

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – February 2015

Sunday February 1, 2015



India: Barhawa, Sahibang, Jharkhand state

Bhim Kujur (teacher at a Christian school, accused of child molestation by a Hindu parent who led a mob which shouted pro-Hindu slogans and physically attacked the school, a school representative said “The accusation against Bhim Kujur was totally false...The town people are wondering if the sudden unprovoked attempt was staged to malign the Holy Family School and the Christian religion”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/02/hindu-extremists-strive-to-mortify-malign-christians-in-jharkhand-state-india/>



Pakistan: Rao Khan Wala village, Kasur district, Punjab province

The homes of seven Christian families were reported to have been seized by Muslims with false documents and bulldozed, the families were told that they could avoid the demolition by converting to Islam, they refused and have been sleeping outdoors in the cold since, other neighbors have been similarly threatened

Rafique Masih

Shangara Masih

Farzana Bibi

Iruma Bibi (widow)

Bagh Masih

William Masih

Samar Masih

Gama Bibi (widow)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5166>



Uganda: Nasenye village, Pallisa district

Nabagabana Fatuma (aged 14, convert, sister of Namwase Aisha, beaten and locked in a room for three days without food by her uncle after converting, escaped)

Namwase Aisha (aged 16, convert, sister of Nabagabana Fatuma, beaten and locked in a room for three days without food by her uncle after converting, escaped)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/02/muslim-uncle-of-two-girls-in-uganda-beats-locks-them-up-without-food/>



Egypt: Dakahlia

Michael Monir Bishay (aged 26, brother of Lucy Monir Bishay, arrested on contempt of Islam charges after he shared a video on YouTube of a Muslim scholar, home attacked and motorcycle burnt, police refuse to confirm his whereabouts, every attorney contacted by the family has refused to take his case)

Lucy Monir Bishay (sister of Michael Monir Bishay, described his arrest on contempt of Islam charges)

Eshak Ibrahim (Egyptian Initiative for Human Rights researcher, said that the family of Michael Mounir Bishay is in need of police protection)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59414>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59426>

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1308&A=17515>

Monday February 2, 2015



Bangladesh: Gobindagonj, Gaibandha district

'Samuel' (alias, baptized along with his wife by 'Paul', after returning home were beaten by their neighbors for leaving Islam, home vandalized)

'Paul' (alias, baptized 'Samuel' and his wife, beaten, home vandalized, fired from his job)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Local-mob-beat-Bangladeshi-converts-after-baptism>



India: New Delhi

Fr Savarimuthu Sankar (**UPDATE**: church vandalized, tabernacle forced open and consecrated hosts scattered on the altar and floor, said “It is getting very disturbing now. The community is left with no option but to come out on streets and protest”, police dismissed the case as simple theft)

Vivien Ashima Kaul (retired history professor, commented on the recent church desecration "It's so sad")

Fr Mathew Kojickal (chancellor of the Archdiocese of New Delhi; **UPDATE**: spoke on the continuing attacks on churches in the Delhi-New Delhi area “There has been no attempt from the prime minister’s side to condemn the attacks...[If he did] we would be comforted, we would know we have a prime minister who cares about us”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Delhi,-another-Catholic-church-vandalized.-The-fifth-in-two-months-33346.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/catholic-church-vandalized-in-delhi/72912>

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/03/world/asia/catholics-fear-campaign-of-church-attacks-in-india.html?_r=1



Macedonia: Skopje

Archbishop Jovan of Ohrid aka Zoran Vraniskovski (aged 47, arrested on [December 13, 2011](#), at the Bitola border crossing, sentenced on [July 3, 2013](#) to three years in prison and church property seized for alleged money laundering, charges widely viewed as resulting from his efforts to reunify the Serbian and Macedonian Orthodox Churches; **UPDATE**: released from prison)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/77008.htm>



Germany

Ruth Levin (said that a new tax regulation requiring the payment of 8 or 9 percent of capital gains by church members has caused up to 200,000 Protestants to resign from their churches in 2014, similar numbers are believed to have left the Roman Catholic Church)

<http://www.ecumenicalnews.com/article/german-protestants-and-catholics-flee-churches-after-compulsory-taxes-imposed-28183>



United Kingdom

Two bishops criticized the BBC for the televised drama *Wolf Hall*, which presents St Thomas More as an evil character

Bishop Mark Davies (said: “We should remember *Wolf Hall* is a work of fiction. It is an extraordinary and perverse achievement...to make of Thomas Cromwell a flawed hero and of St Thomas More, one of the greatest Englishmen, a scheming villain. It is not necessary to share Thomas More’s faith to recognize his heroism – a man of his own time who remains an example of integrity for all times. It would be sad if Thomas Cromwell, who is surely one of the most unscrupulous figures in England’s history, was to be held-up as a role model for future generations”)

Bishop Mark O’Toole (said there was a “strong anti-Catholic thread” in *Wolf Hall*, and that it appeared to connect St Thomas More and his Catholic faith to 21st century religious fundamentalism)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2015/02/02/bishops-criticise-perverse-depiction-of-st-thomas-more-in-wolf-hall/>



United States - Florida

Suzanne Mazzola (aged 34, special education teacher, wife of Joseph, mother of Matteo, Ella, Luca, and Owen, **died from complications of pregnancy**, had been advised to abort Owen early in the pregnancy but had refused)

Date: February 2, 2015

Location: Tamarac

Source [with photos]: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/south-florida-mom-sacrifices-her-life-for-her-unborn-son>

Tuesday February 3, 2015



Lebanon: Tripoli

Antoine Tanus (newly hired director of the College of Business Administration, students have demanded his removal due to his religion)

<http://www.raymondibrahim.com/from-the-arab-world/lebanon-university-students-protest-appointment-of-christian-director/>

Wednesday February 4, 2015



Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan

Eliyas (husband of Rimista, father of two, abducted and freed after paying US\$25,000, Syrian refugee, reported to have split up his family and sent his wife to Europe but she became a refugee in Tanzania)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150204140622.htm>



Tanzania: Dar es Salaam

Rimista (wife of Eliyas, mother of two, dentist, Syrian refugee, reported to have been beaten and scarred by Turkish airport police, bankrupt, residing in a UN refugee camp with her three year old son, both malnourished, ill with a chest infection, said "If I must die, I rather die in my country")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150204140622.htm>



Egypt: Al-Sagha area, Dishna, Qena province

Remon Bishara Attiah (aged 23, dentistry student, abducted by gunmen, US\$262,000 ransom demanded)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59413>



United States: Oregon: Gresham

Christian couple found guilty of discrimination for refusing to bake a cake for a same sex wedding despite serving same sex couples in other ways, may be fined up to \$150,000, had already closed their business due to harassment

Aaron Klein

Melissa Klein

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-bakers-who-refused-to-make-cake-for-lesbian-wedding-found-guilty-of-discrimination-will-have-to-pay-up-to-150k-133581/>

Thursday February 5, 2015



India

Sajan K George (president of the Global Council of Indian Christians; **UPDATE:** said "The Indian Government this week denied entry permits [visas] to Archbishop Arthur Roche and Archbishop Protase Rugambwa , who were scheduled to attend a conference on 'Liturgy and Life' in Bangalore between 3 and 9 February. The two Vatican officials had applied for their visa's in mid-December but were turned down. No reason is cited for the denial of visas")

India: Delhi

A peaceful march by 1,500 Christians to protest government and police inaction in the face of anti-Christian attacks was attacked by police who had invoked an anti-insurrection law, hundreds were beaten and detained including priests, nuns, elderly, and children

Cardinal Oswald Gracias (**UPDATE:** said "What happened today is a shameful stain on secular and democratic India...the way in which our women religious were treated, women who consecrated their lives to God dragged away like criminals. Not even children were spared...Christians constitute less than 2 per cent of India's population. In Delhi they are just over 100,000 [out of 25 million residents]. They are a peaceful and law-abiding community. Our educational institutions and health facilities are at the service of the nation. Yet, in response to tens of decades of nation building, our women religious, our priests and our people are treated like criminals. This is a shame, a disgrace and a stain on our motherland")

Sajan K George (president of the Global Council of Indian Christians; **UPDATE:** said "What happened today is a sign that the atrocities against the tiny Christian community continue to escalate, whilst the authorities remain silent before the growing intolerance")

Fr Savarimuthu Shankar (**UPDATE:** said "They did not even spare the women and the elderly. They were even kicking the people who fell down on the ground after the crackdown... The way the police manhandled elderly nuns, priests and people showed the sheer brutality of the Delhi police, and I witnessed every bit of it... We are not demanding [justice and protection] as Christians, we are demanding as citizens of India")

Samuel Jaykumar (National Council of Churches in India; **UPDATE:** attended as a protestor)

Fr Dominic Emmanuel (**UPDATE:** detained by police, said "We have all the right to make our voices heard. We were legitimately protesting against the harm done on our churches" and added that the police crackdown was "brutal and illegal")

Dr John Dayal (**UPDATE:** arrested along with 200 protestors, said in a phone call from the police station "Our protest demanded that the government inquire into the violence against Christians because we do not trust the police to investigate it properly. Police told us we were disturbing the peace and threatening the police, but we are always peaceful, that is the point... The brutalizing of the Christian youth, women and men, many of them nuns and priests, by the Delhi police is symptomatic both of the bigotry and the sadism that seems so seeped into the system. The current political dispensation abets it and uses it. It is important to remember that the Christian community had not even started their proposed protest march when the police swooped on them in a pre-emptive strike to stifle their voice... The Hindu, hyper-nationalist, fundamentalist groups that carry out the violence are encouraged by the government's silence. Politically they believe that [Prime Minister Narendra] Modi has come into power because of their hard work in the run-up to the elections in 2014, and that he is beholden to them and will not take any action against them")

Johnny Joseph (aged 52, protestor, said "Our churches are being destroyed and the government isn't doing anything for us. We want to tell the government to safeguard our churches")

Garry (said "All that we are asking is 'what are the police doing? What is the government doing?'"")

