensive, the result would be an extremely serious humanitarian disaster”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/09/bible-college-churches-shut-down-as-boko-haram-claims-territory-in-ne-nigeria/>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/36292->

[AFRICA NIGERIA Christians but also Muslims flee from Boko Haram say local Church sources#.VA5nE8Lwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36292-)



**Netherlands: Amsterdam**

Fr Christos Sidiropoulos (church property including a reliquary stolen)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2014/09/rotterdam-valuable-items-stolen-from-greek-orthodox-church/>

**Sunday September 7, 2014**



### **Syria: Mhardeh**

Josef (alias, civil engineer, described the al-Qaeda attack on his Christian-majority town "There is shelling night and day. We have no electricity. There is only one road out and it is dangerous to use it now")

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/syria/11079018/Al-Qaeda-closes-in-on-Syrian-Christian-stronghold.html>



### **Lebanon: Beirut**

Habib Afram (secretary-general of the Levantine Christian Congress, said "Our flesh, our blood, our churches, our heritage, our language are vanishing because of the Islamic State [ISIL], and the world is waiting for our burial ceremony")

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=56679>



### **Burundi: Kamenge**

#### **Three elderly Xaverian missionary nuns raped and murdered**

Sr Lucia Plici SX (aged 74, **killed**)

Sr Olga Raschiatti SX (aged 83, **killed**)

Fr Mario Pulcini SX (found the bodies of Sr Lucia Plici and Sr Olga Raschiatti)

Sr Bernadetta Boggiani SX (aged 79, found the bodies of Sr Lucia Plici and Sr Olga Raschiatti, later found **dead** in the same position)

Sr Ines Frizza SX (reported on the murder of the three nuns)

<http://vaticaninsider.lastampa.it/en/world-news/detail/articolo/africa-africa-africa-36197/>

[https://www.xaverianmissionaries.org/xaverian-martyrs/#.W0\\_LpvZFxjo](https://www.xaverianmissionaries.org/xaverian-martyrs/#.W0_LpvZFxjo)



### **Nigeria: a few meters from the Cameroon border**

Rev Samuel Dante Dali (husband of Dr Rebecca Dali, **UPDATE**: fled from the recent Boko Haram attack, said "The news is really bad. When they attacked our hometown, we decided to vacate the place. In Michika and surrounding areas [in Adamawa state], soldiers were running away. Some of them were killed or wounded and lot of people were also running for their lives...We have lost almost everything. Most of our churches have been destroyed and our pastors are scattered all over. Our members have fled and some of them killed. That's what we have tried to prevent from happening")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/09/3380783/>



### **United Kingdom**

Jim Dobbin (aged 73, Member of Parliament, pro-life leader, **died** during a Council of Europe trip in **Poland**)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/09/07/catholics-mourn-leading-pro-life-mp-jim-dobbin/>



### **United States – Illinois: Chicago**

Cardinal Francis George OMI (wrote "...many Catholics in the American colonies thought their life might be better in the new country than under a regime whose ruling class had penalized and persecuted them since the mid-16th century. They made this new country their own and served her loyally. The social history was often contentious, but the State basically kept its promise to protect all religions and not become a rival to them, a fake church. Until recent years...Swimming against the tide means limiting one's access to positions of prestige and power in society. It means that those who choose to live by the Catholic faith will not be welcomed as political candidates to national office, will not sit on editorial boards of major newspapers, will not be at home on most university faculties, will not have successful careers as actors and entertainers. Nor will their children, who will also be suspect. Since all public institutions, no matter who owns or operates them, will be agents of the government and conform their activities to the demands of the official religion, the practice of medicine and law will become more difficult for faithful Catholics. It already means in some States that those who run businesses must conform their activities to the official religion or be fined...")

<http://www.catholicnewworld.com/cnwonline/2014/0907/cardinal.aspx>

Monday September 8, 2014



**Pakistan: Chak no. 206, Tehsil Samandri district, Faisalabad**

**Warrants for the arrest of 55 Christians on blasphemy charges issued after the Muslim owner of a cemetery gave them permission to use it for Christian burials, 14 arrested, others fled due to arson threats against their homes; UPDATE: blasphemy charges dropped, replaced with cemetery desecration charges despite the fact that the Muslim graves had been removed**

Phool Masih (son of Manzoor Masih)

Haroon Masih (son of Robin Masih)

Farid Masih (son of Nazir Masih)

Bagga Masih (son of Khursheed Masih)

Arshad Masih (son of Aslam Masih)

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Tariq Masih (son of Ichhar Masih)

Zulfiqar Masih (son of Jeeb Masih)

Arshad Masih (son of Sharif Masih)

Hanif Masih (son of Fazal Masih)

Mohson Masih (aged 12, son of Safdar Masih)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/36294->

[ASIA PAKISTAN False accusations of blasphemy later withdrawn against 31 Christians in a Punjab village#.VA\\_KC8Lwsfg](#)



**Central African Republic: Ngakogbo**

Pastor Pierre Bapteme (aged 46, husband, father of four, **shot dead** by Seleka fighters along with a deacon and three choir members)



Pastor Lucien Imbi (said "When Seleka arrived around 12.30, we hid at Elim Church. To our surprise, three Seleka elements broke into the church and forced us to come out. They then asked each of us to state our identity. Then they took us, one after the other, adding: 'What should we do with pastors when ours are killed by your brothers anti-Balaka?' When they started to shouting, I fell on the ground. It was then I realized a bullet hit my left arm. The Seleka waited for a while to ensure that we were really dead before leaving. I crawled, with great pain, to my home, leaving the lifeless bodies of Pastor Bapteme and four members of his church on the ground")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/09/3382977/>



### **Cameroon**

Rev Samuel Heteck (said of the continuing Boko Haram attacks "Every week we welcome new waves of refugees coming from all sides. More than 9,600 displaced people were recorded in two weeks. Some are welcomed within church compounds and others in the UN Minawao refugee camp in Mokolo")

[https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/09/article\\_3361988.html/](https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/09/article_3361988.html/)

**Tuesday September 9, 2014**



### **China: Nanle county, Henan province**

Zhang Cuijuan (wife of Jia Limin, **UPDATE**: found guilty of 'gathering a crowd to disrupt the public order', sentenced to 1 and a half years imprisonment)

Zhao Junling (**UPDATE**: found guilty of 'gathering a crowd to disrupt the public order', sentenced to 1 year imprisonment, suspended)

Jia Limin (husband of Zhang Cuijuan, said "I'm worried our future life and our religious beliefs will be affected. Since late last year, the government has warned us not to have religious services, and it is going to issue licenses. Without the license, our church cannot open for a service")

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/09/henan-christians-convicted-of-gathering.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/henan-suffers-severe-yet-silent-crackdown-on-christianity/71986>



### **Afghanistan**

Fr Alexis Prem Kumar SJ (aged 47, Jesuit Refugee Service, citizen of India, abducted on June 2, 2014 while travelling to a refugee camp in Sohadat village, Herat province Sohadat village, Herat province; **UPDATE**: still missing, reported to be "alive and safe")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Afghanistan,-kidnapped-Indian-Jesuit-is-alive-and-safe-32098.html>



### **South Sudan: Tombura-Yambio**

Fr John Ngbapia Bakiri Tomburo (reported on the widespread illegal importation of chemical abortifacients by foreign aid workers)

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/african-priest-begs-help-to-end-15-years-of-illegal-chemical-abortions-rava>



### **Burundi**

Sr Delia Guadagnini (eulogized the murdered nuns Sr Lucia Pulici, Sr Olga Raschietti and Sr Bernadetta Boggian)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/36304-AFRICA\\_BURUNDI\\_The\\_murdered\\_nuns\\_will\\_be\\_buried\\_in\\_Africa\\_love\\_to\\_the\\_very\\_end\\_says\\_former\\_regional\\_Xavarian\\_superior#.VBD0b8Lwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36304-AFRICA_BURUNDI_The_murdered_nuns_will_be_buried_in_Africa_love_to_the_very_end_says_former_regional_Xavarian_superior#.VBD0b8Lwsfg)



### **Ukraine: Simferopol, Crimea**

Fr Piotr Rosochacki (Polish citizen, told by Russian authorities that his residency permit will not be renewed)

