

Today's Martyrs – May 2015

Friday May 1, 2015



China: Liuzhou, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

UPDATE: Operators of a Christian kindergarten were convicted of "illegal business operations" for having printed course materials without a permit, each sentenced to two years' imprisonment and fined US\$806, appeals planned because the permit law does not apply to internal documents

Cheng Jie (wife of Pastor Du Hongbo, mother of two young children, detained on [February 18, 2014](#))

Huang Qirui (church elder, detained on [June 24, 2014](#))

Li Jiatao (wife of Ma Jiawen, mother of two, detained on [June 24, 2014](#))

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/05/hualin-kindergarten-defendants.html>



Iran

Naghmeh Shariat Panahi Abedini (wife of Saeed Abedini, who has been sentenced to eight years imprisonment; **UPDATE:** reacted to a White House statement that President Obama would likely veto any bill that conditioned relaxation of Iranian sanctions with her husband's release "Our government must not forget that Saeed is not being held by the reformists with whom they negotiate but by radical hardliners who oppose what he represents – a Christian convert and an U.S. citizen. We cannot leave my husband's fate in the hands of these radicals. I implore our government to remember the urgency of bringing Saeed home to our family")

Two Christians were sentenced to additional prison time for "action against national security through collusion and gathering", the gathering in question was a meeting where they met with a friend to say goodbye before the beginning of one's original prison term

Ebrahim Firouzi (convert, aged 30; rearrested on [August 21, 2013](#) while visiting two other Christians in [Karaj](#); **UPDATE:** sentenced to five additional years' imprisonment)

Sevada Aghasar (arrested on [August 21, 2013](#) in the [Karaj](#) office of Masoud Mirzaei; released from prison in Tehran on [March 2, 2014](#); **UPDATE:** sentenced to five additional years' imprisonment)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/obama-abandons-pastor-abedini-would-veto-bill-that-requires-iran-release-him-for-nuke-deal-approval-aclj-calls-decision-despicable-outrageous-138514/>

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10230:two-iranian-christians-sentenced-to-a-total-of-ten-years-in-prison&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Syria: Hassakah

Archbishop Jacques Behnan Hindo (**UPDATE:** announced that ISIL has completely surrounded his city "We are going through a terrible time. The jihadists of the Islamic State attacked Hassakah for two days. They were warded off by the army and Kurdish militias. But we are cut off, like an island surrounded by jihadists from all sides...We have not had any news regarding the fate of 232 Assyrian hostages - among whom there are 51 children and 84 women - and initial contacts in an effort to secure their release have so far been unsuccessful")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150501174849.htm>



Lebanon: Beirut

Jack Zayya (Syrian refugee, said "We are searching for the quickest way to go to Europe or Canada, maybe America...I had a car wash and, thank God, it provided for us for a long time. But it's all gone now - the house, our belongings, the car wash, everything...Kidnappings were about getting ransom from rich families or individuals at first. With Da'esh {ISIL}, though, there is no negotiating. We had to pay the jizya tax or die...Our children saw many beheadings. We were obligated to watch public executions. What kind of world is that for kids to grow up in? They were always scared")

Chorbishop Yatron Koliaana (**UPDATE:** has pleaded with refugees to not leave, said "I'm telling them not to leave this land. This is our land. They say, 'OK - we're with you. This is our land, but what are we supposed to eat, dirt?")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150501144223.htm>

Saturday May 2, 2015



India: Hyderabad, Telagana state

Over 400 Christians and others demonstrated against recent attacks against Christians

Solomon Raju (president of the Twin Cities Christian Youth Fellowship, said “Pastors carry the Bible and preach the message of love. They don’t carry weapons and they don’t force anybody to change their religion. The government must ensure that there is freedom to practice and propagate a religion of one’s choice, as our constitution guarantees”)

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/05/04/hundreds-of-christians-in-india-protest-as-government-claims-international-conspiracy/>



Iraq: Bagdad

Micheal Abou Fady (**killed**)

Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan

Fr Paul Thabit Mekko (**UPDATE**: spoke about government planning to defeat ISIL "We heard about the meeting among the Ministers and we were also told that the preparation of the operations will be led by a Kurdish soldier of the Iraqi army. But it is not possible to say if and when the campaign to liberate Mosul and the Nineveh Plain will begin. We have to see if and how it will take account of Ramadan, the Muslim fasting month that begins after mid-June. Of course, many want to go back to their homes. Among the Christian refugees there are those who in the meantime have moved to Jordan or Lebanon. Only a few went to France, and some have also returned. It is not true that everyone wants to flee. Many dream of returning to their life as it was before")

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

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37727->

[ASIA IRAQ Military offensive to free the province of Nineveh Chaldean priest Christians want to return to their homes#.VUbYycJTEfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37727-ASIA_IRAQ_Military_offensive_to_free_the_province_of_Nineveh_Chaldean_priest_Christians_want_to_return_to_their_homes#.VUbYycJTEfg)



Egypt: Agamy, west of Alexandria

Marina Magdy Fahim (aged 17, disappeared)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=62830>



Nigeria: Sambisa forest

Rachael Habila (aged 40, teacher, abducted by Boko Haram on [February 25, 2014](#) from [Buni Yadi, Yobe state](#), forced to convert to Islam under threat of death, rescued by the Nigerian military)

Nigeria: Foron, Barkin local government area, Plateau state

Rev Luka Gwom (**killed** by Fulani Muslim gunmen)

Paulina (newlywed, **killed** by Fulani Muslim gunmen)

Ishaku Pam (described the killing of Rev Luka Gwom and Paulina)

Gyang (**UPDATE**: said “I was at the burial of the Christians killed in the Foron attack, and we counted 27 corpses”)

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2015/05/sambisa-forest-i-never-believed-we-would-make-it-out-alive-rachael-christian-hostage/>

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

Sunday May 3, 2015



Egypt: Qena

Antonious Hani Khalaf (aged 8, abducted by four armed and masked men while being taken to school by his mother)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=62796>

Monday May 4, 2015



China: Zhejiang province

Pastor Zhang “Bike” Mingxuan (president of the Chinese Association of Christian Family Churches; **UPDATE**: said “One thing I’m sure of is that the authorities in Zhejiang are taking down crosses again, and they are doing it everywhere. From Ningbo to Lishui,

they have begun to remove crosses. I believe the statement made by the central government that they will stop demolishing churches in Zhejiang is a lie. Local officials taking down Christian crosses is persecution of Christianity”)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/05/zhejiang-authorities-remove-cross.html>



India: Dhar District, Madhya Pradesh

Rev Bharat Singh Mehda (obtained permits for a church meeting of 5,000 Christians, the local government cancelled the permits at the last moment, the official said “[Christians] are free to hold small prayer meetings in the local church, but no permit will be granted for large-scale services”)