Rev Vijayesh Lal (**UPDATE:** said of Fr Dominic Emmanuel "He is one of the most recognized faces from the Christian community, and he was dragged badly and pushed onto a bus in a brutal manner. He later told me that the attack from the police had left him in a lot of pain")

Fr Dennis George (choked by police)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Peaceful-march-in-Delhi:-police-beat-and-stop-priests,-nuns-and-children-33385.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Peaceful-march-in-Delhi:-police-beat-and-stop-priests,-nuns-and-children-33385.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-police-crack-down-on-catholic-protesters/72942>

<http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2015/02/05/police-detain-hundreds-of-christians-protesting-church-vandalism/>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/05/us-india-protests-christians-idUSKBN0L90SS20150205>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/02/police-in-india-manhandle-detain-protestors-against-anti-christian-attacks/>

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2015/03/13/police-in-india-accused-of-roughing-up-christian-protesters/>



Kazakhstan: Aktobe region

Vasily Kliver (sentenced to 5 days' imprisonment for refusing to pay fines levied in [March 2008](#) and [April 2010](#), released, had been jailed previously in 2009 for the same 2008 fine)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2043



Egypt: Monofeya

Bola Samir (aged 15, **burned to death** in a Muslim Brotherhood attack on a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59449>



Nigeria

Fr Gideon Obasogie (**UPDATE:** said "If Maiduguri falls into the hands of Boko Haram, it would be a disaster for all of Africa. Maiduguri is the state capital and the seat of Government, with all its structures, with a high concentration of state population and the commercial nerve of the northeast. If the city falls, citizens will be more facile to radicalization and the terrorists will have more conscripts. Maiduguri for Boko Haram would become a strong base and then rumble into Yobe, Bauchi, Gombe and Adamawa. Finally, if Maiduguri falls, the militants would control an airport and a military base with the 7 Div. This is really and truly dangerous for Nigeria, as it is a potential disaster for Africa as a continent. So far the militants have conquered and occupied towns and villages near Maiduguri...With the recent waves of attacks, there is so much fear and tension in the air. With the February Polls drawing ever close we see all sorts of personalities with well fashioned and designed promises too good to be taken as true; trooping into Maiduguri and the northeast, not to identify with us in our plight but to beg for our votes")

Date: [February 5, 2015](#)

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/37224-AFRICA_NIGERIA_If_Maiduguri_falls_into_the_hands_of_Boko_Haram_it_would_be_a_disaster_for_Africa_as_a_continent#.VNRR2sJTE5s



United States - Illinois

Patriarch Dinkha IV (aged 79; hospitalized with influenza on [January 12, 2015](#), developed respiratory distress, **UPDATE**: discharged into a rehab facility)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2015/02/holy-synod-statement-regarding-the-health-of-catholicos-patriarch-mar-dinkha-iv/>

Friday February 6, 2015



Kazakhstan: Taiynsha district, North Kazakhstan region

Roman Dimmel (aged 53, arrested in [Konstantinovka, Taiynsha district, North Kazakhstan region](#) on [October 28, 2014](#) for distributing religious literature; **UPDATE**: convicted, fined US\$500)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2176



Turkmenistan: Turkmenabad

Christians arrested, beaten, and sentenced to repeated terms of 15 days' imprisonment

Viktor Yarygin (pensioner, fined US\$29)

Rustam Nazarov (beaten)

Charygeldy Jumaev (lost consciousness three times while beaten, sentenced to imprisonment February 6-21, March 16-31, and April 1-15)

Jamilya Adylova (beaten, sentenced to imprisonment February 6-21, March 16-31, and April 1-15)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2063



Sudan: Tangali village, Dalami county, South Kordofan state

Naheed Saeed Komi (aged 25, wife, mother of a 3 year old boy, nine month's pregnant, **killed in an air force bombing raid**)

Nour Kalowas (**killed** in a government air raid)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/02/sudanese-air-force-bomb-kills-pregnant-christian-mother-in-nuba-mountains-sudan/>
<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/05/sudans-aerial-bombing-kills-3-year-old-girl-wounds-mother-in-nuba-mountains/>



Egypt: Kosya, Assiut

Michael Ashraf Saad (aged 20, reported to have been abducted from his home, ransom paid, not returned)

Egypt: Dakahlia

Michael Monir Bishay (aged 26, arrested on contempt of Islam charges after he shared a video on YouTube of a Muslim scholar, home attacked and motorcycle burnt; **UPDATE:** police allowed him to meet with his family, legal counsel has been obtained)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59438>
<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59432>
<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59434>



United Kingdom

Cristina Odone (former editor, criticized the shadow education secretary's comment that nuns are not qualified teachers “Tristram Hunt’s comments on nuns last night were arrogant and ignorant. Why is it acceptable to denigrate anything Catholic but bleat tolerance about every other religion? To know he and Labour stand a chance at the next election makes me fear for the 7000 brilliant faith schools in this country”)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2015/02/06/shadow-education-secretary-under-fire-over-nuns-remark-on-question-time/>

Saturday February 7, 2015



Pakistan: Sheikhpura

Imtiaz Masih (falsely accused on [December 27, 2010](#) of the murder of his Muslim employer's brother, abducted by his employer, tortured into confessing his guilt to police, father forced to sign family property over to his employer; released on bail in [March 2011](#); **UPDATE:** acquitted at trial due to conflicting testimonies)

<http://www.charismanews.com/world/48424-vindicated-christian-acquitted-of-false-murder-charges>



Nigeria: Mushere, Bokokos local government area, Plateau state

Joshua Dariye (Federal Senator, 80+ year old father abducted by Boko Haram, US\$10 million ransom demanded)

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2015/02/gunmen-kidnap-plateau-ex-govs-father-dariye/>

Sunday February 8, 2015



India: Navardi, Chatra, Jharkhand state

Eleven Hindu radicals drag four women from a prayer meeting while their husbands worked in the fields

Shanti (convert, beaten)

Samudri (convert, beaten)

Sonamati (convert, beaten)

Yasoda (convert, beaten, partially stripped, said "I asked them what crime did I do for them to do this to me and asked them to stop, but they would not stop and said that I should stop following Christ and stop praying to Jesus, and that then all this will cease")

Pastor Rampath Nayak (described the attack on Shanti, Samudri, Sonamati and Yasoda, said “They are all recovering, except that Yasoda is still complaining of pain in the left part of her chest”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/02/hindu-extremists-strive-to-mortify-malign-christians-in-jharkhand-state-india/>



Pakistan: Lahore

Two churches raided by police, pastors arrested, sound systems seized

Pastor Imran Maqbool (arrested, spent the night in jail, said “The authorities had to come up with an explanation for the raids. Four microphones, two sets of speakers, a music mixer, a harmonium, and other electric accessories were damaged and later taken away by the police”)

Salik Morris (church member, said “All the worshipers were almost held hostage by the police. The women and children started praying, but stopped when they were threatened by the Station House Officer. The officer ordered the congregation not to come to the church for prayers anymore”)

Pastor Javaid Austin (said “The local police have violated our right to religious freedom. They entered into the church forcefully, as attackers, and misbehaved with the pastoral team and the worshipers”)

Azeem Javaid (prayer leader, arrested, spent the night in jail, said “There were around 200 worshipers in both churches. The police, led by Imran Qureshi, the local Station House Officer, entered into the church forcefully with arms bared. They harassed the women and children. The loud speakers were not even in use due to a power cut...I am more energetic for my pastoral work”)

Tasneem Akhtar (church member, said “It was an act of terrorism and an attack on peaceful worshipers which should be condemned by all rights groups. We will continue praying and worshipping in the same church in the same spirit. The Station House Officer should be arrested for his criminal act and he must come up with an apology for this!”)

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/02/09/police-raid-two-sunday-worship-services-in-lahore-pakistan/>

Monday February 9, 2015



China: Liunan district, Liuzhou city, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

The operators of a church based kindergarten are facing trial for illegal business operations for having printed kindergarten textbooks without identification numbers, the book printer has also been charged; **UPDATE: trial begun, defense attorneys illegally denied access to the trial transcript, their protests led to their expulsion from the courtroom, the judge has ordered the trial to proceed without the defense attorneys**

Cheng Jie (wife of Pastor Du Hongbo, mother of two young children, kindergarten director, detained on February 18, 2014)

Li Jiatao (wife of Ma Jiawen, mother of two, kindergarten teacher, detained on June 24, 2014 by police)

Huang Qiurui (church elder)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/02/5-lawyers-expelled-from-hualin.html>



United States – Wisconsin: Milwaukee

Dr John McAdams (professor of political science at Marquette University, suspended on [December 16, 2014](#), banned from campus, and under formal investigation for defending a student's defense of traditional Christian morality on his blog; **UPDATE: the university has begun termination proceedings against him despite his tenure, has vowed to fight the university's actions**)

United States - West Virginia: Beckley

Pastor Ronald Browning (aged 68, **beaten to death** in his home)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/catholic-marquette-firing-tenured-prof.-who-defended-student-who-stood-up-f>
<http://www.charismanews.com/us/48246-elderly-pastor-murdered-in-west-virginia>

Tuesday February 10, 2015



India: Delhi

Christians respond to the defeat of the Hindu nationalist BJP party in the National Capital Territory elections by the AAP anti-corruption party

Sajan George (**UPDATE**: said "Millions of people voted against the BJP out of disgust for the actions of violent radical nationalist forces and their distortion of history and science...is a triumph of our democratic system, the consequence of growing intolerance toward minorities, the desecration and vandalism against five churches in Delhi, and the complicit silence of the federal government in the face of violence against the Christian community")

Fr Ajaya Kumar Singh (said "With AAP's win in Delhi, Hindutva fascist forces will now be checked")

Archbishop Anil Joseph Thomas Couto (**UPDATE**: said "the result is a vote for change. Even after eight months, the Modi government has failed to act well, nor has it fulfilled its promises. The people of Delhi are disappointed and that's why they wanted to give Arvind Kejriwal a chance as the new chief minister [governor]. Moreover, the majority of the population here is well educated and come from all over the country. People have the pulse of the situation, on their States: their vote also shows the frustration of the people of India about the central government's behavior")

Fr Savarimuthu Sankar (**UPDATE**: said "We are convinced that violence in Delhi had an impact on the vote: This result proves that the campaign of hatred does not pay and that those who use religion for political purposes is a loser. I believe this vote is also a message to the central government of India")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Indian-Christians-view-Delhi-elections-as-a-victory-over-fascism-33425.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Archbishop-of-Delhi:-The-people-voted-against-Modi-and-the-political-use-of-religion-33421.html>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37253->

[ASIA INDIA Elections in Delhi nationalists collapse for the Church it is a new beginning#.VNrhlcJTE5s](#)



Pakistan

Sehrish (aged 18, daughter of Ilyas Masih, abducted and gang raped, told by her attackers that hers was the fate of 'poor Christian girls'; **UPDATE**: two men on motorcycles demanded that her family drop the criminal charges against her attackers, fired repeated shots into her home and took deliberate aim at her 12 year old brother but missed, after exhausting their bullets they spent 20 minutes threatening her with another gang rape and other atrocities, family fled her home and is living with her pastor, said "I am too afraid to go back home. This was once my local community but all I have now is bad memories")

Farazana (aged 14, daughter of Ilyas Masih, abducted and gang raped, told by her attackers that hers was the fate of 'poor Christian girls'; **UPDATE**: two men on motorcycles demanded that her family drop the criminal charges against her attackers, fired repeated shots into her home and took deliberate aim at her 12 year old brother but missed, after exhausting

their bullets they spent 20 minutes threatening her with another gang rape and other atrocities, family fled her home and is living with her pastor)