Sr Irena Olszak (Polish citizen, told by Russian authorities that her residency permit will not be renewed)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1996](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1996)



### **Libya: Tripoli**

Fr Amado Baranquel (**UPDATE:** said most Christians were afraid to leave their homes because they feared abduction “There’s much lawlessness now, and we have no protection or security. Most Masses are having to be celebrated in private houses and apartments like in ancient times...Everyone is asking what will happen. But there are now two governments, so we don’t know who’s running the country and don’t see any way out. For now, we’re trapped and helpless here and needing help from someone who can intervene and negotiate for us. But who are they supposed to speak to? Until we know, all we can do is pray”)

### **Libya: Benghazi**

Bishop Sylvester Carmel Magro (**UPDATE:** said “So far this week, it’s been quiet, in a welcome respite from the earlier violence”)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/09/10/catholics-trapped-and-helpless-in-libya-after-islamist-gains/>



### **Nigeria: Maiduguri**

Fr Timothy Cosmas (**UPDATE:** said “The people are fleeing to Maiduguri and Yola, but the Boko Haram advance appears headed toward these cities. Boko Haram now controls a large portion of territory in the States of Borno and Adamawa. There are 150km between the city of Bama and Michika, which was the latest town to fall...I spoke with the soldiers returning from the front and they could not understand why the four warplanes available to troops in that sector didn’t enter in action during the battle for Michika”)

<http://www.misna.org/en/economy-and-politics/boko-haram-advances-thousands-fleeing-villages-09-09-2014-813.html>

**Wednesday September 10, 2014**



### **Bhutan: Dorokha, Samtse district**

Pastor Tandin Wangyal (married, father of three; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 3 years 11 months imprisonment for receiving US\$11,864 from a foreign Christian organization, free on bail, has filed an appeal)

Pastor Mon B. Thapa aka David Lobzang (**UPDATE**: sentenced to 2 years 4 months imprisonment for transporting Pastor Tandin Wangyal to a village without approval, fined US\$1,678 'in lieu' of his prison sentence)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/09/pastor-in-bhutan-sentenced-to-prison-for-accepting-funds-for-ministry/>



**Pakistan: Chak no. 206, Tehsil Samandri district, Faisalabad, Punjab**

Akmal Bhatti (witness to the assassination of Minority Affairs Minister Shahbaz Bhatti; had received death threats on [February 1, 2014](#), was unable to testify on [February 19, 2014](#) at the Anti-Terrorism Court in Islamabad; **UPDATE**: is giving pro bono legal assistance to the Christians arrested for blasphemy and cemetery desecration)

<http://www.assistnews.net/Stories/2014/s14090066.htm>



**Iraq: Bagdad**

Essam Elsamak (son of Maha Sallem Elsamak, uncle of Ouday Imad, fiancé of Raghda Adel, survived a market car bombing)

Raghda Adel (fiancée of Essam Elsamak, **killed** in a market car bombing)

Maha Sallem Elsamak (mother of Essam Elsamak, grandmother of Ouday Imad, **killed** in a market car bombing)

Ouday Imad (aged 3, grandson of Maha Sallem Elsamak, nephew of Essam Elsamak, **killed** in a market car bombing)

[https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/09/article\\_3379153.html/](https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/09/article_3379153.html/)



**Ukraine: Ugrinov village, Horikhiv district, Volhynia region**

Fr Rostislav Sapozhnik (husband, father of 10 and 16 year old sons, church illegally seized by the Kiev Patriarchate)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/81544.htm>



### **Nigeria: Abuja**

Fr Patrick Tor Alumuku (**UPDATE:** confirmed comments made by Australian negotiator Stephen Davis "Even President Goodluck Jonathan had said there were Boko Haram infiltrators in his government and three years ago a Nigerian senator was named as a possible sponsor of Boko Haram. However there were never serious investigations to ascertain whether or not the accusations against the senator were founded. What emerges now from the press is that it is not so much the opposition but certain politicians of the president's own party who are financing Boko Haram to give the impression that the head of state is unable to guarantee the safety of the people. This is because Jonathan is a Christian from the south and his inside opposition Muslims from the north, do not want him to run again in presidential elections in 2015...The greatest concern is that even if the Muslims were to win the elections, not even they would have control over Boko Haram, because it has become an international organization connected with other Jihadist movements, including the Somalian Al Shabaab and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria [ISIL]. Boko Haram has proclaimed a caliphate in the area under its control in the north of Nigeria and I doubt they would abandon it because a Muslim has become the President of Nigeria. What was just a small fire in the north of Nigeria threatens to become an enormous blaze in the very heart of Africa")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/36311-AFRICA NIGERIA Not even its Nigerian sponsors can control Boko Haram now an international organisation#.VBJC3MLwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36311-<u>AFRICA NIGERIA Not even its Nigerian sponsors can control Boko Haram now an international organisation#.VBJC3MLwsfg</u>)



### **Ireland: Galway**

Bishop Martin Drennan (asked to resign by a politician for questioning why the Saint Vincent de Paul Society donated over US\$58,000 to a homosexual activist group)

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/irish-bishop-faces-ire-after-criticizing-catholic-charity-over-grant-to-gay>

**Friday September 12, 2014**



**India: Badwah, Khargone district, Madhya Pradesh state**

**Seven missionaries arrested on false charges of coerced conversion, two women released on bail, five men still held**

Vanlalsawma (aged 45)

K Lalrotluana (aged 35)

Thansangliana (aged 22)

R Laldinfela (aged 21)

Zonunmawia (aged 20)

<http://www.christiantoday.co.in/article/mizo.missionaries.arrested.in.m.p.on.false.conversion.charge.released.on.bail/17735.htm>



**Uzbekistan: Samarkand**

Aleksei Meshkov (husband of Diana Meshkov, home raided by police on [August 5, 2014](#), religious books seized, raid appears to have been retribution for their attempt to re-register their church; **UPDATE**: fined US\$890)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2018](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2018)



**Iraq: Al Ghadeer, Bagdad**

Maha Alsammak (**killed**)

Raghda Adel Yaacoub (**killed**)

Udai Emad (**killed**)

**Iraq: Alqosh**

Bishop Michael Muqadissi (presided over a Mass to welcome the return of 75% of the city's residents after the defeat of ISIL by Kurdish forces)

**Iraq: Bagdad**

Fr Luis Montes (Argentine citizen, said "The number of martyrs the Middle East is giving to the world is amazing. It is not well known but it will be in many years, and we will speak of them like we do of the acts of the martyrs of the early years of Christianity. The faith they have despite the persecution is moving, as well as their sensitivity towards others...Almost all the people I know in Iraq and in other countries of the Middle East know a family member killed out of hatred for the faith. Others have suffered direct

persecution or discrimination. For us it is an honor to serve these people. Lord knows what He will ask of me in the future but as for me I would like to serve here my entire life”)

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

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2014/09/75-of-assyrians-return-to-their-town-in-north-iraq/>

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/iraqis-will-be-seen-like-early-christian-martyrs-priest-predicts-37680/>



**Russia: Moscow**

Archdeacon Andrey Kuraev (fired from the Moscow Theological Academy for publicizing a homosexual scandal in the Kazan Theological Seminary)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue24733.html>



**Nigeria: Oyeolu Oze, Oyi local government area, Anambra state**

**Anglican bishops protest a state government demolition of a church**

Most Rev Christian Efobi

Rt Rev Dr Owen Nwokolo

Bishop Ephraim Ikeakor

Bishop Godwin Okpala

Bishop Alex Ibezim

Bishop Samuel Ezeofor

Bishop Anthony Nkwoka

Bishop Henry Okeke

Bishop Ralph Okeke

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2014/09/anglican-bishops-defy-heavy-rain-protest-church-destruction-onitsha/#sthash.Qe2aIOyb.dpuf>

**Saturday September 13, 2014**



**China: Pingyang county, Wenzhou, Zhejiang province**

Zeng Yurao (detained on September 4, 2014 for protesting the government's removal of a church cross, released)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/09/zhejiang-demolitions-more-crosses.html>



**Egypt: Diabiaya, Beni Suef province**

Bishop Rizkallah Ibrahim Gouda (complained of police refusal to allow repairs to the Church of the Archangel Michael and St Anthony, which was destroyed by fire set by Islamic militants in 2013)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=56796>



