

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – April 2015

Wednesday April 1, 2015



India: Ahmedabad, Gujarat state

Fr Cedric Prakash SJ (director of the Prashant Jesuit Centre for Human Rights, Justice and Peace; **UPDATE**: applauded the Supreme Court's notice to reverse the Allahabad High Court's dropping of criminal conspiracy charges against leading members of the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP] for the 1996 destruction of the Babur mosque in Ayodhya: "What will come of these notices is anybody's guess. However, despite the time that has gone by, it is never too late for the cause of justice to be served...The people of India will be waiting for the Supreme Court to act decisively in this matter and thereby ensure that the generations to come will be able to live without fear in a free, tolerant and pluralistic India")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Indian-Jesuit-backs-Supreme-Court-decision-against-leaders-behind-Babri-Masjid-demolition-33877.html>



Pakistan: Lahore, Punjab province

Pervaiz Gill (brother of attorney Sardar Mushtaq Gill, shot in the back by the rapist of one of his brother's Christian clients, hospitalized in serious condition)

Pakistan: Youhanabad neighborhood, Lahore, Punjab province

Samuel Piyara (**UPDATE**: said "We urgently need to ensure health care, material and psychological assistance to the [over 90] injured people after the [March 15, 2015] attacks on the churches in Youhanabad. There are also women and children among the victims of this brutal episode. We urgently need to provide material and psychological assistance, as well as food for 25 people. The victims are in very critical condition. Their families also need food")

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5268>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37568->

[ASIA_PAKISTAN_28_Christians_are_indicted_for_the_lynching_of_Lahore#.VRzOV
MJTEfg](#)



Turkmenistan: Turkmenabad

Emirjan Jumanazarov (convicted of disorderly conduct on [March 16, 2015](#), sentenced to 15 days' imprisonment, beaten and threatened with electroshock torture , **UPDATE**: convicted of disorderly conduct, sentenced to 15 days' imprisonment)

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



Uzbekistan: Ahangaran district

Doniyor Akhmedov (detained on [March 16, 2015](#) for giving Christian literature to a passer-by on the street, slapped around, **UPDATE**: fined 40 times the minimum monthly wage)

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



Niger: Niamey

Fr Mauro Armanino SMA (**UPDATE**: spoke of Easter celebrations after listing the churches destroyed by arson in January 2015 "The faithful will feel protected for a day, within the courtyard where there will be armed police in uniform. The rest of the day will be spent quietly and maybe even the day after, recognized as a public holiday in Niger, but then discrimination will continue as before")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37575->

[AFRICA_NIGER_The_churches_burned_in_January_will_be_protected_at_Easter_but_t
hen_discrimination_will_continue_as_before_says_a_missionary#.VRzM78JTEfg](#)

Thursday April 2, 2015



Turkmenistan: Turkmenabad

Rustam Nazarov (arrested on [February 6, 2015](#), beaten, **UPDATE**: sentenced to 15 days' imprisonment for demanding the court give him a written decision of his February 6, 2015 conviction)

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



Kenya: Garissa

Garissa University College Islamic terror attack

Alex (aged 19, student, survived the terror attack)

Alfred Mutua (shot in the leg, survived)

Anderson Owalo (shot five times, survived)

Collins Wetangula (student, described the al-Shabab attack on Garissa University College in which Muslims were freed and 148 others mostly Christians were killed and 104 injured, said he and his roommates locked themselves in their dorm room, added "All I could hear were footsteps and gunshots. Nobody was screaming because they thought this would lead the gunmen to know where they are...If you were a Christian, you were shot on the spot. With each blast of the gun, I thought I was going to die")

Cynthia Cheroitich (aged 19, survived the al-Shabab terror attack, hid in a cabinet, prayed "make them to be blind so they cannot see me", a terrorist opened the cabinet, moved a bag that covered her head, and did not see her)

Daisy Onyango (aged 20, hid from the terrorists, survived)

Duncan Obwamu (aged 25, student, saw a woman leading Christian prayers shot dead at the beginning of the attack, said of the shooter "He didn't say anything, but you could see from the look on his face he was very happy. I heard him laugh as he communicated with the others outside. He was very happy about what he'd done", shot in the arm and shoulder, pretended to be dead)

Elias Magangi Nyangwono (aged 23, first year education major, escaped the terror attack, both roommates - Isaac Pop Bushen Kosgei and Gideon - were killed)

Esther Kawira (student, survived the terror attack, said "Bullets missed me narrowly as I fled for my life while the terrorists were separating Muslims from non-Muslims before gunning down the Christians")

Eva Chepkemai (shot in the left leg, survived)

Fred Kaskon Musinai (father of Garissa University student Elizabeth Namarome Musinai, called at 1 by an al-Shabab terrorist who said "I am going to kill your daughter", after gunshots were heard told him "She is now with her God")

Frederick Gitonga (aged 21, student, survived the terror attack on Garissa University College because he had been up late praying with a classmate and missed the morning prayer meeting, hid under his bed)

Grace Kai (student, said "Some strangers had been spotted in Garissa town and were suspected to be terrorists. Then on Monday our college principal told us that strangers had been spotted in our college. On Tuesday we were released to go home, and our college closed, but the campus remained in session, and now they have been attacked")

Joel Ayora (said the terrorists first burst into a church service, seized worshippers, and "proceeded to the hostels, shooting anybody they came across except their fellows, the Muslims")

Bishop Joseph Alessandro OFM Cap. (Maltese national, said "We woke up with the noise of helicopters flying low over the town and ambulance and police sirens blaring. We immediately understood that something serious happened...It is very sad that this attack is happening during the Easter festivities...Most of the students in the college are not from here, they are not Somali, and they are not Muslims")

Kaberia Muiti (shot twice in the back, survived)

Maureen Manyego (aged 21, heard al-Shabab terrorists tell students "We are not bad guys, we are just here to make your Easter Holiday better" before shooting them)

Mercy Chepkorir (shot in both legs, survived)

Millicent Murugi (student, survived the terror attack on Garissa University College, said "One terrorist picked up a call from a phone on a dead body close by, and he said that they were continuing to kill their children, and that they need to know that Garissa is for Muslims only")

Peter Njue (shot in the chest, stomach and left arm, survived)

Rachel Gikonyo (shot seven times in her stomach and chest, survived, cannot feel her legs due to spinal damage)

Reuben Mwavita (aged 21, student, saw three female students shot dead while they prayed)

Rose Nafula (mother of Elizabeth Namarome Musinai, in shock)

Susan Kitoko (aged 24, student, jumped from a window to escape the terrorists, hip broken)

Amos Simiyu (first year student at Garissa University College, hid from the al-Shabab terrorists under a staircase where the thrown grenades were deflected by a wall, saw them retrieve ammunition from caches hidden in the dormitory, then use knives when they ran out of ammunition)

Gideon Nyabwengi (aged 19, student, saw his best friend killed while begging for mercy during the [April 2, 2015](#) attack on Garissa University College, said "When we went to that university, we thought what kind of university is this? The lack of security was a major

thing. When you got your letter of admission to Garissa some people were saying it wasn't safe to go. This thing was being predicted")

Stanley Muli (aged 22, student, hid in his wardrobe during the [April 2, 2015 attack](#) on Garissa University College, said "I was just praying [to] God that the [Kenya Defence Forces] would come. I was just thinking how come they have taken so long, because the barracks are near. The government failed to protect us. We are angry, because we lost some of our best friends. How come security wasn't there when we were at the university? They took no care")

Elsie Karemi (survived the Garissa University College Islamic terror attack, said "I heard gun shots at 5.50am and I managed to hide in the wardrobe for one and a half days. When I was rescued I found out my roommates did not survive. Because of my tiny wardrobe space, I was unable to walk for two weeks after that but I thank God for sparing my life")

Abwamu Duncan (survived the Garissa University College Islamic terror attack, shot in the arm then twice more as she pretended to be dead)

Anatstaciah Mikwa (student, wounded in the [April 2, 2015](#) Islamist attack on Garissa University College)

Abel Mukhwana Watola (**killed**)

Adhola Ochiel (**killed**)

Aggrey Momanyi (**killed**)

Agnes Mwendu Muthama (**killed**)

Agnetta Chite (**killed**)

Alex Mueri Muchiro (**killed**)

Alex Omorwa Mogaka (aged 19, only child, **killed**)

Alice Anyango Oduor (**killed**)

Alice Mbete Mulu (**killed**)

Amos Wanyonyi Mwangangi (**killed**)

Annetter Miller (**killed**)

Angela KaJojo Nyokabi Githakwa (aged 21, **killed**)

Anna Bosibori Ongwae (**killed**)

Aquilla Mulekye Mulei (**killed**)

Ayub Njau Kimotho (aged 21, second year business major, **killed**)

Beatrice Njeri Thinwa (aged 20, **killed**)

Bernard Kipkemboi Tonui (police officer, RECCE [SWAT] team, **killed**)

Beth Njambi Gakenya (**killed**)

Bilha Njeri Gitau (**killed**)

Branton Wakhungu Anyanza (aged 20, **killed**)

Caroline Karimi Gicovi (killed)
Caroline Koech (killed)
Caroline Mukami Ndumia (aged 20, killed)
Carolyne Njoki Gathito (killed)
Catherine Mbithe Mutuku (killed)
Christopher Odhiambo Okoth (killed)
Christopher Onderi Nyakundi (killed)
Clinton Nyang'au Keffa (killed)
Cyrus Sila Mutuko (killed)
Dadley Mose (killed)
Dan Mwiti (killed)
David Emmanuel Otieno (killed)
Dennis Munuve (killed)
Dennis Ouma Onyango (killed)
Dianah Musabi (killed)
Dorcas Kagusina Julius (killed)
Doreen 'Special Rose' Gakii (killed)
Dorothy Nyongesa (killed)
Duncan Mwendwa Kalekye (killed)
Duncan Mwitw Bani (killed)
Ebby Alice Omari (killed)
Edna Muthoni Michael (killed)
Edward Wafula (killed)
Elider Obiero Atieno (killed)
Eliud Wafula Musambai (killed)
Elizabeth Kerubo Nyangarora (killed)
Elizabeth Nafula (killed)
Elizabeth Namarome Musinai (aged 20, daughter of Fred Kaskon Musinai and Rose Nafula ,
education major, called her father during the attack to say "There are gunshots
everywhere! Tell Mum to pray for me — I don't know if I will survive", killed)
Emily Namaemba (killed)
Emma Mutahi (killed)
Eric Ondari Nyabuto (killed)

