

## Today's Martyrs – March 2015

Sunday March 1, 2015



### India: Kasba Jobat village, Alirajpur district, Madhya Pradesh state

Rev Emmanuel Nobel (worship service halted by members of the Hindu Jagran Manch, accused of making forced conversions, had donated land to the church)

Pastor Kanhaiya Lal (church service of 300 Christians interrupted by a dozen Hindu extremists “They were shouting slogans against Christianity and using abusive language. I had not seen most of them before and think they are from nearby villages, because I do not recognize them as residents”, police told the extremists to stop and to file complaints, added “Three of them have alleged that Pastor Pratap gave them money to convert to Christianity, when the fact is we have never seen these people before”)

Rev Emmanuel Ariel “The sloganeering and abuse continued for over an hour, till the police reached the spot. They were vilifying the Christian faith”)

Assistant Pastor Pratap Rawat (accused of illegal conversion)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Religious-freedom-increasingly-at-risk-in-India-as-new-attacks-are-perpetrated-against-Christians-33621.html>

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



### Iran: Tehran

Pastor Victor Beth Tarmez (husband of Shamiram Isavi, father of Ram-eil, bodily searched during a December 26, 2014 police raid on his home, arrested; **UPDATE**: released from jail on bond, banned from Christian activities until his trial begins, suffered health problems while in prison)

[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](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)



### Syria: Hasaka

Abdo Mirza (father of Mariana Mirza, brother of Bobo Mirza, released from ISIL captivity, daughter not released, sister stayed with his daughter, told to return with money for his daughter's release)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150301153544.htm>



### **Uganda: Iganga**

Namwase Aisha (aged 16, convert, sister of Nabagabana Fatuma, beaten on [February 1, 2015](#) and locked in a room for three days without food in [Nasenye village, Pallisa district](#) by her uncle after converting, escaped; **UPDATE**: hospitalized to treat malaria and her head injury from her beating)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/03/christian-girl-in-uganda-who-fled-beating-by-muslim-uncle-mysteriously-dies/>



### **Egypt: Assiut**

Wagih Matta (reported that three brothers and a cousin have been abducted in Libya, fate unknown)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59895>



### **Ukraine: Sumy**

Archbishop Yevglogy (threatened by 20 masked men belonging to the pro-government group Right Sector)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2015/03/ukrainian-nationalists-attack-moscow-patriarchates-church-in-sumy/>



### **United Kingdom**

Geraldine Stockford (wife of the pastor of Christ Church Teddington, found that Marks & Spencer's online florist order form would not accept the word 'Christ' as it was on the offensive word list)

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns, **UPDATE**: criticized Marks & Spencer florist for adding the words 'Jesus' and 'Christ' to the list of banned offensive words on its online order form while 'Buddha', 'Muhammad', and 'jihad' were allowed)

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/religious-freedom/ms-backtracks-on-banning-christ>

**Monday March 2, 2015**



#### **Uzbekistan: Tashkent**

Ibrohimjon Yusupov (spouse of Yulduz Yusupov, parent of Inobad and Inoyat Yusupova, fined US\$237 for illegally storing Christian literature)

Yulduz Yusupov (spouse of Ibrohimjon Yusupov, parent of Inobad and Inoyat Yusupova, fined US\$237 for illegally storing Christian literature)

Inobad Yusupova (daughter of Ibrohimjon and Yulduz Yusupov, sister of Inoyat Yusupova, fined US\$237 for illegally storing Christian literature)

Inoyat Yusupova (daughter of Ibrohimjon and Yulduz Yusupov, sister of Inobad Yusupova, fined US\$237 for illegally storing Christian literature)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2058](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2058)



#### **Syria: Damascus**

Dr Samir Ibrahim (detained by government forces on the Beirut-Damascus highway on **July 5, 2014**, **UPDATE**: released)

Gabriel Moshe (still in detention)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150302211930.htm>



### **Egypt: Maghagha**

Fr Yosots Soleiman (mother reported to have disappeared in mysterious circumstances)

### **Egypt: El-Arish and other cities, Sinai**

Abanob Girgis (attorney; **UPDATE**: reported that 27-30 Coptic families fled their homes due to threats by the Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis [ABM] militant group, which has pledged allegiance to ISIL)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1324&A=17799>

<http://www.thecairopost.com/news/139837/news/coptic-families-flee-n-sinai-amid-extremists-threats-activist>

**Tuesday March 3, 2015**



### **Syria**

Fr Sirjun Zumaya (wife's uncle Wanis captured by ISIL, said in [Lebanon](#) "The village in which my wife's family lived in had no strategic value...They lived as one. It did not occur to them at all that they could be the victims of ferocious barbarism whose hearts lack honor, because of the failure and conspiracy of the disgraceful international community. After the Chaldeans and Yazidis came the Assyrians' turn. The ethnic cleansing in the region continues, from Iraq to the Levant, amidst dubious international silence...Whose turn is it? Who can we appeal to? I don't have anyone but Jesus Christ to appeal to")

### **Syria: Hasaka**

Bobo Mirza (sister of Abdo Mirza, aunt of Mariana Mirza, released from ISIL captivity)

Mariana Mirza (aged 6, daughter of Abdo Mirza, niece of Bobo Mirza, released from ISIL captivity)

Yatroun Marko (husband of Wardiyya Yonan, released from ISIL captivity)

Wardiyya Yonan (wife of Yatroun Marko, released from ISIL captivity)

### **Syria: Aleppo**

Bishop George Abu Khazen OFM (**UPDATE**: commented on the rebels refusal to a UN negotiated humanitarian truce "The rejection confirms that the war will continue until foreign powers fuel it. The US and Turks have just declared to have a plan of support and training of rebel groups for the next three years. So for them the war will last another three years, and the people here will continue to suffer and die for another three

years...Before the riots, the nine hundred miles on the Turkish border were protected, and if by chance a shepherd crossed the border to catch a sheep that escaped, they would shoot and kill him. Now thousands of militiamen from there enter Syria with heavy weapons, while refugees are rejected, who from Syria try to go elsewhere to escape the violence of the jihadists")

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

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150303164311.htm>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37389->

[ASIA SYRIA The rebels say no to truce in Aleppo Bishop Abou Khazen powers from outside plan our torture#.VPfFq8JTEfg](#)



### **Lebanon: Beirut**

Michel Naim Aoun (retired general, called on the country to admit Assyrian Christian refugees from the recent ISIL attacks in Syria, said "We do not want that Christians find refuge in Europe and elsewhere. It is a crime to treat communities who have been living in the East for centuries in this way. Today we are facing a systematic uprooting of Christians in the East")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37380->

[ASIA LEBANON Former General Aoun let us welcome Christians fleeing Syria#.VPaeB8JTEfg](#)



### **Egypt: Samalout, Minya province**

**Relatives of a Copt beheaded in Libya on or before February 15, 2015 have been accused of forging a document, detained and tortured**

Atef Bashry (brother of Ezzat Bushra Nassif)

Damian Gerges

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59976>



### **Ukraine: Donetsk region**

Fr Theophan Kratirov (arrested by the Ukrainian army, tortured)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/78818.htm>



### **Libya: Mechili, Cyrenaica**

Mansour Saad Awad (poultry farm worker, found **beheaded**)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37375->

[AFRICA EGYPT Patriarch Tawadros meets the families of 21 martyrs another Co  
pt beheaded in Libya#.VPagWMJTefg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37375-)

### **Libya**

#### **Five Eritrean teen boys were captured by ISIL**

Nael Goitom (aged 16)

Yohannes Mebrahtu

Thomas Ghiwet

Abraham Naizghi

Aman Shishay

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/i-watched-isis-beheading-christians-eritrean-teen-migrant-forced-witness-libya-massacre-1497874>



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

Archbishop Dieudonne Nzapalainga (**UPDATE**: visited two anti-balaka militia leaders in prison, said "I came to witness compassion to my children that are going through a difficult time. I came to tell them that God's love is strong, and they must not stop preaching peace")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37381->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA Archbishop of Bangui visits two militia leaders in  
prison#.VPadVMJTefg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37381-)



### **Venezuela: Tachira**

Fr Javier Yonekura (rector of the Catholic University of Tachira [UCAT], issued a statement on police repression that "strongly condemns the murder of the student Kluiverth Roa and expresses solidarity with the pain suffered by his family" and condemned the police

because "the statements against UCAT are unfounded and are not coherent with the mission and the work of an institution that houses more than ten thousand people...whose sole purpose is to train new professionals for the common good of Tachira and Venezuela")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37377->

[AMERICA VENEZUELA Classes suspended in the University of Tachira false accusations made against the Catholic University#.VPasecJTEfg](#)

**Wednesday March 4, 2015**



**China: Wujiaqu, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region**

**House church gathering raided, members sentenced to 12 days' administrative detention**

Tao Wenju (detained)

Dai Wanying (detained)

Ren Yuxing (detained along with his wife)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/09/xinjiang-house-churches-raided.html>



**India: Maharashtra state**

Gordon D'Souza (criticized the passage of state legislation that bans the possession, sale, or consumption of beef, said "Religion is something personal, and the government should not mix it with their laws", about 10.5 million people - mostly Muslims - will lose in part or in full their employment)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Maharashtra-bans-beef:-5-years-in-prison-for-those-who-eat-it-33617.html>



