

Today's Martyrs – June 2015

Monday June 1, 2015



Pakistan: Karachi, Sindh province

William Boota (church board member, described how local politicians managed to get the drug dealers to leave the church, said "The question seems settled but there is still fear in the community because similar meetings took place in the past two years. But after a while, mobsters began again harming the faithful")

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



Nigeria: Owo-Oba-Akoko, Ondo state

A priest and his brother were killed during a robbery attempt when the robbers fired into his automobile's gasoline tank, exploding it

Fr Goodwill Onyeka (brother of Onyeka Obi, **killed**)

Onyeka Obi (brother of Fr Goodwill Onyeka, **killed**)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/37941-AFRICA_NIGERIA_A_priest_killed_in_an_attempted_robbery#.VW5ywcLJAfg

Tuesday June 2, 2015



Pakistan: Multan jail

Aasiya Noreen aka Asia Bibi (aged 50, wife of Ashiq Masih, mother of five including Isham, still incarcerated on a 2009 blasphemy conviction and death sentence; **UPDATE**: has been suffering from intestinal bleeding, requires medical treatment)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue26781.html>



Egypt: Kafr Darwish village, al-Fashn, Beni Sweif province

A large extended family has been allowed to return home after being forced out of their village on [May 24, 2015](#) after a Facebook account in one son's name had cartoons of Muhammad posted to it, that son is illiterate and had no Facebook page, crops and cattle destroyed, the Muslim governor publicly defended the family from collective punishment and personally welcomed them home

Youssef Tawfeek (aged 80, father of Atef, Emad, Nour, and Ayman)

Atef Youssef Tawfeek (son of Youssef Tawfiq)

Emad Youssef Tawfeek (son of Youssef Tawfiq, said the family was threatened with being “burned to cinders...We were terrified for the safety of our children, so we hurried out. We are now, all 19 of us, crammed in a very small temporary lodging. Our children could not take their final exams, and our land and crops have been ruined”)

Nour Youssef Tawfeek (son of Youssef Tawfiq)

Ayman Youssef Tawfeek (son of Youssef Tawfiq, working in Jordan, wife and children driven from their home)

<http://en.wataninet.com/coptic-affairs-coptic-affairs/sectarian/expelled-coptic-families-return-home/13960/>

Wednesday June 3, 2015



India: Madhyamgram, North 24 Parganas district, West Bengal state

Sajan K George (**UPDATE**: condemned an attack on an occupied mission school in which furnishings and food was destroyed, offensive graffiti written on the walls, and disinfectant poured into the water filtration system)

India: Chhattisgarh state

Sam Francis (said "The tiny Christian community is shaken by these incidents and there is ‘a feeling of insecurity’ within the Christian community with the almost daily occurrence of attacks against them")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/West-Bengal:-more-anti-Christian-violence-as-vandals-attack-a-missionary-school-34421.html>

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Indian-village-leader-says-four-Christian-families-outcasts-for-following-Christ>



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:** 'viciously' beaten by fellow inmates, no bones broken)

<http://aclj.org/persecuted-church/american-pastor-saeed-abedini-attacked-beaten-by-fellow-prisoners>



Sudan: Omdurman Prison

Rev William Devlin (aged 61, U.S. citizen, detained and questioned for almost 2 hours when he attempted to visit jailed Pastors David Yein Reith and Yat Michael and photographed the conditions in the jail, released after the photos were deleted and he said he was a guest of the Foreign Minister)

Rev Kori Kuku (visited Pastors David Yein Reith and Yat Michael in jail, helped negotiate the release of Rev William Devlin)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/american-pastor-detained-in-military-prison-while-visiting-pastors-imprisoned-in-sudan-interview-140037/>

Thursday June 4, 2015



China: Baiyun district, Guangzhou city, Guandong province

Mark Ma Chao (**UPDATE:** refused to open the door when 16 DSPS and Religious Affairs Bureau agents attempted to interrupt a prayer service, told them "I don't have time right now", after 20 minutes of video recording the worshippers through glass the agents left, on the same day the local court dismissed his lawsuit against the Religious Affairs Bureau)

China: Chengdu, Sichuan

Three church leaders were taken into custody on the 26th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square crackdown, released late in the evening