Erick Gwaro Kombo (killed)
Evans (killed)
Everlyne Lodengo (killed)
Faith Chepchirchir Komen (aged 21, education major, killed)
Faith Kendi Gituma (killed)
Faith Kinyala (killed)
Franciscah Ndungwa Joseph (killed)
Fredrick Okoth Odhiambo (killed)
Gideon Bryson Mwakuleghwa (aged 21, education major, killed)
Gideon Kipkurui (killed)
Hanna Nduta (killed)
Harriet Chemoita Andole (killed)
Hellen (killed)
Isaac Pop Bushen Kosgei (aged 20, education major, killed)
Isaia Chebukto (killed)
Ivy Beatrice Wanjiku Kihia (killed)
Jacinta Mwinza Musyoki (killed)
Jacinta Njeri Mwangi (only child, killed)
Jacinta Njoki Miller (second year student, Red Cross treasurer, killed)
Jackson Kipketer Tanui (killed)
Jacob Makokha (killed)
James Ochonde (killed)
Jane Kanorio (killed)
Jane Nyambura Mugeru (killed)
Janet Akinyi (student, texted her boyfriend to say she loved him before she was killed)
Jeff Macharia Ninjire (killed)
Jessica Cheronu (killed)
Joash Obare Mosiria (killed)
Job Njue (student, Red Cross volunteer, UN High Commissioner of Refugees worker, killed)
John Mwani Maina (killed)
Jolly Kananya (killed)
Joseph Ngacha Nderitu (killed)
Josephine Nyaboke Onyantha (killed)

Joy Chepkorir Kibor (aged 20, education major, **killed**)
Joyce Wakiuru Waweru (**killed**)
Judith Chepkemboi (aged 19, education major, **killed**)
Kennedy Ouma Glenson Echessa (**killed**)
Kevin Langat (**killed**)
Kevin Ouma Odongo (**killed**)
Laban Kumba Daniel Kangeri (student, attempted to disarm one of the terrorists, **killed**)
Leah N Wafula (aged 21, **killed**)
Lucy Nyambura (**killed**)
Lucy Waithira Irungu (**killed**)
Lydia Melody Akoth Obondi (**killed**)
Macline Ubue (**killed**)
Marion Musenya (**killed**)
Mary Muchiri Shree (**killed**)
Mary Wanjiru Muchiri (**killed**)
Mildred Chitechi (**killed**)
Mildred Nyendo Wakholi (**killed**)
Milton Namai Mukhwana (**killed**)
Miriam Hawa (**killed**)
Mlindiro Peter Magio (**killed**)
Monica Ngwasi (**killed**)
Moses Njuguna (**killed**)
Mukhwana Abel (**killed**)
Mumo Kilozo (**killed**)
Mwende (**killed**)
Newton Karani (**killed**)
Oliver Maina (**killed**)
Onyinkwa Susan Kwamboka (**killed**)
Peter Maside Nyangure (aged 32, police officer, expectant father, **killed**)
Peter Odhiambo Omondi (**killed**)
Peter Yule (**killed**)
Philomena Kasyoka Munyoki (**killed**)
Philemon Thakaramoi Madaa (**killed**)

Prisca Auma Wayodi (killed)
Pricilla Kathure Akwalu (killed)
Purity Kawira Kaunyangi (killed)
Risper Maggie (killed)
Romana Sambu Chelagat (killed)
Ruth Esiromo Nakhanu (killed)
Salome Wambui Kinuthia (killed)
Samuel Michere Gakuru (killed)
Samuel Mutiso Musau (killed)
Samuel Mwangi Maingi (aged 24, business major, killed)
Samuel Nyabote (education major, killed)
Selpher Solo Wandia (aged 21, education major, killed)
Shelia Cherop (killed)
Solomon Oludo (KDF soldier, killed)
Stella Wamalwa Nyongesa (killed)
Stephen Mutua (killed)
Susan Akinyi Othwila (killed)
Susan Anyango Othwilla (killed)
Susan Nduta Wangare (killed)
Thomas Nyaiburi (killed)
Tobias Simiyu (killed)
Tony Opiyo Ochieng (killed)
Tony Wangu (killed)
Tracy Angela (killed)
Veronica Felix (killed)
Veronica Syokau (second year student, killed)
Victor Mbogo (killed)
Virginia Simiyu (killed)
Yvonne Makori (killed)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/04/3796287>

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/04/02/al-shabaab-targeting-christian-students-in-garissa-kenya-university-attack/>

<http://www.misna.org/en/other/attack-against-garissa-university-they-entered-and-opened-fire-02-04-2015-813.html>

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/there-are-gunshots-everywhere-tell-mum-to-pray-for-me-terrorists-made-garissa-students-call-parents-before-slaughter-in-kenya-136912/>
<http://www.raymondibrahim.com/muslim-persecution-of-christians/are-you-muslim-or-christian-death-to-christians/>
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201504030348.html>
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/04/03/us-kenya-security-college-survivors-idUSKBN0MU12P20150403>
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201504100936.html>
<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/04/shocked-kenyans-grieve-worst-islamic-extremist-assault-since-1998/>
<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/04/3808973/>
<https://twitter.com/search?q=%23147notjustanumber&src=tyah>
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201504071152.html>
<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/04/shocked-kenyans-grieve-worst-islamic-extremist-assault-since-1998/>
<http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2015/June/Garissa-Survivor-I-Prayed-Make-Them-to-Be-Blind/>
http://www.christiantoday.com/article/the_garissa_massacre_stories_from_the_survivors/60079.htm
<http://www.persecution.org/2016/02/12/how-a-persecuted-christian-brought-to-the-edge-of-death-in-kenya-can-forgive-her-persecutors/>



Syria: Aleppo

Bishop George Abu Khazen OFM (**UPDATE:** said "These are difficult days, especially after the fall of Idlib [which] is not far from Aleppo and people fear the same might happen here. Yet, in spite of fears, Christians are taking part in Holy Week rites and the churches are always packed...the presence and the number of faithful on Palm Sunday was beautiful and touching. [Despite shelling] everywhere, people were not afraid and attended Mass and the procession with their children. For the youngest, it was a special feast, for they carried the adorned candles during the procession...Faith is really stronger than fear")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Vicar-of-Aleppo:-Despite-the-war,-churches-crowded-for-Easter-33889.html>



Egypt: Cairo

'Mama' Maggie Gobran (former marketing executive and university professor, wife of Ibrahim, works with the largely Christian 'garbage people', has helped over 30,000 people)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/issues/april-3rd-2015/the-angel-among-the-garbage-pickers/>

Friday April 3, 2015
Good Friday – Western Calendar



India: Swar, Rampur district, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Daniel Singh (Good Friday service interrupted by Hindu extremists who threatened to burn down his church, the BJP district president threatened to terminate the job of a church member)

Kurian Joseph (Supreme Court judge, boycotted a judicial conference that was scheduled on Good Friday)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/04/hindu-extremists-block-good-friday-service-beat-christians-in-uttar-pradesh-india/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/06/3909729/>



Iraq: Erbil

Fr Janan Shamil Azeez (reported to have spoken on the visit of papal envoy Cardinal Fernando Filoni to the refugee camps for Easter “Everyone understands that they are not alone in their suffering; this helps them find the strength to endure the situation. Since the beginning of this tragedy, the refugees and the bishops have always asked not to be left alone...In our Eastern tradition, we never dwell upon to the cross. The cross is not a curse, but a tool of glory, which refers to the resurrection”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Iraqi-priest:-Even-among-Mosul-refugees,-life-and-resurrection-win-over-death-33896.html>



Kenya: Mombasa

Bishop Julius Kalu (said after the al-Shabab attack on Garissa University College in which Muslims were freed and 148 others mostly Christians were killed and 104 injured, "Terrorists wanted to divide the country into religious factions and that must be resisted")

Kenya: Nairobi

Cardinal John Njue (read a message of prayer and condolences from Pope Francis to the people of Kenya for the al-Shabab attack on Garissa University College in which Muslims were freed and 148 others mostly Christians were killed and 104 injured)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/there-are-gunshots-everywhere-tell-mum-to-pray-for-me-terrorists-made-garissa-students-call-parents-before-slaughter-in-kenya-136912/>



Egypt: Minya

Bishop Agathon (condemned a police attack on a diocesan building as an “insult to Christian sanctities”)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=60491>



Vatican City: St Peter's Basilica

Fr Raniero Cantalamessa OFM Cap. (Preacher to the Papal Household, said in a homily during the Passion of Our Lord “For once let us not think about social evils collectively: hunger, poverty, injustice, the exploitation of the weak. These evils are spoken about often [even if it is never enough], but there is the risk that they become abstractions — categories rather than persons. Let us think instead of the suffering of individuals, people with names and specific identities, of the tortures that are decided upon in cold blood and voluntarily inflicted at this very moment by human beings on other human beings, even on babies...How many instances of 'Ecce homo' ['Behold the man!'] there are in the world! How many prisoners who find themselves in the same situation as Jesus in Pilate's praetorium: alone, hand-cuffed, tortured, at the mercy of rough soldiers full of hate who engage in every kind of physical and psychological cruelty and who enjoy watching people suffer. 'We must not sleep; we must not leave them [the persecuted in the image of Christ] alone!'")

<http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/father-cantalamessa-s-good-friday-homily--8>



United States

Three Christian leaders issue a call for prayer for the persecuted, "This Holy Week we are calling upon Christians to also reflect upon the crucifixion, beheading, stoning, enforced slavery, sexual abuse, human trafficking, harassment, bombing and displacement of hundreds of thousands of Christians — and others — whose faith

alone has made them a target of religious extremists. These communities need our love and support like never before, and they also need security and protection from the world like never before", call has been joined by 80 others

Cardinal Timothy Dolan

Roma Downey (television producer)

Mark Burnett (television producer)

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/04/03/living/last-easter-iraq/index.html>

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/over-80-christian-leaders-respond-to-call-for-prayer-issued-by-cardinal-dolan-roma-downey-and-mark-burnett-for-persecuted-believers-136902/>

Saturday April 4, 2015



Pakistan: Lahore

Four Christians threatened with death for helping others build churches

Javed David (**UPDATE:** said "It was 8 o'clock in the evening when we left to return to Lahore. We were about to reach the main road when a motorbike drove up and blocked the way. Maybe they were following us. The two bikers were wearing a helmet. One of them came up to my window and spoke to me. 'We know what you are doing here,' he said. 'Stop building churches. Convert to Islam, which is the true religion. Otherwise we will make a horrible example of you", added "My family and I are scared and worried because I continue to receive threats. Where can we go to enjoy religious freedom? This is our country; we have lived here for generations. After the tragedy in Youhanabad, circumstances have changed and now there is more fear. Still, I dedicated my life to Christ and I shall continue to serve His people, no matter what happens")

John Akram

Ata-ur-Rehman (said "Right now we were shocked and frightened. Previously, when we bought land to build the church in Sheikhpura, we met resistance from some members of the local Muslim community, but then it all worked out. The head of the local madrassa [Islamic school] laid the first brick. Both communities live in peace there, although we have seen rising religious intolerance")