**Pakistan: Harbans Pura, Lahore, Punjab province**

Aisha Bibi (mother of Zubair Masih, housemaid, arrested for an alleged theft at her employer's home, police allowed the employer to torture her in the police station, released with two broken arms)

Zubair Masih (son of Aisha Bibi, arrested for an alleged theft at his mother's employer's home)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5216>



### **Egypt: Kafr Hakim, Kerdasa**

Fr Boktor Saad (reported to have expressed surprise after the attorney for 73 people accused of the [August 14, 2013](#) arson attack on his church claimed that there was no church to be attacked)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1326&A=17842>

**Thursday March 5, 2015**



### **India: Balanagar, Mahabubnagar district, Telangana state**

Pastor CH Prabhudas (church vandalized during Holi celebrations by two men thought to be RSS paramilitary members)

Rev Ronald John (**UPDATE:** said “Attacks on Christians are growing on an increased scale. The situation [for] Christian minorities here in Mahabubnagar district is going from bad to worse. The reason for the increased attacks on Christians is that there has been wide hate propaganda by the right wing Hindu nationalists organizations lately”)

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/03/31/church-vandals-still-at-large-hindu-radicals-destroy-property/>



### **Iran: Rajaei-Shahr prison, Karaj**

Pastor Farshid Malayeri Fathi (aged 35 in 2014, in jail since [December 2010](#); sentenced to six years imprisonment for "being the chief agent of foreign organizations in Iran and of administrating funds for foreign organizations"; sentenced on [December 29, 2014](#) to an



additional year in prison, sentence appears related to a Revolutionary Guard raid on his prison in which alcohol was found in an adjacent ward; **UPDATE:** charged with insulting the prison imam after he refused to give up his Bible for 'inspection', may be sentenced to two additional years)

[http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9977:prison-imam-files-additional-complaint-against-imprisoned-pastor&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279](http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9977:prison-imam-files-additional-complaint-against-imprisoned-pastor&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279)



### **Syria: Al-Hasakah province**

Edward Adam (reported to have survived an ISIL attack in which homes were burned and crosses broken)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59979>



### **Egypt**

Salwa Fawzy (mother of Kyrillos Halim, son one of 30 soldiers killed fighting Islamists in Sinai, denied government compensation given to families of the Muslim soldiers)

### **Egypt: Faqai village, Abu Qurqas**

Milad Fathy (abducted, reported to have been freed by police)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59968>

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1327&A=17858>



### **United Kingdom: London**

Sarah Mbuyi (nursery nurse in Highbury, London, dismissed from her position in January 2014 for defending traditional Christian marriage; **UPDATE:** her former employer's attorney stated to the Employment Tribunal that Christian views are unacceptable in the workplace and equated Christianity with racism, said after her hearing "You know persecution is coming, but it feels really surreal when you realize it's happening to you")

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/freedom-of-speech/christian-views-unacceptable-in-the-workplace-tribunal-hears>

**Friday March 6, 2015**



**China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province**

**Three Christians freed from detention, two others – one unnamed - remain in detention**

Ou Jinsi (detained on [October 21, 2014](#), released)

Ji Qingcou (detained on [January 3, 2015](#), released)

Ji Qingcao (detained on [January 8, 2015](#), released)

Pastor Huang Yizi (aged 40, taken into custody on [August 2, 2014](#); **UPDATE**: still in detention)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/03/3-zhejiang-christians-released-from.html>



**India**

Vani (aged 31, widow, mother of an 8 year old girl, jailed for 15 days for illegal conversion in mid 2014, converted 14 women while in prison, later converted a guard, **UPDATE**: reported to have **died of a heart attack**)

**India: Pali village, Haryana state**

Rev Victor Dass (described an attack by Hindu nationalists on a Christian funeral procession, mourners beaten and told that the body of the Christian would pollute the village and that their opposition to the burial was part of Swachh Bharat [Clean India] campaign, casket left behind as the mourners fled)

Pastor Maipal Singh (retrieved the casket and took it to a different cemetery)

Pastor Sunil Salvation (said “We were given police protection for both the previous burials that we conducted, but March 6, being a holiday on account of the festival of Holi [Hindu festival of colors], we decided not to bother the police and perform the burial ourselves...We were beaten mercilessly. The ambulance in which we were carrying the body was also broken; the glass windows were shattered. The spade with which we were digging the ground was taken up by someone in the mob, and he swung it at the ambulance driver with full force. Thankfully the driver ducked, and the spade did not hit him. If it had, the driver would not have survived”)

Rev Virendar Kumar (aged 42, said “The Christians were beaten very severely as the mob targeted the Christians individually. Each and every Christian was being beaten up by 10-12 people from the mob. Around 35-plus Christians are hospitalized in different hospitals in Faridabad. Some are seriously injured. Only those who escaped early escaped the

beating. I was one of them. It was a mostly young crowd, but because of color on their faces due to the festival, we cannot identify them...How can this happen in a country where law and order is supposed to prevail?”)

Rev S.P. David (filed a police report, no arrests have been made)

Rev Vijayesh Lal (**UPDATE**: said “Things have changed in the last few months, and now more than ever the minority Christian community in Haryana is being victimized by hate crimes. We are concerned and urge the chief minister [governor], Mr Khattar, to intervene in the situation to restore the confidence of the community”)

[http://www.persecution.com/public/newsroom.aspx?story\\_ID=%3d373436&featuredstory\\_ID=%3d343834](http://www.persecution.com/public/newsroom.aspx?story_ID=%3d373436&featuredstory_ID=%3d343834)

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/03/22/villagers-attack-christian-mourners-during-funeral-in-india/>

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



### **Iran: Rajai Shahr Prison, Karaj**

Pastor Saeed Abedini (**UPDATE**: reported to have been shaken by the beating and summary execution of six fellow inmates, and by the "crying and wailing" of their families)

<http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2015/March/Pastor-Saeed-Shaken-after-Brutal-Executions/>



### **Egypt: Sahel Salim, Assiut province**

Heshmat Wasif Heshmat Makin (abducted, threatened with death, US\$131,000 ransom demanded)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59990>



### **Libya**

Emad Youssef Rizk (cousin of Amgad Atiya, reported to have been tortured and **killed** while attempting to return to Egypt)

Amgad Atiya (reported on the murder of his cousin Emad Youssef Rizk)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59988>



### **Nigeria: Emiwooro, Kogi State**

Rev Phyllis Sortor (aged 70, widow of Jim Sortor, U.S. citizen, missionary, abducted by 5 armed men on February 23, 2015, US\$300,000 ransom demanded; **UPDATE**: freed)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/phyllis-sortor-american-missionary-kidnapped-in-nigeria-is-free-135288/>

**Saturday March 7, 2015**



### **Pakistan: Harbans Pura, Lahore, Punjab province**

Zubair Masih (son of Aisha Bibi, arrested for an alleged theft at his mother's employer's home, **UPDATE**: died from torture while in police custody, body dumped in the road in front of his mother's home)

### **Pakistan: Karachi**

Dr Nazir S Bhatti (**UPDATE**: appealed to the government of Thailand to stop the arrest and deportation of Christian Pakistani asylum seekers, wrote that the 12,000 Pakistanis are only trying to transit to asylum in the West)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5216>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5213>



### **Uganda: Iganga**

Namwase Aisha (aged 16, convert, sister of Nabagabana Fatuma, beaten on February 1, 2015 and locked in a room for three days without food in Nasenye village, Pallisa district by her uncle after converting, escaped; hospitalized on March 1, 2015 to treat malaria and her head injury from her beating, **UPDATE**: Muslim relatives discovered her location and visited her)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/03/christian-girl-in-uganda-who-fled-beating-by-muslim-uncle-mysteriously-dies/>



**Egypt: Kafr Dawar village, Beheira province**

Reda Gamil Sharmoukh (**UPDATE:** said "I have four acres of agricultural land. The land is planted with guava in Shebil village. A Muslim businessman stopped the stream of water, which led to the damage of 80 percent of the crop due to lack of water...[there is] collusion between the security forces in Kafr Police Department with the Muslim businessman")

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59997>

**Sunday March 8, 2015**



**India: Pali village, Haryana state**

Rev Virendar Kumar (aged 42, **UPDATE:** church attacked by Hindu extremists, later summoned by police to answer a complaint that the woman buried in the Christian funeral two days earlier was actually Hindu)

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



**Uganda: Iganga**

Namwase Aisha (aged 16, convert, sister of Nabagabana Fatuma, beaten on **February 1, 2015** and locked in a room for three days without food in **Nasenye village, Pallisa district** by her uncle after converting, escaped; hospitalized on **March 1, 2015** to treat malaria and her head injury from her beating, Muslim relatives discovered her location and visited her on **March 7, 2015**, **UPDATE:** **died, tampered medication suspected**)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/03/christian-girl-in-uganda-who-fled-beating-by-muslim-uncle-mysteriously-dies/>



## **Egypt: Cairo**

Naguib Sawiris (media owner, **UPDATE**: has been receiving death threats from ISIL militants)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=60008>