Ilyas Masih (father of Sehrish and Farazana; **UPDATE**: wept after the attempt to shoot his family, said "I wish never go back. We already paid a big cost of my daughters' honor, we can't afford the loss of any family member now")

Date: February 10, 2015

Location: Jaranwala district

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5184>



Uzbekistan: Tashkent

Ilmira Ishanova (mother of Vagiz and Rustam Ziganshin, fined US\$484 for illegally storing Christian literature)

Vagiz Ziganshin (son of Ilmira Ishanova, brother of Rustam Ziganshin, fined US\$484 for illegally storing Christian literature)

Rustam Ziganshin (son of Ilmira Ishanova, brother of Vagiz Ziganshin, fined US\$484 for illegally storing Christian literature)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2058



Iran: Tehran

Amin Afshar Naderi (aged 26, convert, detained by police after the [December 26, 2014](#) raid on the home of Pastor Victor Beth Tarmez; **UPDATE**: released from jail on bond, banned from Christian activities until his trial begin)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9989:former-pastor-of-pentecostal-church-released-from-prison&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Iraq

Archbishop Bashar Matti Warda (**UPDATE**: spoke before members of the British Parliament in [London, United Kingdom](#) "We don't have much time left as Christians in this region. As a Catholic I find it hard to say, but I want military action, there is no other way now")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150210133617.htm>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150210140004.htm>



Syria

Kayla Mueller (aged 26, U.S. citizen, humanitarian aid worker, abducted from an [Aleppo](#) hospital by ISIL in [August 2013](#); had refused to join two Yazidi girls in an [October 2014](#) escape attempt because she thought that her appearance would put the two girls at greater risk of recapture, had been sexually assaulted by ISIL leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi; **UPDATE**: confirmed to have been **killed** while in ISIL captivity, had written "I remember mom always telling me that all in all in the end the only one you really have is God. I have come to a place in experience where, in every sense of the word, I have surrendered myself to our creator b/c literally there was no else... + by God + by your prayers I have felt tenderly cradled in freefall...Please be patient, give your pain to God...by God's will we will be together soon")

<http://www.charismanews.com/world/48233-woman-held-hostage-by-isis-i-have-surrendered-myself-to-our-creator>



Jordan: Amman

Fr Rifat Bader (**UPDATE**: complained of the importation and sale of hookahs with immodest depictions of Jesus)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/37250-ASIA_JORDAN_CCSM_denounces_offensive_drawings_of_Lord_Jesus_Christ_on_hookahs#.VNriHsJTE5s



Niger: Niamey

Fr Mauro Armanino SMA (missionary; **UPDATE**: said "There is a growing feeling of anti-Christianity in Niger...The extremist group Boko Haram attacked the city of Diffa yesterday. The attack comes as Niger's lawmakers are due to vote on a plan to send troops in the operations against Boko Haram in Nigeria...We know that many people are fleeing from Diffa to head towards Zinder to then presumably go to the capital Niamey...Indeed, there is growing concern in people. The attacks carried out by Boko Haram creates a feeling of growing impatience towards any presence which is not a form of Islam")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37252->

[AFRICA NIGER A missionary There is a growing feeling of anti Christianity in Niger#.VNrjQMJTE5s](#)



France: Belley-Ars

Bishop Pascal Roland (has ordered the Blessed Sacrament removed from all tabernacles in the diocese unless public prayer allows for "a sufficient presence of the faithful", order instituted due to a wave of church desecrations)

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/bishop-of-ars-removes-blessed-sacrament-from-all-parishes/#ixzz3SFRzaEbE>

Wednesday February 11, 2015



India: Kaimri village, Hissar district, Haryana state

Rev Subhash Chand (church mobbed by Bajrang Dal [RSS paramilitary youth organization] members)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/03/christians-in-haryana-india-hit-with-beatings-opposition-from-chief-minister-discrimination/>



Pakistan: Christian Colony [ghetto], Islamabad

Christians have continued to live in a makeshift slum after fleeing Islamic violence following the 2012 blasphemy accusations against Rimsha Bibi

Pastor Orangzaib Maseeh (has run a literacy program at his open air church, said "I wish to save my people by providing them faith and some education. I want them to have a life of a normal person. They used to have one")

Dunya Yacoub (aged 24, celebrated her wedding in a dark concrete block house, said "Since I was a little girl, I dreamed of the day I would get married and put on a nice dress and have a nice party with a lot of people. But today, my dream didn't turn the way I

imagined it, but there is nothing I can do about it. This is how our lives look like today, and we have to adapt")

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/ap-photos-christians-pakistan-slum-amid-blasphemy-cases-28880845>



Kenya: Mandera

Frederick (injured in the leg with a grenade explosion, shot in the chest, stomach, and hand, seven others injured, attack believed to have been perpetrated by the Al Shabaab Islamist group)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/02/eight-people-injured-in-grenade-attack-in-northern-kenya/>

Thursday February 12, 2015



Laos: Savannakhet province

Five Christian leaders detained on June 22, 2014 after praying with a dying Christian, accused of murder; murder charges dropped on August 6, 2014; **UPDATE: convicted of 'unlicensed professional medical care' for having prayed for the dying Ms Chansee, sentenced to nine months' imprisonment and together fined US\$2,758**

Ms Kaithong

Mr Puphet

Mr Muk

Mr Hasadee

Mr Tiang

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37284->

[ASIA LAOS Prayers for a dying woman five Pastors charged with abuse of medical profession#.VOLNaMJTEfQ](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37284-ASIA_LAOS_Prayers_for_a_dying_woman_five_Pastors_charged_with_abuse_of_medical_profession#.VOLNaMJTEfQ)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/02/court-in-laos-fines-sentences-pastors-to-prison-for-praying-for-sick-woman-who-died/>



India: Ahmedabad, Gujarat state

Fr Cedric Prakash SJ (director of the Prashant Center for Human Rights, Justice and Peace;

UPDATE: criticized the erection of a Hindu temple dedicated to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, including an idol in his likeness "This is a deplorable initiative for a secular country like India...Hinduism does not turn human beings into gods. What is certain is that sad things are happening in our country and they are threatening its secular nature...I don't think it is a good sign. It is yet another bad step in the wrong direction...", Mr Modi tweeted that he was "appalled" by the temple and the attempt to declare him a god and forced the cancellation of government sponsorship of its inauguration)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hindu-temple-dedicated-to-Narendra-Modi-is-a-threat-to-secular-India-33444.html>



Azerbaijan: Salyan

Kamran Shikhaliyev (inducted into a military unit in October 2013 despite his declaration of conscientious objection, subjected to physical abuse, verbal humiliation, psychological pressure, four months confinement, then charged with "fraudulently evading military service"; convicted on April 16 2014, sentenced to one year in a disciplinary military unit on May 6 2014; **UPDATE:** has completed one year in captivity but has been transferred to a new military unit)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2037



Egypt

Michael Monir Bishay (aged 26, brother of Lucy Monir Bishay, arrested on [February 1, 2015](#) on contempt of Islam charges after he shared a video on YouTube of a Muslim scholar;

UPDATE: the judge and prosecutor have illegally denied the defense attorney access to case files)

Egypt: Samaran district, El-Arish, Sinai

Abdel Shaheed Tawfik (aged 50, home burned after an attempt on his life)

Abanob Girgis (reported on the attack on Abdel Shaheed Tawfik)

Egypt: Minya

Mina Agib (aged 21, 'handicapped', **found dead with multiple injuries**)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59550>
<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59549>
<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1313&A=17606>



Nigeria

Fr Maurice Kwairanga (has been working with girls who have escaped Boko Haram captivity "...some of them it's very painful for them to go through this process of even telling what happened to them. But gradually, they are able to open up and to talk freely, to feel accepted and to feel that the world has not turned its back on them")

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

Friday February 13, 2015



India: Vasant Vihar, south Delhi

Sajan K George (**UPDATE**: described the vandalism of a parochial school, said "The public security situation is getting worse")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Delhi,-more-attacks-on-the-Church-as-Catholic-school-targeted-33453.html>



Pakistan: Karachi

Dr Nazir S Bhatti (President of Pakistan Christian Congress; **UPDATE**: called on the UN and Western governments to help the more than 14,000 Pakistani refugees in Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5185>

Pakistan: Lahore, Punjab province

Napolean Qayyum (rights advocate with World Vision in Progress Foundation; **UPDATE:** criticized the provincial government for creating a fast-track for the acquittal of citizens falsely accused of blasphemy but excluding non-Muslims from the new process)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/02/christians-excluded-from-pakistans-blasphemy-cases-fast-tracked-for-acquittal/>



Ukraine: Horlivka

Sergei Vladimirovich Luchenko (aged 44, cathedral employee, husband, father of two, **killed** in an artillery duel)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/77274.htm>



Belarus: Minsk

Andrei Kuzin (home in [Borisov](#), Minsk region raided by police during a [November 20, 2014](#) worship service, fined US\$250 on [December 23, 2014](#), has appealed; **UPDATE:** appeal denied, said "It seemed that it was all already decided before the hearing. The Judge didn't listen to me and everything was over very quickly", will appeal to the Supreme Court)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2040



Nigeria: Sambisa forest

Monica Sunday (aged 20, abducted by Boko Haram along with her infant son Abraham John from [Kiva](#) village, met 24 of the abducted Chibok schoolgirls, saw another woman beaten to death for refusing to convert to Islam, escaped, baby died during her several day hike without food, was unable to bury him)

Abraham John (infant son of Monica Sunday, **died** during their escape from Boko Haram)

<http://thenationonlineng.net/new/met-24-chibok-schoolgirls/>

Saturday February 14, 2015



China: Hong Kong

Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-Kium SBD (**UPDATE**: joined others in demonstrating for the release of Bishop Cosmas Shi Enxiang [who has been reported to have died but no one has been released] and Bishop James Su Zhimin)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Card-Zen-and-Catholics-protest-against-Beijing-over-the-fate-of-Mgr-Cosma-Shi-Enxiang-33462.html>

Sunday February 15, 2015



Russia: Cherkessk

Andrei Volovikov (planted 'extremist' literature found in a home search conducted while he and his son were ill)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2095



South Sudan: Yida refugee camp, Unity state

Kuku (aged 18, convert from Islam, Sudanese refugee, disowned by his family for his conversion, threatened with violence)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/05/young-sudanese-refugee-cast-out-of-home-for-leaving-islam/>



Uganda: Budaka, Pallisa district

Richard Lebon Suleiman (convert from Islam, husband of Agnes Nasubuga Nura, father of five aged 1 to 9, **shot dead** by suspected Muslim gunmen)

Uganda: Kabuna, Pallisa district

Agnes Nasubuga Nura (convert from Islam, widow of Richard Lebon Suleiman, mother of five aged 1 to 9, has received texted threats since her husband's murder including 'If you continue following the enemies of Islam, then you are risking your life. Soon your children will be orphans')

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/06/widow-of-slain-christian-in-uganda-fears-for-her-life/>