Saman Joy Alexander

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



Kazakhstan: Oral

Nikolai Novikov (aged 34, husband, father of four; **UPDATE**: police have begun steps to prosecute him even though the statute of limitations for his 'offense' has expired)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2056



Kenya: Garissa

Cynthia Cheroitich (aged 19, student, survived the al-Shabab terror attack, hid in a cabinet, prayed "make them to be blind so they cannot see me", a terrorist opened the cabinet, moved a bag that covered her head, and did not see her; **UPDATE**: remained there for two days and drank lotion to survive, came out only after a teacher convinced her that the terrorists were dead)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/i-was-just-praying-to-my-god-christian-student-who-drank-lotion-to-survive-found-two-days-after-kenya-massacre-136925/>

Sunday April 5, 2015

Easter (Pascha) – Western Calendar

Palm Sunday – Eastern Calendar



India: Makthal Mandhal village, Mahabubnagar district, Telangana state

Rev Christopher Meesaul (returned with his parishioners from an outdoor sunrise service to their church to find two Hindu nationalist flags flying inside it, took down the flags, Hindu nationalists later invaded the service, threw the flags into a sewer and photographed them, forced to end the service and forcibly taken to a Hindu temple, said that on the way “The extremists mob were walking both on my left and right sides, and some were walking behind me while they all mocked me, abused my faith in Christ, pushed and slapped me from both sides, and they kicked me from behind as well”, rescued by police, added “Under the extremists’ pressure, the police officials told me to move back the front side of the church from the road by three feet, and they told me to oblige and not to file any police complaint on the matter. I was compelled to do it”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/04/bones-broken-in-attack-on-evangelistic-gathering-in-telangana-state-india/>

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/04/30/three-attacks-in-30-days-anti-christian-violence-continues-in-indias-mahabubnagar-district/>



Egypt: Khattara village

Fr Ezekiel Khalil (reported on a church closed by fanatics since 1960, which could serve 102 Coptic families if reopened)

Egypt: Galaa village, Samalot

Sobhi Qelieny (described how Copts were attacked, beaten, their shops destroyed, and then how police arrested 12 of them along with their attackers in an attempt to force a reconciliation meeting)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1350&A=18247>

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1350&A=18242>



Tanzania: Mkuranga, Pwani region

Peter (church leader, said that Christian opposition to a bill establishing Islamic courts resulted in three gunmen attacking a church with police injured, said "There is a lot of tension now between Christians and Muslims and we fear civil war might erupt")

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



Kenya: Garissa

Christians attended Easter Mass after the Garissa University College terror attack

Dominick Odhiambo (said "We just keep on praying that God can help us, to comfort us in this difficult time")

Samuel Wanje (aged 27, said "Everyone is anxious and you never know what will happen next, but we believe the biggest protector is God and we are praying")

Roseline Oduor (said "Having courage as a Christian, we just have that faith with coming to church. We have gone through what Jesus went through")

http://www.persecution.com/public/newsroom.aspx?story_ID=%3d373536&featuredstory_ID=%3d343935

Monday April 6, 2015



Bangladesh: Moulovobazar district

Tribal congregation attacked during Mass, US\$4,437 stolen, Bibles, crosses, religious pictures, musical instruments, and homes destroyed, goats and chickens killed

Fr James Kiron Rozario CSC (congregation attacked during Mass, tried to protect them, stabbed, in serious condition)

Bishop Bejoy N D' Cruze OMI (reported on the attack, said "We want justice and security for our priests and our faithful. We hope that the government will find a peaceful solution and that our people can live free from tensions")

Nirmal Rozario (general secretary of the Bangladesh Christian Association; **UPDATE:** said "We express our strong condemnation of the attack on the priest and the community. We demand that the perpetrators are caught and brought to justice")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bishop-of-Sylhet:-Protection-for-tribal-Catholics,-victims-of-expropriation-and-threats-34004.html>



Iraq: Al-Qosh

Samer (husband of Amira, father of Oneil, refugee)

Amira (wife of Samer, mother of Oneil, refugee)

Oneil (son of Samer and Amira, refugee)

Fr Aram (spoke on the August 2014 arrival of the refugees after the advance of ISIL "This isn't the first time people are fleeing their homes in Mosul and other villages and coming here. But this time it was like an exodus")

Nassir (aged 50, militia member)

Iwan Massieh (aged 22, supports Christians who have taken up arms with the militia)

Iraq: Erbil

Mirna Fadi (aged 9, refugee, said of life in the refugee camp "We want to live in a healthy and clean place. There are so many diseases spreading here. There are bugs everywhere, and some of us have scabies")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150406154339.htm>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150406155517.htm>



Nigeria: Gidan Maso village, Rogo local government area, Kano state

Yahaya Joshua (convert from Christianity to Islam, reverted back to Christianity, mob rioted with the intent of killing him, escaped)

Rev Habila Garba (residence destroyed by arson after the reconversion of Yahaya Joshua, daughter died of smoke inhalation)

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2015/04/church-razed-pastors-daughter-killed-in-kano/#sthash.lpJRBBWe.dpuf>



Canada: Toronto, Ontario

Rev David Lynn (street preacher, as of [September 30, 2014](#) has been cited by police under the busking law for using an amplifier in Yonge-Dundas Square in Toronto, others doing the same were not cited; **UPDATE**: charges dropped)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue26540.html>



Mexico: Salvatierra, Guanajuato

Fr Francisco Javier Gutierrez Diaz (aged 60, **murdered** in an apparent robbery)

Cardinal Alberto Suarez Inda (condemned the murder of Fr Francisco Javier Gutierrez Diaz)

Fr Prisciliano Hernandez (said "I can't find the words to express my pain at the death of my friend and my brother [Fr Francisco Javier Gutierrez Diaz], who in his life cut down evil and hate. It's a cruel injury that wounds the soul of his family, his friends and a community that prized and loved the priest...He's one more victim of the violence that lives in our country")

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/priest-murdered-in-mexico-yet-again-archbishop-asks-when-will-bloodshed-end-137270/>

Tuesday April 7, 2015



Iraq: Erbil

Shelan Jibrael (aid worker, has been helping Christian and Yazidi refugees)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150407002315.htm>



Kenya: Garissa

Samuel Koech (relative of Isaac Kosgei, Joy Chepkorir, and Faith Chepkorir, said "It was really difficult to identify the bodies of our children. We kept on looking from one hospital to the other without much success")

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201504100936.html>



Syria: Aleppo

Safouh Al-Mosleh (aged 40-plus, Caritas employee, **killed** in a mortar attack)

<http://www.caritas.org/2015/04/caritas-mourns-colleague-killed-in-syria/>



Libya

Five Eritrean teen boys were captured on **March 3, 2015 and forced to watch the execution of the 30 Ethiopians by ISIL, UPDATE: escaped**

Nael Goitom (aged 16, said "I'm starting to process it now. Until a few days ago it was just a matter of survival. Now I have a lot of nightmares, I keep seeing people being slaughtered and shot one by one")

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>

Wednesday April 8, 2015



India: Swar, Rampur district, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Daniel Singh (Good Friday service on [April 3, 2015](#) interrupted by Hindu extremists who threatened to burn down his church, the BJP district president threatened to terminate the job of a church member, **UPDATE**: a court ordered him to vacate the premises)

India: Pebbair village, Mahabubnagar district, Telangana state

Church meeting attacked by RSS paramilitaries and Bajrang Dal youth members

Pastor Y Prathap (beaten, upper lip cut, said “The extremists with knives and clubs stormed the prayer meeting and randomly beat up the Christians, including one pregnant woman and children, and threatened to stab the Christians with their knives...It was only after four days that an FIR [police report] was registered against the attackers following the state home minister’s instruction to make the arrests”)

Pastor Sudhakar (beaten, leg broken, hospitalized)

Pastor Timothy (beaten, hands fractured)

Pastor Yesu Tidam (beaten, hands fractured)

Rev Sunder Paul (described the attack, said “The SHO [police station] booked the attackers under petty sections, while they should be booked under more serious sections of the Indian Penal Code as they hurt our religious sentiments by hurling verbal abuse against our faith, and our friend Pastor Sudhakar is still battling for life in the hospital”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/04/hindu-extremists-block-good-friday-service-beat-christians-in-uttar-pradesh-india/>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/04/bones-broken-in-attack-on-evangelistic-gathering-in-telangana-state-india/>

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/04/30/three-attacks-in-30-days-anti-christian-violence-continues-in-indias-mahabubnagar-district/>



United Kingdom: London

Victoria Wasteney (occupational therapist in East London, disciplined on [July 1, 2014](#) for praying for the health of a Muslim co-worker despite the co-worker agreeing to her prayer and despite a witness testifying he was pressured into making a statement against her; **UPDATE**: the Employment Tribunal ruled in her employer's favor, said that giving a Christian book to her co-worker constituted "harassing and bullying")

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/employment/christian-nhs-worker-wrong-to-talk-about-faith-says-tribunal>

Thursday April 9, 2015



Australia

Fr Mark Durie (said "There is a kind of popular mood of hatred of Christianity" in response to an actor saying she was 'elated' at the destruction by arson in the week prior to Easter of four churches where three decades earlier pedophile attacks on children had occurred)

Date: April 9, 2015

Location: Melbourne, Victoria state

Source: <http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/opinion-leftist-media-seems-to-be-deaf-when-it-comes-to-crimes-against-christians/story-fnihsr9v-1227296017878>



Azerbaijan: Lokbatan, outside Baku

Police raid a worship service in a private home, 13 participants detained for questioning, Bibles, phones, and tablets seized

Goderdzi Kvaratskhelia (Georgian citizen, detained, questioned, released)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2086



Kenya: Nairobi

Frederick Gitonga (aged 21, student, survived the terror attack on Garissa University College; **UPDATE:** said at a memorial service “It’s so painful to see people you know butchered like cows. They died for confessing Christ, but I put it to you... Who will stand up and say enough is enough?”)