## **Nigeria: Gidan-Waya, Jama'a local government area, Kaduna state**

Christopher Mamman (described an army assault on St Peter Church during Mass in retaliation for the church Cadets [Boy Scouts] refusing to remove a temporary road barricade that had been erected to prevent a car bombing of the church, said "They stormed the parish, shooting at worshipers inside the church. Five of our members were shot and killed, while many others were injured. One other Christian from another church was also killed when the incident escalated and engulfed the town")

Bulus Jatau (confirmed the church attack, said "As the soldiers were shooting, another Christian returning from another church was hit by the bullet and he died instantly. One of the Cadet boys was shot, and he died after being taken to a hospital")

Bishop Joseph Bagobiri (**UPDATE**: described details of the army attack on St Peter Church)

Zakaria Yaki (aged 48, power company worker, **shot dead**)

David Jester (aged 24, Kaduna State College of Education student, **shot dead**)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/03/soldiers-kill-six-christians-at-church-in-kaduna-state-nigeria-witnesses-say/>

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2015/03/tension-in-southern-kaduna-over-the-killing-of-3-catholics/#sthash.3y1vu4rq.dpuf>

**Monday March 9, 2015**



## **Bangladesh: Dhaka**

### **Five hundred Christians and some Muslims march against ISIL violence**

Sr Carmal Reberio

Promod Mankin (attorney, Bangladesh Christian Association president, said "I call on the whole human family and on world leaders to protest strongly in order to stop the killings by the Islamic State")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hundreds-of-Bangladeshi-Christians-hold-a-street-protest-against-the-Islamic-state-33658.html>



**India: Barwani district, Madhya Pradesh state**

**Prayer meeting interrupted by Hindu radicals, leaders held by police due to fears for their safety**

Pastor Lal Singh

Indram Chauhan (hosted the prayer meeting in his home)

Pastor Anar Singh (described the attack on Pastor Lal Singh and Indram Chauhan by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the Bajrang Dal [the RSS paramilitary's youth organization])

**India: Rohtak district, Haryana state**

Mukesh (hospital custodian, threatened by a mob backed by a media crew “The mob consisted of around 15-plus people and was stirred by Raj Kumar Dhaka, a lab technician working in the same hospital [and member of the RSS paramilitary organization]. They objected to me being a Christian and attending church in Kalanaur. I am attending the Uddhar Ka Jeevan Kalisia [Eternal Life Church] since April 2012, when my wife was healed miraculously as a result of prayers...There is no prayer being held at my house, but I do attend church. This is a frame up”)

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/india.pentecostal.pastor.mobbed.for.converting.people/49596.htm>

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

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



**Egypt: Kafr el-Dawar, Beheira province**

Bishop Adel Zaki OFM (described an attack by armed men against a church, two policemen hospitalized)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37418->

[AFRICA EGYPT Armed assault against the Franciscan church of Kafr el Dawar#.VP5XPcJTEfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37418-AFRICA_EGYPT_Armed_assault_against_the_Franciscan_church_of_Kafr_el_Dawar#.VP5XPcJTEfg)



## **United States**

Rev Franklin Graham (son of the Rev Billy Graham; **UPDATE**: said "I believe we're going to see persecution in this country")

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/franklin-graham-warns-american-christians-persecution-is-coming-135348/>

**Tuesday March 10, 2015**



## **India: Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh state**

Fr M Chinappa (participated in a march by thousands of Christians that protested the anti-Mother Teresa comments made by the leader of the RSS paramilitary organization)

## **India: Rohtak district, Haryana state**

Mukesh (hospital custodian, threatened by a mob backed by a media crew on [March 9, 2015](#)  
“The mob consisted of around 15-plus people and was stirred by Raj Kumar Dhaka, a lab technician working in the same hospital [and member of the RSS paramilitary organization]. They objected to me being a Christian and attending church in Kalanaur. I am attending the Uddhar Ka Jeevan Kalisia [Eternal Life Church] since April 2012, when my wife was healed miraculously as a result of prayers...There is no prayer being held at my house, but I do attend church. This is a frame up.”; **UPDATE**: “Dr Sagwan handed me a letter from the contractor which said that they are not satisfied with my work, and just like that I was without a job. I was not given any notice period, and neither were the charges explained. I have been terminated because I am a Christian. I don’t know what to do now. I have a family to support”)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37422->

[ASIA INDIA Christians in march ask Hindu radicals to owe Mother Teresa an apology#. VP JQcJTEfg](#)

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



## **Ethiopia: Melka Belo region**



Gemechu Jorgo (detained for distributing Bibles, slapped three times across the face with a Bible when he said he had a constitutional right to practice his faith)

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/03/30/two-christians-jailed-in-ethiopia-for-distributing-bibles/>



### **Cameroon: Minawano**

Bishop Bruno Ateba (**UPDATE**: said "Providing pastoral care for over 36,000 refugees is not an easy task. It is a big challenge for our diocese. That is why we brought the matter to the attention of the Episcopal Conference of Cameroun, who in turn notified the Episcopal Conference of Nigeria about the plight of the Nigerian refugees here in our diocese")

Bishop Lucius Iwejuru Ugorji (from Umuahia, Nigeria)

Bishop Stephen Dami Mamza (**UPDATE**: from Yola, Nigeria)

Fr Chris Nanyanwu (from Abuja, Nigeria)

Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme (**UPDATE**: from Maiduguri, Nigeria, said "I am happy that I am part of this delegation. It is a wonderful show of solidarity. Our presence is a moral boost for them and a reassurance that they are not abandoned")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37426->

[AFRICA NIGERIA The Nigerian Bishops to 36 000 refugees in northern Cameroon We have not abandoned you#.VP\\_HMsJTefg](#)



### **Spain: Vilanova dos Infantes, Galicia**

Fr Adolfo Enriquez (aged 77, **murdered** while feeding his cats, body hidden in a haystack)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37460->

[EUROPE SPAIN Pastor of the Shrine of Virxe do Cristal killed#.VQkKWsjTEfg](#)

**Wednesday March 11, 2015**



### **Pakistan: Faisalabad, Punjab province**

Naveed Walter (reported that there have been 374 cases so far this year of Hindu and Christian girls being abducted and forced into Islamic marriages and that 70% of the cases were in Punjab province, also called for the creation of a special police unit to investigate and resolve these cases)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5222>



### **Italy: Bologna**

Cardinal Carlo Caffarra (condemned the actions of a reporter who went to confession with fictional sins, recorded the conversations, and published them in her newspaper)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/journalist-blasted-for-lying-in-confessional-recording-priests-answers-53452/>

**Thursday March 12, 2015**



### **China: Suqian, Siyang county, Jiangsu province**

**Ten members of the Total Scope Church given administrative detentions of 7 days for cult activity**

Wang Denglan

Zhu Zhanmei

Tang Aiqiao

Fu Chenghua

Cao Yumei

Wang Jinglian

Zhu Qiaorong

Zhuang Chonglan

Zhuang Ronghua

Zhuang Chongmei

Pastor Zhang Fangliang (arranged for legal representation for the arrested church members)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/03/10-jiangsu-worshippers-administratively.html>



## **Egypt**

Morad Samy Gerges (displaced from his home in the [Al-Nahda area](#), [El-Amreya](#), [Alexandria](#) by the Muslim Brotherhood in [2012](#); **UPDATE**: still displaced)

### **Egypt: Qena**

Nagy Ghalib (disappeared in mysterious circumstances)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=60099>

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1337&A=18012>



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

Fr Loris Cattani CFX (reported on the growth of jihadist groups in the eastern part of the country)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37443->

[AFRICA DR CONGO Alarm for the recruitment of young Muslims in eastern Congo#.VQJK8cJTEfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37443-)



## **Haiti: Port au Prince**

Cardinal Chibly Langlois (denounced criminal gang attacks on religious, said "since November 2014 to the present day about twenty houses belonging to the nuns have been attacked: religious women beaten, brutalized. Without being disturbed, looters take everything they can: money, identity documents, important documents and other valuables. The Haitian Episcopal Conference deplors this state of affairs which is similar to an apotheosis of evil and expresses its deep concern. It condemns this wave of insecurity that befalls the people consecrated to God")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37439->

[AMERICA HAITI Gang attacks against religious institutes continue#.VQJNB8JTEfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37439-)



### **United States - New Jersey: Somerville**

Patricia Jannuzzi (aged 57, parochial high school religious teacher, effectively fired from her teaching position for commenting on Facebook that arguments in favor of same sex marriage were “bologna”)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/patricia-jannuzzi-finally-given-opportunity-to-counter-hollywood-lynch-mob-a>



### **Mexico: Chichiltepec, Hidalgo state**

**Event: Two Evangelical Christians were arrested and ordered to leave their church, expelled from the village after they refused**

Casto Hernandez Hernandez (cousin of Juan Placido Hernandez)

Juan Placido Hernandez (cousin of Casto Hernandez Hernandez)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/06/3889101/>

**Friday March 13, 2015**



### **India: Bangalore, Karnataka state**

**The Maharashtra state assembly's total ban on the possession and consumption of beef will further impoverish the Dalits [untouchables] - 80% of the Christians in India are of tribal or Dalit background**

Rev Sunil Raj Philip (executive secretary of the Commission on Dalits, National Council of Churches; **UPDATE:** said that the total ban on beef is a “vicious effort of the Hindutva [Hindu nationalist] forces to ‘beef up’ communal tension in India and make political gain out of it”)