Libya

UPDATE: Twenty-one abducted Coptic Christians, one unnamed, reported to have been **beheaded** by ISIL, the men could be heard in the video calling on Jesus Christ as they died

Abanoub Ayyad Ateyya

Beshoy Estafanous Kamel

Bishoy Adel Khalaf

Essam Baddar Samir

Ezzat Bushra Nassif

Gaber Mounir Adly

Girguis Milad Sinewt

Hany Abdel-Messeih Saleeb

Kirollos Beshry Fawzy

Luqa Nagati

Maged Solaiman Shehata

Malak Farag Ibrahim

Malak Ibrahim Sinewt

Milad Makeen Zaky

Mina Fayez Aziz

Sameh Salah Farouq

Samuel Estafanous Kamel

Samuel Wilson

Tawadros Yusuf Tawadros

Yusuf Shukry Yunan

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/02/egypt-in-mourning-as-it-bombs-libyan-terrorist-targets-after-beheading-of-copts/>



Kosovo: Kosovska Mitrovica

Archpriest Milija Arsovic (described the desecration of a cemetery including the destruction of the cemetery chapel “You can see that there is absolutely nothing good here. People came here today in large numbers, to this sacred cemetery, because many holy people are buried here, and they did not deserve this to be done to them. Simply, I have been coming here for 15 years with these people and I can say that every time we come we find the situation to be worse”)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2015/02/kosovo-chapel-at-orthodox-cemetery-destroyed-graves-desecrated-busts-stolen/>



Croatia: Karlovac

Fr Slavisa Simakovic (described the desecration of his cathedral)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2015/02/croatia-vandals-desecrate-serbian-orthodox-church-temple-in-karlovci/>



Central African Republic: Bangui

Fr Narcisse Olimbi (automobile hijacked, robbed along with three others)

Central African Republic: Kaga-Bandoro, Nana Grebizi province

Pastor Arouneka David (**killed** by Muslim Fulani herdsmen)

Sanze Gervais (**killed** by Muslim Fulani herdsmen)

Pastor Yanike Pierre (tortured by Muslim Fulani herdsmen)

Kondremunji Philippe (abducted by Muslim Fulani herdsmen along with his son, whereabouts unknown)

Pastor Enza Vincent (said after the Muslim Fulani attacks "We want to carry on our daily activities without any problem, in peace. But unfortunately, we are suffering here. People don't have food, there is malnutrition everywhere; many of them have lost everything they had, their houses have been burnt. No help is coming")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/02/3742814/>

Monday February 16, 2015



Iran: Rasht

Mehdi Reza Omid Youhan (convert, sentenced to 80 lashes for drinking communion wine on [October 20, 2013](#) in Rasht, allowed 10 days to appeal; sentence executed on [November 2, 2013](#), has been flogged; **UPDATE:** home raided by VEVAK agents, religious items seized)

Yasser Mosayebzadeh (home raided by VEVAK agents, religious items seized,)

Saheb Fadaie (home raided by VEVAK agents, religious items seized,)

<http://dynamic.csw.org.uk/article.asp?t=press&id=1840&search=>



Syria: Hassake

Fr Gabriel Daoud (detained by Kurdish PKK soldiers along with at least 12 other Christians for travelling without permits)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/37309-ASIA SYRIA Syrian Orthodox priest and laity arrested by Kurd military#.VObB-8JTEfQ](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37309-ASIA_SYRIA_Syrian_Orthodox_priest_and_laity_arrested_by_Kurd_military#.VObB-8JTEfQ)

Tuesday February 17, 2015



Turkmenistan

Umid Gojayevev (husband of Malahat Gojayevev, father of three, arrested after a scuffle with neighbors in [Dashoguz](#), neighbor asked for charges to be dropped but police refused when they learned he was a Christian, sentenced to four years imprisonment; **UPDATE:** aged 32, freed from prison in an amnesty)

Ruslan Narkuliyev (aged 21, conscientious objector, sentenced to two years' imprisonment in September 2014, freed from prison in an amnesty)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2039



Iran: Rasht

Mehdi Reza Omidi Youhan (convert, home raided by VEVAK agents on [February 16, 2015](#), religious items seized, **UPDATE**: warned to leave the country)

Yasser Mosayebzadeh (home raided by VEVAK agents on [February 16, 2015](#), religious items seized, **UPDATE**: warned to leave the country)

Saheb Fadaie (home raided by VEVAK agents on [February 16, 2015](#), religious items seized, **UPDATE**: warned to leave the country)

<http://dynamic.csw.org.uk/article.asp?t=press&id=1840&search=>



Azerbaijan

Two women cited in [Pirallahi](#) on [December 5, 2014](#) for distributing religious literature door to door, **UPDATE**: **detained in Baku by the NSM secret police for a pretrial detention of three months', facing possible five years' imprisonment**

Irina Zakharchenko (aged 54)

Valida Jabrayilova (aged 38)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2041



Syria: Al Nabek

Sr Houda Fadoul (spoke on the 120 Christian families served by her community “The jihadists are not far away. We Christians are scared of them. But so are the Muslims of Al Nabek. After all, the jihadists also kill Muslims. No one wants them here...Many families either don’t have a flat at all anymore, or the ones they have are uninhabitable”)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/meet-the-christians-in-syria-who-want-to-stay-despite-the-war-72991/>



Lebanon; Beirut

Evelyn Polis (Iraqi refugee for four years, has enough money for one more month's rent)

Gladis Khamees (mother, Iraqi refugee for four years, wants to leave Lebanon "We don't know what our fate will be here")

Bishop Michel Kassarji (**UPDATE:** said that his diocese has been supporting 2,000 Chaldean Iraqi families, desperately needs funds, has spent US\$400,000 in the last six months on food alone)

Rita Saky (church aid worker for Iraqi refugees)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150216192557.htm>



Egypt: Dalga, Minya province

Fr Ayub Yusif (automobile destroyed by arson)

<http://www.raymondibrahim.com/from-the-arab-world/coptic-christian-priests-car-set-aflame/>



Libya: Tripoli

Archbishop Giovanni Innocenzo Martinelli (**UPDATE:** said "Only a few of us remain, just a good group of Filipinos and it is for them that I have stayed. They are mainly nursing staff, nearly all women, who have opted to stay to tend to the growing healthcare needs of the people...At the moment the situation is calm, but no one knows what will happen next. However as I have often said, even if there were only one Christian here, I too would remain. It will all go according to the will of God")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37294->

[AFRICA LIBYA Filipinos are the only ones who remain to serve the growing medical needs of our people says Bishop Martinelli#.VOVTT8JTEfQ](#)



Kosovo: Prizen

Hieromonk Andrej (reported on Kosovo Liberation Army graffiti at the Cyril and Methodius Seminary)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/77341.htm>



Nigeria

Bishop Emmanuel Badejo (while in [Rome, Italy](#) blamed U.S. policy for aiding the rise of the Boko Haram Islamist group “The United States actually said it would help Nigeria with Boko Haram only if we modify our laws concerning homosexuality, family planning, and birth control...a child is a treasure, even if that child is going to have to go through some difficulty in growing up. In the West, if a child cannot have the best of life, then it should not live. That’s not the African world view...There is a diminishing sense of the respect for the sanctity of life. And all of this is to be imposed on Africa, at whatever cost: we think that it is immoral and that it is unjust”)

<http://www.aleteia.org/en/religion/article/us-wont-help-fight-boko-haram-until-nigeria-accepts-homosexuality-birth-control-bishop-says-5344466437144576>

Wednesday February 18, 2015



Bhutan

Pastor Mon B Thapa aka David Lobzang (aged 56 in 2014, arrested on [March 5, 2014](#) for holding an unauthorized public meeting with 30 Christians but not officially charged, the meeting was for the ground breaking of a new house in [Khapdani village, Samtse district](#); sentenced in [Dorokha, Samtse district](#) on [September 10, 2014](#) 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; **UPDATE**: paid his fine, released from prison)

<https://www.mnnonline.org/news/pastor-released-prison/>



Pakistan: Quetta, Baluchistan

The Quetta Press Club has been threatened with a terror attack by Fidayeen-e-Islam if it does not expel its Christian members

Musa Farman (photojournalist)

Kelvin Masih (photojournalist)

Naseem Masih (photojournalist)

Naseem James (television cameraman threatened by Fidayan-e-Islam terrorists for converting Muslim youth, said "There is no truth in what has been claimed in the letter")

Fr Maqbool Nazir (said that "These journalists were holding prominent positions in the press club for a long time so someone may want to get them removed from their position. We have never heard of Fidayeen-e-Islam before")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/pakistani-press-club-faces-threats-over-christian-journalists/73023>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/05/3832599/>



Iran: Rajaei-Shahr prison, Karaj

Pastor Behnam Irani (husband of Kristina Irani; **UPDATE**: refused conditional release from prison)

Rasoul Abdollahi (convert; **UPDATE**: conditionally released from prison)

<http://dynamic.csw.org.uk/article.asp?t=press&id=1840&search=>

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9907:christian-prisoner-conditionally-released-from-rajaei-shahr-prison&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



South Sudan: Aweil

Pastor Adam Haron (aged 37, convert from Islam, threatened with death by Muslim extremists for his evangelism on [November 9, 2014](#), on [November 10, 2014](#) a Land Cruiser without a license plate attempted to run him over, detained on [November 13, 2014](#) on the pretext he was a Sudanese spy, beaten, US\$820 stolen, on [November 15, 2014](#) was given 364 lashes with a tree branch, **UPDATE**: released, said "This detention has been a great encouragement to my spiritual life")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/03/pastor-in-south-sudan-jailed-lashed-after-radical-muslims-threaten-him/>



Sudan: Khartoum

Rev David Yein Reith (arrested by NISS secret police on [January 9, 2015](#) while returning home from a prayer meeting; **UPDATE**: still not charged, still in custody)

Rev Yat Michael (arrested by NISS secret police on [December 21, 2014](#) without charge after delivering a homily; **UPDATE**: still not charged, still in custody)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/02/sudan-helps-muslim-investors-take-over-last-piece-of-church-land/>



Colombia: Paloquemao

Russell Martin Stendal (missionary, U.S. citizen, arrested on suspicion of involvement with the FARC 53 Marxist rebel group)

<http://blogs.cbn.com/globalane/archive/2015/02/19/american-missionary-arrested-in-colombia.aspx>