Bishop Mark Kariuki (**UPDATE:** said “Churches have been bombed. People have been killed. Are we going to sit and wait for the next attack? We must stand up and say enough is enough!”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/04/3808973/>



Syria: Damascus

Bishop Mario Zenari (apostolic nuncio, **UPDATE:** described the events surrounding the ISIL takeover of the Palestinian refugee camp outside the capital “At Christmas in 2013, I got some money from Palestinian Christian schools for their suffering brothers. I worked hard to do get aid to its destination, but it was not easy. In the past, it was very risky to venture near the camp. Now, the area is off-limits”, added information about other locations: “The Christian Quarter [of Aleppo] was shelled recently. [So was Homs,] I was there just a few days ago to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of Fr Frans van der Lugt...The situation is serious not only in Syria but throughout the region. Just think about what is happening in Iraq, Yemen...It is the Middle East that is burning”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Nuncio-in-Damascus-calls-Yarmouk,-a-disgrace-unfolding-amid-a-silent-international-community-33935.html>



Egypt: Al-Nasriah village, Bani Mazar, Minya province

Gad Youssef Younan (aged 22, English teacher, arrested on charges of contempt of religion for a Facebook post)

C M (secondary school student, arrested on charges of insulting Islam after he, three other students and a teacher, made a video that satirized the Islamic State)

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/06/09/egyptian-christian-teen-released-on-bail-after-62-days/>
<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=60501>



Ukraine: Pochayiv, Ternopil region

Metropolitan Vladimir (criticized the government for its seizure of the Holy Dormition Pochayiv Lavra [Cathedral and monastery complex] “On Holy Thursday the Church remembers the Last Supper and the betrayal of Judas who betrayed Christ the Savior for thirty pieces of silver. These events happened twenty centuries ago. Time passes, but the personalities and the deeds remain the same”)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2015/05/the-pochayiv-lavra-in-the-ukraine-may-be-transferred-to-the-state/>

Friday April 10, 2015

Great and Holy Friday – Eastern Calendar



China

Lina Chen (member of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Diocese of Hong Kong, reported in [Bangkok, Thailand](#) on the situation in China regarding religious and political liberty)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Justice-and-Peace-Commission-in-Hong-Kong,-in-support-of-the-democratic-umbrella-movement-33941.html>



Pakistan: Lahore, Punjab province

Nouman Masih (aged 14, tailor, set on fire by two Muslims in a random attack, attack began after he admitted he was a Christian, hospitalized with 55% of his body burnt, fears he will be killed in a future attack)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/two-muslims-burn-14-year-old-christian-boy-in-pakistan-victim-in-hospital-with-55-burn-137348/>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5281>



Azerbaijan: Baku

Valida Jabrayilova (aged 38, cited for distributing religious literature door to door in [Pirallahi](#) on [December 5, 2014](#), detained by the NSM secret police on [February 17, 2014](#) for a pretrial detention of three months', facing possible five years' imprisonment; **UPDATE**: specific charges still not made against her, request to be transferred from the NSM headquarters to house arrest denied, three Muslim prisoners with similar allegations granted house arrest)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2054



Syria: Aleppo

Micheal Abaji (aged 53, supervisor of the St Elias Assyrian Catholic Monastery for the elderly, **killed** in a market by an explosive drum along with at least 20 others)

Up to 40 Christians killed in a rocket attack in the Sulaymaniyah district of Aleppo

Anwar George Simon (aged 21, brother of Michel George Simon, Salesian animator, **killed** along with his mother Minerva)

Michel George Simon (aged 17, brother of Anwar George Simon, Salesian animator, **killed** along with his mother Minerva)

Minerva Micheal Ghazal El Bar (**killed**)

Tony Qaswat (**killed along with his wife and two daughters**)

Maha Jamil Dyarbakerli (**killed**)

Donna Jean Jacob (**killed**)

Johnny Beshish (**killed**)

Juliana Beshish (**killed**)

Bishop George Abu Khazen OFM (**UPDATE**: said "Over night between Friday and Saturday, in the middle the Orthodox Easter, the Christian area was heavily shelled by heavy weapons, and rockets, which we never saw before, up to three meters long - [this is] something new, with enormous destructive power...we had become used to gunfire and mortars. [Now] five-story buildings have been gutted, buildings razed to the ground. People are afraid to go out into the street and are trapped...[I have] never seen anything like it... We wept when we saw the suffering in the eyes of the people, the scores of bodies under the rubble of collapsed houses. In the Christian quarter alone, we have already buried 12 people, including four from the same family. But there are still several bodies under the rubble, as well as people with serious injuries and we expect the toll to get worse in the coming hours")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/As-the-conflict-escalates,-the-situation-in-Aleppo's-Christian-quarter-worsens,-says-apostolic-vicar-33975.html>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150413162921.htm>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37624->

[ASIA SYRIA Bombings on Christian neighborhoods in Aleppo also two young Sa
lesian animators killed#.VS3vEcJTEfg](#)



Germany: Berlin

Archpriest Peter Pakholkov (described the bombing of the Church of the Holy Prince Vladimir by the Konigsberg Legion, a neo-Nazi group)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/78878.htm>



United States - New Jersey: Somerville

Patricia Jannuzzi (aged 57, parochial high school religious teacher, effectively fired from her teaching position on [March 12, 2015](#) for commenting on Facebook that arguments in favor of same sex marriage were “bologna”; **UPDATE**: reinstated, principal called the media coverage of her position “erroneous and hurtful”)

[http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/after-controversy-nj-catholic-school-reinstates-
teacher-with-plea-for-truth-and-charity-44523/](http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/after-controversy-nj-catholic-school-reinstates-teacher-with-plea-for-truth-and-charity-44523/)

Saturday April 11, 2015



China: Huocheng County, Yili Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture, Xinjiang

He Mengting (home raided by police, nursery school teachers arrested for giving students Bible lessons)

Lou Nannan (daughter of Pastor Lou Yuanqi, nursery school teacher, arrested at the home of He Mengting for giving students Bible lessons)

Zhang Heng’En (nursery school teacher, arrested at the home of He Mengting for giving students Bible lessons)

Pastor Lou Yuanqi (father of Lou Nannan; **UPDATE**: denied access to police records after his daughter’s arrest for giving nursery school students Bible lessons)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=62750>

Sunday April 12, 2015
Pascha (Easter) – Eastern Calendar



Italy: San Feliciano

Fr Lanfranco Rossi (aged 60, **killed by strangulation** after beaten with a blunt object)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2015/04/22/priest-found-murdered-in-outskirts-of-rome/>

Monday April 13, 2015



North Korea

Rev Kim Dong-Shik (U.S. permanent resident, abducted in China by North Korean agents where he had operated underground shelters for North Korean refugees, later **died of starvation after months of torture** in a North Korean prison camp, **UPDATE**: family awarded a US\$330 million wrongful death settlement in a U.S. court in **Washington, DC** against the North Korean government)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/us-court-awards-330-million-to-family-of-slain-missionary-in-landmark-judgment-against-north-korea-137448/>



India

Sajan K George (**UPDATE**: called for the arrest and prosecution of Hindu Mahasabha leader Sadhvi Deva Thakur under the religious incitement laws for her statement that the federal government should impose emergency rule and forcibly sterilize all Christians and Muslims, Thakur also called for the erection of a statue to honor Nathuram Godse, the RSS paramilitary member who assassinated Mahatma Gandhi in 1948, and for Hindu idols to be placed in all churches and mosques)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Radical-Hindu-leader-calls-for-the-forced-sterilisation-of-Christians-and-Muslims-33962.html>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37618->

[ASIA_INDIA Hindu extremist leader Sterilise Christians and Muslims in India#.VSyQccJTEfg](#)



Kenya

Frederick Gitonga (aged 21, student, survived the terror attack on Garissa University College;

UPDATE: said “Please pray for us...Many saw sights too horrible to describe. Pray for me too. I need peace of mind, strength and wisdom. I am struggling with dreams that cause me to snap awake, then cannot get back to sleep. I find myself remembering the horror of that day. The sounds and smells come back clearly...I have not been to my home area since the incident because I felt I could not rest until my friends are laid to rest. This weekend I and two other Fellowship of Christian University Students’ officials will travel to Bungoma, Western Kenya, to lay our friends Edward, Evans, Emily and Tobias to rest. Then I will attend Sammy and Philomena’s burials in Kitui, before I finally go home to rest. It is much, but these were not just fellow students and fellow CU officials, they were also my close friends and prayer partners. I have to say goodbye”)

Dr Nelson Makanda (deputy general secretary of the National Council of Churches, said “We have come together because a Christian community has been butchered. They are, to us, martyrs of today. They chose to live faith and died for it...Northern Kenya is being asserted as a zone of a certain religion. We need to ask, is this what we want? Christians have a right to any part within the Kenyan borders”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/04/3808973/>



Russia: Orel

Pastor Pavel Pilipchuk (fined US\$557 on [August 11, 2014](#) for illegally organizing an outdoor Palm Sunday worship service despite testimony that he was not present; appeal rejected on [September 29, 2014](#); fine doubled on [December 22, 2014](#) for non-payment;

UPDATE: imprisoned for 5 days for non-payment)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2059



Nigeria

Dr Rebecca Dali (wife of Rev Samuel Dante Dali; **UPDATE**: said near the first anniversary of the abduction of the 232 schoolgirls from Chibok “We don’t know about their fate. If Boko Haram married them off, as they claimed, and took them as their wives, some of them may be killed by now. Because in recent weeks, as the Army advances against them, witnesses report that militants have slaughtered lots of their wives. They said they don’t want infidels to marry their wives”)

Nigeria: Saminaka, Lere local government area, Kaduna state

Pastor Emmanuel Danjuma Garkida (husband, father, stabbed several times by Muslim youths, saved by an older Muslim, hospitalized)

Habila Daniel (**killed** by Muslim youth)

Danlami Gaba (**killed** by Muslim youth)

Michael Timothy Yusuf Usman (**killed** by Muslim youth)

Stephen Galadima (**killed** by Muslim youth)

Joshua Akpama (final year economics student at Ahmadu Bello University, **killed** by Muslim youth)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/04/3808932>

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2015/05/kaduna-attackers-wanted-my-head-for-being-an-infidel-redeemed-church-pastor/>



United Kingdom: Manchester

Aisleen Hubert (aged 21, as of **October 27, 2014** has brought a private prosecution against 2 doctors implicated in illegal gender-selection abortions after Crown prosecutors refused to prosecute; Crown prosecutors announced on **March 13, 2015** 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; **UPDATE**: has been ordered to pay £25,000 - US\$36,800 - to the court in costs for bringing the prosecution, said “There is a huge injustice here. There was clear video evidence that two doctors were willing to offer an abortion on the grounds of the child being the ‘wrong’ gender. That is against the law and yet the CPS and the Judge were not prepared to allow evidence to come to Court that could have secured a conviction. Every week CCTV footage is used by police and the CPS to convict criminals in our Magistrate and Crown Courts and yet, in this case, the CPS and the judge have turned a blind eye”)

Andrea Minichiello Williams (**UPDATE**: said of the court decision to charge Aisleen Hubert with court costs "These doctors were breaking the law when they agreed to offer abortions on the basis of gender. As a result of the judge’s decision, baby girls in the womb in Britain remain at risk...The judge has acted politically by refusing to order into evidence the footage that could have secured a conviction. He has taken sides with the

establishment, which wants to brush this hugely contentious issue under the carpet. He has allowed the CPS to get away with failing to do its job and used his power to impose a heavy penalty on a young woman who is passionate about justice...Hurdle after hurdle has been erected in this case")