Rev Manohar Chandra Prasad (said that “This ban is an insult to the poor and the Dalits”)

### **India: Ranagath, West Bengal**

Archbishop Thomas D'Souza (denounced the rape of a 72 year old nun and the beating of three elderly nuns during an armed robbery at a parochial school convent, all were hospitalized)

### **India: Delhi**

Fr Savarimuthu Sankar (**UPDATE:** said of the gang rape of a 72 year old nun “We should know that there is already a vicious atmosphere against Christians in the country, which encourages criminals to attack Christians”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/03/3768735/>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/West-Bengal:-after-elderly-nun-raped,-faithful-march-to-demand-justice-33716.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-christians-rally-to-show-solidarity-with-raped-elderly-nun/73203>



### **Iran: Rajai Shahr Prison, Karaj**

Pastor Saeed Abedini (aged 32 in 2013, convert, US citizen, husband of Naghmeh Shariat Panahi Abedini, father of Rebekka and Jacob, convicted on [January 27, 2013](#) of undermining the government by spreading Christianity and sentenced to eight years in prison; **UPDATE:** wrote a letter to his son Jacob for his seventh birthday "...I long to be there for your birthday and to make this reunion happen, but my chains are keeping me from you...God came in human flesh in Jesus Christ all the way from heaven to the earth to give us the gift of salvation by being crucified on the cross for the punishment of our sin. So on this special day, I want you to accept this gift of salvation. Invite Jesus into your heart as you have invited me to your birthday...So happy birthday to my big boy and my hero, Jacob Cyrus Abedini. Thank you for standing strong with me in this battle for the Glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Your proud Dad")

Jacob Cyrus Abedini

<http://aclj.org/persecuted-church/pastor-saeed-writes-his-son-for-his-birthday-my-chains-are-keeping-me-from-you>



### **Ethiopia: Melka Belo region**

Sheikh Amin (convert from Islam, detained for distributing Bibles, pressured to renounce Christ)

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/03/30/two-christians-jailed-in-ethiopia-for-distributing-bibles/>



### **Sudan: Khartoum**

Rev David Yein Reith (arrested by NISS secret police on [January 9, 2015](#) while returning home from a prayer meeting; **UPDATE**: to be tried for evangelizing Muslims)

Rev Yat Michael (arrested by NISS secret police on [December 21, 2014](#) without charge after delivering a homily; **UPDATE**: to be tried for evangelizing Muslims)

<http://barnabasfund.org/news/Two-pastors-in-Sudan-to-be-tried-for-evangelising-Muslims>



### **United Kingdom**

Aisleen Hubert (aged 21, as of [October 27, 2014](#) has brought a private prosecution against 3 doctors implicated in illegal gender-selection abortions after Crown prosecutors refused to prosecute; **UPDATE**: Crown prosecutors announced that they would take over and then drop the prosecutions as 'not in the public interest', have refused to release her video recordings of the doctors agreeing to abort females, which is a crime under UK law)

Date: [March 13, 2015](#)

Source: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/abortion/cps-to-take-over-and-drop-gender-abortion-cases>

**Saturday March 14, 2015**



### **Turkmenistan: Turkmenabad**

Zeynep Husaynova (mother of Tohtabay Husaynov, home raided by police on [February 20, 2015](#), religious literature seized, sentenced to 15 days' imprisonment, **UPDATE**: home raided by police, 38 worshipers detained, 8 later sentenced to 15 days imprisonment, 30 fined)

Bahram Hemdemov (father of Serdar Hemdemov, detained)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2063](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2063)



### **Egypt**

Marina Louis Shoukrallah (aged 18, daughter of Louis Shokrallah Tawadros, disappeared during a religious service at Monastery of Jabal al-Tair, [Samalout, Minya](#) on [May 31, 2014](#);

**UPDATE:** still missing, family alleges that the police have information on her whereabouts but refuse to release the information)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=60119>

**Sunday March 15, 2015**



### **India**

**House church attacked by more than 30 BJP and RSS paramilitary members, two leaders beaten, hospitalized**

Pastor Arul (sermon interrupted, two ribs broken, hospitalized)

Omkar (beaten, hospitalized)

**India: Hosanagar, Shimoga district, Karnataka state**

**More than 60 Bajrang Dal [the RSS paramilitary youth wing] members attack a church, local hospitals refused to treat the injured due to fears of attack**

Pastor Wilson (severely injured, hospitalized more than 70 kilometers away)

Mr Ashok (severely injured with a spinal cord injury, unable to sit or walk, hospitalized more than 70 kilometers away)

[http://www.persecution.com/public/newsroom.aspx?story\\_ID=%3d373537](http://www.persecution.com/public/newsroom.aspx?story_ID=%3d373537)

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/03/31/pastors-spine-dislocated-after-violent-church-attack-in-india/>



**Pakistan: Youhanabad area, Lahore, Punjab province**

**Two churches were attacked by the Pakistani Taliban, initial toll is 14 dead and 80 wounded, several children unaccounted for, two alleged attackers were reportedly captured by enraged mothers who stoned them then burned them alive**

Patras Bhatti (aged 48, taxi driver, assisted with security at St John's church, shirt stained by blood and flesh of victims, said he heard gunfire then "Seconds later the blue door of the steel gate came flying inside with a blast. The echo still resounds in my head. I can hear properly from my right ear...We had a small committee of 12 parishioners who were

stationed at the gate and in the street outside. It's a free service to protect the Church attendants and only God will reward us. Perhaps He saved me to die some day on duty")

Moon Ashknaz (pointed to a bloodstain on the ground near the church gate "This is the blood of the leader of our security team. There was panic inside but we led the parishioners outside, towards the school playground, at the back and through an emergency exit")

Archbishop Sebastian Francis Shah (**UPDATE**: visited both churches, said "Time and again we had been demanding tighter security measures, especially during the Sunday service. The government has failed to protect us. All religious groups have to meet the challenge and raise their voice against this kind of attack...We salute the young martyrs who prevented the militants from entering the Church building. The wounds of [the [September 22, 2013](#)] Peshawar Church blasts are still fresh; we are already on the road to Calvary")

Rev Irshad Ashknaz (Christ Church, said the terror attack began during Communion with gunfire: "Soon afterwards there was a loud explosion, and clouds of dust rose above the street. By that time we had evacuated members of the congregation from the back door; some 1,000 people were present inside the church at that time")

Asher Wasim (described the attack on Christ Church "[The shooter with the machine gun was] clearing the way for the bomber [as he approached] the entrance from the opposite side")

Yousuf Goga (Christ Church volunteer security guard, hospitalized, **died**)

Shamim Bhatti (Christ Church volunteer security guard, hospitalized in critical condition)

Obaid Sardar Khokhar (aged 32, husband of Ambreen Khokhar, father of Angelina Khokhar, Christ Church volunteer security guard, overpowered the suicide bomber and dragged him away from the church, **shot in the head** by the bomber's accompanying gunman)

Ambreen Khokhar (wife of Obaid Sardar Khokhar, mother of Angelina Khokhar, pregnant, **shot dead** when she tried to prevent Angelina from rushing to her father after he was shot)

Angelina Khokhar (aged 3, daughter of Obaid Sardar Khokhar and Ambreen Khokhar, saved by her mother's intervention during the terror attack, now orphaned)

Mukhtar Joseph (father of Ambreen Khokhar, grandfather of Angelina Khokhar, described how his daughter died while saving his granddaughter in the terror attack)

Alias Masih (Christ Church volunteer security guard, **killed**)

Tenvir Masih (**killed** in the attempted church bombings)

Aakash Bano (aged 20, Christ Church volunteer security guard, son of Naz Bano, **killed**)

James Sardar (aged 24, Christ Church volunteer security guard, leather worker, husband of Fozia Sardar, father, **killed**)

Joseph Francis (**UPDATE**: injured in the church attacks, hospitalized, released)

Fr Francis Gulzar (**UPDATE**: described the actions of Akash Bashir during the terror attack on St John's Church)

Akash Bashir (aged 19, son of Bashir Emmanuel, St John Church volunteer security guard, pulled the attacking suicide bomber down as he attempted to scale the wall surrounding the church even after he was shown the explosive vest, **killed in the explosion**)



Bashir Emmanuel (father of Akash Bashir, described how his son died stopping a suicide bomber from entering his church)

Sr Arsene (said “We’re treated as second class citizens. We’d like the government to give Christians our due place and due right. That’s why the angry youths reacted [by rioting and killing two suspected terrorists]”)

Napoleon Qayyum (rights advocate; **UPDATE**: resides only 100 yards from St John's Church, said “The local police station had been requested to provide a walk-through gate for security, but no such measure was put in place”, complained that Muslims killed while stopping suicide bombers are given posthumous government awards but Christians never are)

Kushi Masih (aged 55, church usher, **shot** during the attempted twin suicide bombing, **died the following day**)

Qaisor Pervez (church security volunteer, cousin of Wilson Chowdhry, 85% of his body burned, in a coma, several bones broken, teeth shattered, vision affected)

Amir Zahoor (paramedic, church youth leader, knocked unconscious by the explosion, hit in the face and right arm with shrapnel, had arrived at church late to find children noisily playing in the church courtyard and oddly reacted with anger and sent them into the church, thus saving them - he normally would not have been bothered by them, refused medical treatment - told by the hospital 'Bomb blasts happen every day, it is not something new to be treated or cared for')