United States – Washington state: Richland

Barronelle Stutzman (aged 70, sued by the state attorney general in [April 2013](#) for declining to provide floral arrangements for a same-sex wedding; **UPDATE**: found guilty, refused to accept a \$2,001 settlement which would require her to violate her religious beliefs, wrote "Washington's constitution guarantees us 'freedom of conscience in all matters of religious sentiment.' I cannot sell that precious freedom. You are asking me to walk in the way of a well-known betrayer, one who sold something of infinite worth for 30 pieces of silver. That is something I will not do...Your offer reveals that you don't really understand me or what this conflict is all about. It's about freedom, not money. I certainly don't relish the idea of losing my business, my home, and everything else that your lawsuit threatens to take from my family, but my freedom to honor God in doing what I do best is more important...I pray that you reconsider your position. I kindly served Rob for nearly a decade and would gladly continue to do so. I truly want the best for my friend. I've also employed and served many members of the LGBT community, and will continue to do so regardless of what happens with this case. You chose to attack my faith and pursue this not simply as a matter of law, but to threaten my very means of working, eating and having a home. If you are serious about clarifying the law, then I urge you to drop your claims against my home, business, and other assets...Our state would be a better place if we respected each other's differences, and our leaders protected the

freedom to have those differences. Since 2012, same-sex couples all over the state have been free to act on their beliefs about marriage, but because I follow the Bible's teaching that marriage is the union of one man and one woman, I am no longer free to act on my beliefs")

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/florist-who-refused-gay-wedding-offered-settlement-i-will-not-be-like-judas-betray-jesus-for-money-she-replied-134593/>

Thursday February 19, 2015



Philippines

Fr Sebastiano D'Ambra PIME (**UPDATE:** said “someone wants to destabilize Mindanao” after the [January 25, 2015](#) battle in [Mamasapano](#) killed 65)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37310->

[ASIA PHILIPPINES Missionary says someone wants to destabilise Mindanao#.VOa-2sJTEfQ](#)



India: Ahmedabad, Gujarat state

Fr Cedric Prakash SJ (director of the Prashant Jesuit Center for Human Rights; **UPDATE:** spoke about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent speech in favor of religious freedom "At no point in his speech did he condemn or take a position against attacks on Christians and other minorities in India. If he was serious he would first repeal the draconian and unconstitutional anti-conversion law that he introduced in Gujarat in 2003...[Modi's words] surely look good on paper, but many are wondering if he will actually 'walk his talk' [since he] was groomed and nurtured by the right-wing Hindu groups commonly referred to as Sangh Parivar. He is an integral part of them, shares their ideology and world view. It is they who catapulted him to power")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Indian-Jesuit,-Narendra-Modi's-bluff-will-be-called-sooner-or-later-33509.html>



Pakistan: Bhai Pheru district, Kasur, Punjab province

Fr Ijaz Bashir (held hostage by three armed robbers along with the rest of the church staff, church ransacked, almost US\$32,500 taken including 11,000 Euros meant for the medical care of Fr Leopold Evans)

Sr Marriam Hakam (held hostage by three armed robbers along with the rest of the church staff, did not recognize them)

Fr Leopold Evans OFM Cap (Belgian national, hospitalized with a life threatening illness, medical funds stolen by robbers)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5194>



Iraq: Ainkawa, Erbil, Kurdistan

Myriam ('young girl', refugee from Qaraqosh, said "We used to have a house and were entertained, whereas here we are not. But thank God. God provides for us: God loves us and wouldn't let ISIL kill us...I will only ask God to forgive them")

Flourine ('young girl', refugee, said she missed "our school and our church")

Maryouma ('young girl', refugee, said "Jesus will be with us no matter where we go")

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/displaced-iraqi-christian-girl-who-fled-home-to-escape-death-asks-god-to-forgive-isis-despite-her-terrible-living-conditions-in-half-built-mall-134407/>



Syria: Hassake

Fr Gabriel Daoud (detained by Kurdish PKK soldiers along with at least 12 other Christians on [February 16, 2015](#) for travelling without permits; **UPDATE**: released, all but 2 of the others have also been released)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/37316-ASIA_SYRIA_Syrian_Orthodox_priest_detained_by_Kurds_is_released#.VOlZx8JTEfQ



Egypt

Farid (widow of Shahid Nesimis Saroufim, mother of a son aged 6, a daughter aged 4, and an unborn child, said that before her husband's murder in [Nag Hassan village, Dabiya, Luxor](#)

province on January 13, 2015 "They said many times before to my husband, 'If you don't drop the [murder] charges on our relatives, we will make the Christian women in the village widows'")

Egypt

Eshak Sobhi (brother of Adel Sobhi Youssef, said that the police officer who killed his brother in Beni Suef in April 2014 has yet to be arrested)

https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/02/article_3721551.html/
<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59713>



Nigeria: Gaya, Adamawa state

Mr James (said "Boko Haram fighters attacked our town Gaya. They killed over 30 people and burnt down several buildings in the community")

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2015/02/boko-haram-attacks-adamawa-villages-kills-40/>



Venezuela: Santa Ana de Coro, Falcon state

Archbishop Roberto Luckert Leon (denounced the arrest of the mayor of Caracas allegedly for involvement in a U.S. led coup attempt as "proof of dictatorship", added "Our late President was not mistaken when he promised to take us into Cuba's ocean of happiness, and this is the proof. They are trampling every rule of law")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/37312-AMERICA_VENEZUELA_Police_arrest_Mayor_of_Caracas_for_Archbishop_Lueckert_proof_of_dictatorship#.VOgUlsJTEfQ



United States – California: San Francisco

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone (asked by state lawmakers to remove 'morality clauses' from an upcoming contract for school teachers at Church owned schools)

<http://www.ncregister.com/blog/joan-desmond/lawmakers-to-san-fran-archbishop-drop-morality-clauses/>

Friday February 20, 2015



Turkmenistan: Turkmenabad

Zeynep Husaynova (mother of Tohtabay Husaynov, home raided by police, religious literature seized, sentenced to 15 days' imprisonment)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2063



Belarus: Mogilev

Fr Roman Schulz OP (Polish citizen, denied permission on or before [April 15, 2014](#) to stay in the country after serving a parish for seven years, no reason given; stay extended to December 20, 2014 after protests from parishioners; **UPDATE**: stay extended again to June 20, 2015)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2040



Libya: Beida, Cyrenaica

Fr Piotr Borkowski OFM (Polish citizen, said "...the people and the country is always more divided between different cabilas, tribes and militias. It is even difficult to understand who to turn to for help. Dialogue would solve many problems, but how do you talk to who only wants to use weapons?")

<http://www.misna.org/en/other/european-help-needed-says-missionary-in-cyrenaica-20-02-2015-813.html>



Poland: Slubice

Mariusz Dzierzawski (arrested at an [August 2, 2012](#) pro-life demonstration in [Kostrzyn](#) for possession of 'obscene' material, **UPDATE**: arresting officers convicted of illegal arrest)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/policemen-jailed-after-wrongful-arrest-of-polish-pro-lifers-during-demonstr>



Colombia

Russell Martin Stendal (missionary, U.S. citizen, arrested on [February 18, 2015](#) in [Paloquemao](#) on suspicion of involvement with the FARC 53 Marxist rebel group; **UPDATE**: released from jail due to lack of evidence)

<http://www.charismanews.com/opinion/48416-columbia-finally-releases-us-missionary-from-jail>

Saturday February 21, 2015



Syria: Bustan Kol Aab, Aleppo

Harout Aksinan (**killed** in an artillery barrage)

Sarkis Qara Elian (**killed** in an artillery barrage)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59747>



Chile: Santiago

Auxiliary Bishop Luis Fernando Ramos Perez (condemned the detonation of a bomb near a church, no one was injured)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/37323-AMERICA_CHILE_Rudimental_bomb_explodes_near_a_parish_in_the_capital#.VOwCgsJTEfg

Sunday February 22, 2015



Pakistan: Lahore

Javed David (threatened with death for helping others build churches,, said “I was going home when a motorcycle stopped in front of me. The driver knocked on the window and threw in a piece of paper. I did not open it before I got home. It said, 'This is an Islamic nation. We cannot allow church building. Either you convert to Islam or you leave this country! Stop building churches or you'll pay the consequences!'")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Pakistani-Christian-leader-receives-threats,-told-to-“stop-building-churches-or-we-will-kill-you”-34209.html>



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**: released, returned to Delhi, India)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Afghanistan,-Indian-Jesuit-freed-after-eight-months-in-captivity-33531.html>



Iraq

Christian family fled from Syria to avoid capture by ISIL

Kenyas Jumaa (husband of Sittu Adam Qaysar, father of Sanaa and Asmar Jumaa)

Sittu Adam Qaysar (wife of Kenyas Jumaa, mother of Sanaa and Asmar Jumaa)

Sanaa Jumaa (daughter of Kenyas Jumaa and Sittu Adam Qaysar, mother of Jessica)

Jessica (aged 8, daughter of Sanaa Jumaa)

Asmar Jumaa (daughter of Kenyas Jumaa and Sittu Adam Qaysar)

Esther Zaya Hormez (aged 82, mother of Kenyas Jumaa)

<http://www.latimes.com/world/middleeast/la-fg-iraq-christian-refugees-20150323-story.html>



Kenya: Hindi, Lamu county

Annah (aged 25, daughter of Simon, sister of Karuiki, beaten by Somali terrorists at her home)

Karuiki (son of Simon, brother of Annah, beaten by Somali terrorists at his home)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/03/two-christians-attacked-church-building-burned-in-coastal-kenya/>



Egypt: Senouras district, Fayoum province

Sarah Fahmy Latif (aged 15, abducted on [January 31, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: still missing even though her abductors have been identified)

Adel Zaki (cousin of Sarah Fahmy Latif, reported on her abduction)

Egypt: Cairo

Naguib Sawiris (media owner; **UPDATE**: said that Qatar is supporting Muslim Brotherhood terrorism in Egypt and the West is overlooking the support due to economic reasons)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59774>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59765>



Venezuela: Caracas

Cardinal Jorge Urosa Savino (denounced the killing of three students, apparently by police, and police refusal to allow visitors for three students in detention, said "Venezuela should not be known, as it is today, for abuse and maltreatment of prisoners, especially regarding these boys who are political prisoners")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37332->

[AMERICA VENEZUELA Growing tension in the capital Cardinal Urosa denounces murder of 3 students#.VO1X58JTEfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37332-AMERICA_VENEZUELA_Growing_tension_in_the_capital_Cardinal_Urosa_denounces_murder_of_3_students#.VO1X58JTEfg)

Monday February 23, 2015



Thailand: Bangkok

Jarvas Jerry (Pakistani asylum seeker, reported to be seriously ill, unable to obtain adequate medical care due to his status)



Syria: Tel Jazira, Tel Shamiran, Tel Baz, Tel Goran, Tel Jezirah and Tel Hormizd, Hassaka province

Archimandrite Emanuel Youkhana (described an ISIL attack in which five Christians were killed, over 90 captured - including women and children, and 3,000 forced to flee their homes, 15 Christians were rescued by Sunni Muslim neighbors, said that due to ISIL's "barbaric record with the captured, the destiny of these families is a major concern to us")

Milad Sammy Adam (aged 17, **killed** by ISIL)

Patriarch Ignatius Ephrem Joseph III (**UPDATE**: called on people to pray for the 90 plus abducted Christians)