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/abortion/judge-orders-25k-costs-against-anti-gender-abortion-campaigner>

Tuesday April 14, 2015



Pakistan: Lahore, Punjab province

Nouman Masih (aged 14, tailor, set on fire by two Muslims in a random attack on [April 10, 2015](#), attack began after he admitted he was a Christian, hospitalized with 55% of his body burnt; **UPDATE: died of his injuries**; reported to have forgiven his attackers but still wanted them prosecuted to deter future attacks)

Aneeqa Maria Akhtar (attorney; **UPDATE: said that the death of Nouman Masih after being set afire was suspicious because doctors had not expected death, the police refused to take his statements on the religious motives of the attackers, and because police restricted access to him and prevented her from asking him certain questions as he lay in the hospital)**

Nadeem Masih (uncle and foster father of Nouman Masih, accused by Muslim relatives of having set him on fire due to the family dispute over the estate of Nouman Masih' father)

Saba Masih (aged 22, sister of Nouman Masih, defended her uncle “Uncle Nadeem and his wife raised us just like their own children. It was only after this incident that most of our neighbors had come to know that they weren’t our real parents”)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5288>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/04/police-in-pakistan-deny-christian-youths-statement-on-who-set-him-on-fire-killed-him/>

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/pakistani-christian-boy-set-on-fire-dies-from-burns-over-55-of-his-body-forgives-his-muslim-attackers-137580/>



Uzbekistan: Kashi

Gulzhahon Kuzebayeva (home entered and searched by police without warrant on [July 11, 2014](#), friends and relatives under constant questioning by police; **UPDATE: has been in hiding**)

since at least February 23, 2015 due to fear of torture under interrogation, police have been unable to arrest her)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2055



Tanzania: Bukoba

Bishop Ediger (said that opposition to a bill establishing Islamic courts resulted in seven churches destroyed by arson, one pastor killed, and a youth minister seriously injured)

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



Uganda: Budaka district

Hassan Muwanguzi (**UPDATE:** has founded a private school, reported that five students who converted from Islam cannot be enrolled because their Muslim former schools refuse to write letters of recommendation)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/04/christian-girl-in-uganda-seriously-injured-traumatized-after-gang-rape-father-says/>



Egypt: Bani Ahmed village, Minya province

Radi Aziz Sadek (aged 24, disabled, detained by police, reportedly being tortured)

Amir Fakhry (human rights activist, reported on the detention and torture of Radi Aziz Sadek)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=60543>



United States - Washington state: All-Merciful Savior Monastery, Vashon Island

Abbot Tryphon (Facebook account suspended because he has been using his clerical name rather than his birth name, wrote on his online petition demanding that Facebook reverse its

policy "It is time to tell Facebook their policy has gone too far...It may be difficult to believe, but Facebook has become an essential tool in fulfilling my ministry...")

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2015/04/facebook-threatens-to-delete-accounts-of-orthodox-clergy/>

<https://www.change.org/p/facebook-mark-zuckerberg-maxine-williams-stop-stripping-orthodox-christian-clergy-of-church-names-on-facebook>

Wednesday April 15, 2015



Pakistan

Aasiya Noreen aka Asia Bibi (wife of Ashiq Masih, mother of five, **UPDATE:** still incarcerated in Multan jail on a 2009 blasphemy conviction and death sentence)

Ashiq Masih (husband of Aasiya Noreen aka Asia Bibi: **UPDATE:** met with Pope Francis in the [Vatican City](#))

Isham (aged 14, daughter of Aasiya Noreen aka Asia Bibi and Ashiq Masih, met with Pope Francis in the [Vatican City](#))

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/papal-blessings-for-asia-bibis-family-as-death-sentence-still-looms-43179/>



Iraq: Alqosh

Fr Steven (refugee, said "At night we often hear gunfire. But luckily we are quite a bit away from the fighting...Back there is my village, Batnaya. I was the last to leave Batnaya. The jihadists arrived shortly thereafter")

Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan

Imad Aziz (husband of Leila Aziz, refugee)

Leila Aziz (wife of Imad Aziz, refugee)

Fr Douglas Bazi (refugee, **UPDATE:** called on Western governments to protect the lives of Christians and not leave them again to be slaughtered: "Open the gates, give my people visas")

Sr Suhama OP (refugee, said "We lost 23 of our monasteries and houses. We were 26 nuns in Qaraqosh alone. We led a flourishing community life there. Some of our sisters are

having trouble getting over the loss. At night they dream of soon being able to return...It is our job to be with our people. I don't believe it will happen, but should the day come on which the last Christian leaves Iraq, we priests and nuns will be the last to leave")

Randi (seminarian, refugee, said "ISIL has strengthened our vocation. It is fortunate that the people have survived. That shows me that God is a God of life and not of property and objects. God is taking care of us")

Deacon Martin (seminarian, refugee)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150415020954.htm>

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/with-iraqi-christians-besieged-these-are-the-priest-and-nuns-who-choose-to-stay-76307/>



Tanzania

Bishop Gwajima (arrested and denied bail along with 15 pastors for opposing a bill establishing Islamic courts)

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



Syria: Tel Tamer

Athur Ishak (aged 32, mother of Ashur Francis, has refused to leave her village despite ISIL attacks, has prepared food and coffee for the Christians and Kurds who defend it)

Ashur Francis (aged 9, son of Athur Ishak, has refused to leave his mother, told her "I want to die with you in our town")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150415145618.htm>



Lebanon: Beirut

Suhail Gabriel (aged 47, English teacher, Syrian refugee, fled his village during a February 2015 ISIL attack with his wife and daughter on his motorcycle in their pajamas, said "None of us will ever be able to return to Syria. We know that, and so we know that our lives will have to be built in other countries")

Samir Khizan (aged 49, Syrian refugee, described how her 70 yer old brother was forced by ISIL to destroy religious item in his home "They told him to crush them with his feet, so he closed his eyes and quietly asked God for forgiveness before he did")

Andre Hermes (aged 60, brother of AwiyeH Hermes, Syrian refugee, said of ISIL "They treat us like we're animals")

Habib Afram (**UPDATE:** said "What we have faced is atrocity after atrocity...They [ISIL] don't want to just take your land or kick you out of your villages - they want to erase your past, your heritage")

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



Israel: Kafr Bir'im

Msgr Salim Soussan (condemned the vandalism of a Christian cemetery "This is the seventh time that the cemetery has been targeted, the sixth in the past ten years, and the police has never been able to find those responsible")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Maronite-vicar-says-Israeli-police-doing-nothing-to-catch-vandals-who-attacked-Christian-graveyard-33996.html>



Egypt: Dalga village, Deir Mawas, Minya province

Nadi Mehanna (home and family businesses destroyed by the Muslim Brotherhood in July 2013, unable to return to his village, cannot afford medical care for his wife)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=60557>



France: Paris

Laurent Stefanini (adult convert, career diplomat, nominee to be ambassador to the Vatican, nomination has apparently become a pawn between anti-Christian pro-homosexual activists and their opponents)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/frances-proposed-vatican-envoy-is-a-devout-catholic-and-may-not-even-be-gay>



United States – Illinois: Chicago

Eric Scheidler (pro-life activist, son of Joe Scheidler, arrested for trespass at Navy Pier, video of him being given access to the city owned facility by security seized by police and not returned)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/opinion/arrested-for-being-eric-scheidler-on-chicagos-navy-pier>



Mexico: Buenavista Bawitz, Chiapas state

Forty-eight Evangelical Christians were allowed to return to their homes after a two year exile

Fidel Lopez Hernandez (aged 26, husband of Rosa, father of Damian de Jesus, Isaac, and Sandra)

Rosa Hernandez (aged 26, wife of Fidel Lopez Hernandez, mother of Damian de Jesus, Isaac, and Sandra)

Damian de Jesus (aged 4, son of Rosa and Fidel Lopez Hernandez)

Isaac (aged 2, son of Rosa and Fidel Lopez Hernandez)

Sandra (aged 14 months, daughter of Rosa and Fidel Lopez Hernandez)

Bernarda Hernandez Cruz (aged 64, mother of Juana)

Juana (aged 31, daughter of Bernarda Hernandez Cruz)

Eduardo Lopez Hernandez (aged 37, husband of Rosalia, father of Clendy and Emmanuel)

Rosalia (aged 27, wife of Eduardo Lopez Hernandez)

Clendy (aged 3, daughter of Rosalia and Eduardo Lopez Hernandez)

Emmanuel (aged 3 months, son of Rosalia and Eduardo Lopez Hernandez)

Jaime Lopez Hernandez (aged 24, husband of Serafina, father of Blanca and Neftali)

Serafina (wife of Jaime Lopez Hernandez, mother of Blanca and Neftali)

Blanca (aged 4, daughter of Serafina and Jaime Lopez Hernandez)

Neftali (aged 2 months, son of Serafina and Jaime Lopez Hernandez)

Oscar Lopez Hernandez (aged 21, husband of Maria, father of Jhony and Brenda)

Maria (aged 20, wife of Oscar Lopez Hernandez, mother of Jhony and Brenda)

Jhony (aged 3, son of Maria and Oscar Lopez Hernandez)

Brenda (aged 7 months, daughter of Maria and Oscar Lopez Hernandez)

Fernando Perez Hernandez (aged 31, husband of Juliana, father of Rosa, Maria, Darianqui, Blanca, and Ines)

Juliana (aged 33, wife of Fernando Perez Hernandez, mother of Rosa, Maria, Darianqui, Blanca, and Ines)

Rosa (aged 12, daughter of Juliana and Fernando Perez Hernandez)

Maria (aged 9, daughter of Juliana and Fernando Perez Hernandez)

Darianqui (aged 4, daughter of Juliana and Fernando Perez Hernandez)

Blanca (aged 2, daughter of Juliana and Fernando Perez Hernandez)

Ines (aged 10 months, daughter of Juliana and Fernando Perez Hernandez)

Eduardo Hernandez Perez (aged 43, husband of Natalia, father of Delfina, Maria, Ana, and Josue)

Natalia (aged 42, wife of Eduardo Hernandez Perez, mother of Delfina, Maria, Ana, and Josue)

Delfina (aged 20, daughter of Natalia and Eduardo Hernandez Perez)

Maria (aged 13, daughter of Natalia and Eduardo Hernandez Perez)

Ana (aged 4, daughter of Natalia and Eduardo Hernandez Perez)

Josue (aged 2, son of Natalia and Eduardo Hernandez Perez)

Josefa del Carmen Lopez Hernandez (aged 28, mother of Maria)

Maria (aged 7, daughter of Josefa del Carmen Lopez Hernandez)