Sajan K George (**UPDATE**: said “the presence of many people is just an excuse to cancel. In fact, the government of Madhya Pradesh is not new at large scale religious events. In February 2011, almost 2 million people attended the Narmada Samajik Kumbh, a gathering organized by Hindu nationalist groups who openly engaged in hate propaganda against Christians”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Madhya-Pradesh:-Government-bans-Christian-gathering-on-law-and-order-concerns-34149.html>



Iraq: Bagdad

Helal Ishak Hanany (**killed**)

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



Palestine: East Jerusalem

Rami Fellemon (director of Jerusalem Evangelistic Outreach, described a mob attack on an Ethiopian Orthodox monastery that began after a dispute between a Christian and a Muslim “When they came, it was a wave of anger that was - you cannot describe it, you cannot understand it. Because when one kid is fighting with another kid, and 60 to 80 people come and start smashing doors and throwing stones on windows and doors of Christian families and smashing the cross of the convent, this is totally not about a kid hurting a kid. This is more about Islam and Christianity. It’s more about persecution”, the

rioters spray-painted on the monastery the same slogans used by ISIL when beheading the Ethiopian refugees in Libya)

Nashat Filmon (Bible Society general director, “The dark ideology of ISIL is spreading all over the region like cancer. This is also including the Holy Land. Christians, overall, live here in peace and harmony with Muslims in Jerusalem and the West Bank, but incidents do happen from time to time, and it’s true that these incidents have recently increased, especially in the Old City of Jerusalem...Pray for the relationships between Muslims and Christians to be good despite all of the problems. Pray that the Christians would act as they are called to be, ‘salt and light’ and a living testimony. Pray against this dark, satanic, and attacking spirit of fundamentalism, and for the Christians to respond in a way that reflects Christ”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/06/christians-suspect-islamic-state-influencing-muslims-in-palestinian-territories-israel/>



Egypt: Minya province

Bishop Agathon (**UPDATE:** spoke in an Arabic television interview on the continuing refusals by the government to investigate abductions and to allow the building or repair of churches, said “We as Copts are human beings. And envy takes us when we see our Muslim brothers build mosques where they will, how they will, at any place and at any time! And the State helps them. But as for us, we cannot build anything and that which is already open is being closed...We, the Copts are citizens with rights and see Muslims get whatever they want, while we are always prevented...Copts are between a state anvil and aggressor hammer“)

Egypt: Hod Shebel, Kafr Al-Dawar, Behera province

Atfy Gamel (barns and crops destroyed)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/cs-releases/3657-exposed-egypt-s-institutionalized-persecution-of-coptic-christians>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=62816>



Nigeria: Ikanepo, Kogi state

Fr Innocent Umor (abducted by five armed men, US\$20,000 ransom demanded)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37770->

[AFRICA NIGERIA Catholic priest Kidnapped#.VUwr88JTE5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37770-AFRICA_NIGERIA_Catholic_priest_Kidnapped#.VUwr88JTE5s)

Tuesday May 5, 2015



Iraq: Bagdad

Juliana George (aged 16, daughter of George, granddaughter of Fr Joseph, abducted)

Fr Joseph (grandfather of Juliana George, chased after his granddaughter's abductors)

George (father of Juliana George, later said "I used to tuck her into bed and cover her every night... no one seems to care, no one is doing anything")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150512050740.htm>

Wednesday May 6, 2015



Thailand

Asia Bibi (widow, mother of two sons, fled Pakistan after her clinic in Karachi was attacked by Islamists, family threatened with death, fled the country, denied asylum, husband died in 2015 due to lack of medical care)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/left-alone-on-the-road-less-traveled-pakistani-christian-asia-bibi-from-thailand/>



Turkmenistan: Turkmenabad

Konstantin Vlaskin (brother of Aleksandra, detained by police while walking on the street, taken to his home, beaten along with his sister, computer and religious literature seized)

Aleksandra (sister of Konstantin Vlaskin, beaten by police, religious literature seized)

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



Tanzania: Mafia Island

'Ally' (Christian leader, reported that three Christian pastors were summoned to the local government and ordered to begin the permanent closure of their churches due to their opposition to the new constitution and its creation of Islamic courts, added that the national government is using local governments so as to avoid public complicity in the closures)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Tanzanian-government-initiates-harassment-of-church-leadership-at-local-level>



Nigeria

Fr Innocent Umor (abducted by five armed men on [May 4, 2015](#), US\$20,000 ransom demanded;
UPDATE: released)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/37778-AFRICA_NIGERIA_Kidnapped_priest_released#.VU2DcMJTE5s



United States – Florida: Lakeland

'G L' (student at [Polk State College](#), given four zeros on assignments by her professor because she would not agree to his anti-Christian views)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/florida-professor-bullies-christian-student>

Thursday May 7, 2015



China: Baoding, Hebei province

Fr Liu Honggeng Liu (detained without charge in [2006](#); released after [August 9, 2014](#);
UPDATE: arrested, whereabouts unknown)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/As-the-parish-priest-at-Baoding's-Mary-Queen-of-China-Church-is-arrested,-another-Catholic-altar-is-demolished-34357.html>



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:** wrote a letter from prison in which he stated that he is praying for a revival of faith in the United States)

<http://www.onenewsnow.com/persecution/2015/05/07/saeeds-wish-on-his-birthday-pray-for-us#.VU2GM8JTE5t>



Azerbaijan: Baku

Irina Zakharchenko (aged 54, 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; **UPDATE:** pretrial detention extended another two months)

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; **UPDATE:** pretrial detention extended another two months)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2061



Nigeria: Plateau state

Gyang (**UPDATE:** said “I was at Rim yesterday for a burial when a large number well-armed Fulanis came to attack the village. This led to the killing of two of our community members on the farm. You’re aware that we in Riyom and Barkin Ladi LGAs have been under siege and invasion. Lives have been lost almost every day, and no serious action from any quarter by the government. But we are still faithful to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”)

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

Friday May 8, 2015



China: Suqian, Anhui province

Pastor Zhang “Bike” Mingxuan (president of the Chinese Association of Christian Family Churches; **UPDATE**: said “I called Pastor Wu Changle [on May 7, 2015], and the police listened to the phone call. The next day, six domestic security protection squad [DSPS] agents from the Suqian Municipal Public Security Bureau threatened Pastor Wu, saying that he must not welcome me”)