Pastor Wang Yi

Li Yingqiang

Zhang Guoqing

China: Shekou Development Zone, Guangdong province

Zhang (member of a church on the grounds of an international school, said “Under political pressure and other pressures, the gate keepers and security guards at Shekou International School have been persecuting the church, requiring the church to issue passes to everyone who comes for worship. Only those who have their passes are allowed to enter the church and participate in the worship service. Those without a pass are not allowed in...We study the Bible and we know that churches that believe in Jesus Christ are open to everyone, especially to those who are devout followers of our Lord. Restrictions should not be imposed for any reason to prevent people from coming to church to attend a worship service”, the lease on the church building has not been renewed)

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

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/06/on-26th-anniversary-of-june-4-crackdown.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/06/government-suspected-of-pressuring.html>



Pakistan: Karachi

Dr Nazir S Bhatti (**UPDATE:** said that the government's efforts to prevent Christians from leaving the country has been intensifying)

Pakistan: Lukoo Shade Mehmoodabad neighborhood, Mirpur Khas, Sindh province

More than 25 Christian families have fled their homes after a mentally disabled neighbor was accused of blasphemy and rioting erupted

Yaqoob Bashir (aged 22, son of Kasuar Bibi, mentally disabled, accused of Quran desecration after he accidentally burned part of an Islamic booklet with a cigarette, dragged from his home by a mob, arrested)

Kasuar Bibi (mother of Yaqoob Bashir, home invaded by the mob that dragged off her son on allegations of Quran desecration)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5392>

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/06/05/mentally-disabled-christian-accused-of-committing-blasphemy-in-pakistan/>

Saturday June 6, 2015



Iran: Rajaei-Shahr prison

Ebrahim Firouzi (convert, aged 30, prison term completed, still not released a week later on [January 20, 2015](#), the authorities appear to be planning to make new charges of "propaganda and action against national security" against him; reported on [May 1, 2015](#) to have been sentenced to five additional years' imprisonment for "action against national security through collusion and gathering", the gathering in question was a meeting where he met with friends to say goodbye before the beginning of his original prison term; **UPDATE:** began a hunger strike to protest his transfer to a ward with hardened criminals)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=2286>



Sudan: Kober Prison, North Khartoum

UPDATE: Two pastors charged with capital crimes have been transferred to a maximum security prison while awaiting trial

Pastor David Yein Reith

Pastor Yat Michael

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/christian.pastors.on.trial.in.sudan.moved.to.high.security.prison/55765.htm>



Egypt: al-Shaghaba village, Assiut province

Hashmat Mossaad Nawar (agricultural land reportedly seized with the collusion of the mayor)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63197>

Sunday June 7, 2015



China: Langzhong, Sichuan province

Pastor Li Mingbo (**UPDATE:** described the detention of two other parishioners, the parishioners were released later that day)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/06/sichuan-church-member-administratively.html>



Iraq: Al Anbar

Sameer Mohannad Curcas (**killed**)

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



United Kingdom

Sarah Mbuyi (aged 31, nursery nurse in Highbury, London, dismissed from her position in January 2014 for defending traditional Christian marriage; her former employer's attorney stated to the Employment Tribunal in London on March 5, 2015 that Christian views are unacceptable in the workplace and equated Christianity with racism; **UPDATE:** reported to have won her discrimination case with the Employment Tribunal)

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/freedom-of-speech/christian-worker-wins-employment-tribunal-case-over-homosexual-target>

Monday June 8, 2015



India: Ranchi

Cardinal Telesphore Toppo (received an extortion letter demanding US\$781,915 to prevent his murder, the letter was reputed to be from the People's Liberation Front of India, a Maoist Communist Party of India splinter group)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/India,-death-threats-against-Card.-Toppo:-I'm-not-afraid,-my-mission-continues-34480.html>



Pakistan: Multan prison, Punjab province

Aasiya Noreen aka Asia Bibi (wife of Ashiq Masih, mother of five including Isham, still incarcerated on a 2009 blasphemy conviction and death sentence; **UPDATE:** reported to have begun to vomit blood, has chest pain, is described as "so weak she can hardly walk", family is demanding proper medical care)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/asia-bibis-health-deteriorating-rapidly-blood-vomits-in-jail/>