Elvia Hernandez Lopez (aged 22, mother of Yander)

Yander (aged 4, son of Elvia Hernandez Lopez)

Arnulfo Perez Lopez (aged 35, husband of Cristina, father of Reynulfo, Jose, Ana, and Marideysi)

Cristina (aged 35, wife of Arnulfo Perez Lopez, mother of Reynulfo, Jose, Ana, and Marideysi)

Reynulfo (aged 14, son of Cristina and Arnulfo Perez Lopez)

Jose (aged 3, son of Cristina and Arnulfo Perez Lopez)

Ana (aged 11, daughter of Cristina and Arnulfo Perez Lopez)

Marideysi (aged 5, daughter of Cristina and Arnulfo Perez Lopez)

Javier Cruz Cruz (aged 56, husband of Herlinda, father of Miguel, Jhobany, and Efrain)

Herlinda (aged 31, wife of Javier Cruz Cruz, mother of Miguel, Jhobany, and Efrain)

Miguel (aged 8, son of Herlinda and Javier Cruz Cruz)

Jhobany (aged 3, son of Herlinda and Javier Cruz Cruz)

Efrain (aged 3, son of Herlinda and Javier Cruz Cruz)

Emiliana Lopez Cruz (aged 70, mother of Everardo)

Everardo (aged 29, son of Emiliana Lopez Cruz)

Thursday April 16, 2015



India: Agra

Fr Eugene Lazarus (described the vandalism of four statues of Mary in his church, one statue had a dog chain tied around its neck)

Vincent Rozario (said “This is the beginning and it is not good. We have been hearing about attacks on churches in Delhi and elsewhere in the country but we were very sure nothing of this sort would happen here. This is very distressing”)

Alfred Rozamio (said “I was born and brought up here and it hurts to see there is so much hatred growing among people.... I don’t know why they [the attackers] stooped so low and what they wanted to achieve”)

Helen Jain (said “the incident has made us cautious and we will have to tread carefully”)

Fr Joseph Chinnayan (Catholic Bishops Conference of India deputy secretary-general , wrote "The way the venerable statues were attacked and desecrated to bring maximum shame and disgrace on the icons confirm that these were not just mere acts of vandalism, but well planned dastardly acts, aimed at deeply wounding the religious feelings and creating a feeling of insecurity among the minorities")

Fr Santosh D'Sa (said after the vandalism of St Mary's Church "Fringe elements are thriving because the Prime Minister doesn't utter a word against them")

Sajan K George (president of the Global Council of Indian Christians; **UPDATE:** said "Recently Arun Jaitley, Minister of Finance, said there is 'evidence that most of the attacks on churches have no religious reasons'. Will the media tell the truth now?...Such hostility against the Christian minority is only increasing, while the government does nothing to stop them and the radical right-wing Hindus continue with their diatribes, such as the recent request of forced sterilizations for Christians. The goal of the Hindutva brigade is still to create a Hindu Rashtra, a Hindu nation where minorities are second-class citizens")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Agra,-four-statutes-of-Our-Lady-vandalized-33998.html>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37647->

[ASIA_INDIA_Vandalizing_acts_against_a_Catholic_church_in_Uttar_Pradesh#.VTGhocJTEfg](#)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-christians-express-shock-over-agra-church-attack/73414>

<http://www.christianpersecution.info/index.php?view=18601>



Pakistan: Karachi

Debra Lobo (aged 55, wife, mother of two, missionary and school administrator, U.S. citizen, in critical condition after being shot twice by Islamic militants while leaving work at the Jinnah Medical and Dental College)

<http://www.charismanews.com/world/49247-terrorists-shoot-american-missionary-in-the-head>



Yemen

Bishop Paul Hinder (described how Christians are secretly praying in cellars during the fighting and air strikes, said "There is someone stronger than every political power, and that is the strength of the risen Lord. I can only tell them you are not alone, there are many, many in the whole world who are caring for you, but of course our means are limited except the incredible means we have in the prayer and in the solidarity of our faith")

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2015/04/16/catholics-are-forced-to-pray-underground-in-war-torn-yemen-says-bishop/>



Niger

Pastor Musa Issa (husband of Ruth Issa, said of the [January 16, 2015](#) rioting in which his church and 68 other churches were burnt and 10 Christians killed "When the first and second wave of rioters came, some of my Muslim neighbors stood in front of the church. But as more rioters attacked with deadlier weapons, it became too dangerous - so I told them to let them in")

Ruth Issa (wife of Pastor Musa Issa, said of the rioters "My prayer is that they would come to know Jesus and that the Lord would touch them even in a dream. I want God to do to them what He did to Paul the Apostle when he persecuted Christians. God touched him on his way to Damascus. I want those men to experience the same touch from God!")

Pastor Zakaria Jadi (**UPDATE:** said "The mob kept chanting over and over in Arabic 'God is great! God is great' as they robbed and burned my home. I've lived with Muslims all my life. I know a Muslim when he stands in front of me!")

Rev Kimso Boureima (**UPDATE:** said "I tell our brothers and sisters that we don't wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities. We have to encourage ourselves

because persecution is part of the life of the Church. There is no church that existed without persecution")

David Bye (teacher, said of the rioters who attacked his school and left Islamic scriptures "I think this message on the blackboard they are trying to tell us that we really don't belong here. This is a Muslim area and they want to keep it pure for them. They don't want any Christians here")

<http://www.gospelherald.com/articles/55165/20150416/christians-in-niger-forgive-muslims-who-burned-churches-and-killed-believers-we-want-them-to-know-jesus-christ.htm>



Canada: Toronto, Ontario

Mary Wagner (**UPDATE**: convicted of breaching a probation order and of criminal mischief for entering an abortion clinic and counseling clients to not proceed with abortion)

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



United States – California: San Francisco

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone (**UPDATE**: has become the subject of a newspaper ad signed by a number of prominent 'self-identified' Catholics calling on Pope Francis to remove him for his attempts to promote traditional Christian morality in Catholic schools)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/prominent-catholics-attacking-archbishop-cordileone-are-big-donors-to-pelos>

Friday April 17, 2015



India: Amtola village, Golpara district, Assam state

One hundred Hindu extremists attack a group of Christians, at least 15 Christians were injured, in the fifth attack in the village in six months

Pranita Rabha (aged 7, hospitalized with serious chest injuries and blood clots in her brain)

Nimai Rabha (aged 40, beaten, hospitalized)

Harin Rabha (aged 45, beaten)

Parbati Rabha (aged 17, beaten)

Sandani Rabha (aged 22, beaten)

Purnima Rabha (aged 3, beaten)

Umed Rabha (aged 32, beaten)

Sefali Rabha (aged 30, beaten)

Sanda Rabha (aged 21, beaten)

Nipon Rabha (aged 27, beaten)

Gita Rabha (aged 22, beaten)

Sanakya Rabha (aged 20, beaten)

Mahendra Rabha (aged 24, beaten)

Bonis Rabha (aged 10, beaten)

Nripol Rabha (aged 26, beaten)

Rev David Boro (said “The attackers did not even spare women and children but beat them mercilessly with the intention to kill...Right now there are no Christians in the village – all have fled. The Christian families who were the main target of the attack are now in a safe-house after they were released from the hospital. The more critically injured are still in the hospital, and when they will be released, they too will join the others in the safe-house”)

Kamleshwar Baglary (said “Not satisfied with merely beating the Christians, the mob led by Hindu extremists broke and destroyed the homes of these Christian families. All together, five houses have been completely destroyed along with household items”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/04/hindu-extremist-attack-in-assam-state-india-depletes-village-of-christians/>



Pakistan: Behar colony [ghetto], Lahore, Punjab province

Sardar Mushtaq Gill (attorney; **UPDATE:** described an attack on St Franciscan [sic] High School "They were [two] masked men, armed on motorcycles. They were masked with their faces covered. It was in front of school. When they started firing, the guard intercepted. After making them injured, they fled away", also described the student who was shot "He is a Christian student and was admitted to the hospital. Just a few minutes ago, I received a phone call from our colleague and he told me that the condition is better")

Pakistan: Chashma town, Islamabad

Faisal Bhatti (brother of Pastor Salamat Bhatti, beaten during an attempted abduction by Muslim extremists, saved by the intervention of other Christians)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/muslim-hardline-gunmen-open-fire-on-catholic-school-in-pakistan-injured-christian-student-taken-to-hospital-137730/#h4Sm6ZuM79UIDoix.99>
<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5300>



Uzbekistan: Namangan

Murodjon Rakhimov (convert, husband of Gulchohra Abdurakhmanova, police attempted to force him to write a statement against his church by twisting his left arm, refused)

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



Iran: Rajai Shahr Prison

Pastor Saeed Abedini (aged 35, 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:** has been told that he will never be released until he renounces Christ and reverts to Islam)

<http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2015/April/Iranian-Prison-Guards-Torment-American-Pastor/>



Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan

Fr Behnam Benoka (commented on the car bombing of the United States consulate which killed 3 and injured 14 in the only city left as a refuge for Christians in the country “Certainly, everyone will be very concerned about this situation. We hope nothing more comes. We hope this refuge remains solid and strong, safe. This is what we hope because we have nowhere else to go”)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/ankawa-bomb-attack-strikes-unease-in-refugees-with-nowhere-else-to-go-45334/>



Egypt: Al-Nasriah village, Bani Mazar, Minya province

Gad Youssef Younan (aged 22, English teacher, arrested on [April 9, 2015](#) on charges of contempt of religion for a Facebook post that satirized the Islamic State; **UPDATE:** expelled from the village)

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/06/09/egyptian-christian-teen-released-on-bail-after-62-days/>



United Nations: New York City

Archbishop Bernardito Auza (Permanent Representative of the Holy See [Vatican] to the United Nations, said "In Iraq and Syria, in Nigeria and Libya, in Kenya and in regions of the Asian subcontinent, the earth has been getting literally soaked with blood. We have seen barbaric images of Coptic Christians beheaded in Libya; churches filled with people blown up during liturgical celebrations in Iraq, Nigeria and Pakistan; ancient Christian communities driven out of their homes on the biblical Plain of Nineveh; Christian students executed in Kenya...The fate of those persecuted urges us to do all that we can to prevent further victims of attacks and abuses. Christians and other religious minorities of the Middle East and elsewhere plead for action, not in some abstract form, but in a manner that is truly conscious of their pain and suffering and their existential fear for their survival")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150418133133.htm>



United States – Illinois: Chicago

Cardinal Francis George (aged 78; **UPDATE:** **died of cancer**)

United States – California: San Francisco

Sr Clare Marie OP (teacher at Marin Catholic High School, left school with four other nuns rather than participate in a student-led 'Day of Silence', students were handing out Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network literature which stated opposition to the bullying of gay students but which also stated "that any church which teaches homosexuality is sinful is an 'oppressor' and should be opposed")