Pastor Wu Changle (said “They [DSPS agents] came to my house and said they knew [Pastor] Zhang had contacted me and planned on coming to visit. They asked if I wanted him to visit and said the Chinese House Church Alliance has been banned. They said that if he comes to my home, I should just tell him I’m not there. I said Christians cannot tell lies. I’m home, and he wants to visit me because we haven’t seen each other in a long time. Why would I lie to him? The police said if I really want to see him, I can do so, but we can’t go to a gathering. They also said if I decide to welcome him, I should notify the DSPS that Zhang is coming and when”)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/05/anhui-authorities-monitor-house-church.html>



Uzbekistan: border between Samarkand region and Navoi region, then at Karmana district police station

Four Christians arrested at a traffic stop, released later that night without their passports, told to return the next day for them, passports not returned for a week

Murot Turdiyev (**UPDATE**: arrested, beaten into unconsciousness)

Anvar Rajapov

Khurshid Boymuradov (arrested, officers began smoking around him when he said he had asthma, threatened with rape)

Khudoyor Mahammadiyev

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2070



Syria: Aleppo

Bishop Antoine Audo SJ (**UPDATE:** said "We are under bombs every day. I think many Christians will flee from Aleppo and seek shelter in the coastal area, but they will do it when schools and universities close, after the exams. In the disaster in which we live, even this year schools and universities remained open in the central districts of Aleppo. Many still believe that studying is important for the future although one lives in a city that seems to have no future")

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/christians-under-bombs-every-day-in-aleppo-they-have-no-weapons-and-are-afraid-says-bishop-138870/>



Sudan: Khartoum

UPDATE: Two pastors have been charged with undermining the constitutional system, spying, and waging war against the state, which are punished with death

Rev Yat Michael (arrested by NISS secret police on [December 21, 2014](#) without charge after delivering a homily)

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

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/05/south-sudanese-church-leaders-jailed-in-sudan-charged-could-face-death-penalty/>



Nigeria: Jos, Plateau state

Church of the Brethren [EYN] concluded a congress at which measures aimed at countering Boko Haram attacks were taken

Rev Daniel Mbaya (said "Because so many of the churches of EYN have been damaged or destroyed, this year's Majalisa [congress] conducted an ordination service for new pastors. The current ordained ministers gathered around the candidates, laying hands on them and commissioning them for the work ahead. All this is part of the EYN and Church of the Brethren plan to strengthen the church in Nigeria")

Rev Stanley J Noffsinger (general secretary Church of the Brethren USA, said "the attendees had a sort of shocked expression on their faces. The proceedings were constantly being interrupted by announcements of tragedy – news of a pastor being killed or abducted, or a village being overrun by the terrorist group Boko Haram")

Rev Samuel Dante Dali (husband of Dr Rebecca Dali; **UPDATE:** said that 1,290 churches out of 2,280 had been destroyed with over 700,000 church members displaced since 2009, and

has begun to construct 'rescue centers aka Brethren villages' to resettle church members, added "The peace heritage of the church is still the only way consistent with the gospel that we uphold")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/05/boko-haram-suspected-in-killing-of-at-least-29-people-most-christians-in-adamawa-nigeria/>

Saturday May 9, 2015



China: Zhejiang

Zhu Yufu (aged 62, husband of Jiang Hangli, charged with subverting the state upon publication of a poem, sentenced to 7 years imprisonment, appealing sentence; **UPDATE**: still denied medical care for his high blood pressure, cerebrovascular disease and coronary aneurysm, still denied a Bible)

Jiang Hangli (wife of Zhu Yufu, visited her husband in prison)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/06/china-18-member-still-denied-medical.html>

Sunday May 10, 2015



India: Madhya Pradesh state

Pastor Ronald Emmanuel Sinclair (beaten)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37820->

[ASIA_INDIA_Five_attacks_in_five_days_against_the_Christians_in_Madhya_Pradesh#.VVIPosLJA5s](#)



Pakistan: Youhanabad Ghetto, Lahore

Martyrs were commemorated from the **March 15, 2015** suicide bombings

Naz Bano (mother of murdered security guard Aakash Bano)

Fozia Sardar (widow of James Sardar, said of her daughter "She recognizes the face of her father on the [memorial] posters...I still go to Mass to the same church and I pray for the terrorists to convert. Life in this country is a disaster")

Rev Arshad Ashknaz (led the memorial service)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mothers-and-widows-remember-the-attacks-on-Youhanabad-churches-34221.html>



Ukraine: Maryanovka village, Krasnogvardeiskoe district, Crimea

Christians arrested and interrogated for holding an illegal public meeting where they sang Easter hymns and preached

Sergey Shokha

Anatoly Gerasimenko

Semyon Vinnikov (brother of Denis Vinnikov)

Denis Vinnikov (brother of Semyon Vinnikov)

Mark Dombrovsky

Yelena Kuskova

Galina Romanovich

Kristina Matafonova

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2068

Monday May 11, 2015



Thailand

Zareesh Gill (aged 16, Pakistani refugee)

Munir Bashir (Pakistani refugee, husband, father of two, said of their time in the Immigration Detention Center "The conditions were horrific, cramped, dark and hot. My IDC experience is so bad, when I see my children, I can't explain this because they are in prison and they have nothing. We spent seven months in IDC, but still my daughter had to face some problems. Flu, cough and she still have skin problem")

<http://www.pukaarnews.com/pakistani-christians-suffer-whilst-seeking-asylum-in-thailand-2/14400/>



Iraq

Sr Diana Momeka (reported on [April 30, 2015](#) to have been 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; **UPDATE**: decision reversed, visa issued)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/us-relents-after-pressure-grants-iraqi-nun-persecuted-by-isis-travel-visa-138966/>



Kenya: Nairobi

Leaders from several churches joined in an ecumenical service following recent terror attacks

Cardinal John Njue (**UPDATE**: said "As we remember the victims of the Garissa terror attack, we should continue to pray for those who were involved in this tragedy- those who actually killed so that they be converted and have respect for life")

Archbishop Martin Kivuva Musonde (said "Some say God has left us. Some ask has God abandoned Kenya? We have been the pride of Africa for many years. We have been known for our political maturity, as a business hub and center for tourism, but this has now been washed away by terror and banditry")

Archbishop Eliud Wabukala (**UPDATE**: condemned "the culture of short memory, where noise is made after every attack only to be followed by studious silence, we hear of arrests and people being taken to court but never the conclusion of the cases")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37804->

[AFRICA KENYA Remembering the victims of Garissa Christian leaders denounce the insecurity in which Kenya lives#.VVP-EcLJA5s](#)



Nigeria: Plateau state

Gyang (**UPDATE**: wrote “The jihadists, in their quest to eliminate Christians in Plateau state and their thirst for blood, have succeeded in killing Christians and burning their houses. They are right now attacking Rim, Bangai, Gwon, Wereng, Ringya and Sopp”)