Syria: Damascus

UPDATE: All five Christian patriarchs of Antioch met and issued a statement pleading with Christians to remain in the Middle East “We do not condemn those that choose to leave, but we remind Christians that steadfastness in faith often entails a great deal of tribulation. We call on everyone who claims to have an interest in our fate to help us to remain”

Patriarch Beshara Boutros al-Rai (aged 75)

Patriarch Gregorios III Laham (aged 81)

Patriarch Ignatius Ephrem Joseph III (aged 70)

Patriarch Ignatius Ephrem II (aged 50)

Patriarch Youhanna X aka Youhanna Yazigi (aged 60, brother of abducted Bishop Boulos al-Yazigi)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/christians-belong-in-middle-east-antioch-patriarchs-say-in-call-for-peace-96128/>



Belarus: Soligorsk

Vladimir Daineko (church raided by OMON riot police on [May 17, 2015](#), police demanded he stop praying and read a search warrant, arrested when he refused, **UPDATE:** fined US\$235)

Yuri Volodenko (arrested on [May 17, 2015](#), **UPDATE:** fined US\$235)

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



Nigeria: Ido-Elkit

Fr Emmanuel Akingbade (abducted, gunmen demanded US\$100,528 from him to avoid being abducted)

Bishop Felix Ajakaye (reported on the abduction of Fr Emmanuel Akingbade)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37977->

[AFRICA NIGERIA We are waiting to be contacted by the kidnappers says the Bishop of Ekiti after the kidnapping of a priest#.VXpmHcLJAfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37977-)

Tuesday June 9, 2015



China: Zhaoqing, Guangdong province

Lin Haixin (operator of a rehab facility, warned to not conduct religious activities or else religious materials would be confiscated)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/06/guangdong-rehabilitation-center.html>



Vietnam: Thanh Hoa

Marie Ta Phong Tan (aged 46, convert, former policewoman, detained since [September 2011](#) after blogging against government corruption, mother committed suicide by self-immolation in protest on [July 30, 2012](#) in [Bac Lieu](#); sentenced on [September 24, 2012](#) in Hanoi to 10 years with 5 additional years of house arrest for spreading anti-government propaganda on the internet; **UPDATE**: has been on a hunger strike for at least three weeks to protest mistreatment of prisoners)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Vietnamese-Catholic-activist-on-hunger-strike-in-protest-against-prison-abuse-34459.html>



Myanmar: Yangon

Khon Ja Labang (**UPDATE:** has been raising money to support 120,000 Christian Kachin refugees who have been displaced by the military)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Catholic-activist,-the-plight-of-Kachin-displaced-by-the-military's-violence-is-getting-worse-34464.html>



Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan

Archbishop Yohanna Petros Moshe (**UPDATE:** said "I ask you to pray for us... especially for our political leaders to help them find the solution that will allow us to go back to our cities")

Fr Georges Jahoula (said that reportedly ISIL celebrated the one year anniversary of their occupation of Mosul by converting a church into a mosque "All our heritage is in Mosul, in Qaraqosh [formerly the main Syrian Catholic town in Nineveh] but especially in the monastery of St Behnam, which dates back to the fourth century AD. I have heard that some parts of the monastery, which is quite famous and old and contains thousands of Scriptures, were destroyed...But we have no news about our churches and monasteries because we have no-one left in Mosul to report on it")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150611151558.htm>



Egypt: Beni Mazar

C M (secondary school student, released from jail after 62 days, had been arrested on [April 9, 2015](#) 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/>



Turkey: Kadikoy, Istanbul

Al-Nory Kozalan (church attendant, described the arson attack on his church by a mentally ill man)

Yorgo Istefanopulos (said of the mentally ill church arsonist “I think he was pushed forward by someone who wanted to make a provocation. [Now] the congregation is worried there will be a more serious attack with a Molotov cocktail or a bomb”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/06/christians-shaken-after-attack-on-their-church-building-in-istanbul-turkey/>

Wednesday June 10, 2015



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

Five Christian families forced to flee their village along with their pastor by tribal people directed by Hindu extremists

Pastor Moosa Minj (forced to flee his village after having his possessions thrown from his house, received death threats, said “The Christians in the village have been discriminated and threatened for a long time, but the banishment started in the first week of June, when five Christian families were threatened and banished”)

Gossner Ekka (family forced to flee their village)

Vardhan Kujur (family forced to flee their village)