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/cardinal-francis-george-of-chicago-dies-at-78-58911/>
<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/nuns-walk-out-of-san-francisco-catholic-school-as-students-push-gay-activis>

Saturday April 18, 2015



Pakistan: Islamabad

Farman Masih (son of Hanif Masih, arrested by police on suspicion of theft, **beaten to death** during the investigation, body thrown into a canal)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5295>



Turkmenistan: Turkmenabad

Dovlet Byashimov (detained by police on **April 18, 2015** while leaving his house, **UPDATE:** released)

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



Russia: Orel

Pastor Pavel Pilipchuk (fined US\$557 on **August 11, 2014** for illegally organizing an outdoor Palm Sunday worship service despite testimony that he was not present; appeal rejected on **September 29, 2014**; fine doubled on **December 22, 2014** for non-payment; imprisoned for 5 days for non-payment on **April 13, 2015**, **UPDATE:** released, still refuses to pay the fine)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2059



United Kingdom: Newcastle

Deacon Sarmad Ozan (Iraqi refugee)

United Kingdom: Westminster

Cardinal Vincent Nichols (**UPDATE**: spoke on his observations on a recent trip to Iraq)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150418052219.htm>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150418052039.htm>

Sunday April 19, 2015



Malaysia: Taman Medan, Petaling Jaya

Rev Dr Hermen Shastri (Council of Churches Malaysia general-secretary; **UPDATE**: condemned the forced removal of a cross from atop a church, wrote "It is obvious that there is a political agenda behind such acts from certain quarters, who are out to instigate and increase inter-religious tensions in the state. The CCM wishes to register its discontent and displeasure, at the way a small group of demonstrators at Taman Medan had taken the law into their own hands, by disrupting the worship of a church and making religiously insensitive demands that pertain to the sacred symbol of Christians")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/malaysia-church-removes-cross-following-protest-by-local-muslims/73413>



Pakistan: Kohat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province

Farid Jani (beaten by Muslim extremists for handing out Christian literature at St Augustine church after a service, escaped, literature burned, family home ransacked, family threatened with death, now in hiding with his family)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5301>



Ethiopia: Addis Ababa

Patriarch Mathias (aged 72; **UPDATE**: cancelled a trip to Yerevan, Armenia, for the commemoration of the 1915 Armenian genocide, in response to the shooting and beheading of 30 Ethiopian Christian refugees by ISIL in Libya)

Tesfaye Wolde (brother of Balcha Belete, who was executed by ISIL in Libya)

Ahaza Kassaye (mother of Eyasu Yekuneamelak, who was executed by ISIL in Libya)

Seyoum Yekuneamelak (brother of Eyasu Yekuneamelak, who was executed by ISIL in Libya)

Ato Teshane (father of Eliyas Teshane, who was executed by ISIL in Libya)

Helen Tamene Gebre (arrested with 28 other women and 6 men for attending a Christian service in a private home in Saudi Arabia on December 15, 2011; deported as of August 3, 2012;

UPDATE: said “We are proud of our brothers. They are poor, but they gave their lives for Jesus. They will be honored for all time by Ethiopians”)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37662->

[AFRICA EGYPT Coptic Bishop Antonios Aziz Mina on Ethiopian Christians mass
acred the martyrs are those in whom the great and consoling victory of Christ shi
nes#.VTW9-MJTEfh](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37662-)

[http://www.persecution.org/2015/04/20/ethiopia-mourns-murders-of-30-ethiopian-christians-
brutally-slain-by-isis-in-video/](http://www.persecution.org/2015/04/20/ethiopia-mourns-murders-of-30-ethiopian-christians-brutally-slain-by-isis-in-video/)

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3047156/Ethiopia-hold-national-mourning-IS-
group-kills-Christians.html](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3047156/Ethiopia-hold-national-mourning-IS-group-kills-Christians.html)

[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/23/world/africa/grief-mixes-with-anger-over-christian-
ethiopian-deaths.html?ref=africa&r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/23/world/africa/grief-mixes-with-anger-over-christian-ethiopian-deaths.html?ref=africa&r=0)

email from International Christian Concern www.persecution.org



Egypt

Abram Lewis (Association of Victims of Abductions and Forced Disappearances; **UPDATE:** has received multiple death threats and insults to Christianity on his cell phone)

Egypt

Bishop Antonios Aziz Mina (**UPDATE:** spoke on the shooting and beheading of 30 Ethiopian Christian refugees by ISIL in Libya "But in the great pain we continue to look at these events with the eyes of faith. The chain of martyrs has not finished, and will accompany the whole history until the end. Christians do not seek martyrdom, they want to live in peace and joy. But if martyrdom comes, it is comforting to see that it can be accepted with the same peace which was accepted by the Copts who pronounced the name of Christ and they relied on Him as they were being slaughtered. The Church has never complained of martyrdom, but has always celebrated martyrs as those in whom, while they are being killed, the great and consoling victory of Christ shines")

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1359&A=18419>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37662->

[AFRICA EGYPT Coptic Bishop Antonios Aziz Mina on Ethiopian Christians mass
acred the martyrs are those in whom the great and consoling victory of Christ shi
nes#.VTW9-MJTEfh](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37662-)



Libya

Balcha Belete (Ethiopian citizen, brother of Tesfaye Wolde, electrician, **executed** by ISIL)

Eyasu Yekuneamelak (Ethiopian citizen, son of Ahaza Kassaye, **executed** by ISIL)

Eliyus Teshane (aged 27, son of Ato Teshane, Ethiopian citizen, **executed** by ISIL)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3047156/Ethiopia-hold-national-mourning-IS-group-kills-Christians.html>

email from International Christian Concern www.persecution.org



Nigeria

Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme (**UPDATE**: said in [Madrid, Spain](#) “Towards the end of last year [2014] I was in my chapel before the Blessed Sacrament... praying the rosary, and then suddenly the Lord appeared [holding a sword towards me]. As soon as I received the sword, it turned into a rosary”, said he was told “Boko Haram is gone”)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/after-vision-of-christ-nigerian-bishop-says-rosary-will-bring-down-boko-haram-78382/>

Monday April 20, 2015



China: Hami, Xinjiang

Officials raided a [January 10, 2015](#) church service and administratively impose sanctions and fines, **UPDATE: five Christians petitioned the court to reverse the administrative sanctions and prevailed against the officials, the court ruled that the officials may re-file their actions at a later date**

Pastor Miao Yuexi (aged 32, detained by police during a worship service, church sealed, released the next day but repeatedly questioned in the following days)

Qian Aili (aged 28, cited by police in their report for illegal Christian activity)

Hong Wanijn (aged 43, church property deed holder)

Pan Cha (aged 27, church property deed holder)

Li Guangming (aged 30, church property deed holder)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/05/xinjiang-church-members-succeed-in.html>



Ukraine: Pticha village, Rivne region

Fr Vitaly Buga (reported on the arrest of another priest for leaving the church grounds to investigate the vandalism of some automobiles, hit with a police baton when he attempted to intervene, threatened by police with a beating)

Ukraine: Donetsk region

Fr Theophan Kratirov (arrested by the Ukrainian army, tortured, **UPDATE**: reported to have been released)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/78844.htm>

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



South Africa: Ixopo, KwaZulu-Natal province

Sr Stefani Tiefenbacher CPS (aged 86, Austrian national, found bound and gagged in her room, had been sexually assaulted, **died of suffocation**)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37667->

[AFRICA SOUTH AFRICA A nun killed in KwaZulu Natal a life dedicated to poor children for 60 years#.VTcqDMJTefg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37667-)

Tuesday April 21, 2015



India: Hazaribagh, Jharkhand state

Two schools were invaded and vandalized by 60 members of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad [ABVP], the student branch of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP]

Sr Clerita De Mello (principal of Holy Cross School, said the attackers used a “violent and threatening tone”)

Fr PJ James (principal of St Xavier school, said "I'm not sure what they were opposing or protesting. They wanted me to close down the school, saying that we have commercialized education. It was no point in reasoning with them...A pattern is emerging...and that shows they are against minority-run institutions")

Fr Gerald D'Souza (said "[The attacks are] part of a plan to scare away Christian missionaries")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-police-arrest-16-after-attack-on-christian-schools/73428>



Iraq: al-Qosh

Fr Gabriel Gorgis (said "Look around at our history. We have been here for thousands of years. Wouldn't it be a shame to the world and future generations to lose us?")

Athra Kado (Syriac language teacher)

Riven Nafe (engineer)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150421134310.htm>



Tanzania

Peter (**UPDATE:** reported that the Home Minister has threatened to de-register all churches that have opposed the bill establishing Sharia [Islamic] courts throughout the country)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Churches-and-religious-institutions-publicly-opposing-new-Tanzanian-constitution-to-be-closed-says-government>



Egypt: Minya province

Gamila Basilious (aged 48, **stabbed to death**, body dumped in a canal)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1362&A=18465>
<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=60638#.VTh-esJTEfg>



United States – Georgia: Atlanta

Pastor Carole Hulslander (reported to have been removed from her position because she signed a letter supporting the traditional definition of marriage, her replacement verbally abused parishioners who tried to calm the situation)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/united-methodist-regional-body-accused-of-bullying-pastor-for-supporting-traditional-marriage-138690/>

Wednesday April 22, 2015



Thailand: Bangkok

Pastor Ahmed (Pakistani refugee and asylum applicant, arrested with his family for visa violations, confined to a single room under house arrest with a second family, said he is still thankful for his situation because he faces death back in Pakistan)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/the-ordeal-of-pakistani-asylum-seekers-in-thailand-continues/>



Turkey: Diyarbakir

Fr Yusuf Akbulut (aged 50, said about the centennial anniversary of the Armenian genocide "I don't know if there will be a problem if I talk about these things. There have been Christians in Turkey who were killed in recent years")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/04/3820944/>

Thursday April 23, 2015



China: Huocheng County, Yili Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture, Xinjiang

Lou Nannan (daughter of Pastor Lou Yuanqi, nursery school teacher, arrested at the home of He Mengting for giving students Bible lessons, **UPDATE**: released)

Zhang Heng'En (nursery school teacher, arrested at the home of He Mengting for giving students Bible lessons, **UPDATE**: released)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=62750>

China: Heze, Cao county, Shandong province

UPDATE: Two Christians tried for membership in the Total Scope Church aka Born Again Movement, attorneys demonstrated that all witnesses were coerced by police

Cheng Hongpeng (detained at a [June 25, 2014](#) worship service; **UPDATE**: tried, verdict delayed)

Zhao Weiliang (detained at a [June 25, 2014](#) worship service; **UPDATE**: tried, verdict delayed, beaten by police after the court adjourned on the first day of the trial on [April 22, 2015](#))