Bishop George Abu Khazen OFM (**UPDATE**: spoke on the recent ISIL attacks "[Early] reports mentioned 90 people abducted but for others the actual number is greater, perhaps 150. A church was destroyed, at least three Assyrian villages have been occupied and people have had to flee. We do not have accurate information, but the initial evidence points to a tragic situation")

Bishop Mario Zenari (apostolic nuncio; **UPDATE**: spoke on the recent ISIL attacks "They came down from the mountains around 3 am Monday morning, and attacked an area largely inhabited by Assyrian-Nestorian [Church of the East]...Four or five months ago, I received a text message from the bishop of Hassakah, in which he warned that the danger of a jihadist invasion was high")

Archbishop Aprem Nathaniel (confirmed that 72 Christian families numbering at least 200 were taken by ISIL)

Wanis (uncle of the wife of Fr Sirjun Zumaya, captured by ISIL, whereabouts unknown)

Ramziyya Rehana (aged 80, captured by ISIL)

Yoniyya Kanoon (aged 70, captured by ISIL)

Francois Sawa (aged 70, captured by ISIL)

Syria: Tal-Hormez village

Names are released of the Assyrian Christians abducted by ISIL

Chlimon Safar Geliana

George Bolos Esho

Fouad Oshana Yonan

Elias Darmo Oda

Youkhana Bolbol Qatena

Zaya Beniamen Denkha

Rehanna Beniamen Denkha

Wedad Elia Yonan

Shameram Esho Yonan

Syria: Qaber-Shameh village

Names are released of the Assyrian Christians abducted by ISIL

Ener Warda Abdal

Fawaz Yousef Tammo

Awea Yoknea Malek Hormez

Syria: Tal-Fieda village

Names are released of the Assyrian Christians abducted by ISIL

Sargon Ninos Sarkis

Yosef Ninos Sarkis

Somar Shawel Elesha

Mariam Koko

Dewane Rehna Yakoub

Syria: Tal-Shameran village

Names are released of the Assyrian Christians abducted by ISIL

Ninos Mekhael Shmoni

Samira Hormez Issac ("old woman", mother of Sarkis Yonan Shmoni)

Sarkis Yonan Shmoni (son of Samira Hormez Issac)

Panna Yoshea Lazar (aged 50)

Sargon Nicola Shmoni (husband)

Monna Markus (mother of Luis, Lamasu, Ameleo, Georges, and Ankido Gureet)

Luis Gureel ("child", son of Monna Markus)

Lamasu Gureel ("child", son of Monna Markus)

Ameleo Gureel ("child", son of Monna Markus)

Georges Gureel ("child", son of Monna Markus)

Ankido Gureel ("child", son of Monna Markus)

Nimrud Yako Gureel (husband of Alice Adam)

Alice Adam (wife of Nimrud Yako Gureel)

David Yako Gureel (husband of Sorma Issac)

Sorma Issac (wife of David Yako Gureel)

Walid Franso Sawa (husband of Hannan Youkhna, father of Franso, Ashorina, Ornina, and Nahrin)

Hannan Youkhna (wife of Walid Franso Sawa, mother of Franso, Ashorina, Ornina, and Nahrin)

Franso Walid Sawa (aged 11, son of Walid Franso Sawa and Hannan Youkhna)

Ashorina Walid Sawa (aged 9, daughter of Walid Franso Sawa and Hannan Youkhna)

Ornina Walid Sawa (aged 6, daughter of Walid Franso Sawa and Hannan Youkhna)

Nahrin Walid Sawa (aged 3, daughter of Walid Franso Sawa and Hannan Youkhna)

Esho Yako Gureel

Wardia Solyman Sawa

Adeeb Esho Gureel

Zaya Shlimon Gureel (husband)

Nofa Talia (wife, mother of Daniella Zaya Gureel and Zagalo Zaya Gureel)

Daniella Zaya Gureel (daughter of Nofa Talia)

Zagalo Zaya Gureel (son of Nofa Talia)

Regina Marwan (mother of Bassam, Sharbiel, and Zuhir Gureel)

Bassam Gureel (son of Regina Marwan)

Sharbiel Gureel (son of Regina Marwan)

Zuhir Gureel (son of Regina Marwan)

Anton Hormez Issac (husband of Wardia)

Wardia (wife of Anton Hormez Issac)

Kefarkis Nwea Issac (father)

Josef Kefarkis Issac (husband of Jiea Odicho)

Jiea Odicho (wife of Josef Kefarkis Issac)

Josef Yoshea Lazar (husband of Marganta Adam, father of Bashar, Christy, Katia, and Peter)

Marganta Adam (wife of Josef Yoshea Lazar, mother of Bashar, Christy, Katia, and Peter)

Bashar (child of Josef Yoshea Lazar and Marganta Adam)

Christy (child of Josef Yoshea Lazar and Marganta Adam)

Katia (child of Josef Yoshea Lazar and Marganta Adam)

Peter (child of Josef Yoshea Lazar and Marganta Adam)

Hanna Italous Ammo

Martin Hanna Ammo (husband of Ramma Aslan, father of Angel and Hanna)

Ramma Aslan (wife of Martin Hanna Ammo, mother of Angel and Hanna Ammo)

Angel Ammo (daughter of Martin Hanna Ammo and Ramma Aslan)

Hanna Ammo (son of Martin Hanna Ammo and Ramma Aslan)
Lazar Yousef (husband of Sherene Warda Yonan, father of Als)
Sherene Warda Yonan (wife of Lazar Yousef, mother of Als Yousef)
Als Yousef (daughter of Lazar Yousef and Sherene Warda Yonan)
Dr Akram Lazar (husband of Ghada Moshe Baram, father of Maria Akram Lazar)
Ghada Moshe Baram (wife of Dr Akram Lazar, mother of Maria Akram Lazar)
Maria Akram Lazar ("child", daughter of Dr Akram Lazar and Ghada Moshe Baram)
Franso Ismaiel Sawa ("old man")
Zomo Ismaiel Sawa ("old woman")
Fala Bouls (mother of Ramina Habil Naje, Sabinna Habil Naje, and Louis Habil Naje)
Ramina Habil Naje ("child", daughter of Fala Bouls)
Sabinna Habil Naje ("child", daughter of Fala Bouls)
Louis Habil Naje ("child", son of Fala Bouls)
Zaya George
Mariam Dawod Talia
Rimon Mnashe Esho (brother of Amme Mnashe Esho)
Amme Mnashe Esho (sister of Rimon Mnashe Esho)
Bolous Badal Yousef (husband of Soria Mechael Marco)
Soria Mechael Marco (wife of Bolous Badal Yousef)
Farid Nwea Badal (husband of Juliet Talia, father of Stilla Farid Badal and Tonny Farid Badal)
Juliet Talia (wife of Farid Nwea Badal, mother of Stilla Farid Badal and Tonny Farid Badal)
Stilla Farid Badal ("child", daughter of Farid Nwea Badal and Juliet Talia)
Tonny Farid Badal ("child", son of Farid Nwea Badal and Juliet Talia)
Anwar Talia Talia (husband of Mariam Mnashe, father of Jimmy Anwar Talia)
Mariam Mnashe (wife of Anwar Talia Talia, mother of Jimmy Anwar Talia)
Jimmy Anwar Talia ("child", son of Anwar Talia Talia and Mariam Mnashe)
Faris Eramia Younan
Gourget Malki (mother of Hanna Michael Issa, Fadi Michael Issa, Bassam Michael Issa, Lina Michael Issa, and Sanharib Michael Issa)
Hanna Michael Issa (son of Gourget Malki)
Fadi Michael Issa (son of Gourget Malki)
Bassam Michael Issa (son of Gourget Malki)
Lina Michael Issa (daughter of Gourget Malki)

Sanharib Michael Issa (son of Gourget Malki)
Koresh Talia Talia ("old man", husband)
Daoud Koresh Talia (husband of Khanna Zaya Hefo)
Khanna Zaya Hefo (wife of Daoud Koresh Talia)
Chamoun Michael Lazar ("old man", husband)
Merjane Mame ("old woman", mother of Antoun Belatos Boza and Albir Anton Boza)
Antoun Belatos Boza (son of Merjane Mame)
Albir Anton Boza (son of Merjane Mame)
Awia Ismaiel Youkhanna (husband of Samira Shmony)
Samira Shmony (wife of Awia Ismaiel Youkhanna)
Sami Awesha Melhem
Regena Esho Hefo
Odicho Aweshalem Youkhanna
Elias Aweshalem Youkhanna (husband of Lena Youkhanna, father of Ninos Elias, Ashtar Elias, and Jouny)
Lena Youkhanna (wife of Elias Aweshalem Youkhanna, mother of Ninos Elias, Ashtar Elias, and Jouny Youkhanna)
Ninos Elias Youkhanna ("child", son of Elias Aweshalem Youkhanna and Lena Youkhanna)
Ashtar Elias Youkhanna ("child", daughter of Elias Aweshalem Youkhanna and Lena Youkhanna)
Jouny Youkhanna ("child", son of Elias Aweshalem Youkhanna and Lena Youkhanna)
William Youkhanna Melhem
Afram Youkhanna Melhem (husband of Ronia Youkhanna, father of Rami Afram Melhem, Merla Afram Melhem, and Jezela Afram Melhem)
Ronia Youkhanna (wife of Afram Youkhanna Melhem, mother of Rami Afram Melhem, Merla Afram Melhem, and Jezela Afram Melhem)
Rami Afram Melhem ("child", son of Afram Youkhanna Melhem and Ronia Youkhanna)
Merla Afram Melhem (aged 3, daughter of Afram Youkhanna Melhem and Ronia Youkhanna)
Jezela Afram Melhem (aged 5, daughter of Afram Youkhanna Melhem and Ronia Youkhanna)

Syria: Tal-Jazera village

Names are released of the Assyrian Christians abducted by ISIL

Tamraz Tamraz ("child")
Martn Tamraz
Sharbil Tamraz

Josafin Tamraz

Adwar Kako

Regena Khammo (widow, mother of Nenwa Roueel)

Nenwa Roueel (daughter of Regena Khammo)

Saied Youkhanna (husband of Amena Elesha, father of Elias, Louis, and Almas)

Amena Elesha (wife of Saied Youkhanna, mother of Elias, Louis, and Almas Youkhanna)

Elias Youkhanna ("child", son of Saied Youkhanna and Amena Elesha)

Louis Youkhanna ("child", son of Saied Youkhanna and Amena Elesha)

Almas Youkhanna (daughter of Saied Youkhanna and Amena Elesha)

Khalil Shamoun (husband of Najat Youkhanna, father of Klara, Lara, Karoline, Elias, Kreisty, and Khatoun)

Najat Youkhanna (wife of Khalil Shamoun, mother of Klara, Lara, Karoline, Elias, Kreisty, and Khatoun Shamoun)