**Libya: Sirte**

**Four Egyptian Christians abducted on August 25, 2014, Muslim friends freed; UPDATE: still missing**

Jamal Matta Hakim (brother of Rafat Matta Hakim and Romani Matta Hakim, cousin of Adel Sadiki Hakim)

Rafat Matta Hakim (brother of Jamal Matta Hakim and Romani Matta Hakim, cousin of Adel Sadiki Hakim)

Romani Matta Hakim (brother of Jamal Matta Hakim and Rafat Matta Hakim, cousin of Adel Sadiki Hakim)

Adel Sadiki Hakim (cousin of Jamal Matta Hakim, Rafat Matta Hakim, and Romani Matta Hakim)

<http://www.persecution.org/2014/09/13/four-coptic-christians-taken-captive-by-islamic-militants-in-sirte-libya-are-still-missing-2/>





### **Nigeria: Maiduguri, Borno state**

Fr Patrick Tor Alumuku (**UPDATE:** spoke on the situation now that Boko Haram has completely surrounded the capital of Borno state "There is no fighting in Maiduguri, instead there is fighting in certain towns nearby. From what we know the situation is relatively calm in Maiduguri. The soldiers are everywhere, they patrol the streets and protect churches and parishes")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/36337->

[AFRICA NIGERIA There is no fighting in Maiduguri but the army patrols the churches#.VBTi9cLwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36337-)

**Sunday September 14, 2014**



### **Pakistan: Peshawar**

Jamshed Thomas (organized a march to commemorate those killed in the 2013 All Saints Church suicide bombings, said "We believe the sacrifices made by innocent people will not go in vain and we pray for a peaceful country free of violence, terrorism and intolerance")

Joseph (church elder, marched to commemorate family killed in the All Saints Church suicide bombings, said "We don't want bloodsheds in our country. We need nothing but peace and security in our land")

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/762308/a-year-on-peace-walk-held-in-memory-of-all-saints-church-blasts-victims/>



### **Uzbekistan: Andijan**

Zamira Kurbangaliyeva (aged 47, widow, mother of three, home raided by secret police during a worship service, New Testaments and songbooks seized, threatened with the seizure of her children, loss of her home, and prison)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2003](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2003)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2329](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2329)



### **Jordan: Amman**

Raja Marzina (Iraqi refugee, wife, mother of five, wanted to stay in Iraq "But we had no choice; we had to flee to save our lives and our religion")

Ghadir Yussef (aged 34, widower, father of three, Iraqi refugee, fled Qaraqosh Iraq on August 6, **UPDATE:** said "We stayed a week in Erbil, where we slept on roads and in public parks. We couldn't take it anymore so we decided to come to Jordan...We want a better life without fear, injustice and humiliation")

Marzina (aged 39, mother, Iraqi refugee, said "For years now, we've had to put up with kidnappings, murders, beheadings, threats, car-bomb attacks. There is no place anymore for Christians in Iraq, and those who are not fleeing today will have to sooner or later")

Hamid Tobia (aged 55, Iraqi refugee, wants to leave the Mideast)

Tareq al-Ishaqi (aged 76, Iraqi refugee, said "Look at me, I'm an old man. I've been here four years, made an official request for asylum on humanitarian grounds, and I'm still waiting")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20140914180157.htm>



### **Turkey: Gaziantep**

Pastor Patrick Jensen (U.S. citizen, church property sealed by police, **UPDATE:** detained, fined US\$1,350 for working without a permit, ordered to be deported)

[https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/09/article\\_3405334.html/](https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/09/article_3405334.html/)



### **Egypt: Minya**

Mondy Hany Asaad ('boy', abducted, returned after family paid a US\$10,486 ransom)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=56811>



### **Nigeria: Mbar, Plateau state**

Rev Manasseh Duwong (reported on an attack by Muslim Fulani gunmen that killed at least 10 Christians, including a driver who just happened to be passing through the town)

Gideon Mutang Kidum (**killed**)

Ladi Mafulul (killed along with two of her children)

Urawal (killed)

**Nigeria: Mandar, Plateau state**

Rabo (killed by Muslim Fulani gunmen)

**Nigeria: Matol, Plateau state**

Rev Moses Kungyep (confirmed report of the recent Fulani attacks in Mbar and Mandar)

Rev Sunday Gwom (confirmed report of the recent Fulani attacks in Mbar and Mandar)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/09/islamic-extremists-kill-at-least-10-christians-in-plateau-state-nigeria/>

**Monday September 15, 2014**



**China: Jinxi, Hengyang county, Hunan province**

Bishop Methodius Qu Ailin (complained of a church demolition, the promised replacement church is largely completed but is not ready for use, secured the release of the parish priest who had been detained for attempting to stop the demolition)

**China: Jingdezhen, Jiangxi province**

Fr Dong Guohua (tricked into leaving his church, building bulldozed while he was away, tabernacle damaged)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/chinese-authorities-demolish-two-churches-on-same-day/71990>



**India: Changanacherry**

Fr Tom Kottathil (aged 35, beaten by a gang, hospitalized, three suspects arrested)

<http://www.ucanindia.in/news/three-detained-for-attack-on-catholic-priest/26244/daily>



**Pakistan: Karachi**

Ashraf P Butt (called on the government to allow Christians to travel to Israel for religious pilgrimage)

### **Pakistan: Sialkot**

Monaza Bibi (aged 15, raped by four Muslim men, family threatened and pressured to drop charges but have filed another police report against the threats)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4960>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4973>



### **Lebanon: Mina**

Fr Gregory (criticized the burning of an ISIL flag "Whoever initially burned these flags was not thinking. Such acts can incite people and this has happened. In my sermons since the graffiti appeared I have encouraged people not to be afraid")

Charbel (quarry worker, said "Everyday when I travel to work from Nour Square I see these ISIL flags. There were none last year. Now every week there seems to be more. I do not know who did this [burned an ISIL flag] but when you look at this [pro-ISIL] graffiti and what has happened in Iraq then of course people become scared")

### **Lebanon: Beirut**

Imad Salamey (professor of politics, Lebanese American University, criticized the burning of an ISIL flag)

Sami Nader (professor of politics, St Joseph University, criticized the burning of an ISIL flag)

Bahaa Somo (Iraqi refugee, married, father of four, wife expecting their fifth child, fled [Batnaya](#) on [August 8 2014](#), **UPDATE:** sold his automobile and bought airline tickets to escape, said "We left with only the clothes we were wearing. If I hadn't had the car I wouldn't have been able to buy the tickets. I was lucky...There are problems along the Lebanese-Syrian border but for now I feel safe here. I won't return to Iraq. I can't see a future for me in Iraq")

### **Lebanon: Dababiya village, Akkar**

Elie (aged approximately 40, trader, said that Christians and Muslims in his area are afraid of the advance of ISIL)

### **Lebanon: Tripoli**

Fr Samir Hajjar (pro-ISIL graffiti scrawled on his church on August 2, 2014; **UPDATE:** said "I've been here 17 years, and no one bothers us. We respect our neighbors and they respect us. But this graffiti on the walls of all the churches, that's not children's work. They used stencils. It's a serious matter...The knife reached my throat. There is fear in Tripoli now. All my life, I've never been afraid here. And I'm not afraid now - God will protect us - but there is a problem, and the government is split. Shia, Sunni, Druze - as I see it, the whole Arab region is breaking apart")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20140915135432.htm>  
<http://www.aina.org/news/20140915021007.htm>  
<http://www.aina.org/news/20140915020738.htm>



## **Sudan**

Meriam Yahia Ibrahim Ishag (aged 27; **UPDATE**: resident of Manchester, New Hampshire, spoke in an interview on her imprisonment and escape from her death sentence "I had my trust in God. My faith was the only weapon that I had in these confrontations with Imams and Muslim scholars, because that's what I believed...It's my right to follow the religion of my choice. I'm not the only one suffering from this problem. There are many Meriams' in Sudan and throughout the world. It's not just me, I'm not the only one...Faith means life. If you don't have faith, you're not alive")