Premchand Kujur (family forced to flee their village)

Masihcharan Kujur (family forced to flee their village)

Premchand Ekka (family forced to flee their village)

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



Pakistan: Kot Lakhpat Jail, Lahore, Punjab province

Aftab Bahadur Masih (aged 39, former plumbing apprentice, **executed by hanging** for a 1992 triple homicide despite the facts that the law prohibited execution of minors [he was 15 when arrested], that his confession and all witness statements were extracted by torture and later recanted, and that the police solicited a bribe from his family to drop the charges)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5405>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/The-last-letter-of-Aftab,-an-innocent-Pakistani-Catholic-who-was-hanged-34475.html>



Egypt: Ismailia

Rafik Riad Dawoud (husband of Salwa Nessem Hanna, father of Batoul, has not seen them since they disappeared on [August 15, 2013](#), threatened with arrest when he insisted the security director investigate the case, was told his wife had embraced the 'true' religion)

Salwa Nessem Hanna (aged 36, wife of Salwa Nessem Hanna, mother of Batoul, disappeared on [August 15, 2013](#), police said she embraced the 'true' religion)

Batoul (aged 1 year, daughter of Rafik Riad Dawoud and Salwa Nessem Hanna, disappeared on [August 15, 2013](#), police said her mother embraced the 'true' religion)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63247>



Brazil: Boca do Rio, Salvador, Bahia state

Fr Antonio Alves de Almeida (aged 67, **stabbed to death** in an apparent robbery)

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



United States – Alaska: Kodiak

Archpriest Innocent Dresdow (described "severe" vandalism at the Holy Resurrection Cathedral, the detained suspect had destroyed sacred objects and thrown the Reserved Mysteries [Eucharist] on the floor but left the visible cash donations untouched)

Bishop David (said "I ask your prayers for Father Innocent and the cathedral family, the investigators and the perpetrator")

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2015/06/kodiaks-holy-resurrection-cathedral-vandalized/>

Thursday June 11, 2015



China: Beijing

Pastor Liu Fenggang (car forced off a [Xianghe, Hebei](#) highway on [October 17, 2012](#) by an SUV with a covered license plate shortly after passing an unmanned police checkpoint, the SUV driver then smashed the car's windshield with a club causing minor cuts; **UPDATE:** reported to have fled the country and arrived in the United States after a DSPS agent told him that he would spend every June 4th under house arrest)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/06/on-26th-anniversary-of-june-4-crackdown.html>



India

Cardinal Baselios Cleemis Thottunkal (said "Our sacred days are being disrupted under different pretexts")

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



Pakistan: Karachi

Pastor Ilyas Masih (said of the local criminals' threats "We have already received warnings not to play musical instruments during the liturgy, and to stop the girls who sing in the choir. Our faithful are warned not to attend church")

Fr Mario Rodrigues (**UPDATE:** said "Incidents related to the abuse of the blasphemy law are still frequent and Christians often pay the price")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/37976-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Threats_to_a_Christian_community_in_Karachi#.VXpn4cLJAfg



Iran: Rajaei-Shahr prison

Ebrahim Firouzi (convert, aged 30, prison term completed, still not released a week later on [January 20, 2015](#), the authorities appear to be planning to make new charges of "propaganda and action against national security" against him; reported on [May 1, 2015](#) to have been sentenced to five additional years' imprisonment for "action against national security through collusion and gathering", the gathering in question was a meeting where

he met with friends to say goodbye before the beginning of his original prison term; began a hunger strike on [June 6, 2015](#) to protest his transfer to a ward with hardened criminals, **UPDATE**: ended the strike when promised partial improvements in his incarceration)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=2286>



Iraq: Bagdad International Airport

Tariq Aziz (aged 79, former Foreign Minister in the Saddam Hussein regime, **died in prison of a heart attack** on [June 5, 2015](#), body stolen while in transit for burial)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150611172817.htm>



Syria

Fr Andrzej Halemba (**UPDATE**: Middle East director of Aid to the Church in Need, visited 'project sites' in recent days, said "Four million people have already left Syria. Fifteen thousand doctors alone have left. Half of the schools are closed. Things are especially hard for the seriously ill. It has been estimated that more people have died in this war from a lack of health care than through fighting. Some church people say that this has been the cause of more than 350,000 deaths. Compare that with the 220,000 victims of the war. However, the worst thing for me was to hear that more children than women have been killed in the conflict. This is often done deliberately to take the last hope away from the parents. This shows just how demonic this conflict really is")