Klara Shamoun

Lara Shamoun (daughter of Khalil Shamoun and Najat Youkhanna)

Karoline Shamoun (daughter of Khalil Shamoun and Najat Youkhanna)

Elias Shamoun ("child", son of Khalil Shamoun and Najat Youkhanna)

Kreisty Shamoun (child of Khalil Shamoun and Najat Youkhanna)

Khatoun Shamoun (child of Khalil Shamoun and Najat Youkhanna)

Samih Shamoun (husband of Layla Odicho Odicho, father of Aleksandar Shamoun)

Aleksandar Shamoun (daughter of Samih Shamoun and Layla Odicho Odicho)

Layla Odicho Odicho (wife of Samih Shamoun, mother of Aleksandar Shamoun)

Younea Talia

Shawel Elesha (husband of Hannan, father of Munira Elesha)

Hannan (wife of Shawel Elesha, mother of Munira Elesha)

Munira Elesha (daughter of Shawel Elesha and Hannan)

Amira Elesha

Raswena Elesha

Maream Gawreh (mother of Dr Abd Almasseh Enwea)

Dr Abd Almasseh Enwea (son of Maream Gawreh)

Abrs Darmo

Chirien Darmo

Jamela Kako

Mansour Darmo

Najeba Youkhanna

Josef Yokhanna (husband of Frial Warda Gabriel, father of Hanna, Elian, and Meray)

Frial Warda Gabriel (wife of Josef Yokhanna, mother of Hanna, Elian, and Meray Yokhanna)

Hanna ("child", son of Josef Yokhanna and Frial Warda Gabriel)

Elian ("child", son of Josef Yokhanna and Frial Warda Gabriel)

Meray Yokhanna ("child", daughter of Josef Yokhanna and Frial Warda Gabriel)

Swden Yokhanna

Addonia Yokhanna (husband of Elissa Ismaiel)

Elissa Ismaiel (wife of Addonia Yokhanna)

Shmshon Yokhanna (husband of Salwa Rouel)

Salwa Rouel (wife of Shmshon Yokhanna)

Beronea Samo

Emama Kako

Adam Kako

Manal Kako

Farida Kako

Shameram Kako

Helane Kako

Shedrakh Khaoshaba (husband of Elzabith Kheo)

Elzabith Kheo (wife of Shedrakh Khaoshaba)

Malk Sadeq Ismaiel (husband of Khoshebo Kefarkis, father of Gabbi Ismaiel)

Khoshebo Kefarkis (wife of Malk Sadeq Ismaiel, mother of Gabbi Ismaiel)

Gabbi Ismaiel (son of Malk Sadeq Ismaiel and Khoshebo Kefarkis)

Mona Elisha

Jessica Ismaiel

Sharbiel Ismaiel

Wanis Ismaiel

Ashtar Ismaiel

Temateos Ismaiel

Shameram Kako

Marlin Ismaiel

Meriana Ismaiel

Ashour Fedor Ebrahim

Rouel Dankha

Aweshalem Denkha

Sadek Ismaiel (husband of Lodia Hormez, father of Rami Ismaiel, father in law of Ninorta)

Lodia Hormez (wife of Sadek Ismaiel, mother of Rami Ismaiel, mother in law of Ninorta)

Rami Ismaiel (son of Sadek Ismaiel and Lodia Hormez, husband of Ninorta)

Ninorta (wife of Rami Ismaiel, daughter in law of Sadek Ismaiel and Lodia Hormez)

Kefarkes Rami Ismael

Mekhael Ismaiel

Amir Rouel Welson

Laila Fraedon

Ramen Rouel

Angel

Elina Rouel

Tamraz Tamraz ("old man")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/02/3738335>

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/patriarch-urges-prayer-after-at-least-90-christians-kidnapped-in-syria-87662/>

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2015/02/isis-attacks-assyrian-villages-in-syria-4-killed-dozens-captured-churches-burned/>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/IS-abducts-150-Christians,-rapes-and-kills-women,-a-tragic-situation-for-vicar-to-Aleppo-33561.html>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/02/3739835/>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150302211628.htm>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150526172505.htm>

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2015/06/isis-release-assyrian-hostage-in-syria/>

<https://forefeurope.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/names-of-the-abducted-assyrians.pdf>



Lebanon: Beirut

'Michael' (alias, husband of 'Hannah', father of 'Elizabeth', Syrian refugee after fleeing his home, said "In our village, we are simple people. Just imagine, you live in your own house, you never owned a weapon, you never argue with anyone. We lived in harmony with everyone. Then ISIL came. They rob, kill, destroy, burn. Just because we are Christians....We had the best life. It was lush and green. They even destroyed trees, everything. Now our lands are like a desert")

'Hannah' (alias, wife of 'Michael', mother of 'Elizabeth', Syrian refugee after fleeing her home)
'Elizabeth' (alias, aged 10, daughter of 'Michael' and 'Hannah', Syrian refugee after fleeing her home)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150318150841.htm>



Egypt: Cairo

Ramez Atallah (General Secretary for The Bible Society of Egypt; **UPDATE**: reported to have published a tract called *Two Rows by the Sea* which honored the 21 Egyptian Christians beheaded by ISIL in Libya with Bible quotes on grace amid suffering and a poem by the same name which ended *Who fears the other? / The row in orange, watching paradise open? / Or the row in black, with minds evil and broken?*)

Pastor Francis Fahim (reported to have hung an Egyptian flag outside his church following the beheading of the 21 Egyptian Christians by ISIL in Libya, on the flag were the words “We learn from what the Messiah has said ‘Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you’”)

Henain Ibrahim (administrative director of Spiritual Service for Publishing, reported to have distributed 17,000 free DVDs of the film *Jesus* following the beheading of the 21 Egyptian Christians by ISIL in Libya)

Egypt: el-Arish, Sinai

Hani (shopkeeper, **killed** in a drive by shooting at his store)

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2015/february-web-only/how-libyas-martyrs-are-evangelizing-egypt.html>

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/cs-releases/3425-drive-by-jihadis-murder-another-coptic-christian-in-sinai>



Cameroon: Minawao

Elias Yega (Nigerian refugee, one of 30,000 refugees in his camp)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201502240123.html>



Nigeria: Emiwo, Kogi State

Rev Phyllis Sortor (aged 70, U.S. citizen, missionary, abducted by 5 armed men, US\$300,000 ransom demanded)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/american-missionary-phyllis-sortor-kidnapped-in-nigeria-abductors-want-300k-stepson-says-we-have-no-money-134673/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/02/3738811>



United Kingdom: London

Fiona Bruce (Member of Parliament, introduced a bill to explicitly ban abortion for gender selection, bill was defeated)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2015/02/23/mps-vote-against-ban-on-sex-selective-abortions/>

Tuesday February 24, 2015



Myanmar: Kutkai township, Shan state

Fr John Sau Luk (church damaged in shelling, shrapnel just missed the assistant pastor)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/shan-state-conflict-reaches-catholic-parish/73126>



India: New Delhi

Leaders of all faiths publicly opposed the statement of the leader of the RSS paramilitary organization that "the main purpose of Mother Teresa in serving the poor was to convert them to Christianity"

Sajan K George (**UPDATE:** said "Mother Teresa often exhorted those who came to her to be good Hindus, Muslims, Christians or Sikhs. This blasphemous comment on the Saint, a holy person loved and venerated by millions of people of all castes, creeds and nationalities , reveals the divisive and dangerous nature of Mohan Bhagwat")

Dr John Dayal (**UPDATE:** said "The words of Mohan Bhagwat on Mother Teresa are petty, condemnable and more than outrageous. Every sane person in India has rejected this...the importance of the words of Bhagwat is in the timing with which they were spoken. He

spoke a week after the acclaimed speech of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the defense of religious freedom. It is evident that the Sangh [the Sangh Parivar, the nationalist Hindu movement of which RSS is part] believes that the prime minister should not really have said what he said")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Radical-Hindus-against-Mother-Teresa,-but-India-rises-up:-She-is-a-Saint?-.33550.html>



Egypt: Cairo

Pope Tawadros II aka Wagih Sobhy Baqi Suleiman (**UPDATE:** announced that the names of the 21 Copts beheaded reportedly on **February 15, 2015** in Libya will be entered into the Coptic Syntaxis and their reported date of death will be their memorial on the liturgical calendar)

Egypt: Al-'Our village

Shenouda Nagati (brother of Luqa Nagati, explained how his brother never saw his newborn daughter before he was beheaded in Libya)

Magda (widow of Tawadros Yusuf Tawadros - who was beheaded in Libya, mother of four)

Peter Wilson (aged 6, son of Samuel Wilson - who was beheaded in Libya)

Irene Wilson (aged 4, daughter of Samuel Wilson - who was beheaded in Libya)

Paul Wilson (aged 2, son of Samuel Wilson - who was beheaded in Libya)

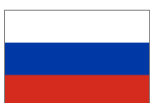
Milad Solaiman Shehata (brother of Maged Solaiman Shehata, uncle of Abanoub Ayyad Ateyya, Yusuf Shukry Yunan, and Kirillos Beshry Fawzy, and cousin of Hany Abdel-Messeih Saleeb and Tawadros Yusuf Tawadros - all beheaded in Libya)

Fifi Shehata (college student, daughter of Maged Solaiman Shehata [who was beheaded in Libya])

Samuel Shehata (son of Maged Solaiman Shehata - who was beheaded in Libya, about to begin college)

Myrna Shehata (daughter of Maged Solaiman Shehata - who was beheaded in Libya, about to begin secondary school)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/An-Egypt-in-mourning-prays-for-its-martyrs-beheaded-in-Libya-33543.html>



Russia: Tikhoretsk, Krasnodar region

Vasily Platon (fined US\$23.67 for handing out religious literature on a street)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2062



Vatican City

Colonel Cristoph Graf (aged 54, commander of the Pontifical Swiss Guards, responded to ISIL threats against the Vatican "We have asked the guards to be on higher alert, to watch how people are moving...What happened in Paris could happen here, and it cannot be prevented without intelligence based on accurate information")

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/swiss-guard-commander-on-isis-threat-to-pope-we-are-ready-to-intervene/#ixzz3SjFleKTL>



Cuba

Gabriel Leyva (aged 19, son of Pastor Herminio Leyva, reported to have been arrested near the end of his mandatory military service likely due to his family's religious activities)

Pastor Herminio Leyva (father of Gabriel Leyva)

http://www.persecution.com/public/newsroom.aspx?story_ID=%3d373431&featuredstory_ID=%3d343831

Wednesday February 25, 2015



Myanmar: Kutkai township, Shan state

Fr John Sau Luk (church damaged in shelling on [February 24, 2015](#), shrapnel just missed the assistant pastor, **UPDATE**: six church employees detained by government military forces, interrogated and beaten)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/shan-state-conflict-reaches-catholic-parish/73126>