<http://www.foxnews.com/transcript/2014/09/16/exclusive-mariam-ibraheem-opens-up-about-harrowing-ordeal-on-kelly-file/>



## **Egypt: el-Arish, Sinai**

Wadie Ramses (surgeon, abducted on June 13, 2014, ransom demand of US\$ 1.4 million made; **UPDATE**: released after a "large" ransom was paid)

Amir Wadih Ramses (engineer, son of Dr Wadie Ramses, **UPDATE**: said that the police had "no role in freeing my father" from his abductors and that the ransom paid was almost US\$210,000)

<http://www.raymondibrahim.com/from-the-arab-world/one-copt-released-many-still-captive-or-dead/>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=56942>



## **Democratic Republic of the Congo**

Pastor Fernando Kuthino (sentenced on June 16, 2006 to 20 years' imprisonment, reduced to 10 years, for criticizing the election process, **UPDATE**: granted a presidential pardon)

<http://www.misna.org/en/economy-and-politics/president-grants-pardon-to-controversial-evangelical-pastor-15-09-2014-813.html>



### **Nigeria: Yola, Adamawa state**

Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme (**UPDATE:** reported that Boko Haram has killed some 2,500 members of the Maiduguri diocese in Borno state, has taken refuge with thousands in the cathedral in the neighboring state, denounced the military for corruption for refusing to fight)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/36342-AFRICA\\_NIGERIA\\_At\\_least\\_2\\_500\\_Catholics\\_killed\\_in\\_violence\\_by\\_Boko\\_Haram\\_Bishop\\_of\\_Maiduguri\\_reports#.VBu3ZsLwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36342-AFRICA_NIGERIA_At_least_2_500_Catholics_killed_in_violence_by_Boko_Haram_Bishop_of_Maiduguri_reports#.VBu3ZsLwsfg)

**Tuesday September 16, 2014**



### **Australia: Harris Park, Sydney**

Fr Shora Maree (called police after people in an automobile bearing an apparent ISIL flag threatened to kill parishioners and slaughter their children)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20140917221107.htm>



### **China: Wenzhou**

Chen Zhi'ai (church elder, spoke on the government campaign to remove church crosses "What the government here is doing is so barbaric, they're like bandits and we are furious with them. Today we've seen the fundamental symbol of our faith violated and it hurts us deep inside our hearts...The leaders think Christianity is a foreign religion and it is part of a foreign culture, which they define as 'western' culture. They see our growth as an invasion of western culture into China")

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/09/cnn-christians-in-eastern-china.html>



### **Thailand**

Stephan (Pakistani citizen, married, father of two, accused of blasphemy in May 2013 when he refused to convert to Islam, fired from his job though his Muslim employer attempted to protect him, home in Lahore attacked by a mob demanding his death, police refused to help him, fled the country, family remaining in Pakistan in hiding and prohibited from leaving, asked "Why is it easier for Pakistani Muslims to obtain visas to the USA than it is for Pakistani Christians?")

<http://www.raymondibrahim.com/muslim-persecution-of-christians/forced-to-flee-for-blasphemy-christian-experiences-in-pakistan/>



### **Egypt: Qena**

Aghapy Mikhail Abdel Nour (sister-in-law of Nagwa Refaat Saad, harassed by a street vendor)

Nagwa Refaat Saad (sister-in-law of Aghapy Mikhail Abdel Nour, witnessed her harassment)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=56866>



### **Belarus: Mogilev**

Fr Roman Schulz (Polish citizen, denied permission to stay in the country on or before April 15, 2014 after serving a parish for seven years, no reason given; **UPDATE**: stay reportedly extended to December 20, 2014 after protests from parishioners)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1997](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1997)



### **Nigeria**

Dr Bitrus Pogu (said "Our mainly Christian areas voted massively for Goodluck Jonathan, a fact that enabled the sitting President to succeed at the polls in 2011. Going towards 2015, Boko Haram, on behalf of some top Northern politicians, wants to decimate and displace our communities so that we would be less of a factor in next year's elections", added that the country's "deeply divided fighting force" is aiding Boko Haram, which has "many atrociously wealthy sponsors on account of the fact that successive governments in Nigeria have always patronized Muslims to our exclusion")

**Nigeria: Yola, Adamawa state**

Fr Evaristus Basse (reported on people taking refuge in the cathedral from the Boko Haram advance "In the city there is a full-blown humanitarian emergency: many displaced are sleeping on the streets and the food supplies are insufficient")

Bishop Stephen Dami Mamza (left a Bishops Conference to return to the cathedral with US\$50,000 in aid)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/09/3380783/>  
<http://www.misna.org/en/other/fleeing-from-boko-haram-thousands-in-cathedral-16-09-2014-813.html>



### **Guinea: Womey**

Rev Moise Mamy (husband of Constance, member of an Ebola education team, **killed** by villagers who believed that the bleach brought by the team was the virus, seven other team members including doctors and journalists also killed)

Constance (widow of Moise Mamy)

<http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2014/September/Ebola-Aid-Team-Killed-in-Attack-in-Guinea/>  
<http://www.misna.org/en/other/ebola-missing-health-workers-found-dead-19-09-2014-813.html>



### **United States - Texas**

Mohammed Bakr al-Baghdadi (brother of ISIL Caliph Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, doctor of Islamic studies, has converted to Christianity, his brother has issued a fatwa ordering his death, is in the Federal Witness Security Program)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2014/09/brother-of-top-isis-leader-repents-converts-to-christianity/>

**Wednesday September 17, 2014**



### **Pakistan: Lahore**



Cecil Shane Chaudhry (called on the government to commute the death sentence of a convicted Muslim murderer)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/36354-ASIA\\_PAKISTAN\\_The\\_Commission\\_Justice\\_and\\_Peace\\_stop\\_the\\_executioner\\_Pakistan\\_must\\_not\\_go\\_back\\_in\\_time#.VBpRS8Lwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36354-ASIA_PAKISTAN_The_Commission_Justice_and_Peace_stop_the_executioner_Pakistan_must_not_go_back_in_time#.VBpRS8Lwsfg)



### **Uzbekistan: Andijan**

**Two Christians taken by police to court, the court declined to fine them with 'unauthorized religious activity' and possession of religious materials when they challenged the police account and demanded legal representation**

Kurbangaliyeva

Igor Milentyev

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2003](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2003)



### **Iraq: Ainkawa**

Fr Douglas (refugee, ministers to 700 families who are also refugees)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/a-church-in-erbil-houses-hundreds-of-iraqi-refugees-fleeing-isis/>



### **South Sudan: Malakal**

Sr Elena Balatti (**UPDATE:** reported on the continued effects of the civil war "On August 21, at 8:30 am, we heard the roar of the bombing from the front. Like most of the inhabitants of the city, also us Comboni Sisters left the city in 10 minutes, waiting to see the outcome of the battle. We already experienced the ferocity of opposition militias. Malakal saw as many as six attacks within a few months...The south of Malakal is the most damaged. In that area there were no brick houses but huts. Now that we are in the rainy season, the vegetation has taken over the huts now destroyed to the point that you can no longer make out the landmarks that existed before the destruction of the area...People have started to come back but remain cautious. In the evening the city empties, people cross the Nile to visit the surrounding villages, or go back to the UN refugee camp which is located 4 km from Malakal")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/36360->

[AFRICA SOUTH SUDAN Malakal destroyed by the war testimony of a nun#.VB  
pP18Lwsfg](#)



### **Nigeria: Kaduna state**

Mike Sanga (described a Boko Haram attack “In our counting, 12 people were killed in Fadan Karshi, 30 in Fada Karshi Daji, seven others in another community. A pastor and another person were also killed at Ungwar Ganye”)

Pastor Bulus Mandey Anzah (said that pregnant women, children, and elderly were killed “The attacks are getting worse every day. Some of the soldiers who attempted to repel the attack were also injured. Another soldier was killed”)

### **Nigeria: Karshin Daji village, Kaduna state**

#### **Thirty-one Christians killed in a Fulani Muslim attack**

Pastor Ezra Ibrahim (**killed**)

Rev Julius Jako (aged 55, husband of Rhoda Jako, father of Hassana Jako, **killed**)

Rhoda Jako (wife of Rev Julius Jako, mother of Hassana Jako, **killed**)