<http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1433986747.html>



Belarus: Gomel

Pastor Sergei Nikolaenko (church raided on [May 31, 2015](#) by OMON riot police who asked "Why did you come to this church, not to a normal or correct one?", **UPDATE**: denied permission to rent property for religious services)

Belarus: Rechitsa, Gomel region

Dmitry Chorba (aged 23, conscientious objector, criminal case opened against him)

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

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2083



Nigeria: Kyari Daddu village, Jaba local government area, Kaduna state

Tanko Nyam (aged 45, married, father of five, **killed** by Muslim Fulani gunmen)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/08/muslim-herdsmen-attacks-in-nigerias-middle-belt-show-jihadist-aims-sources-say/>



Mexico: Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, Chiapas state

Seventeen Evangelical Christians have been fighting their eviction from their village

Pascual Alvaro Lopez (aged 53, husband of Micaela, father of Alfredo)

Micaela (aged 42, wife of Pascual Alvaro Lopez, mother of Alfredo)

Alfredo (aged 16, son of Micaela and Pascual Alvaro Lopez)

Isidro Alvaro Lopez (aged 36, husband of Guadalupe del Carmen, father of Citlaly del Carmen and Jovany)

Guadalupe del Carmen (aged 25, wife of Isidro Alvaro Lopez, mother of Citlaly del Carmen and Jovany)

Citlaly del Carmen (aged 8, daughter of Guadalupe del Carmen and Isidro Alvaro Lopez)

Jovany (aged 6, son of Guadalupe del Carmen and Isidro Alvaro Lopez)

Juan Alvaro Lopez (aged 40, husband of Luciana, father of Edgar, Pascual, and Elvia)

Luciana (aged 36, wife of Juan Alvaro Lopez, mother of Edgar, Pascual, and Elvia)

Edgar (aged 19, son of Luciana and Juan Alvaro Lopez)

Pascual (aged 17, son of Luciana and Juan Alvaro Lopez)

Elvia (aged 16, daughter of Luciana and Juan Alvaro Lopez)

Ruben Martinez Alvarez (aged 38, husband of Celestina, father of Yesica, Brayant, and Lucio)

Celestina (aged 30, wife of Ruben Martinez Alvarez, mother of Yesica, Brayant, and Lucio)

Yesica (aged 12, daughter of Celestina and Ruben Martinez Alvarez)

Brayant (aged 9, son of Celestina and Ruben Martinez Alvarez)

Lucio (aged 2, son of Celestina and Ruben Martinez Alvarez)

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

Friday June 12, 2015



China: Zhaoqing, Guangdong province

Lin Haixin (operator of a rehab facility, warned on [June 9, 2015](#) to not conduct religious activities or else religious materials would be seized, **UPDATE**: appealed, seizure order later issued)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/06/guangdong-rehabilitation-center.html>



Egypt: Beni Suef

Maher Fayez Habib (secondary school student, reported on [May 18, 2015](#) to have been arrested on a charge of insulting Islam, held for 4 days in jail; **UPDATE**: judge ordered him held another 15 days)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1398&A=19096>

Saturday June 13, 2015



China: Beijing

Hu Shigen (church elder; **UPDATE**: described a police raid on a church meeting in a cafe “There weren’t too many people, because we had already changed the meeting time [to avoid the police]. It used to be on Sunday. Many people were still telephoning me today, wanting to come to church, but that’s not possible now”, the meeting was moved to a park where three people were baptized)

Xu Yonghai (church elder; **UPDATE**: said that the authorities have targeted Hu Shigen’s church because many members are migrants who have petitioned the government due to grievances)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/06/police-disperse-beijing-house-churchs.html>



Iraq: Jalak, Dohuk province

Youkhana Munir Youkhana (aged 15, refugee, **shot dead** while standing outside a hall)

Iraq: Bagdad International Airport

Tariq Aziz (aged 79, former Foreign Minister in the Saddam Hussein regime, **died in prison of a heart attack** on **June 5, 2015**, body stolen while in transit for burial on **June 11, 2015**,

UPDATE: body recovered, flown to Jordan for burial)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63307>