Sikander Inyat (aged 27, church security volunteer, rickshaw driver, only son and caregiver for his ageing father, lost his right eye in the explosion, left leg fractured)

Yousaf Masih (aged 41, church security volunteer, garment factory worker, ran toward the gunman, shot twice in his left arm, left leg hit with shrapnel)

Zubaira Francis (aged 32, mother of six, hit with shrapnel in the stomach)

Adnan Gill (aged 32, welder, hit with shrapnel in the left leg and foot)

Shabaz Gill (aged 23, movie maker, hit with shrapnel in the back)

Basharat Masih (aged 26, factory worker and student, hit with shrapnel in his arm)

Balqees Bashir (widow of Kushi Masih, can no longer afford to send her daughters to school, will be forced to arrange marriages for the three oldest, has requested financial aid)

Aneeqa (aged 22, daughter of Kushi Masih and Balqees Bashir)

Anita (aged 18, daughter of Kushi Masih and Balqees Bashir)

Nisha (aged 17, daughter of Kushi Masih and Balqees Bashir)

Rebecca (aged 15, daughter of Kushi Masih and Balqees Bashir)

Snober (aged 13, daughter of Kushi Masih and Balqees Bashir)

Sylvia (aged 11, daughter of Kushi Masih and Balqees Bashir)

Rajesh (aged 19, son of Kushi Masih and Balqees Bashir)

Excel (aged 6, son of Kushi Masih and Balqees Bashir)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Church-attacks:-we-are-already-on-the-road-to-Calvary,-says-Lahore-bishop-33721.html>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/03/3772063>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/03/religious-tensions-simmer-across-pakistan-following-church-bombings/>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5245>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5307>

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/bomb-blast-victims-children-face-uncertainty>

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/bomb-victims-of-lahore-still-desperate-for-help>



### **Kenya: Mandera**

#### **Four Christians shot after leaving their automobile repair shop by al-Shabaab terrorists, one killed, three hospitalized, two released**

Allan Otieno (automobile repairman, **shot dead**)

Kelvin Ochieng (automobile repairman, shot by al-Shabaab terrorists, hospitalized)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/03/five-christians-killed-one-critically-wounded-by-islamic-extremists-in-kenya/>

**Monday March 16, 2015**



### **India: Kaimri village, Hissar district, Haryana state**

Rev Subhash Chand (church mobbed on [February 11, 2015](#) by Bajrang Dal [RSS paramilitary youth organization] members; **UPDATE**: returned to his village to find his church had been vandalized burglarized, and converted into a Hindu temple by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, filed a police report, Chief Minister [governor] Khattar responded with false accusations against him before the state assembly, has moved his family to a nearby city for safety)

Dr John Dayal (**UPDATE**: responded to the verbal attacks against Rev Subhash Chand by Chief Minister [governor] Khattar “His government has showed its commitment to Hinduism by its recent actions and comments on beef, making Gita [part of an epic tale in Hindu scripture] a part of the curricula and such. His justification of the actions of the violent elements who oppose the church and attacked it undermines the rule of law in the state.

The chief minister has lowered the dignity of his office and betrayed the trust of people he is sworn to protect”)

### **India: Multai, Madhya Pradesh state**

Pastor Ashok Wagh (accused along with three other pastors of forcibly conversions to Christianity, detained for two days allegedly for their own protection)

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

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Indian-pastors-falsely-accused-of-forced-conversion>



### **Pakistan**

**The Justice and Peace Commission issued a report on the [March 15, 2015](#) terror attack on the two churches in Lahore which stated that police "agents present at the time of the attack were busy watching the cricket match on TV, instead of carrying out their duty to protect churches"**

Fr Emmanuel Yousaf Mani (**UPDATE**)

Cecil Chaudhry Shane

### **Pakistan: Kasur**

Riaz Masih (critically beaten by Muslims for protesting the [March 15, 2015](#) suicide bombings of the two churches in Lahore)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37454->

[ASIA PAKISTAN The Justice and Peace Commission on the massacre of Christians Police negligent#.VQkLo8JTEfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37454-ASIA_PAKISTAN_The_Justice_and_Peace_Commission_on_the_massacre_of_Christians_Police_negligent#.VQkLo8JTEfg)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/03/3772063>



### **Turkmenistan: Turkmenabad**

Emirjan Jumanazarov (convicted of disorderly conduct, sentenced to 15 days' imprisonment, beaten and threatened with electroshock torture)

Serdar Hemdemov (aged 19, son of Bahram Hemdemov, sentenced to 15 days' imprisonment)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2063](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2063)



## Uzbekistan” Ahangaran district

Doniyor Akhmedov (detained for giving Christian literature to a passer-by on the street, slapped around)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2058](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2058)

**Tuesday March 17, 2015**



### India: Mumbai

Sajan K George (**UPDATE**: reacted to a leader of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad who said that the [March 13, 2015](#) gang rape of a 72 year old nun was part of Christian and not Hindu culture "We condemn in the strongest possible terms the comments made by the VHP joint general secretary Surendra Jain. How low he can get shows how dangerous he is. Rape is wrong, a terrible and despicable act...Vile, vulgar and deliberately malicious comments show how dangerous the mind-set of Hindu radicals is. Our women are a risk with such elements in Indian society")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-leader:-Hindu-radicals-are-a-danger-to-the-women-of-India-33743.html>



### Pakistan: Lalyani village, Kasur district

Wilson Chowdhry (chairman of the British Pakistani Christian Association, said after the burning of a church in retaliation for protests following the [March 15, 2015](#) church terror attacks in [Lahore](#) "Pakistan is reaching a point of no return, the change that the first consecutive democratically elected government suggested, has not come to fruition. We are now seeing more internal turmoil and polarization than ever before. Christians in Pakistan have always had a tough life, but these latest acts of violence illustrate a pending humanitarian crisis of previously unheard of levels. This might well be the beginning of the end for Christianity in Pakistan")

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5246>



### **Lebanon: Beirut**

Chorbishop Yatron Koliaana (said "Many initiatives were taken by the international community to avoid the extinction of some types of animals. Isn't it worth it to protect our people?")

### **Lebanon: Sid al-Boushriyeh, east of Beirut**

Francie Yaacoub (aged 50+, Syrian refugee, fled her village during an ISIL attack "We left in our pajamas. My son walked barefoot, we left without our shoes on. The shells were falling all around us...We had to flee because the safety of your children is the most important thing")

Simaan (aged 50, Syrian refugee, said "How can we be comfortable, living on aid? The whole world, from the UN to the United States and Russia, is responsible. They [ISIL] have destroyed our whole civilization...and the world is watching")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150318132048.htm>

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



### **Kenya: Wajir**

**Four Christians **shot dead**, one wounded in an al-Shabaab terror attack on a money transfer store**

Muthengi Mwithi (**killed**)

Mwangangi Mucee (church youth leader, **killed**)

Munyoki Mwinzi (**killed**)

Peter Iguna Muthui Mucee (**killed**)

Kithinji Muthengi (critically injured, airlifted to a Nairobi hospital)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/03/five-christians-killed-one-critically-wounded-by-islamic-extremists-in-kenya/>



### **Libya: Tripoli**

Bishop Giovanni Martinelli (**UPDATE**: said "I know that my life is in danger. What can I do? I can trust only God. If it is his will that the church grows in the Islamic world, I will do everything to defend it")

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=60182>

Wednesday March 18, 2015



**Turkmenistan: Turkmenabad**

Dovlet Kandymov (sentenced to three successive terms of 15 days' imprisonment)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2063](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2063)



**Iran: Adel-Abad prison, Shiraz, Fars province**

Mojtaba Seyyed-Alaedin Hosseini (convert, arrested at a house church in Shiraz, along with up to nine others on [February 8 2012](#); sentenced to a total of four years and two months in prison on [June 16, 2013](#); **UPDATE**: conditionally released from prison)

[http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=10076:christian-convert-conditionally-released-before-persian-new-year&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279](http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10076:christian-convert-conditionally-released-before-persian-new-year&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279)

Thursday March 19, 2015



**Vietnam: Xuyen Moc prison, Ba Ria Vung Tau province**

Peter Tran Vu Anh Binh (still incarcerated, friends and family marched on Hanoi during [August 24-28, 2012](#) to protest the continuing incarceration; **UPDATE**: handcuffed and taken away by guards after he protested their forcible removal of his rosary beads, whereabouts unknown, cellmates have begun a hunger strike until they are told of his location and condition)

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/vietnam/strike-03252015151924.html>



**China: Suqian, Siyang county, Jiangsu province**

Ten members of the Total Scope Church given administrative detentions of 7 days for cult activity; **UPDATE: released**

Wang Denglan

Zhu Zhanmei

Tang Aiqiao

Fu Chenghua

Cao Yumei

Wang Jinglian

Zhu Qiaorong

Zhuang Chonglan

Zhuang Ronghua

Zhuang Chongmei

Pastor Zhang Fangliang (arranged for legal representation for the arrested church members)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/03/10-jiangsu-worshippers-administratively.html>



**India: New Delhi**

**Two dozen Christian, Muslim, and secular groups hold a protest on the 300th day of Prime Minister Narendra Damodardas Modi's administration and issued a report entitled *300 DAYS – Documenting Hate and Communal Violence under the Modi Regime*, which listed 168 incidents of anti-Christian violence in that time**