Hassana Jako (aged 12, daughter of Rev Julius Jako and Rhoda Jako, **killed**)

Agiya Maisamari (aged 60, **killed**)

Talatu Agiya (aged 26, **killed**)

Rhoda Agiya (aged 35, **killed**)

Awolu Minday (aged 3, **killed**)

Danbaba Agbun (aged 75, **killed**)

Tasala Danbaba (aged 45, **killed**)

Pheobe Danjuma (aged 22, **killed**)

Maryamu Danjuma (aged 19, **killed**)

Clement Danjuma (aged 16, **killed**)

Hannatu (girl, **killed**)

Alheri Danbala (aged 28, **killed**)

Lahleh Philip (aged 20, **killed**)

Peace Philip (aged 3, **killed**)

Tina Audi (aged 40, **killed**)

Larai Monday (aged 30, **killed**)

Yanga Monday (aged 35, **killed**)

Kulu Monday (aged 18, **killed**)

Amina Sambo (aged 45, **killed**)

Dan Peter (aged 7, **killed**)

Ruth Peter (aged 5, **killed**)

Hassana Peter (aged 3, **killed**)

Zabi Felix (aged 15, **killed**)

Amande Musa (aged 80, **killed**)

Stephen Maichibi (aged 55, **killed**)

Sarah Stephen (aged 40, **killed**)

Paul Stephen (aged 8, **killed**)

Japheth Ayuba (aged 2, **killed**)

Rita Danjuma (aged 3, **killed**)

Bege Danjuma (aged 4, wounded, hospitalized)

Hauwa Danjuma (aged 7, wounded, hospitalized)

Tasala Ishaya (aged 70, wounded, hospitalized)

Margaret Philip (aged 4, wounded, hospitalized)

Yamboi Sambo (aged 15, wounded, hospitalized)

Husseina Peter (aged 3, wounded, hospitalized)

Jethro Audi (aged 8, wounded, hospitalized)

Baba Audi (aged 5, wounded, hospitalized)

Baby Agiya (aged 6, wounded, hospitalized)

Lilian Monday (aged 22, wounded, hospitalized)

Danjuma Awe (aged 60, church elder, reported on the Fulani attack)

**Nigeria: Angwan Ganye, Kaduna state**

Rev Dauda Yakubu Usman (reported on the murder of two Christians by Fulani gunmen)

**Nigeria: Fadan Karshi, Kaduna state**

Rev Kefas Sai Wujun (reported on the murder of 13 Christians, said “I heard them shouting at the top of their voices, saying they must obliterate any trace of Christianity in the town”, the gunmen searched his house but did not find him and his family, all survived the arson of the house)

Tina Aku (aged 55, **killed** by Fulani gunmen, five children escaped)

Kulu Danjuma (aged 77, **killed**)

Mercy Silas (killed)

Dr Danjuma (aged 37, killed)

Silas (escaped, mother, wife, and daughter killed)

### **Nigeria: Yola, Adamawa state**

Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme (**UPDATE:** said that 25 towns have fallen to Boko Haram "The level of sophistication and capabilities that these terrorists have attained within five years is very revealing and scary. The mastery and tact with which they fight is unequalled by our military...The near inaction of the government, the lukewarm attitude and the silence of the government is very disturbing. There is a total disconnection between what our so called leaders in Abuja report in the media and the reality on ground...Our people are dying every day and in most cases with no one to bury them decently, they are left to rot; their homes and properties looted; they have become slaves and prisoners in their fatherland, here is a government that cannot safe guard the lives of its citizens...We are sinking fast in the quick sand, let us swallow our empty pride as Nigerians and ask for International assistance in tackling this problem")

<http://thenationonlineng.net/new/gunmen-suicide-bomber-kill-65-in-kano-school-kaduna/>  
<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/09/two-pastors-among-46-christians-killed-in-kaduna-state-nigeria/>

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201409180704.html?viewall=1>

**Thursday September 18, 2014**



### **Australia: Harris Park, Sydney**

Joseph Wakim (parent, spoke on the [September 16, 2014](#) threats made by apparent ISIL sympathizers to the parochial school "The verbal abuse was along the lines of 'we're going to get you Christians and we're going to slaughter your children'...I was taken aback. I thought 'this is very close to home'. I'm aware of these situations happening all over Australia, but this is my school, my church, my children")

Dr Margaret Ghosn (school principal, stated "The intention of the perpetrators is to throw a stone and have a ripple effect and we're not going to let it happen. People are not going to live in fear...Our first priority is to ensure the safety of the college and our students and that's what's been happening over the last two days")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20140918124638.htm>



### **Iran: Rajai Shahr Prison**

Pastor Saeed Abedini (aged 34, convert, US citizen, husband of Naghmeh Shariat Panahi Abedini, father of two, convicted on [January 27, 2013](#) of undermining the government by spreading Christianity and sentenced to eight years in prison; **UPDATE:** subject of a six page report from the United Nations Human Rights Council Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which stated he "has been deprived of his liberty for peacefully exercising the rights to freedom of religion, belief, and association")

Naghmeh Shariat Panahi Abedini (wife of Saeed Abedini, **UPDATE:** said in [Boise, Idaho, USA](#) "There are times where your cause feels forgotten - but today is not one of those days. From the depths of my heart, I urge the member countries of the UN to act on the recommendations of this report. As these countries sit face-to-face with Iran during the upcoming UN General Assembly, I plead with them to ask for my husband's release. It is time for our family to be re-united. My children need their father and I need my husband")

[http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9164:un-panel-raps-iran-over-imprisonment-of-christian-pastor-saeed-abedini-&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279](http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9164:un-panel-raps-iran-over-imprisonment-of-christian-pastor-saeed-abedini-&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279)



### **Iraq: Ainkawa**

Samar Hana (aged 34, sister of Sara Hana, mother of two boys including a four month old, refugee from Bartella, living in an uncompleted concrete building, children have respiratory problems due to unsanitary conditions)

Sara Hana (aged 22, sister of Samar Hana, said "Here, just because I am Christian, they kill us. They want to 'clean' us. What is our guilt?...We even lose our personalities because so much pleasure is gone. Every day, we cry about our situation. I couldn't imagine it would be like this. I am an Iraqi young girl from the time I was born until now, I have had no good days. We had a bad past, and we have a bad future. We lose our lives", added concerning ISIL "I hate them. They burnt our church, they broke our cross - and this is our love. And they do terrible things to women")

Yosra Salim-Hana (aged 36, said "We fled at midnight. The kids were asleep. We didn't bring anything with us, [and we knew] they would kill us because we are Christian. We are not afraid for ourselves. We are afraid for our kids...All of us were crying. The kids were crying, and [my husband and I] were praying looking for a safe place along the way")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20140918125931.htm>



**Egypt: Jabal Al-Tair village, Samalout, north Minya province**

Emad Abdo Labib (said that the twelve Christians arrested for protesting the abduction of Eman Morcos Saroufim are being tortured and beaten by police in jail)

**Egypt: Nag Hammadi, Qena province**

Atef Ayad Akladios (aged 60, quarry owner, abducted, freed by police)

Gerges Nagiub Andraos (aged 32, quarry accounts officer, abducted, freed by police)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=56890>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=56903>



**Ukraine: Donetsk region**

Sergey Demidovich (church leader, said "I never thought in the 21st century, in free country as Ukraine, it was possible to experience this level of persecution. The separatists saw Protestant Christians as enemies. They viewed us as cults. All the Protestant churches in the city were either taken over by rebels or forced to close. We were forbidden to meet for services and the leadership forced to leave or be under risk of arrest")

Pastor Oleg (said "If I went to Donetsk today I would be arrested at the first checkpoint and put in jail. The last time I was in prison they beat me up so badly, but I kept preaching the gospel and telling them to repent...Many heroes were born out of this conflict - men and women who are boldly sharing their faith and helping those caught in the war")

**Ukraine: Luhansk region**

Pastor Anatoly (said "When I was in prison, a rebel soldier told me they have an order to kill all the Christian pastors who are not part of the Russian Orthodox Church")

<http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2014/September/Tortured-in-Ukraine-Christians-Living-a-Nightmare/>