Jamaica

Lee Rickman (aged 24, U.S. citizen, **killed by a falling tree branch** on a missionary trip)

Pastor Paul Coates (U.S. citizen, seriously injured by a falling tree branch on a missionary trip)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/fallen-tree-branch-kills-son-of-wesleyan-christian-academy-principal-on-jamaica-trip-school-chaplain-sustains-serious-injuries-140406/>

Sunday June 14, 2015



China: Langzhong, Sichuan province

Luo Guangwu (husband of Nian, detained after a church service, sentenced to 10 days administrative detention)

Nian (wife of Luo Guangwu, said "He told me that he was walking home on the street after he got out of the church service. The police were going to detain two other church members, but they ran away so the police took Luo instead")

Pastor Li Mingbo (**UPDATE:** described the detention of Luo Guangwu)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/06/sichuan-church-member-administratively.html>



India: Attingal, Kerala state

Pastor Shiju (attacked by a mob of 30 Hindus while leading a worship service for 400 Christians, 200 radical Hindus joined the attack, suffered severe internal injuries, threatened with being burned alive)

Girija (aged 40, finger broken in the attack)

Mr Deepu (ran to the police station just yards away to report the attack, police took 30 minutes to respond)

Rev Vijayesh Lal (Religious Liberty Commission national director; **UPDATE**: described an attack by BJP and RSS members on a Christian prayer service “The attack took place without any provocation,” Lal. “The attackers targeted not only the 200 worshippers but also the pastor present. Shouting anti-Christian slogans, they broke the furniture, musical instruments, fans and scattered the lunch kept for the church members...The attackers even misbehaved with a physically challenged man who was seated on a chair during the attack. They pushed him and asked him to get up and go away. Many Christians were manhandled during this attack on religious freedom. Even the police acknowledge this”)

Dr John Dayal (**UPDATE**: said “Also, for all its well-earned reputation of being a place of co-existence of various religions, the RSS and the BJP have made a serious efforts the last 25 years to penetrate Kerala and poison its communal harmony. The RSS continues to try to polarize people whichever the government in the state and this attack is a direct result of the polarization”)

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/06/26/hindu-radicals-threaten-to-wipe-out-local-christians-following-church-attack/>

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

Monday June 15, 2015



Indonesia: Yambi, Puncak Jaya district, Papua

Dainus Game (described the arson destruction of a church, possibly by the Papua Freedom Organization)

<http://thejakartaglobe.beritasatu.com/news/police-investigate-burning-papua-church/>



United Kingdom

Rev Dr Mike Ovey (principal of Oak Hill Theological College, criticized the government's proposed 'Extremism Disruption Orders' because they could be used to ban any 'offensive' speech, including basic Christian tenets such as 'Jesus is the Son of God', said "That is essentially a government saying trust us with your civil liberties. I would say frankly human experience tells us the last thing you ever want to do is trust a government with your civil liberties...Is a police officer going to listen to me saying that Jesus is the only way in a Muslim part of the East End?")

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/freedom-of-speech/camerons-extremism-orders-could-criminalise-traditional-christian-tea>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11671547/Camerons-extremism-orders-could-criminalise-traditional-Christian-teaching.html>

Tuesday June 16, 2015



Pakistan: Youhanabad area, Lahore, Punjab province

Christians recovering from the **March 15, 2015** terror attacks, all require financial aid

Qaisor Pervez (church security volunteer, cousin of Wilson Chowdhry, 85% of his body burned, in a coma, several bones broken, teeth shattered, vision affected, **UPDATE:** coma lifted, said "God has given me a new life, one that I will cherish. I was ready to give my life away for the protection of the church, but God has saved me for His purposes. I love God and will never give Him up as He is faithful to His people")

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

Sikander Inyat (aged 27, church security volunteer, rickshaw driver, only son and caregiver for his ageing father, lost his right eye in the explosion, left leg fractured, **UPDATE:** requires surgery on his left eye and a prosthetic right eye)

Yousaf Masih (aged 41, church security volunteer, garment factory worker, ran toward the gunman, shot twice in his left arm, left leg hit with shrapnel, **UPDATE:** fired from his job in retaliation for the lynching of the two Muslims following the attack, bullets remain

in his arm and the wounds continue to bleed because he cannot afford surgery, said "We are living a life similar to stray dogs, Christians are unwanted and abused for their faith and there is little help or support for us")