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

Tuesday May 12, 2015



China: Zhengding, Hebei province

Bishop Julius Jia Zhiguio (aged 80, as of [March 28, 2013](#) has lived under constant government surveillance for several years; **UPDATE**: detained)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/catholic-leaders-detained-in-china/73680>



India: Indore, Madhya Pradesh state

Hindu radicals attack three churches just prior to the dedication of a missionary orphanage

Sonia Gandhi (widow of Rajiv Gandhi, opposition Congress party leader, threatened with "direct action" by Hindu radicals if she dedicated the orphanage)

Rev Ramesh Chandekar (church attacked, crucifix, holy vessels, and microphone damaged or destroyed)

Anita Benjamin (met with the state Home Minister to describe the Hindu attack on the church)

Pastor Roderick Gilbert (met with the state Home Minister to describe the Hindu attack on the church)

Pastor V Joseph (said that police stood at the gate and allowed the attackers to storm the church and later arrested Christians “They kept hitting us, alleging that we were involved in religious conversion and fake healings...Police, even after knowing our innocence registered a case against us”, later met with the state Home Minister to describe a Hindu attack on their church)

Sajan K George (**UPDATE**: said “religious freedom is on a downward spiral” in India)

India: Pipaldhar, Khandwa district, Madhya Pradesh state

Sr Jaya OAS (described an attack of a center for mentally disabled children "It was 3:15 am Tuesday. Everyone was asleep, when suddenly heavy bricks were thrown on the roof of the house and fell into the room where we [four nuns] slept. Thanks to the Lord's Divine Providence, no one was injured and the children were not present at that time. Now we sisters are afraid")

Bishop Chacko Thottumarickal (said after the attack on a home for disabled children "Fundamentalists seem to have a feeling that they can do anything and get away with it")

Sajan K George (**UPDATE**: said "This is an attack not only against the sisters but also against children, those with more difficulties. All this makes the misdeed worse. The attack is an affront against society itself, to which the women religious offer a tireless and generous service by caring for needy children. The sisters re-educate children that society marginalizes. The authors of the crime show a lack of morality. Their night-time raid reflects the darkness of their minds and hearts")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Madhya-Pradesh:-Hindu-radicals-attack-three-churches-34234.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/A-centre-for-disabled-children-run-by-Augustinian-nuns-attacked-in-Madhya-Pradesh-34242.html>



Pakistan: Karachi, Sindh province

Bernadette L Dean (U.S. citizen, threatened with death for assisting with textbook revisions, is leaving the country)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/07/catholic-educator-flees-pakistan-amid-hate-campaign-by-islamic-extremists/>



Ethiopia: Asella

Aman Kuni (arrested along with several others after an [April 25, 2015](#) baptism service, **UPDATE**: released on bail)

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



Congo, Democratic Republic: Lulingu-Shabunda

Bishop Placide Lubamba Ndjibu M Afr (aged 55, escaped from an attempted abduction)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37887->

[AFRICA DR CONGO The Bishops denounce In eastern Congo three basic training camps for jihadists but the UN observes without intervening#.VWU2YcLJA5s](#)

Wednesday May 13, 2015



Pakistan: Karachi, Sindh province

Fr Nasir John (condemned the massacre of 47 Ismaili Shia Muslims on a bus "We stand with the Ismaili community. This is an attack on the integrity of Pakistan. No one is safe in Pakistan; anyone can kill")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Catholics-and-Muslims-united-in-mourning,-after-the-slaughter-of-Ismaili-Shias-in-Karachi-34254.html>



Kazakhstan: Balkhash, Karaganda region

Nikolai Popov (aged 54, husband, father of five, fined US\$1,122 on [October 29, 2013](#) for religious activities; fined US\$597 on [January 15, 2014](#) for religious activities; **UPDATE:** had refused to pay the two fines, banned from leaving the country)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2130



Iraq: Bagdad

Juliana George (aged 16, daughter of George, granddaughter of Fr Joseph, abducted on May 5, 2015; **UPDATE:** released, US\$55,000 ransom paid)

George (father of Juliana George; **UPDATE:** said "I fear for her and my two other daughters. There is no reason to believe that we will not be targeted again. I don't see how we can stay in Bagdad after this")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150514175737.htm>



Nigeria: Jos, Plateau state

Rev Dachollom Datiri (**UPDATE**: urged pastors faced with persecution to ensure that they have made proper estate planning for their families including the writing of wills, called on President-elect Muhammadu Buhari to keep his anti-corruption promises, said “Terrorism and insurgency have continued unabated in this country... We have suffered heavy losses in terms of human lives and property including two of our pastors and many members. The terrorists are doing this with impunity...We congratulate the Nigerian Army over the successes they are currently registering and encourage them to press on until the dreaded extremist sect is wiped off. We hope the incoming regime will make good its promise to end insurgency in Nigeria”)

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2015/05/insecurity-cleric-laments-killing-of-pastors-others/>

Thursday May 14, 2015



Canada: Parliament Hill, Ottawa

Stephen Woodworth (Member of Parliament; **UPDATE**: speech at a pro-life rally attended by 25,000 interrupted by five FEMEN counter-protesters)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/topless-protesters-with-femen-disrupt-pro-life-march-second-year-in-a-row>

Friday May 15, 2015



Azerbaijan: Zakatala

Two sisters arrested for distributing religious literature on a street; **UPDATE: each fined US\$1,425**

Matanat Qurbanova

Saadat Muradhasilova

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



United Kingdom: Manningham

A Christian couple sent a letter to their Member of Parliament listing the acts of terrorism against them by their Muslim neighbors and police since their 1996 conversion from Islam, the MP has yet to reply

Nissar Hussain (convert, husband of Kubra, **UPDATE**: forced to move [in June 2006](#) after three automobiles were destroyed and a police sergeant said in response to an attempted arson attack on their home "Stop trying to be a crusader and move out!", persecution began again after they appeared in a [September 2008](#) documentary on persecution, car damaged again on [April 24, 2015](#) and again on this date)

Kubra Hussain (convert, husband of Nissar)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/British-convert-from-Islam-endures-decades-of-persecution-by-local-Muslim-community>

Saturday May 16, 2015



India: Mahasamund district, Chhattisgarh state

Auxiliary Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas (condemned the education district's order that Christian priests are not to be addressed as 'Father' in parochial schools as an "unconstitutional abuse of power, and once again evidence of how a small harmless community that is contributing so much to nation building is being harassed and taunted")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Chhattisgarh:-government-official-forbids-missionaries-to-be-called-father-34258.html>