**Central African Republic: Bangui**

Fr Bernard Kinvi (honored with the Alison Des Forges award for having saved thousands of Muslims in the mission in Bossemptele during the civil war)

Brice Patrick (named by Fr Bernard Kinvi for helping him shield Muslims from anti-Balanka fighters)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/36368->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA He protected the Muslims the Alison Des Forges Award to a Central African camillian#.VBu13sLwsfg](#)

**Saturday September 20, 2014**



### **Papua New Guinea: Goilala**

#### **Parishioners killed and injured in an airplane crash hired for parish work**

Fr John Paul Aihi (aged 36, injured)

Joseph Michael (killed)

Pio Mark (killed)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue24915.html>



### **Iran**

Pastor Saeed Abedini (husband of Naghmeh Shariat Panahi Abedini, **UPDATE**: will begin his third year of captivity on Friday September 26 2014, his wife has requested that Christians around the world join in prayer on that day for his release)

<http://beheardproject.com/prayer-vigil/saeed>



### **Iraq**

Patriarch Louis Raphael I Sako (**UPDATE**: spoke at a UN conference in [Geneva, Switzerland](#) and called on the UN to declare that a "genocide against Christians" is underway)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20140920182249.htm>



### **Ukraine: Sumy**

Archbishop Evlogy (protested to the government that pro-government groups have attacked churches and carried away icons and financial donations, and had called for violence against church members)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/73852.htm>

**Sunday September 21, 2014**



### **Pakistan: Peshawar**

Sardar Mushtaq Gill (attorney; **UPDATE**: met with members of a youth group who are disturbed by the appearance of pro-ISIL literature)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4965>



### **israel: East Jerusalem**

Karen Dunham (minister, assaulted by an Islamist “The man ran up from behind me and with both fists hit me as hard as he could in the back”, suffered a broken arm and teeth, knee damage, and extensive bruises)

<http://blog.godreports.com/2014/09/islamists-attack-courageous-female-minister-in-east-jerusalem/>



### **Albania**

Fr Gjergj Simoni (recounted in an interview his imprisonment for 10 years by the Communist regime for possession of religious books and his ordination after the regime collapsed in 1991)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/a-delayed-desire-albanian-priest-waited-decades-for-ordination-63067/>



Monday September 22, 2014



**China: Tai Yuan, Shanxi province**

Fr Bonaventure Li Chong De (aged 92, **died of natural causes**, had spent 7 years in forced labor and 20 years in prison)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/36409->

[ASIA CHINA Born into a family of martyrs Fr Bonaventura De Li Chong has di](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36409-)  
[ed a witness of the Gospel and the life of charity#.VCTjasLwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36409-)



**Nepal**

Anju Panta (actress and singer, convert, under 'fierce criticism' for her conversion, is the object of a 'smear campaign' by Hindu radicals)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Nepal,-Hindu-radicals-target-celebrity-pop-star-for-converting-to-Christianity-32215.html>



**Iraq: Ainkawa**

Evan Faraj-Tobea (aged 31, English teacher, fled Qaraqosh with his wife on **August 6, 2014** after an ISIL shell killed two children and a woman "I saw when they took their bodies to the church. It was like hell that day. We felt afraid because it was a huge sound. We couldn't stay in that situation", **UPDATE**: is now a refugee)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20140922122916.htm>



**Egypt: Al-Marinab village, Aswan province**

**A priest will stay out of his village to not provoke any 'clashes', other priests will substitute for him until the problem is resolved**

Fr Makrios Boulus

Archbishop Georgios Abdel Malak (made the announcement concerning Fr Makrios Boulus)

**Egypt: Minya**

Mirna Youssef Saaed (aged 22, disappeared, two police officers are implicated in her disappearance)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=56970>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=56962>



**United States – Utah: Salt Lake City**

Luke Taylor (newborn, delivered premature, **died of an infection** days after birth, his mother Kathy had delayed his delivery despite suffering from melanoma in an attempt to save his life)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/mom-of-6-dies-after-refusing-cancer-treatment-to-give-her-baby-a-chance-at>

**Tuesday September 23, 2014**



**Egypt: Assiut province**

Ehab Karam (dentist, abducted and **killed**)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/36416->

[AFRICA EGYPT Kidnappings continue to the detriment of the Copts a dentist kidnapped\\_killed#.VCTJW8Lwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36416-)



**Nigeria: Kwarihi village, Borno state**

Susana Ishaya (believed to possibly be one of the abducted Chibok schoolgirls, found wandering in the bush two days after being thrown from a moving automobile, appears to be both physically and mentally ill)

<http://thenationonlineng.net/new/abandoned-chibok-girl-found/>



### **United States – Oregon: Portland**

Bill Diss (public high school math teacher, fired from his job after he asked to be excused on religious grounds from facilitating Planned Parenthood presentations in his classroom, has brought a \$390,000 lawsuit against the school district)

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/teacher-fired-for-protesting-planned-parenthood-files-390k-lawsuit>

**Wednesday September 24, 2014**



### **Indonesia: Jakarta**

Basuki Tjahaja Purnama aka Ahok (deputy governor; **UPDATE**: again under attack by Islamists for his religion and Chinese ancestry because he will become governor now that the current governor has been elected president)

<http://www.voanews.com/content/indonesian-islamists-protest-rise-of-christian-to-jakarta-governor/2461357.html>



### **China: Nanle county, Henan province**

Zhang Cuixia (sister of Pastor Zhang Shaojie; **UPDATE**: described the government controlled election of her brother's replacement as pastor, no vote was allowed, an elderly man in his 80's was chosen)

Zhang "Shanshan" Linxin (daughter of Pastor Zhang Shaojie and Wang Fengrui; **UPDATE**: said that the government gave church members only a few hours notification for the election for her father's replacement)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/10/henan-government-held-election-to.html>



**India: Jashpur district, Chhattisgarh state**

Pastor Virendar Bhaskar (reported to have been attacked by Hindu extremists, arrested for "for deliberate and malicious acts that offend religious sentiments", released on bail)

**India: Raigarh, Chhattisgarh state**

Jyoti Pal (reported to have been arrested during a prayer meeting)

Manju Modu (reported to have been arrested during a prayer meeting)

**India: Haridwar district, Uttar Pradesh state**

Pastor Pyare Lal (RSS paramilitaries reportedly stoned his house and beat his youngest daughter, police took no action)

**India: Uttar Pradesh state**

Pastor Sanjay Singh (prayer meeting reportedly disrupted by Hindu radicals, accused of forced conversions, 13 Christians arrested)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/36399-ASIA\\_INDIA\\_Christians\\_arrested\\_and\\_beaten\\_by\\_Hindu\\_extremists#.VCOLaMLwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36399-ASIA_INDIA_Christians_arrested_and_beaten_by_Hindu_extremists#.VCOLaMLwsfg)



**Ukraine: Khodosy village, Rovno region**

Fr Roman Ignatyuk (described the invasion of a church by pro-government militants)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/73887.htm>



**Nigeria: Warri diocese, Delta state**

Archbishop Ignatius Ayau Kaigama (President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria, **UPDATE:** signed *While Nigeria Bleeds and Burns*, a joint document of the bishops which calls on the government to defend all Nigerians and end the Boko Haram insurgency, and also calls for a national all-night prayer rally to be scheduled for both the 13th and 14th of November, 2014 to pray for the nation)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/09/3397370/>



**Mexico: Santa Cruz de Las Tinajas village, San Miguel Totolapan municipality, Tierra Caliente region, Guerrero state**

Fr Jose Acuna Asencion Osorio (disappeared in Arcelia on September 21, 2014, **found dead** in the Balsas river)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/36400-AMERICA\\_MEXICO\\_Priest\\_found\\_dead\\_in\\_the\\_river\\_Balsas#.VCOKGsLwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36400-AMERICA_MEXICO_Priest_found_dead_in_the_river_Balsas#.VCOKGsLwsfg)

**Thursday September 25, 2014**



**Pakistan: Adyala prison, Rawalpindi**

Rev Zafar Bhatti (brother of Nasreem Bibi, **shot dead** in his prison cell, had been arrested on blasphemy charges on July 16, 2012)

Nasreem Bibi (sister of Rev Zafar Bhatti)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Rawalpindi,-Christian-leader-accused-of-blasphemy-murdered-in-prison-32250.html>