Dr John Dayal (**UPDATE:** said “What we have compiled is perhaps a tenth of the actual number of incidents...there has been a marked shift in public discourse. Mr. Modi came into office riding a promise of development, his election campaign fuelled by unbridled hate against Muslims and Christians. Development remains a mirage, but the hate has fuelled violence across the country”)

Archbishop Emeritus Vincent Concessao (**UPDATE:** said “I am standing before you not as a Christian but as a citizen of the country. The state of affairs is dangerous. We have to raise our voices against what is happening”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/03/3777970>



### **Lebanon: Hazmiyeh, outside Beirut**

Fr Denha Youssef (has personally aided 700 Iraqi refugee families of all religions)

Mysa (daughter, mother, Iraqi refugee, said "We were very afraid. We left quickly, and two of my brothers were killed by ISIL")

### **Lebanon: Beirut**

Ison (aged 8, Syrian refugee, is looking forward to moving to Australia)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150319195540.htm>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150319195345.htm>

**Friday March 20, 2015**



### **India**

Cardinal Baselios Cleemis Thottunkal (**UPDATE**: said in response to the [March 13, 2015](#) gang rape of a 72-year old nun "India should be as concerned about its people, as it is about its cows. The country has a responsibility towards all of us – every human being – and not just cows")

### **India: Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh state**

James D'Souza (described a Hindu extremist mob attack on a Bible convention, said "The police registered a case against three attackers, however they were released on bail the very same night")

Fr Thankachan Jose (accused by a mob of converting Hindus, windows and earthen pots smashed at his residence, said "Though our Constitution guarantees freedom of religion, it is being violated openly")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37482->

[ASIA INDIA Cardinal Thottunkal India should be concerned about human rights not just cows#.VQ-ar8JTEfg](#)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Indian-pastors-falsely-accused-of-forced-conversion>

<http://www.christiantoday.co.in/article/mob.vandalizes.church.assaults.christians.in.jabalpur/17754.htm>



### **Pakistan: Sheikhpura, Punjab province**



Sunny Masih ("young adult", **burned alive** in a brick kiln)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5257>

**Saturday March 21, 2015**



**India: Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh state**

Bishop Gerald Almeida (described an attack by Hindus against 200 Christians who were staying overnight in the cathedral courtyard for a Bible seminar "Around one o'clock in the morning, a large number of people raided the building, attacking the faithful and stealing their belongings. After the beating, the attackers destroyed the door of the cathedral and some vehicles. The police arrived several hours later, only at 4 am, when it was all over")

Marko Baba (witnessed the attack)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/India,-fresh-attacks-on-two-Catholic-churches-evil-and-dangerous-33792.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/check-two-christian-churches-vandalized-by-suspected-hindu-fundamentalists/73238>



**Colombia: Sincelejo, Sucre department**

Fr Fernando Meza Luna (**shot dead** in an attempted robbery)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37489->

[AMERICA COLOMBIA A priest killed after a violent attempted robbery#.VRDxUsJTEfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37489-AMERICA_COLOMBIA_A_priest_killed_after_a_violent_attempted_robbery#.VRDxUsJTEfg)

**Sunday March 22, 2015**



**China: Mutanjiang, Heilongjiang province**

**Two underground priests arrested after Mass, both taken to an unknown location**

Fr Shaoyun Quan (aged 41)

Fr Jianyou Cao (aged 43)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/BREAKING-NEWS:-Chinese-police-seize-two-priests-in-Mutanjiang-33786.html>



### **India: Mumbai**

Cardinal Oswald Gracias (**UPDATE**: condemned the vandalism of a church)

### **India: Nagrakata, Malbazar subdivision, Jalpaiguri district, West Bengal state**

Archbishop Thomas D'Souza (**UPDATE**: said "The sisters will never leave their mission. We are not afraid of these threats...it is not clear who is behind these threats. The author of these letters threaten to burn down the school and church if the sisters do not leave. The case is already in the hands of the police and district officials have assured the sisters and provided the necessary protection")

Sr Anise Jacob (school principal, called police after receiving the threat against the school)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/India,-fresh-attacks-on-two-Catholic-churches-evil-and-dangerous-33792.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/West-Bengal,-death-threats-against-a-Catholic-girls'-school-33822.html>



### **Pakistan: Karachi**

Dr Nazir S Bhatti (**UPDATE**: criticized the government for its refusal to arrest the Muslims who on several occasions have lynched and burned Christians, but then moves quickly against Christians who did the same to Muslims in [Lahore](#) on [March 15, 2015](#))

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5257>



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

Archbishop Bashar Matti Warda (**UPDATE**: said "For me, ISIL is a cancer. So sometimes you take some hard measures, unfortunate measures, to deal and treat this cancer", when asked if he supported a military defeat of ISIL he replied "Please God")

Fr Yousif Ibrahim (**UPDATE**: said he is not optimistic for the future of Christians in the Mideast)

Archbishop Nicodemus Sharaf (wept when he said "I think they [ISIL] burn all the books. And we have books from the first century of the Christianity. They take everything from us, but they cannot take the God from our hearts, they cannot")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150319184443.htm>



**Ukraine: Stenka village, Buchach district, Ternopil region**

Fr Vasily Moysyuk (reportedly threatened by members of the Freedom party, the Right Sector paramilitary group, and Ukrainian Catholic clergy, 80 police officers intervened)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/78208.htm>

**Monday March 23, 2015**



**Uzbekistan: Navoi region**

Dmitri Butov (husband of Svetlana Butov, fined US\$47 for illegally storing Christian literature)

Svetlana Butov (wife of Dmitri Butov, fined US\$47 for illegally storing Christian literature)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2058](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2058)



**Ethiopia: Melka Belo region**

Gemechu Jorgo (detained on [March 10, 2015](#) for distributing Bibles, slapped three times across the face with a Bible when he said he had a constitutional right to practice his faith, **UPDATE**: released)

Sheikh Amin (convert from Islam, detained on [March 13, 2015](#) for distributing Bibles, pressured to renounce Christ, **UPDATE**: released)

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/03/30/two-christians-jailed-in-ethiopia-for-distributing-bibles/>



## **Nigeria**

### **Nigerians spoke at the Hudson Institute in [Washington DC, United States](#) on the Chibok schoolgirls abduction and the [#BringBackOurGirls](#) campaign**

Bukky Shonibare (humanitarian aid worker)

Emanuel Ogebe (attorney, said that one escaped girl received a college scholarship in the U.S. but was denied a visa "That I don't get, because she was in the same class with all these other girls, she was abducted with all these other girls. [She is now] back in Nigeria at risk, because the U.S. embassy is applying a different set of rules to one girl", had even asked for White House assistance "Nothing. We get nothing...Boko Haram killed in the first week of January [2015] the same number of people that it took ISIL six months to kill last year [2014]"

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/with-bringbackourgirls-no-longer-trending-nigerians-aghast-at-inaction-from-donors-38222/>

<http://www.hudson.org/events/1236-boko-haram-the-islamic-state-s-west-african-franchise32015>



## **United States – California: Turlock**

Bianca Travis (president of the Chi Alpha student ministry organization which has been banned from the California State University-Stanislaus campus because it requires its leaders to be Christian, said "How can someone lead us if they don't share our mission? It's impossible to genuinely lead a worship service or Bible study unless you believe what you're teaching")

<http://christiannews.net/2015/03/23/college-ministry-kicked-off-campus-for-requiring-leaders-to-be-christian/>

**Tuesday March 24, 2015**



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

Pastor Huang Yizi (aged 40, taken into custody on [August 2, 2014](#) while resisting the demolition of his church's cross; reported on [August 26, 2014](#) to have been charged with 'gathering

to assault a state organ', faces a possible sentence of 10 years' imprisonment, had said "I know I will be put in jail one day"; **UPDATE:** convicted of 'gathering a crowd to disturb public order', sentenced to one year in prison, appeal underway due to denials of rights during the trial)

Liu (said "A few days ago, every church in the area received a call from the religious affairs bureau, warning church members not to go to the trial")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Zhejiang:-Protestant-clergyman-jailed-for-opposing-cross-removal-33818.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/03/zhejiang-pastor-sentenced-to-1-year-in.html>



### **Pakistan: Lahore, Punjab province**

Fr Srif John (criticized the government's arrest of 200 Christians for the murder of two Muslims after the attacks on two churches that killed 19: "The police conducted a raid in the district and indiscriminately arrested people without identifying them based on names in the FIR [police report]. We are not opposed to the arrest of those who have done something wrong, but the arrest of innocent people is unacceptable")

### **Two masked men on a motorbike shot at policemen guarding a church, escaped**

Fr Clarnes Hayat (pastor, church shot at by two men on a motorbike)

Aziz Sahotra (witnessed the shooting)

Aslam Kami (witnessed the shooting)

John Karamat (aged 19, brother of Aslam Karamat, witnessed the shooting)

Aslam Karamat (brother of John Karamat, witnessed the shooting)

Fr Emmanuel Yousuf Mani (**UPDATE:** said that two bystanders were injured in the attack)