Egypt: Tamiya village, Fayoum province

Fr Rafael Sami (**UPDATE** reported on the bombing of his church in which windows were shattered but no one injured "The cameras on the church wall displayed the culprits clearly since they were not masked," he said. "It turned out that two men on a motorbike

approached the church; one of them went down and placed a plastic bag near the wall then rode again and they went off. A few minutes later whatever was in the plastic bag detonated. It should be easy for the police to catch the culprits, since their faces were clear on the camera”)

<http://en.wataninet.com/coptic-affairs-coptic-affairs/sectarian/bomb-explodes-near-church-in-fayoum/13769/>



Nigeria: Wagga town, Madagali local government area

Timothy Wagra (told how Boko Haram attacked around midnight “The Boko Haram gunmen started shooting sporadically, and at the end of the attack, 10 Christians were killed in the town”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/05/boko-haram-suspected-in-killing-of-at-least-29-people-most-christians-in-adamawa-nigeria/>



United States - Georgia

Dr Eric Walsh (public health director, part time minister, job offer with the state Department of Public Health withdrawn after the department investigated the contents of his homilies)

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2016/04/20/fired-for-preaching-georgia-dumps-doctor-over-church-sermons.html>

Sunday May 17, 2015



Tanzania

Pastor Samson Gwajima (brother of Bishop Gwajima, head slashed with a sword or machete during a home invasion, had a 2 inch deep wound, had received death threats from the local mosque)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Tanzanian-pastor-attacked-at-home-as-tensions-rise-over-Islamic-courts-bill>



Ethiopia

Aman Kuni (arrested in [Asella](#) along with several others after an [April 25, 2015](#) baptism service, released on bail on [May 12, 2015](#), **UPDATE**: threatened with death and the death of his children who have been taken by his Muslim relatives, told to kill two Christian pastors)

Pastor Girma Hippo (threatened with death)

Pastor Endezina (threatened with death)

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



Belarus: Soligorsk

Vladimir Daineko (church meeting raided by OMON riot police, police demanded he stop praying and read a search warrant, arrested when he refused)

Nadezhda Daineko (owner of the home in which the church meeting took place)

Yuri Volodenko (arrested)

Lyubov Kundas (present during the police raid, accused of reading a Bible)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2073

Monday May 18, 2015



Myanmar: Karen state

Government forces reportedly continue attacks while ceasefire talks continue

Naw Lah Say Wah Ku (teacher, said "They burn our churches and all our houses")

Saw Hser Pweh Moo (rebel fighter, said "I saw Burmese army men persecuting civilians in my village. So I wanted to join the KNDO [Karen National Defense Organization], but I was below 18 years at the time. I waited, and joined the ethnic army once I became an adult...We believe in Christianity, but we also have to act. So, I, as a Christian, am holding a gun to protect my people. We won't be able to survive by only believing")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/05/3856781>



Uzbekistan: Karshi, Kashkadarya region

Gulzhahon Kuzebayeva (has been in hiding since July 2014 due to fear of torture under interrogation; **UPDATE**: police visited the homes of relatives every day between [May 7-16, 2015](#) in a search for her, finally attempted to force entry but left after seeing they were video recorded)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2070



Syria: Homs

Fr Jacques Murad SJ (abducted by two armed men)

Deacon Boutros Hanna (possibly abducted, unconfirmed)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37864->

[ASIA SYRIA Fr Jacques Murad kidnapped he belonged to the same community of Father Paolo Dall'Oglio#.VV_wxcLJBFY](#)



Egypt: Beni Suef

Maher Fayeze Habib (secondary school student, arrested on a charge of insulting Islam, held for 4 days in jail)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1379&A=18762>



Ukraine

Fr Dimitry Safonov (said at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe conference in Vienna, Austria "There are dozens of priests who had to leave Ukraine. The exact statistic is currently impossible. They are pressured into leaving Ukraine. Their families are getting death threats, they themselves are facing the threat of physical violence. By now there have been credible reports about 19 churches of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church having been violently seized by the so-called 'Kiev Patriarchate'")

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2015/05/dozens-of-priests-leave-ukraine-19-churches-of-moscow-patriarchate-seized-russian-orthodox-church-representative/>



United Kingdom

Rev David Robertson (commented on an atheist group's efforts to promote atheism in public schools after Christian books were banned "I am stunned at the sheer hypocrisy of the humanists - who in February of this year complained about a Christian book which sought to help pupils transfer from primary into secondary school, and because of the fuss got it banned - merely because this book mentioned prayer...It is a classic example of the arrogance and intolerance of the new fundamentalist atheists who do not want any religion or philosophy taught in Scottish schools, except their own")

United Kingdom: Belfast

Christian owners of a bakery convicted of discrimination for refusing to provide a cake with a pro-same sex marriage message, fined US\$786

Amy McArthur

Daniel McArthur

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/religious-freedom/humanists-hypocrisy-after-sending-atheist-manuals-to-every-scottish-s>

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2015/05/19/christian-bakery-unlawfully-discriminated-by-refusing-to-make-pro-gay-marriage-cake/>

Tuesday May 19, 2015



Turkmenistan: Turkmenabad

Bahram Hemdemov (father of Serdar Hemdemov, detained on [March 14, 2105](#), **UPDATE:** sentenced to 4 years' imprisonment, tortured during pretrial detention)

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



Tanzania

Pastor Samson Gwajima (brother of Bishop Gwajima, head slashed with a sword or machete during a home invasion, had a 2 inch deep wound, had received death threats from the local mosque, **UPDATE**: still unconscious)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Tanzanian-pastor-attacked-at-home-as-tensions-rise-over-Islamic-courts-bill>



Egypt: Sohag

Tharwat F (aged 25, reported to have survived an attempt to kill him and steal his automobile)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1380&A=18780>



Ukraine: Krasnogvardeiskoe district, Crimea

Christians arrested and interrogated on [May 10, 2015](#) in [Maryanovka village, Krasnogvardeiskoe district, Crimea](#) for holding an illegal public meeting where they sang Easter hymns and preached: **UPDATE**: fined

Sergey Shokha (fined US\$380)

Anatoly Gerasimenko (fined US\$190)

Semyon Vinnikov (brother of Denis Vinnikov, fined US\$190)

Denis Vinnikov (brother of Semyon Vinnikov, fined US\$190)

Mark Dombrovsky (fined US\$190)

Yelena Kuskova (fined US\$190)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2068



Nigeria: Garkida

Lami Aboki (spoke on the Boko Haram suicide bombing that killed a number of Christian vegetable sellers “I can’t eat or sleep as the gory sight of the dead bodies keeps haunting me. I am leaving this town. We have just returned thinking the place is safe, but from what we have seen, the terrorists are bent on returning here”)

Jerry Kundisi (legislator, said that nine people were killed)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/05/boko-haram-suspected-in-killing-of-at-least-29-people-most-christians-in-adamawa-nigeria/>