Zubaira Francis (aged 32, mother of six, hit with shrapnel in the stomach, **UPDATE:** unable to afford surgery)

Adnan Gill (aged 32, welder, hit with shrapnel in the left leg and foot, **UPDATE:** requires surgery)

Shabaz Gill (aged 23, movie maker, hit with shrapnel in the back, **UPDATE:** requires surgery)

Basharat Masih (aged 26, factory worker and student, hit with shrapnel in his arm, **UPDATE:** requires surgery)

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



Nigeria

Fr Emmanuel Akingbade (abducted, gunmen demanded US\$100,528 from him to avoid being abducted; **UPDATE:** released, no ransom paid)

Nigeria: Katsak village, Kaduna state

Bishop Joseph Bagobiri (**UPDATE:** described a Fulani Muslim attack that killed 9 Christians and seriously injured 13)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/38038->

[AFRICA NIGERIA Priest kidnapped on June 8 has been released no ransom was paid#.VYjAB8LJAfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38038-AFRICA_NIGERIA_Priest_kidnapped_on_June_8_has_been_released_no_ransom_was_paid#.VYjAB8LJAfg)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Gunmen-storm-Nigerian-village-and-brutally-murder-nine-Christian-villagers>

Wednesday June 17, 2015



Syria

Francois Sawa (aged 70, captured by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#), **UPDATE:** released)

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



Uganda: Nabuli village, Kibuku district

Namumbeiza Swabura (convert from Islam, wife of Mugoya Muhammad, mother of eleven including a 5 month old, **died from poison** after eating a meal prepared by a Muslim in-law)

Mugoya Muhammad (convert from Islam, widower of Namumbeiza Swabura, father of eleven)

Pastor James Kalaja (daughter raped in retaliation for his evangelical activities, said "I only go to conduct Sunday service. Christians are facing threats here, and the Muslims would not like to see a church in Nabuli village. It is sad that we have just lost our sister. The Christians are shaken by her death. We have been praying for [Mugoya] Muhammad due to several threatening messages that he has been receiving through his phone")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/06/christian-mother-of-11-in-uganda-poisoned-by-muslim-in-laws-area-sources-say/>



Greece: Lesbos

Jamil Moghrabi (aged 47, father of Mustafa and Amira, Syrian refugee, said "For three days we've been sleeping in the street, all of us, with the children. There is war in Syria -- we had to leave")

Mustafa (aged 9, son of Jamil Moghrabi, Syrian refugee)

Amira (aged 11, daughter of Jamil Moghrabi, Syrian refugee)

Fr Stratis aka Efstratios Dimou (said that his parishioners were sympathetic to the Syrian and Iraqi refugees, despite the arrival of almost 700 refugees each day "Lesbos has always been responsive to issues of refugees [since many people are descended from 1922 Turkish refugees]. They have the plight of refugees in their skin")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150619133019.htm>



United Kingdom: Belfast, Northern Ireland

Pastor James McConnell (aged 78, under prosecution for an anti-Islamic homily posted to the internet, faces a fine and up to six months in jail if convicted, said that the lack of prosecution against Muslims clerics who make anti-Christian statements shows that his prosecution is persecution, added "I would defend the right of any Muslim cleric to preach against me or Christianity. I most certainly don't want any Muslim clerics

prosecuted but I find it very unfair that I'm the only preacher facing prosecution...My church funds medical care for 1,200 Muslim children in Kenya and Ethiopia. I've no hatred in my heart for Muslims but I won't be stopped from preaching against Islam")

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/satanic-islam-sermon-belfast-pastor-james-mcconnell-says-he-faces-six-months-in-jail-31313817.html>



United States - South Carolina: Charleston

Event: Nine Christians **shot dead** by a white supremacist who joined them at a Bible study for an hour before he opened fire, three survived, the church web site stated "Is something missing from your life? Are you doing all you can to have a closer relationship with God? If you have a desire to learn more about God, then join us on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the lower level of the church. We look forward to seeing you!"