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/05/shandong-court-holds-trial-for.html>



United Kingdom: Hereford

Andrew Geuter (street preacher, arrested, released after 5 hours due to insufficient evidence)

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

Friday April 24, 2015



Laos: Pakse, Savannakhet province

Five Christians were convicted of 'unlicensed professional medical care' on February 12, 2015 for having prayed for the dying Ms Chan, sentenced to nine months' imprisonment and together with the other defendants fined US\$2,758; **UPDATE: the five Christians have objected to a court document which stated that they were withdrawing their appeal of their convictions, said that their signatures on the document were forged**

Ms Kaithong

Puphet

Muk

Hasadee

Tiang

<http://www.csw.org.uk/2015/04/27/press/2567/article.htm>



Sri Lanka

Sylvester John (son of Peter and Naseen John, fled Pakistan on [July 31, 2013](#); asylum application on religious persecution grounds denied on [August 1, 2013](#) despite having been shot five times on January 22, 2012 after refusing the invitation to Islam, uncle killed; **UPDATE**: appeal to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees denied, the UNHCR demanded additional information that could only come from the persecutors)

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/family-of-asylum-seekers-desperately-needs-our-help>



India: Bangalore

Cardinal Baselios Cleemis Thottunkal (Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malankara-rite Catholic Church, **UPDATE**: signed a statement along with 40 other bishops condemning a Hindu nationalist leader's "highly provocative...irresponsible statement" for the government to not prosecute Hindus who attack Christian churches because they were not places of worship but factories for the conversion of Hindus: "Shri Shukla's contention that attacking a Church is not illegal and that it violates no law is highly untenable and contrary to standards, norms and laws of the land...In recent times there has been an escalation of violence against Christians and other minorities together with highly unwarranted statements. All such attacks indicate a sinister pattern and evil design calculated to denigrate and defame the Christians, peace-loving and law abiding citizens of India")

http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/04/27/indian_bishops_condemn_hindu_leader%E2%80%99s_statement/1140016



Cameroon: Maroua-Mokolo

Bishop Bruno Ateba (**UPDATE**: wrote that Boko Haram continues to spread into his country, that in his diocese two staff members, three catechists, and more than thirty Catholics have been murdered since 2014, that 2,000 abductions of children and teens have occurred, and that local Muslims are also being killed, also wrote "Today we beseech your attention, your prayers and your help. Help us to bring an end to this nameless

brutality that is destroying all hope for the future and bringing to nothing all the hard work of generations of believers”)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/bishop-boko-haram-is-spreading-to-cameroon-while-the-world-looks-the-other-way-52546/>

Saturday April 25, 2015



Ethiopia: Asella

Aman Kuni (arrested along with several others after a baptism service)

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/05/23/kill-them-or-else-ethiopian-christian-jailed-then-told-to-murder-pastors/>



Nigeria: Plateau state

Gyang (texted “Fulani Herdsmen have continued with their invasion of Christian communities here. The village of Shonong is under attack. Six Christians have also been killed in Kwi, Torok, and Rim, all in Riyom”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/05/pastor-more-than-70-christians-killed-in-plateau-state-nigeria/>

Sunday April 26, 2015



Turkmenistan: Turkmenabad

Dovlet Byashimov (detained by police on [April 18, 2015](#) while leaving his house, UPDATE: released)

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



Egypt: Sohag

Makram Nazir (aged 55, abducted while returning home from his second job, US\$131,000 ransom demanded, police refused to help, family paid a lower negotiated ransom, **body found** three days after the ransom was paid)

<http://www.raymondibrahim.com/from-the-arab-world/egypt-after-ransom-paid-coptic-christian-still-killed/>

Monday April 27, 2015



Mexico: Guadalajara

Cardinal Jose Francisco Robles Ortega (said of the anarchy in the country "There has been a loss of values, including that of life; the ethical aspect has been weakened, we have a climate of impunity in which the law is violated and organized crime imposes its interests. There is a culture of violence and crime", also condemned the growing relationship between the syncretic "Santa Muerte - Saint Death" cult and the drug cartels)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/37692-AMERICA_MEXICO_Cardinal_Robles_There_is_corruption_mistrust_culture_of_violence_but_we_must_propose_a_Church_that_goes_forth#.VT8NKMJTefg



United States – Oregon: Gresham

Event: A married couple found guilty on or before [February 4, 2015](#) of discrimination for refusing to bake a cake for a same sex wedding despite serving same sex couples in other ways, have fined \$135,000, had already closed their business due to harassment;

UPDATE: their attempt to raise funds on the internet to pay their fine was closed down by GoFundMe on the grounds that they were criminals

Aaron Klein (husband of Melissa Klein)

Melissa Klein (wife of Aaron Klein)

Rev Franklin Graham (son of Rev Billy Graham; **UPDATE:** said "They [the Kleins] have taken a stand for the Word of God, and they should not have to stand alone. I believe that Christians across our nation will rally around Aaron and Melissa and their five children. Please pray for Aaron and Melissa, and pray for our nation. When our judges are

punishing Christians for practicing what they believe, that's persecution, plain and simple", has pledged financial support from his Samaritan's Purse ministry)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/persecution-plain-and-simple-franklin-graham-raises-funds-for-oregons-chris>

Tuesday April 28, 2015



Pakistan: Youhanabad area, Lahore, Punjab province

Pastor Benyaamaeen (thanked Scottish donors who financially aided victims of the March 15, 2015 Youhanabad church bombings)

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



Somalia: undisclosed location

Fatuma Nur Hussain (convert, accounting major, reported to have been imprisoned by her sister for four months after her conversion was discovered, escaped, in hiding)

Sister Rebecca (reported to have assisted Fatuma Nur Hussain)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/somali-christian-who-gave-up-everything-to-follow-christ/>



Ethiopia: Deder

Fikere Mengistu (convert, husband of Hargewoin, father of five, Muslim neighbors had attempted to seize land he owned via a fraudulent court challenge, imprisoned when he contested their effort, won in court)

Hargewoin (wife of Fikere Mengistu)

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/05/06/the-kings-of-deder-persecution-and-the-cost-of-following-christ-in-muslim-dominated-pocket-in-ethiopia/>



Egypt

Monir Aguib (home reported to have been seized by a Muslim neighbor)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1365&A=18520>

Egypt: Dakahlia

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, home attacked and motorcycle burnt; **UPDATE**: convicted, sentenced to one year in prison and fined US\$131)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=62750#.VUMCxMJTEfg>



Sweden: Gothenburg

Mona Walter (convert, Somali refugee; **UPDATE**: under death threats for telling Muslim women what is in the Quran, said "I've been called an 'Islamophobe,' and yeah, 'You've been bought,' 'You're a house nigger,' and stuff like that, terrible things")

Pastor Fouad Rasho (Syrian immigrant, helped Mona Walter and other Muslims convert to Christianity)

<http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2015/April/Ex-Muslim-Koran-Revealed-a-Religion-I-Did-Not-Like/>

Wednesday April 29, 2015



China: Yinchun, Heilongjiang

Dong Shiyun (church leader, "elderly man", service interrupted by DSPS agents)

Yu (described a DSPS raid on a house church service "We negotiated with them, and they said we should go to a TSPM church because it is a state-approved church. Our church leader said that we are different from the TSPM church as we only worship God. Then, the authorities said if we don't go to a TSPM church and continue to worship on our own, we will be considered a cult. They demanded that we go to the religious affairs bureau to apply for a permit. However, I've heard it's impossible to get a permit at this point. But

we did the application process and submitted the required paperwork; we haven't gotten a response yet. We were told not to hold another gathering before we received a permit")

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/05/heilongjiang-authorities-shutdown-house.html>



Egypt: Tarfa Koum, Samalout

Tahani Anwar (aged 17, reported to have disappeared in mysterious circumstances)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1366&A=18533>



Nigeria

Bishop Emmanuel Badejo (**UPDATE**: continued his critique of Western impositions on African society by responding to a U.S. presidential candidate's statement that "Deep-seated cultural codes, religious beliefs and structural biases have to be changed [to give women access to] reproductive health care..." with "I believe there are three groups of people in this world: those who believe in God, those who do not believe in God, and those who think they are gods. Hillary Clinton I think is one of those who thinks she is a god. And I'm not obliged to believe that. From the way she spoke, people like herself very clearly don't want to hear anything about God. Even if they say they believe in God, they really don't. It's evident even in her language: she talks about 'deep seated cultural codes'. I feel she's gotten too wrapped up in technology and has stopped realizing that there are values, there are things that are innate to people, that are not just 'codes' that can be taken up and thrown out...")

<http://www.aleteia.org/en/religion/article/nigerian-bishop-hillary-clintons-remarks-about-religious-beliefs-show-she-thinks-she-is-a-god-5842615580753920?page=3>

Thursday April 30, 2015



Iraq

Sr Diana Momeka OP (denied a visa to travel to the U.S. due to a U.S. government decision that she would likely overstay her visa, she was the only Christian in a delegation of Iraqi

religious minorities who were to speak in the U.S. and the only member of the delegation to be denied a visa)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150430162239.htm>



Egypt

Pope Tawadros II aka Wagih Sobhy Baqi Suleiman (**UPDATE**: denounced a civil court decision to force the Coptic Orthodox Church to modify the reasons for which it allows remarriage after divorce)

<http://www.catholicculture.org/news/headlines/index.cfm?storyid=24782>



Nigeria: Barkin Ladi, Plateau state

Gyang (**UPDATE**: said that two Christians were killed returning from a funeral and “four other Christians have just been killed in Kwi, in the Riyom Local Government Area”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/05/pastor-more-than-70-christians-killed-in-plateau-state-nigeria/>

April 2015, date unknown



India: Erattupetta, Kottayam district, Kerala state

Sr Jose Mariya (originally thought to have died of natural causes, **discovered to have been murdered** when months later a thief arrested for the murder of another nun confessed to killing her as well)

<http://www.fides.org/eng/attachments/view/file/PastoralCareWorkerskilledin2015.doc>



Turkmenistan: Turkmenabad

Serdar Hemdemov (**UPDATE**: sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment for refusing military service)
http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2196



Kenya: Garissa

Two Christians of Somali ethnicity were arrested and publicly strip searched on church property, held as terror suspects for three weeks, released on bail

'Cabdi' (convert from Islam)

'Khaalid' (convert from Islam)

http://www.persecution.com/public/newsroom.aspx?story_ID=%3d373631&featuredstory_ID=%3d343939



Nigeria: Lassa, Borno state

Christiana Joel (aged 14, sister of Levi Joel and seven others, escaped their village during a Boko Haram attack)

Levi Joel (brother of Christiana Joel, disappeared during a Boko Haram attack)

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/23/world/africa/boko-haram-nigeria-samantha-power.html?_r=0