**Nigeria: Abuja**

Hosea Tsambido (reported on the freeing of Susana Ishaya, also criticized the state government's decision to send some of the escaped Chibok schoolgirls to school in Kaduna "since Kaduna itself is not spared from insurgency")

<http://thenationonlineng.net/new/abandoned-chibok-girl-found/>



**Sierra Leone**

Br Manuel García Viejo (aged 69, Spanish citizen, **died** from Ebola in [Madrid, Spain](#))

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/36421-EUROPE\\_SPAIN\\_Another\\_Spanish\\_missionary\\_doctor\\_suffering\\_from\\_ebola\\_died\\_in\\_Madrid#.VCY1RMLwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36421-EUROPE_SPAIN_Another_Spanish_missionary_doctor_suffering_from_ebola_died_in_Madrid#.VCY1RMLwsfg)



### **Venezuela: La Guaira**

Fr Reinaldo Alfonso Herrera Lures (military chaplain, **murdered**)

Bishop Raul Biord Castillo (said "As Christians, we deplore this death [of Fr Reinaldo Alfonso Herrera Lures] that is added to many other deaths due to the violence and insecurity that we live in the country")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/36443-AMERICA\\_VENEZUELA\\_Violence\\_in\\_the\\_country\\_does\\_not\\_decrease\\_a\\_military\\_chaplain\\_killed#.VCt4SsLwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36443-AMERICA_VENEZUELA_Violence_in_the_country_does_not_decrease_a_military_chaplain_killed#.VCt4SsLwsfg)



### **United States – Arizona: Gilbert**

Pastor Clyde Reed (has been ordered by local government to post only small temporary signs at his church)

Eric Rassbach (Deputy General Counsel for the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, has been defending Pastor Clyde Reed's attempt to overturn the local government's ordinance to allow only small temporary signs at his church but exempt political signage, said "Is anyone surprised that politicians gave themselves a special deal? Thank goodness the Constitution says that 'Vote for Me!' is not a more important message than 'Come pray with us'")

David Cortman (ADF Senior Counsel, said "No law should treat the speech of churches worse than the speech of other similar speakers...One look at the political signs Gilbert allows on street corners virtually all year reveals how the town applies stricter rules to church signs than it does to political signs")

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue24907.html>

**Friday September 26, 2014**



### **India: Mandla district, Madhya Pradesh state**

Pastor Rajesh Parthe (church destroyed by arson, crosses outside the church also destroyed)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/police-investigate-church-burning-in-india/72064>



### **Pakistan: Adyala prison, Rawalpindi**

Rev Zafar Bhatti (brother of Nasreem Bibi, reportedly shot dead in his cell on September 25, 2014, had been arrested on blasphemy charges on July 16, 2012; **UPDATE:** sister Nasreem reported that he was alive and unharmed, the original news report was due to a misunderstood phone call from prison, the prisoner shot - and injured, not killed - was a 70-year old mentally ill British Muslim sentenced to death for blasphemy)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4971>



### **Lebanon**

John aka “Tarek” (alias, convert, Syrian refugee, applied for refuge in Canada, father and brothers want him dead because of his conversion, said “They are searching to cut my throat. I’ve been told they have hired someone to find me to get the mission accomplished”)

[http://www.thestar.com/news/atkinsonseries/2014/09/26/doubly\\_damned\\_as\\_a\\_syrian\\_and\\_a\\_christian\\_convert.html](http://www.thestar.com/news/atkinsonseries/2014/09/26/doubly_damned_as_a_syrian_and_a_christian_convert.html)



### **Turkey: Gaziantep**

Pastor Patrick Jensen (U.S. citizen, church property sealed by police, detained, fined US\$1,350 for working without a permit, ordered to be deported, **UPDATE:** appeal filed)

[https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/09/article\\_3405334.html/](https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/09/article_3405334.html/)



### **Egypt: Gabal al-Tair village, Samalout, Minya province**

Eman Morcos Saroufim (housewife, missing on [September 4, 2014](#); **UPDATE:** escaped from her abductors, has returned home, denied that she had renounced Christianity)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=57053>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=57052>



## **Nigeria**

Susana Ishaya (believed to possibly be one of the abducted Chibok schoolgirls, found wandering in the bush near Kwarihi village, Borno state two days after being thrown from a moving automobile on [September 23, 2014](#), appears to be both physically and mentally ill; **UPDATE:** hospitalized, found to be four months pregnant)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201409260441.html>

**Saturday September 27, 2014**



## **India: Delhi**

Dr John Dayal (Christian activist and member of the National Integration Council; **UPDATE:** spoke at a conference on persecution, other speakers said that the post-election increase in violence appears carefully planned in that it is mainly in rural areas, avoids deaths, and pursues routine everyday violence to spread tension and panic)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Indian-civil-society-groups-call-for-zero-tolerance-towards-radical-Hindu-groups-32282.html>



## **Iran: Foolad-Shahr, Esfahan**

**Three Christian converts arrested, all had been involved in making a film about Jesus**

Shahram Ghaedi (aged 32, had served three months' imprisonment for his 2012 arrest; **UPDATE:** home raided by police, had acted the role of Jesus in several plays due to his resemblance to the popular view of Jesus' appearance)

Heshmat Shafiei

Emad Haghi

[http://www.mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9231:three-christian-convert-artists-arrested-in-iran&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279](http://www.mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9231:three-christian-convert-artists-arrested-in-iran&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279)





**Ukraine: Horlivka**

Pastor Sergei Litovchenko (abducted by masked gunmen during a communion service in a separatist-controlled area, whereabouts unknown)

<http://news.adventist.org/all-news/news/go/2014-09-30/pastor-abducted-during-church-service-in-east-ukraine/>

**Sunday September 28, 2014**



**China: Leibo county, Sichuan province**

Zhang Shucaï (described the administrative detention of 36 Christians)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/12/sichuan-house-church-seeking-help.html>



**Laos: Boukham village, Atsaphangthong district, Savannakhet province**

**Seven Christians arrested while eating lunch after a worship service**

Pastor Sompong Supatto

Manivanh (aged 60)

Chai (aged 56)

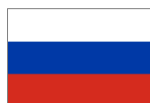
Anna (aged 50)

Chanthanarm (aged 18)

Neal (aged 21)

Petsamone (aged 40)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/09/seven-christians-arrested-in-laos-for-meeting-for-worship/>



**Russia: Khostinsky district, near Sochi**

Pastor Alexei Kolyasnikov (prayer service in a rented coffee shop room raided by FSB agents, detained)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue25597.html>



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

Archbishop Dieudonne Nzapalainga (**UPDATE:** said "The crisis that our Country has been facing since December 2012 has created in us a strong need for security, a desire for revenge, a search for power, inviolability. To meet these desires, some Christians have succumbed to the seduction of beliefs and practices which are incompatible with the faith in Jesus Christ. They have resorted to occult sacrifices, carry amulets and continue to go to Mass and receive the sacraments...The poison of syncretism is inoculated and is a trend that is reinforced continually")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/36458-AFRICA\\_CENTRAL\\_AFRICA\\_The\\_crisis\\_pushes\\_more\\_and\\_more\\_faithful\\_to\\_religious\\_syncretism\\_denounces\\_Mgr\\_Nzapalainga#.VCzLEcLwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36458-AFRICA_CENTRAL_AFRICA_The_crisis_pushes_more_and_more_faithful_to_religious_syncretism_denounces_Mgr_Nzapalainga#.VCzLEcLwsfg)

**Monday September 29, 2014**



### **Vietnam: Ho Chi Minh City**

Fr Ly Ngoc Thanh CSSR (editor in chief of Redemptorist News, described government efforts to silence his news agency)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/catholic-journalists-take-huge-risks-to-expose-persecution-in-vietnam/72063>



### **Kazakhstan: Ushtobe and Karatal, Almaty region**

Vladimir Milintsov (husband of Regina Milintsov, found guilty of illegal sharing of faith, fined 100 MFIs)

Regina Milintsov (wife of Vladimir Milintsov, found guilty of illegal sharing of faith, fined 100 MFIs)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2004](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2004)