Wednesday May 20, 2015



India: Manohar, Odisha state

Rev Timothy Chaitanya Murmu (arrested on false charges of forced conversion after baptizing 16 people)

[http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Odisha:-Christian-minister-imprisoned-on-\(false\)-accusations-of-forced-conversions-34336.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Odisha:-Christian-minister-imprisoned-on-(false)-accusations-of-forced-conversions-34336.html)



Egypt: Qena

Antonious Hani Khalaf (aged 8, abducted on [May 3, 2015](#) by four armed and masked men while being taken to school by his mother; **UPDATE**: rescued by police)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1381&A=18797>



Ukraine: Krasnogvardeiskoe district, Crimea

Christians arrested and interrogated on [May 10, 2015](#) in [Maryanovka village, Krasnogvardeiskoe district, Crimea](#) for holding an illegal public meeting where they sang Easter hymns and preached: **UPDATE**: fined

Galina Romanovich (fined US\$190)

Kristina Matafonova (sentencing postponed to June 15, 2015)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2068

Thursday May 21, 2015



Turkmenistan: Turkmenabad

Konstantin Vlaskin (brother of Aleksandra, detained by on [May 6, 2015](#) police while walking on the street, taken to his home, beaten along with his sister, computer and religious literature seized, **UPDATE**: still in detention)

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



Russia: Cherkessk

Dmitry Metelin (detained, questioned, and beaten)

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



Egypt

Izzat Ibrahim Ezzat (rights activist; **UPDATE**: described the rescue by police of four abducted Christians in which the victims were injured when their abductors threw them from the roof of their hideout, the Christians - on aged 5 - were on a religious pilgrimage when abducted)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63013>

Friday May 22, 2015



China: Cao county, Shandong province

Wang Aimei (detained at a [June 25, 2014](#) worship service; tried on [April 22-23, 2015](#) for membership in the Total Scope Church aka Born Again Movement, declared exempt from criminal penalty)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/05/verdict-for-christians-in-cao-county.html>



Kyrgyzstan: Osh

UPDATE: A mother and daughter are beginning their third year of house arrest, which began on [March 20, 2013](#) on fraud charges after her church filed registration applications; both were acquitted on all charges on [October 7, 2014](#), the judge called the case 'fabricated', still under arrest while the prosecution appeals the dismissal

Nadezhda Sergienko (aged 56, mother of Oksana Koryakina)

Oksana Koryakina (aged 35, daughter of Nadezhda Sergienko)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2064



Iran: Esfahan

Thirteen Christians - two unnamed - arrested in [Shahin-Shahr](#) on [February 20, 2013](#) were reported to have been sentenced to one year in prison and banned from foreign travel for two years

Abbas Kiani

Akbar Ahmadi

Bitra Ja'fari

Fatemeh Zareie

Maryam Bateni-nia

Masoumeh Dashti

Nasrin Kiamarzi

Neda Fouladi

Ramin Bakhtiarvand

Samira Fouladi

Sarah Fouladi

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=2137>



Syria: Azeir monastery, between Homs and Tartous

Sr Marta OCSO (said “After seeing the footage of Palmyra, seized by the Islamic State fighters, the Syrian people are terrified. They assure one another saying that they won’t come here, not here, but it is easy to see the fear in their eyes...The funeral ceremonies, more numerous than reported and that indicate the fate of the conflict, are now a daily event...an entire generation has been sacrificed for an absurd conflict that no one here ever wanted”)

<http://www.misna.org/en/other/priest-abducted-trappist-sisters-we-are-afraid-but-will-remain-22-05-2015-813.html>



Nigeria: Enugu

Six Christians beaten by State Housing Corporation employees who were sent to take possession of and demolish church owned property

Rev Collins Odoabuchi

Rev Mbaka Peter

Rev Eugene

Rev Maxwell Onyia

Ekpecha Okechukwu

Naomi Ibekwe

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2015/05/4-priests-beaten-to-pulp-as-enugu-govt-battles-anglican-church/>



Ireland

Bishop John McAreavey (reported to have said “According to the International Society for Human Rights, a non-religious organization, 80 percent of all acts of religious discrimination in the world today are directed against Christians”)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/11-christians-are-killed-every-hour-persecution-at-all-time-high/>

Sunday May 24, 2015



China: Baiyun district, Guangzhou city, Guangdong province

Mark Ma Chao (detained and interrogated for several hours after a police raid on his church, discovered that the large police presence during the raid was due to a second raid on small church meeting on the floor below his, that church did not challenge the police action and disbanded)

China: Wenming village, Dagan town, Qianxi county, Guizhou province

Fu Hanguo (arrested, beaten after refusing to sign a confession)

Huang Huaxing (arrested)

Kang Chengju (arrested)

Kang Chenglin (arrested)

Tang Honggui (arrested)

Wang Yanggui (arrested)

Wei Qing (arrested, beaten after refusing to sign a confession)

Xiao Kang (arrested)

Xu Guoqin (arrested)

Xu Guoqing (husband of Zhou Xunmin, home raided during a church service by police without warrant, benches and musical instruments seized, arrested, beaten after refusing to sign a confession)

Xu Guoying (arrested)

Xu Xiaoqin (said “They surrounded our church and even brought in dogs. And they let the dogs loose to bite us. When I said I was a member of the church, they sicced the police dog on me to bite me”)

Zhou Xunmin (wife of Xu Guoqing, arrested)

China: Zhengding, Hebei province

Bishop Julius Jia Zhiguio (aged 80, as of [March 28, 2013](#) has lived under constant government surveillance for several years; detained on [May 12, 2015](#), **UPDATE**: released)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/catholic-leaders-detained-in-china/73680>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/06/special-armed-police-raid-guizhou-house.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/06/guizhou-authorities-attempt-to-disrupt.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/06/despite-trying-to-keep-low-profile.html>

Monday May 25, 2015



Thailand: Bangkok

Papa Thongchai (businessman, reported to have been financially supporting a church for Pakistani refugees, has delivered food and other necessities)

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/the-truth-about-christians-in-thailand>



Pakistan: DhoopSari ghetto, Gulshan Ravi area, Lahore

Humayun Faisal Masih (aged 27, illiterate street sweeper, reputed drug addict, father of two daughters, separated from his wife due to mental illness, accused of Quran desecration after found burning newspapers with Quranic verses, beaten, arrested, Christian homes and at least one church burned in rioting)

Ashraf Gill (youth president, St Joseph's church, said "Muslim rioters came with daggers, hockey sticks and irons, they came with intention to kill or maim. They have looted our properties and caused serious damage to them. We have done nothing to hurt them so why have they treated us so harshly? Humayan is a poor sweeper, what purpose would he have for desecrating the Quran? He has been brutally treated for simply undertaking his regular job of street sweeping. This is a woeful injustice")