Sardar Mushtaq Gill (attorney, **UPDATE:** said "It is unbelievable how militants fired at the church guards and managed to flee. We urge the government to beef up security at churches")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Attacks-in-Lahore,-police-arrest-200-Christians-33800.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/masked-gunmen-fire-on-police-at-catholic-church-in-lahore/73256>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5264>



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

Fr Immanuel Callo (reported on outbreaks of chicken pox, lice, and scabies among the refugees from ISIL)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2015/03/outbreak-of-chicken-pox-lice-and-scabies-in-assyrian-refugee-camp-in-arbel/>



### **Ukraine**

Fr Piotr Rosochacki (Polish citizen, told by Russian authorities in [Simferopol, Crimea](#) on [September 9, 2014](#) that his residency permit will not be renewed; as of [October 24, 2014](#) has left the area, said "Although other priests and nuns have Ukrainian residence permits for Crimea valid into next year [2015], the Russian authorities have said they will regard them as valid only until the end of this year..."; **UPDATE**: said he would like to resume his ministry "But there is no opportunity to return. There is no possibility at present to get a visa to serve as a priest because our parishes aren't registered")

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2051](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2051)



### **United Kingdom: Taunton**

Mike Overd (street preacher; **UPDATE**: fined £200 [US\$300] and ordered to pay £1,200 [US\$1,800] in court costs for preaching in favor of traditional morality, the judge told him that he should have referred to Leviticus 18:22 and not 20:13, since he did not fully quote that verse he said "I am being punished for words that never passed my lips...I am amazed that the Judge sees it as his role to dictate which parts of the Bible can and can't be preached. I did not quote the full text of Leviticus 20 or make reference to the death penalty but the Judge is telling me that I should use other parts of the Bible. This is not free speech but censorship. The Judge is redacting the Bible...I have been ordered to pay compensation for causing 'emotional pain' to someone who approached me aggressively demanding to debate the issue. There was no harm, injury or theft, just a simple disagreement over theology which I have now been fined for...")

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/freedom-of-speech/judge-censors-bible-for-public-preaching>



### **Canada: east York**

Linda Gibbons (**UPDATE**: arrested at an abortion clinic)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/canadian-pro-lifer-mary-wagners-been-jailed-four-months-but-the-crown-wants>

Wednesday March 25, 2015



**China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province**

**Eight Christians pled guilty to 'gathering a crowd to disturb public order' and 'illegal occupation of farmland', charges were lodged due to their attempt to prevent the April 28, 2014 demolition of a church**

Guo Yunhua

Zhao Rendi (sentenced to one year in prison, three years' suspended)

Chen Shiyu

Weng Jitong

Chen Daozhen

Wu Guoliang

Weng Linguang

Bian Shengguang

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/03/eight-zhejiang-christians-from-sanjiang.html>



**India: Khuma village, Mandla district, Madhya Pradesh state**

Antulal Murali (family afraid, said "I have been hearing of the church attacks across India, we fear we may be attacked too. A few years ago, the local members of the Bajrang Dal [the RSS paramilitary youth wing] had threatened us and asked us to convert to Hinduism")

**India: Rajapur Chungi, near Agra, Uttar Pradesh state**

Rev Rajeev Jose (invited along with other missionaries to an ecumenical prayer meeting for an ailing elderly woman, beaten along with members of the woman's family by Bajrang Dal [the RSS paramilitary's youth wing] members for alleged forcible conversions)

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/fear-rules-in-tribal-pockets-of-madhya-pradesh-after-attack-on-churches-749343>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Protestant-leader-demands-protection-during-Holy-Week-from-radical-Hindu-attacks-33846.html>



### **Pakistan: Yohounabad, Lahore, Punjab province**

Fr Francis Gulzar (**UPDATE:** commented on the murder of two Muslims after the March 15, 2015 terror attack: "It is very sad what happened after the massacre. Christians are guilty of a crime; the violent reaction is not Christian and not evangelical. It is the first time in Pakistan's history that Christians, from being victims became tormentors. It was an inhumane act that we all condemn. We hope justice always triumphs", added that justice must be the same for everyone "Many wonder: where are the murderers of Minister Shahbaz Bhatti? Where are the perpetrators of the massacre of Gojra, where in 2009 a Muslim mob destroyed a Christian neighborhood burning eight faithful alive? Where are the culprits who lynched a Christian couple in Kot Radha Kishan in November 2014?")

<http://directory.ucanews.com/news/release-innocent-among-christians-arrested-lahore-vicar-general/2097>



### **Syria**

Patriarch Ignatius Ephrem Joseph III (**UPDATE:** said in [Beirut, Lebanon](#) "The invasion by the Islamic State and its supporters on some 30 Christian villages on the Khabur River February 23 [2015] resulted in the killing of more than two dozen people, the kidnapping of around 300 and the uprooting of around 2,500 people...we still have Westerners calling for the fall of what they call the Syrian regime...It has its errors, its weaknesses, its failures. But that doesn't mean that Westerners have the right to keep hammering the government, aiming for it to fall. If this Syrian government falls, it will be a kind of hecatomb - that means a horrible catastrophe - on the whole region. And it will primarily hit minorities, especially the Christian communities, who are the most vulnerable in this ongoing conflict")

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/cry-of-the-persecuted-syriac-christians-what-is-our-future-here/>



### **Egypt: Jabal Al-Tar village, Samalout, Minya province**

Kyrillos Gerges (aged 21, abducted for ransom)



Ashraf Sedik (aged 30, abducted for ransom)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=60294>



**Nigeria: Potiskum, Yobe state**

Pastor Daniel Awayi (reported on the numerous Boko Haram attacks on his church and village)

[https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/03/article\\_3784577.html/](https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/03/article_3784577.html/)

**Thursday March 26, 2015**



**Nigeria**

Fr Evaristus Bassey (**UPDATE:** reported in [Rome, Italy](#) that "The terror and suffering that the people of Nigeria have experienced is extreme. We at Caritas, along with other people of goodwill, are doing our best. But the needs are staggering")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37528->

[AFRICA Rome Caritas meeting A million displaced persons and refugees fleeing Boko Haram#.VRTWGcJTEfg](#)



**United States - Illinois**

Patriarch Dinkha IV (aged 79, **UPDATE:** **died of natural causes** at the [Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota](#))

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2015/03/catholicos-patriarch-mar-dinkha-iv-enters-eternal-rest/>



**Canada: Ottawa**

**Christians from My Canada met with Members of Parliament to describe growing attacks on religious freedom and to call for the creation of an Office of Religious Freedom**

Bill Prankard (said “We believe it is the government’s duty to protect our religious rights under the Charter. But it is also the duty of every Christian to speak up in defence of our values and rights. Too many have been silent and complacent”)

Faytene Grasseschi (said “We were catalyzed by the persecution of Trinity Western University by the Bank of Montreal and the law societies” under which the bank successfully pressured the societies to prevent the Christian university's law school graduates from joining the bar)

Lia Milousis (said “I myself have been a victim of bullying in my high school because of my Christian faith and have sat in classes where it is mocked at university. This type of persecution is wrong and alarming. If this creeping barrage continues Canada will become a nation far removed from the values that have made it great”)

Majed El Shafie (Egyptian refugee, said “Within our schools, within our churches even, we are being told what to think and what to say...It is not so bad now compared to other parts of the world. But over the next 10 or 20 years, it will affect us all, step by step, little by little, unless we do something...I don’t blame the people who are doing this. I blame the Christians who are silent about it. In the absence of light, the darkness rules”)

Andre Schutten (said that “a radical religious secularism...[a] new religion [is running things] and even a lot of so-called Christians don’t realize they are actually living their lives in this world view”)

Charles McVety

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/faith-leaders-decry-persecution-of-christians-in-canada-at-parliament-hill>

**Friday March 27, 2015**



**India: Kullu village, Chanho block, Ranchi district, Jharkhand state**

Suganti Kacchap (one of several new Christians beaten, dragged for nearly a kilometer, suffered severe head injuries and has had continuing pain for months, fled the village with her family for good)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/07/hindu-extremists-instigate-tribal-people-against-christians-in-jharkhand-india/>



### **Sudan: Khartoum**

Rev Yat Michael (arrested by NISS secret police in Khartoum on [December 21, 2014](#) without charge after delivering a homily; **UPDATE**: still detained)

Rev David Yein Reith (arrested by NISS secret police on [January 9, 2015](#) while returning home from a prayer meeting; **UPDATE**: still detained)

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



### **Egypt: Al-Our village, Minya province**

Milad Nageh (described how his church was attacked for having a memorial service for relatives who were beheaded in Libya by ISIL "“At 8 pm, a group of armed Muslim young men in six or seven cars from nearby villages stormed our village. Many Muslim fanatic young men joined those who came from the other nearby villages and attacked the church. They shot guns at the church and pelted the church with stones and blocks. They smashed the sign of the church, destroying the ground of the church yard and breaking the widows of the service buildings of the church. They also burned a car that was parked in the front of the church. The Muslims whose homes surrounded the church were throwing stones at the church from the roofs of their homes...This attack on the church was arranged before because a truck loaded with cement blocks had unloaded all of their blocks in the front of a Muslim home nearby the church two days ago. We thought that these blocks would be used in construction of a building belonging to the owner of this home, but these blocks were prepared to attack the church", police stood by and allowed the attacks to proceed)