### **Iraq: Ainkawa**

Fr Douglas Bazi (**UPDATE:** said of the 700 Christian refugees camped in his churchyard "Just think about their spiritual life -- how can they live like this? But as Christians, we have to get inside the pain. Christ said, 'Carry your cross and follow me.' So if we take that cross, perhaps in 20 years' time, we will say it was a time of opportunity because we did believe")

Sr Samar Barkho (said "Difficulty gives me strength, gives me more belief in God because God exists through every situation", asked that Americans pray for Iraq's Christians)

Nadeen Nabil (aged 20, local resident, said "Jesus saved us and he will always save us. No matter what happens, we will never let go of our Christ...Our suffering will end eventually. But no matter what happens to us, we will be more attached to our religion, have more faith in it, and never let it go")

### **Iraq: Bagdad**

Rev Andrew White (**UPDATE:** said "I've never known the city like it is at the moment. Streets which are usually choc-a-bloc with traffic, cars and people are almost empty. People are too fearful to even leave their homes...The Islamic State are now less than 2km away from entering Baghdad. They said it could never happen and now it almost has. Obama says he overestimated what the Iraqi army could do. Well you only need to be here a very short while to know they can do very very little...Over 1,000 Iraqi troops were killed by ISIL yesterday, things are so bad. All the military airstrikes are doing nothing. If ever we needed your prayer it is now...I must be at the top of the [ISIL target] list")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20140929143112.htm>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20140930175031.htm>



### **Israel: East Jerusalem**

Karen Dunham (minister, assaulted by an Islamist on [September 21, 2014](#); **UPDATE:** young Palestinian militants wired shut a church door and sprayed an irritant gas into the church thus forcing members to flee into a hall, this was the second such attack in two weeks)

Drew Greek (church volunteer, fled the church after the gas attack)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/09/attacks-on-church-in-east-jerusalem-grow-more-intense/>



### **Egypt: Fayoum**

Yasser Farhat Hanna (threatened with death, Muslim business partner under pressure to dissolve their relationship)

### **Egypt: Saft el-Laban village, Minya province**

Boshra Mokbel (aged 19, **stabbed to death**, buried)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=57115>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=57097>



### **Russia: Orel**

Pastor Pavel Pilipchuk (fined US\$557 on [August 11, 2014](#) for illegally organizing an outdoor Palm Sunday worship service despite testimony that he was not present; **UPDATE:** appeal rejected)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2059](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2059)

**Tuesday September 30, 2014**



### **Uzbekistan: Yashnobod district, Tashkent**

#### **Nine Christians fined for illegally teaching religious doctrine**

Nailya Gapparova (fined 30 times the minimum monthly wage)

Zukhra Shoakbarova (fined 30 times the minimum monthly wage)

Nigora Shoakbarova (fined 30 times the minimum monthly wage)

Zulfiyya Shipova (fined 20 times the minimum monthly wage)

Tatyana Tenyayeva (fined 10 times the minimum monthly wage)

Elmira Adigamova (fined 10 times the minimum monthly wage)

Alena Shakirova (fined 10 times the minimum monthly wage)

Rita Mirzayeva (fined 10 times the minimum monthly wage)

Oksana Kotova (fined 10 times the minimum monthly wage)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2036](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2036)



## Iran

Pastor Saeed Abedini (aged 32 in 2013, convert, US citizen, husband of Naghmeh Shariat Panahi Abedini, father of Rebekka and Jacob, arrested during a family visit; convicted on [January 27, 2013](#) of undermining the government by spreading Christianity and sentenced to eight years in prison; **UPDATE**: wrote a birthday letter to his daughter “I know that you question why you have prayed so many times for my return and yet I am not home yet...Jesus allows me to be kept here for His glory”)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/pastor-saeed-abedinis-wife-reads-his-letter-to-public/>



## Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh: Mardakert

Artur Avanesyan (aged 19, conscientious objector, arrested in [Yerevan](#) on [July 14, 2014](#), **UPDATE**: sentenced to 30 months' imprisonment)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2014](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2014)



## Egypt: Qaliubiya

Martha Said (mother of Nadia Makram, as of [February 21, 2013](#) has received several death threats when trying to recover her abducted daughter; **UPDATE**: is threatening to begin a hunger strike in front of the presidential palace to gain presidential attention in her daughter's abduction)

## Egypt: Al-Shamiya village, Assiut province

Samir Nazer (attorney, said that 'thugs' seized family land and reaped its crops, police refused to intervene)

## Egypt: Armant, Luxor

Kyriillos Shawki Atallah (aged 32, brother of Younan Shawki Atallah, arrested on [May 30, 2014](#) for contempt of Islam after liking a Facebook page deemed to be in contempt of Islam; found guilty on [June 24, 2014](#), sentenced to 6 years imprisonment and fined US\$840; **UPDATE**: conviction upheld on appeal)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=57127>  
<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=57120>  
<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=57113>



### **Ukraine: Slavyansk**

Peter Dudnik (evicted from his church [days after April 12, 2014](#) by insurgents including two Russian Orthodox priests - one of whom carried a gun; **UPDATE**: received photos of arms stored in the church cellar and a video of tanks on the property in combat and being blessed by the priests, said "The war in my country is more than just about the capture of Ukrainian territory or a change in the government. There's a real war against the Protestant Church by radical elements within the Russian Orthodox Church")

Archpriest Nikolai Fomenko (**UPDATE**: denied that Russian Orthodox priests had blessed tanks used by pro-Russian rebels at Peter Dudnik's church)

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



### **Canada: Toronto, Ontario province**

Rev David Lynn (street preacher, cited by police under the busking law for using an amplifier in Yonge-Dundas Square, others doing the same were not cited, court hearing scheduled for October 16, 2014)

<http://www.ezrelevant.com/a-preachers-right-to-preach/>

**September 2014, date unknown**



### **Iran**

Amirreza (convert, Christian web site developer, arrested by Basij militia, beaten and tortured, released)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/iran-a-christian-convert-tortured-by-unknown-men-over-online-gospel-preaching/>



## Iraq

Christina Khidr Ebada (aged 3, abducted on August 22, 2014 from her mother's lap by ISIL militants in [Qaraqosh](#); **UPDATE**: a Christian woman named Rana in a phone conversation after her capture by ISIL said that she had cared for Christina, said Christina was later given to a Muslim family to be raised as a Muslim)

Rana (aged 31, wife of Diyaa, captured by ISIL in [Qaraqosh](#), **UPDATE**: reported on the whereabouts of Christina Khidr Ebada and Rita, possibly sold into slavery)

Rita (aged 18, captured by ISIL in [Qaraqosh](#) while attempting to rescue her elderly father, **UPDATE**: sold into slavery)

[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/26/magazine/is-this-the-end-of-christianity-in-the-middle-east.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/26/magazine/is-this-the-end-of-christianity-in-the-middle-east.html?_r=0)



## Tanzania: Zanzibar

**Pastor's home invaded by six men who said they did not want Christians in the city, pastor and his wife beaten when they refused to leave, latter dropped charges against their attackers**

Pastor Prince Simon (husband of Teresia, father of Asti and Festus, beaten)

Teresia Simon (wife of Pastor Prince Simon, mother of Asti and Festus, beaten)

Asti Simon (aged 4, daughter of Pastor Prince and Teresia Simon, witnessed her parents' beating)

Festus Simon (aged 2, son of Pastor Prince and Teresia Simon, witnessed his parents' beating)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/10/3435083/>



## Sudan: Khartoum

Nouh Manzoul Musa (church elder, vehicles seized by NISS secret police)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/07/sudan-returns-church-building-closed-four-years-ago/>



## **Nigeria**

Dorcas Aiden (aged 20, held captive by Boko Haram for two weeks, denied Christ to survive, escaped)

### **Nigeria: Shuwa**

Yohanna Haman (church security officer, escaped from Boko Haram by pretending to be dead after fired upon)

<http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2015/February/Girls-Who-Escaped-from-Boko-Haram-Speak-Out/>

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2014/11/boko-haram-survivors-outwitted-insurgents-escape/>



## **Mexico: Matias Romero municipality, Oaxaca state**

Fr Victorino Lopez Nolasco (severely beaten during a robbery, recovered)

<http://www.csw.org.uk/2015/07/03/news/2650/article.htm>