Rashda Alamgir (said "When the incident happened I was at home with my kids. The mob was chanting anti-Christian slogans, and destroying property. I remained confined in my home till 12am and we went from one room to another not knowing what else to do. At 12am the police helped us come out of our own home and I spent the night at my relatives' house. I came back in the morning")

Pastor Riaz Arif (sent his wife and children to a safe location, stayed behind with his elderly mother)

Chaudhry Alam Masih (home threatened by rioters, said "They were very charged up, and some of them were carrying weapons. They were raising religious slogans and demanded that Masih should be handed over to them so that they could burn him the same way he had allegedly burned the holy pages. They also tried to break into our homes and broke open several doors of nearby houses. The protestors carrying weapons fired into the air, spreading more panic among us")

Hizkiel Sahotra (said "Many people showed up outside my house and started chanting slogans against Christians. I don't know what would have happened if police or Rangers hadn't shown up and chased them off")

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/police-clash-with-protestors-after-humayun-masih-charged-with-295c/>

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/pakistani-christian-hamyun-masih-arrested-form-burning-holy-quran/>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5360>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5361>

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/residents-of-dhoop-sari-speak-out-fear-grips-fleeing-locals/>

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/residents-of-dhoop-sari-speak-out-fear-grips-fleeing-locals/>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/05/islamic-mob-attacks-houses-church-over-blasphemy-accusation-in-pakistan/>



Syria: Hasaka region

Ramziyya Rehana (aged 80, captured by ISIL on February 23, 2015 in Tel Jazira, **UPDATE:** released, has a fractured hip)

Yoniyya Kanoon (aged 70, captured by ISIL on February 23, 2015 in Tel Shamiram, **UPDATE:** released)

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



Sudan: Kauda, South Kordofan state

Hamida Osman (mother of 3 year old Kaka Abdu Kuku Tiral, both **killed** in a government air raid)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/05/sudans-aerial-bombing-kills-3-year-old-girl-wounds-mother-in-nuba-mountains/>



Egypt: Al-Mokattam, Cairo

Sarah Youssef Ghali (aged 25, accidentally **shot dead** by a policeman with a history of anti-Christian acts)

Nour Rashad (cousin of Sarah Youssef Ghali)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63081>

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1387&A=18896>



United States - Connecticut

Rev Dr Augustus Sealy (aged 54, husband of Sharon Sealy, shot while placing flags on his church property to commemorate Memorial Day, hospitalized in serious condition)

Sharon Sealy (wife of Rev Dr Augustus Sealy, said “He hasn’t lost any hope. You know, this is something that happened that was really terrible and shouldn’t have happened and we’ve already prayed for that person who actually committed the crime”)

<http://www.courant.com/breaking-news/hc-hartford-shootings-0725-20150524-story.html>
<http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/Hartford-Police-investigating-304847031.html>

Tuesday May 26, 2015



Pakistan: Chakwal City

Pastor Suhail Masih (beaten by armed men in his church along with five parishioners)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/church-vandalized-5-including-pastor-beaten-by-armed-assailants-in-chakwal/>



Egypt: Kafr Darweesh village, Bani Sweif

Ayman Youssef Tawfeek (accused of making Facebook posts that are insults to Islam despite being illiterate, 10 homes of Christians attacked by a mob)

Malak Youakim Ayad (automobile smashed during the riot over the insults to Islam allegations against Ayman Youssef Tawfeek)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1385&A=18861>
<http://en.wataninet.com/coptic-affairs-coptic-affairs/sectarian/copts-attacked-for-alleged-disdain-of-islam/13890/>



Congo, Democratic Republic

Three Assumptionist priests still missing, were abducted on [October 19, 2012](#) in Mbau

Fr Anselme Wasikundi AA

Fr Edmond Bamutute AA

Fr Jean-Pierre Ndulani AA

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37887->

[AFRICA DR CONGO The Bishops denounce In eastern Congo three basic training camps for jihadists but the UN observes without intervening#.VWU2YcLJA5s](#)



Nigeria

Fr James John (**UPDATE**: had been forced to leave his parish by Boko Haram attacks, forced to sleep on the street with other refugees, said “Twenty-five of us were forced to leave, but some already returned and I hope to do the same. I asked [Bishop] Dashe Doeme if I could return to serve in my diocese, because after so much violence there is such need to rebuild, especially spiritually”)

<http://www.misna.org/en/church-and-mission/boko-haram-odyssey-of-maiduguri-priests-26-05-2015-813.html>



United States - North Carolina: Camp Lejeune

Lance Corporal Monifa Sterling USMC (convicted at court martial for refusing an order to remove a displayed Bible verse from her workstation despite the existence of personal messages on other workstations, **UPDATE**: appeal underway)

<http://www.charismanews.com/us/49804-marine-court-martialed-for-displaying-bible-verse-in-workplace>

Wednesday May 27, 2015



China

Li (wife of Pastor Wang Zhongliang, DSPS agents invaded their home when her husband was away, tied up with packing tape and beaten, taken to the police station, threatened with eviction from their home and with their son being denied schooling)

Pastor Wang Zhongliang (husband of Li)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/05/pastors-wife-attacked-limbs-bound-with.html>



Iraq: Saint Matthew Monastery, Al-Faf

Yousif Ibrahim (monk, said "We can see the battles and the airstrikes from here in front of us, especially at night. The sky lights up at night, but we of course are not scared. God protects us")

Sahar Karaikos (student, said "We are not scared, because our teachers give us a feeling of peace here, but we know we are on the frontlines, and in seconds the Islamic State could be here. I don't even want to think or speak about the destruction the Islamic State would cause if they took our monastery")

Iraq

Bishop Michael Muqadissi (said the majority of Christians do not want to immigrate)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150527134926.htm>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63079>



Syria: Aleppo

Archbishop Jean Clement Jeanbart (**UPDATE:** wrote "ISIL, which has already killed thousands in the region, is terrifying the faithful of Aleppo...After Maloula, Mosul, Idlib and Palmyra, what is the West waiting for before it intervenes? What are the great nations waiting for before they put a halt to these monstrosities?")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150604165349.htm>



Egypt: Tora Prison, South Cairo

Bishoy Armiya Boulous aka Mohammed Hegazy (aged 32, Egypt's 'most famous' convert, arrested before [December 5, 2013](#) in Minya province and charged with "inciting sedition by communicating to a US-based [Coptic] channel unfounded information on Copts

persecution in Egypt"; **UPDATE**: completed his sentence in [December 2014](#), still incarcerated, has been beaten and dragged on concrete floors almost daily)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/05/noted-convert-from-islam-in-egypt-regularly-beaten-in-prison-attorney-says/>