Fr Makar Issa (village pastor, said "On Thursday evening, March 26, I was informed that the next day, Friday there will be Islamic demonstrations in the village against us. Bishop Raphael who came from Cairo to take part in the prayer of the memorial of 40th day of our martyrs informed that some Muslims from the village and the other nearby villages will organize march in our village after their Friday noon prayer...I called the police many times and asked them to come to guard us but they came late and after their arrival they didn't guard the church. They stopped in the entrance of the village. Even still they allowed the cars of the attackers to enter the village and attack us and the church without any intervention from them to protect us. I charge the responsibility of what happened to the policemen and I accuse them of inaction, indifference and complicity")

Malak Nageh Ishack (said "We gave the security forces names of 100 Muslim young men from the village who took part in attacking the church, but police men arrested only five of them and the rest of them are free. The police asked us to stay in our homes, leaving the

Muslim attackers free walking in the village streets, plus we have received threats from the Muslims that they will attack us again after the security forces leave the village”)

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/03/29/mob-of-muslims-violently-attack-church-in-protest-against-memorial-for-egyptian-martyrs/>



### **Turkey: Mardin**

Kevork (Syrian refugee, entered the country illegally in October 2014, reported to have said “My family is still in Syria. They are afraid, so my goal is to get to Europe and bring them there”)

Gabriel (Syrian refugee, was able to flee ISIL by airliner thanks to his possession of a passport, reported to have said “Without the Kurds, we would have been slaughtered. Christians don't have the support of an army or militia”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/03/3787426/>



### **Nigeria: Abuja**

Fr Patrick Tor Alumuku (**UPDATE:** said on the eve of the country's presidential election "In those areas it is hard to imagine that regular elections will be held, given the large number of internally displaced persons. According to some estimates, 80-90% of the occupied areas by Boko Haram have been freed in recent weeks by the army of Nigeria, with the help of Chad and Niger. One can see how the military offensive prepared itself in recent months thanks to the supply of weapons from South Africa, after Western countries, particularly the United States, refused to sell arms to Nigeria...In Nigeria, however, one wonders why, if our military had the ability to hunt Boko Haram, this was not done before, why now, on the eve of elections?")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/37535-AFRICA\\_NIGERIA\\_On\\_the\\_eve\\_of\\_the\\_vote\\_90\\_of\\_the\\_areas\\_freed\\_from\\_Boko\\_Haram\\_Why\\_was\\_it\\_not\\_done\\_before#.VRY2y8JTEfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37535-AFRICA_NIGERIA_On_the_eve_of_the_vote_90_of_the_areas_freed_from_Boko_Haram_Why_was_it_not_done_before#.VRY2y8JTEfg)

**Saturday March 28, 2015**



### **Syria: Idlib**

Fr Ibrahim Farah (aged 57, abducted by Islamists belonging to the al-Nusra Front, an al-Qaeda affiliate, along with other parishioners)

Elias Naguib (aged 83, father of Nael Elias, **killed** by the Ahrar al-Sham Islamic movement, likely for owning a liquor store)

Nael Elias (aged 44, son of Elias Naguib, **killed** by the Ahrar al-Sham Islamic movement, likely for owning a liquor store)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37578->

[ASIA\\_SYRIA\\_Idlib\\_in\\_the\\_hands\\_of\\_jihadists\\_Orthodox\\_priest\\_kidnapped#.VRzLzMJTEfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37578-ASIA_SYRIA_Idlib_in_the_hands_of_jihadists_Orthodox_priest_kidnapped#.VRzLzMJTEfg)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=60377>



### **Egypt: Al-Our village, Minya province**

Beshir Estafanous Kamel (brother of beheading victims Beshoy Estafanous Kamel and Samuel Estafanous Kamel, said “I couldn’t go to the Diocese of Samalout to attend the service for the 40th day of the Martyrs. I had to stay to protect my home”)

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/03/29/mob-of-muslims-violently-attack-church-in-protest-against-memorial-for-egyptian-martyrs/>

**Sunday March 29, 2015**



### **Pakistan: Youhanabad area, Lahore, Punjab province**

Shamim Bhatti (Christ Church volunteer security guard, hospitalized in critical condition following the [March 15, 2015](#) terror attack on Christ Church; **UPDATE: died from his wounds**, buried)

### **Pakistan: Islamabad**

Shamim Masih (activist, journalist; **UPDATE: beaten** by two motorcyclists who demanded he stop writing about Christian persecution, arm broken, family threatened)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37548->

[ASIA\\_PAKISTAN\\_20\\_victims\\_of\\_the\\_attacks\\_on\\_the\\_churches\\_in\\_Youhanabad#.VRo02sJTefg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37548-ASIA_PAKISTAN_20_victims_of_the_attacks_on_the_churches_in_Youhanabad#.VRo02sJTefg)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenews.php?hnewsid=5271>



### **Iraq: Malabrwan**

Fr Dankbar Issa (said "ISIL is an army of the devil. And the warriors of ISIL are sons of the devil. There is no other explanation for what they are doing to people")

Fadil (young father, said "We Christians must suffer as Christ suffered. That is what our faith teaches us. But that also comforts us. Faith is the only thing we have left")

Abdel (plans to move his family of five to Jordan for Easter, and from there to Australia)

<http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1427940248.html>



### **Lebanon**

Samy Gemayel (member of parliament, said that Christians may be driven out of the Mideast within two years)

<http://www.wnd.com/2015/03/no-more-christians-in-mideast-within-2-years/>

**Monday March 30, 2015**



### **India: Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir state**

Pastor Paul Agustin (arrested on charges of 'inciting sectarian clashes')

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=60379>



### **Egypt: Alexandria**

Bishop Krikor Augustine Kusa (said that what happened to Armenians a century ago is now happening to Christians of Iraq, Libya, Syria, and the Sinai)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=60353>



### **United Kingdom**

Archbishop Emeritus George Carey (**UPDATE**: spoke on the refusal of two large supermarket chains to stock The Real Easter Egg chocolate product, which contains a written account of the Resurrection of Christ: "By not offering an alternative to secular Easter eggs they are really undermining the real message of Easter. It saddens me because we are living in a land that is completely losing contact with its religious roots and is out of touch with the Christian message")

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/real-meaning-of-easter-dropped-along-with-chocolate-eggs>



### **United States - South Carolina**

Lt Commander Wes Modder (U.S. Navy chaplain, husband, father of four, accused on December 6, 2014 by his superior officer of failing "to show tolerance and respect" in counseling sessions and of being unable to "function in the diverse and pluralistic environment" of his command; **UPDATE**: has become the object of a Congressional investigation by 35 Representatives who stated in a letter to the Secretary of the Navy "Navy policy...protects a chaplain's ability to preach and teach consistent with the tenets of his or her endorsing denomination, even when Sailors may disagree with the chaplain's remarks...It is dangerous to fall prey to the fundamentally false proposition that individuals who support natural marriage can only be motivated by animus for others...")

<http://christiannews.net/2015/04/01/congress-defends-navy-chaplain-threatened-with-discharge-for-counsel-against-fornication/>

**Tuesday March 31, 2015**



### **Turkmenistan: Turkmenabad**

Serdar Hemdemov (aged 19, son of Bahram Hemdemov, sentenced to 15 days' imprisonment on [March 16, 2015](#), **UPDATE**: sentenced to 15 days' imprisonment for disorderly conduct)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2063](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2063)



## Yemen

Sam (alias, convert from Islam, said in an [undisclosed location off the coast of North Africa](#)

"Life for Christians in Yemen is very hard...All Christians in Yemen are from a Muslim background. According to Islamic Sharia law, it is forbidden for Muslims to convert to Christianity. The government says there is religious freedom, but that is not true. Christians are routinely harassed. They face daily struggle and persecution, first from their family members; then from the government...The message of Christ is touching hearts through television, the Internet and radio, and people are coming to Christ. This is our hope!")

<http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2015/March/Yemeni-Christians-Suffering-Is-Our-Reality/>



## United States – Indiana: Walkerton

Kevin O'Connor (father of Crystal O'Connor, pizza business forced to close after receiving death and firebombing threats following media misrepresentations of an offhand defense of traditional marriage as a denial of service to homosexual customers, entry on Google maps hacked and replaced with a 'Gay Jesus' avatar, in hiding)

Crystal O'Connor (aged 21, daughter of Kevin O'Connor, in hiding)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/the-fake-news-story-that-forced-an-indiana-pizzeria-to-shut-down-and-its-ch>

**March 2015, date unknown**



## Pakistan: Chak No. 189, GB Patli, Toba Tek Singh

**Elderly couple forced out of their home of 40 years and onto the streets by a mob**

Gulzar Masih (husband of Hadayat Bibi)

Hadayat Bibi (wife of Gulzar Masih)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5480>





### **Iraq: Salah Aldin**

Shamoon Somo (**killed**)

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



### **Nigeria**

Bishop Emmanuel Badejo (**UPDATE**: while in [Paris, France](#) criticized the large media attention given the 12 people killed at the Paris magazine Charlie Hebdo and the small attention given the 2,000 people killed at the same time by Boko Haram in Baga “Nothing happened, nobody heard anything. What do you say about civilization looking at all of that, and keeping quiet and ignoring it?”)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/former-u.s.-congressman-obama-refused-to-help-nigeria-stop-boko-haram-over>