India: Jaipur, Rajasthan state

Twenty Christians detained and beaten by police for handing out Christian literature

Satish Babu (priest, said “We had come to propagate Christ’s message and did nothing to violate law and order here. But we were attacked by miscreants on the streets and then brutally beaten up by the police for no fault of ours”)

Samuel Roberts (activist, said “We are filing a first information report against two police constables who beat them up mercilessly despite any provocation. This is a clear violation of one’s freedom of speech”)

Pastor Stephen Raj (said “We went to Rajasthan with a plan to go around preaching and sightseeing for four days, but it lasted only a few hours. As soon as we started, a man came and asked, ‘What is this?’ He took our leaflet and went. He must have called the police...When we reached the place we were staying, they started abusing us and called the police again. The police came and took us to the police station in two jeeps. They made us stretch out our palms and beat us severely with wooden lathis. Those who pulled their hands back after the first beating came in for more beatings. Many of us have bruises and blood clots on our palms six days later”)

Surendra Kumar (said “We had left the spot. But those people opposed to us followed us till the place where we were staying. There again, they called the police. The police picked us up and took us to the police station. We were made to get out of the police van by being kicked and then, inside the police station, the cops lined us up and hit us with belts on our hands and wrists”)

Pastor Walter Masih (hosted the 20 Christians, said “Soon the mob increased and the police arrived. Instead of confronting the mob, who were trespassing and hurling abuses, the police rounded up the Christians in two Jeeps and took them to the Mansarovar police station, where they were beaten up by policemen”)

Rajesh Malaki (state president of the National Christian Council, described the attacks on the 20 Christians "...we were shocked to see the utter impunity and the scant regard for law as practiced by the police themselves...The RSS workers tried to threaten us and hurled abuses at us, as we were speaking in favor of the Christians, but the police did not stop them. Since our group was an interfaith group and influential members of the community were part of it, we were not attacked and the police were willing to listen to us")

A P David (threatened with arrest for allowing the 20 Christians to stay at his hostel)

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/20-christians-detained-by-local-police-for-distributing-religious-literature/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/03/3754549>

<http://barnabasfund.org/news/Police-detain-and-beat-20-Indian-Christian-missionaries>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/03/days-after-police-brutality-in-rajasthan-india-hindu-extremists-attack-in-m-p/>



Syria: Tel Shamiran, Tel Baz, Tel Goran, Tel Jezirah and Tel Hormizd villages, Hassaka province

Aziz Mirza (Syriac Cultural Association, said that 350-400 people are missing from Christian villages and that the numbers are hard to verify because when the peoples are called on their mobile phones they are answered by ISIL fighters)

Syria: Hasakah-Nisibi

Archbishop Jacques Behnan Hindo (**UPDATE:** denounced the Turkish government in a Vatican Radio interview for helping ISIL but not Christians, said "In the north, Turkey allows through lorries, ISIL militants, oil stolen from Syria, wheat and cotton. All of these can cross the border but nobody [from the Christian community] can pass over [for refuge]")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150225182331.htm>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150225152323.htm>



Israel: Mount Zion, Jerusalem

Patriarch Theophilos III (condemned the arson and anti-Christian graffiti attack on the Greek monastery by Jewish 'Price Tag' settlers)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/77585.htm>



Egypt: Sahel Selim, Assiut province

Wasfi Heshmat Makain (appliance store owner, abducted, US\$131,000 ransom demanded)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59856>



Congo, Democratic Republic: Mweso

Fr Jean-Paul Kakule Kyalembere (aged 33, **killed** in an apparent robbery)

Bishop Theophile Kaboy Ruboneka (reported on the murder of Fr Jean-Paul Kakule Kyalembere "The priest was closing the doors of the church when he discovered one or more gunmen

who were hiding somewhere. The criminals fired without hesitation, hitting him in the abdomen and head. Fr Kakule died immediately")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37361->

[AFRICA DR CONGO A priest killed in the east of the Country the Bishop of Goma denounces insecurity in the area#.VPEkFcJTEfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37361-)

Thursday February 26, 2015



Philippines: Basilan Island

Bishop Martin Jumoad (**UPDATE:** said "There have been demonstrations of Islamist rebel groups. Now we have heard via radio of this military offensive that is worrying. But with these terrorist groups, it was inevitable that, sooner or later, one would reach military confrontation")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37357->

[ASIA PHILIPPINES Military offensive in Mindanao the Bishop in Basilan For peace sincerity is needed#.VO 01cJTEfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37357-)



India: Delhi

Joseph Dais (Catholic Secular Forum; **UPDATE:** said the continuing anti-Christian violence "undermines the authority of the prime minister. This means that fringe elements or the Hindutva brigade are running the country instead of the government of India...[and should] worry the prime minister and the nation more than the Christians. The very credentials of the prime minister are in question now")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/in-india-anti-christian-attacks-continue-despite-modis-assurances/73076>



Syria

Fr Yatroun Colliana (said in [Lebanon](#) "the [ISIL] fighters entered the town of Tal Shamriun and took it over. The popular Assyrian and Kurdish committees were carrying out the defense of these towns as much as they could, but they could not repel these groups of ISIL

fighters which were equipped with modern weapons. Meanwhile, the warplanes of the coalition were hovering in the airspace above the area without targeting ISIL locations or their groupings, as if nothing were happening...meanwhile the world stands by silently watching. We are asking Iraqi officials to open up the borders, at least to let women and children escape...we only have the Almighty left to protect us")

Syria: Qamishi

Adul Ahad Nissan (aged 48, accountant and music composer, fled his village during an ISIL attack, a close friend and his wife were captured, said "I used to call them every other day. Now their mobile is off. I tried and tried. It's so painful not to see your friends again")

Syria: Hassakah

Archimandrite Emanuel Youkhana (**UPDATE:** reported that 15 young Assyrians have been martyred by ISIL and that members of a mosque have been called to attend a mass killing of infidels on Friday)

Archbishop Jacques Behnan Hindo (**UPDATE:** said "...unconfirmed rumors say that the jihadis are celebrating. We are trying to open up channels of negotiation through Arab Muslim leaders in contact with some sheikh. We are concerned about the fate of the hostages, among whom there are many elderly people, many women and children...Before, we heard the [coalition] planes at about three in the morning. In the past four days air operations have been suspended. I wonder why")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150225232708.htm>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150226171440.htm>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150226181734.htm>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37355->

[ASIA SYRIA The jihadists of the Islamic State deport Christian prisoners of the villages of Khabur#.VO 2GcJTEfg](#)



Egypt: North Sinai province

Abnoub Gerges Hanna (Coptic Coalition of North Sinai, said that Copts are being systematically targeted)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59845>



United States - Florida

Mat Staver (Liberty Counsel, criticized the City of Lake Worth for threatening to fine and foreclose churches if they did not take out a business license, even though the city ordinances exempt churches, threats were made at the instigation of a homosexual businessman)

<http://www.charismanews.com/us/48494-government-engages-in-kgb-type-harassment-in-christian-church>

Friday February 27, 2015



Philippines: Lamitan town, Basilan province

Fr Pascual Benitez (apparent target of an explosive device planted at his church, no injuries or damage in the explosion)

Bishop Martin Jumoad (**UPDATE:** said that the bombing "makes me feel sad and caught me by surprise. This is the work of evil people and let us not be carried by our emotions")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/bomb-blast-hits-parish-church-in-the-philippines/73095>



China: Haikou town, Fuqing city, Fuzhou prefecture, Fujian province

Chen Shangkun (son of Lin Yuqin, husband and father, imprisoned for fifteen years for allegedly being a member of "The Shouters", wife and newborn son placed into a labor camp, denied parole because he has organized Bible studies in prison)

Lin Yuqin (aged 84, mother of Chen Shangkun, has prayed for her son's release every day outside his prison for ten years, home demolished, has lived off of charity along with her grandson)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/04/christian-prisoner-smuggles-letter.html>



Uzbekistan: Dostabod, Kuyichirchik district, Tashkent region

Pastor Sergei Rychagov (fined US\$3,675 for illegal religious activities at a court hearing of which he was unaware with statements coerced from five orphans)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2087



Turkmenistan: Galkynysh, Lebap region

Narmurad Mominov (husband, father of five; **UPDATE**: detained for attending an illegal religious gathering which was actually a party for a student who had returned home, fined US\$286, given no jail time, trial for the host of the party not begun)

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



United States – California: San Francisco

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone (as of [February 19, 2015](#) has been asked by state lawmakers to remove 'morality clauses' from an upcoming contract for school teachers at Church owned schools; **UPDATE**: reported to have become the object of attacks by the Singer Associates public relations firm, which has been actively calling on Pope Francis to remove him and for locals to mount a revolution against him)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/oil-company-hit-man-has-archbishop-cordileone-in-his-sights-96081/>

February 2015, date unknown



China

Julia Garratt (wife of Kevin Garratt, Canadian missionary in Dandong, Liaoning province, detained on spy charges on [August 4, 2014](#) after Canada complained about Chinese internet hackers; **UPDATE**: released on bail, left for Canada)

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/evangelicals.celebrate.release.of.detained.christian.missionary.kevin.garrett/95978.htm>



Iran: Tehran

Kavian Fallah Mohammadi (convert, detained by police after the [December 26, 2014](#) raid on the home of Pastor Victor Beth Tarmez, released from jail on bond on [approximately February 17, 2015](#), banned from Christian activities until his trial begin)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9989:former-pastor-of-pentecostal-church-released-from-prison&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Tanzania: Mafia Island

Juma (convert from Islam, missing after returning home in [mid-February 2015](#) to retrieve clothes and academic certificates)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Tanzanian-government-forced-to-review-Islamic--courts-bill-in-light-of-Christian-opposition>



Eritrea

'Alice' (arrested [January 24, 2009](#) as she attempted to leave the country, held without charge, **UPDATE:** released, faces government surveillance and censorship, unable to work)

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/05/15/remember-my-chains-one-eritrean-womans-suffering-and-ministry-in-prison-for-christ/>



Syria

Awiyeh Hermes (brother of Andre Hermes, refused to leave his home, whereabouts unknown, likely abducted by ISIL)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150415145104.htm>



Lebanon: Bekaa

Bishop Joseph Mouwad (described a church desecration in [late February 2015](#))

<http://www.raymondibrahim.com/from-the-arab-world/maronite-church-invaded-hole-dug-by-altar/>



Ukraine: Crimea

Fr Mariusz Wozniak OP (fined US\$70 for working under a tourist visa, expelled)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2051



Uganda: Kangado village, Butebo sub-county

Patrick Opadi (aged 21, convert from Islam, fellow Muslim students attempted to kill him after he received an outstanding Christian 'school pastor' award in **November 2013**, father attempted to kill him on **January 15, 2015**, **UPDATE**: brothers stabbed him in his right hand)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/06/widow-of-slain-christian-in-uganda-fears-for-her-life/>