United Kingdom

Rob Hughes (street preacher, arrested on [September 4, 2014](#) in [Basildon](#), released after 11 hours due to insufficient evidence, filed a wrongful arrest lawsuit, **UPDATE**: awarded US\$3,836 plus legal fees)

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



United States - South Dakota: Sioux Falls

Rev Steve Hickey (aged 48, state legislator, wrote about his pastoral work and his own likely fatal illness when responding to a constituent asking him to support an euthanasia bill "Out of all these experiences including my own situation, and my religious background, I have come to the conclusion that death is strictly the domain of God and we need to quit figuring out reasons to justify killing people: abortion, death penalty, euthanasia. The Bible teaches God gives us sufficient grace to live and I have found this includes sufficient grace to die")

<https://twitter.com/stevehickey/status/603659595505008641>

Thursday May 28, 2015



China: Cao county, Shandong province

Cheng Hongpeng (detained at a [June 25, 2014](#) worship service; tried on [April 22-23, 2015](#) for membership in the Total Scope Church aka Born Again Movement, attorneys demonstrated that all witnesses were coerced by police, verdict delayed; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment)

Zhao Weiling (husband of Liu Cuiping, detained at a [June 25, 2014](#) worship service; tried on [April 22-23, 2015](#) for membership in the Total Scope Church aka Born Again Movement, attorneys demonstrated that all witnesses were coerced by police, verdict delayed; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 4 years' imprisonment)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/05/verdict-for-christians-in-cao-county.html>



Malaysia

Rev Dr Eu Hong Seng (chairman of the Christian Federation of Malaysia; **UPDATE**: spoke on the ban of Malay language Bibles by the state governments in Sarawak and Sabah "The specific requirement for non-Muslim religions to seek the approval of the federal government's Islamic agencies for the importation of religious material is in clear violation of the provisions of the Federal Constitution and the spirit of the 10-point solution")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/bibles-with-word-allah-to-be-barred-from-part-of-malaysia/73687>

Friday May 29, 2015



China: Wenming village, Daguan town, Qianxi county, Guizhou province

Christians attempted with their attorney to see other church members who were arrested on [May 24, 2015](#), turned away by police, followed by a group of men that included one who produced a knife and threatened to "chop them into pieces", the group fled after the attorney used a cell phone to call police

Pastor Yang Hua

Luo Shihong

Heng Quan

Xu Guoqing (husband of Zhou Xunmin, home raided during a [May 24, 2015](#) church service by police without warrant, benches and musical instruments seized, arrested, beaten after refusing to sign a confession; **UPDATE**: released)

Zhou Xunmin (wife of Xu Guoqing, arrested on [May 24, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: released)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/06/guizhou-authorities-attempt-to-disrupt.html>



Pakistan

Sehrish (alias, family law attorney, said “They would like to force me to convert to Islam and have me married to one of their brothers or even to themselves. As a Christian I have to watch my back all the time...Please pray for me that I am able to seek justice for abused women from Hindu and Christian backgrounds and also to remain safe myself”)

Pakistan: Karachi, Sindh province

Rev Faheem (church seized by armed drug dealers, local Christians threatened with death and blasphemy accusations if they resist)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/female-christian-lawyer-aims-to-work-for-pakistani-believers/>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Karachi:-armed-drug-dealers-threaten-Pentecostal-clergyman-in-order-to-get-church-land-34415.html>

Saturday May 30, 2015



China: Wenming village, Dagan town, Qianxi county, Guizhou province

Xiao Kang (arrested on [May 24, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: released)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/06/guizhou-authorities-attempt-to-disrupt.html>



Iran: Rajaei-Shahr prison, Karaj

Pastor Farshid Malayeri Fathi (aged 35, sentenced in 2011 or 2012 to six years imprisonment for "being the chief agent of foreign organizations in Iran and of administrating funds for foreign organizations"; sentenced on [December 29, 2014](#) in Tehran to an additional year in prison, sentence appears related to a Revolutionary Guard raid on his prison in which alcohol was found in an adjacent ward, he denied involvement; **UPDATE**: appeal to overturn his sentence of an additional year imprisonment and 74 lashes denied)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/06/3878521/>

Sunday May 31, 2015



China: Baiyun district, Guangzhou city, Guandong province

Mark Ma Chao (detained and interrogated for several hours after a [May 24, 2015](#) police raid on his church; **UPDATE**: led a worship service in the hallway outside the sealed doors of his church, told that meeting in this manner was illegal)

China: Nanle county, Henan province

Zhang Cuijuan (aged 37, wife of Jia Limin, younger sister of Pastor Zhang Shaojie, found guilty on [September 9, 2014](#) of 'gathering a crowd to disrupt the public order', sentenced to 1 and a half years imprisonment; **UPDATE**: released from prison, wrote "I couldn't hold back my tears when I heard there were a lot of Christians in China and abroad who were concerned and praying for me")

China: Pu'er City, Yunnan province

Pastor Zhu Hewen (house church raided during a service, order to stop meeting and to turn over a list of all church members including the 20 college students, refused)

Pastor Zhang "Bike" Mingxuan (president of the Chinese Association of Christian Family Churches; **UPDATE**: said "The purpose of a list of the college students' names is to put pressure on the school president, students or parents, students are not allowed to believe in Jesus. This is a form of persecution directed at young people and students. I pray for them")

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/06/guangzhous-guangfu-house-church-clashes.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/06/nanle-county-christian-church-member.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/06/in-yunnan-province-government.html>



Burundi: Bujumbura

Archbishop Evariste Ngoyagoye (object of an assassination attempt while in a religious procession, the assassination was prevented by his security team composed of young people of the church)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37929->

[AFRICA BURUNDI An assassination attempt foiled against the Archbishop of Bujumbura during the Marian procession#.VW0nT8LJBFY](#)



Belarus: Gomel

Pastor Sergei Nikolaenko (church raided by OMON riot police who asked "Why did you come to this church, not to a normal or correct one?")

Aleksandr Chuev (present during the police raid on his church)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2073

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2077

May 2015, date unknown



Pakistan: Gujranwala

Anjum Naz Sandhu (school director, arrested after two men he had accused of extortion produced an audio recording in which he allegedly committed blasphemy)

<https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/christian-embroiled-in-a-fabricated-blasphemy-case-acquitted-by-the-court/>



United States – Nevada: Shelby county

Mackenzie Frasier (aged 12, prohibited by her teacher from using a Bible quotation in an assignment entitled 'All About Me', the school administration later apologized and allowed the assignment to be resubmitted with the quote)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/nevada-school-apologizes-for-banning-12-y-o-girl-from-citing-bible-verse-john-316-in-homework-assignment-139855/>