Rev Clementa Pinckney (aged 41, senior pastor, husband of Jennifer, father of Eliana and Malana, state senator, **shot dead**)

Cynthia Hurd (aged 54, library manager, sister of Malcolm Graham, **shot dead**)

Rev Sharonda Coleman-Singleton (aged 45, mother of three, speech therapist, secondary school girls' track and field coach, **shot dead**)

Tywanza Sanders (aged 26, barber, son of Felecia Sanders, grandson of Susie Jackson, held a degree in business administration, **shot dead**)

Ethel Lance (aged 70, mother of Nadine Collier, cousin of Susie Jackson, retiree, church janitor, **shot dead**)

Susie Jackson (aged 87, mother of Felecia Sanders, grandmother of Tywanza Sanders, cousin of Ethel Lance, **shot dead**)

Pastor DePayne Middleton-Doctor (aged 49, retired community development director, sister of Bethane Middleton-Brown, **shot dead**)

Pastor Myra Thompson (aged 59, wife of Anthony Thompson, **shot dead**)

Rev Dr Daniel Simmons Sr (aged 74, grandfather of Alana Simmons, **shot, died in surgery**)

Felecia Sanders (shooting survivor, daughter of Susie Jackson, mother of Tywanza Sanders)

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150618/PC16/150619404>

<http://emanuelamechurch.org/>

Thursday June 18, 2015



China: Daguang, Guizhou province

Pastor Yang Hua (**UPDATE:** police staged an vehicular collision with his automobile while travelling with attorneys to defend detained Christians, attacked by a mob of 100 persons believed to have been under police control who beat him an vandalized his vehicle, forced to abandon his vehicle, driver's license seized)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/06/lawyers-investigating-persecution.html>



India: Ranchi

Auxiliary Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas (**UPDATE:** denounced the resolution passed by the All India Hindu Convention to close all Christian schools in the country "A demand nothing short of absurd. Those who attend our schools do so of their own free will, because they receive an excellent education in these institutions. Most Hindus do not agree with these radical forces. These extremists want to destroy the country. They are playing with the secular fabric of our great nation")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Radical-Hindus-want-Catholic-schools-banned-from-India-34543.html>



Israel: Tabgha

The Church of the Multiplication - where Jesus fed the 5,000 – was the object of an arson attack suspected by 16 young Israeli settlers, a staff member and an elderly monk were hospitalized for smoke inhalation

Fr Matthias OSB (described the arson attack, said "The church, thank God, is in good condition. We're very happy that nothing happened to the church" but an external atrium was "totally destroyed")

Auxiliary Bishop William Shomali (**UPDATE:** said "There is a real escalation in anti-Christian violence: from a small fire which leaves little damage, to a bigger fire, and finally to an arson attack which is intended to produce major damage and even killing. I am still inclined to think that the act is perpetrated by a very small and aggressive group. I cannot put all Israelis in the same basket...My fear is that these radicals are increasing in number and in the degree of intolerance")

Fr Peter Vasko OFM (Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land, said "Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims have visited here, have prayed here, have had Mass at this Holy Site. In many

ways it was a haven of peace and tranquility which has now been disfigured by misguided zealots who have no respect for the religious beliefs of others...At this moment all we can do is to forgive those who committed this crime and to somehow rebuild again as we try to practice the gospel values that our Lord taught us")

Fr Jamal Khader (seminary rector, said "We had incidents including at Tabgha and Dormition Abbey where Israeli authorities didn't do enough to stop them, so we expected such a crime and this may continue if the authorities don't take concrete steps to stop it")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/suspected-arson-attack-at-revered-christian-site-in-israel/73806>



Belarus: Svetlogorsk, Gomel region

Nadezhda Daineko (owner of the home raided by police during the [May 17, 2015](#) church meeting; **UPDATE:** charged with improper use of a residential property)

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



Guatemala: Guatemala City

Ángel Ariel Escalante Perez (aged 12, thrown from a bridge by six gang members after he refused to kill a bus driver)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/this-guatemalan-boy-chose-to-die-rather-than-kill-48091/>



United States – Arizona: Gilbert

Pastor Clyde Reed (as of [September 25, 2014](#) has been ordered by the municipal government to post only small temporary signs at his church; **UPDATE:** the municipal government lost in an unanimous U.S. Supreme Court ruling)

Eric Rassbach (Deputy General Counsel for the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty; **UPDATE:** said "Gilbert had taken a page from George Orwell's Animal Farm, saying that all citizens were equal, but that politicians were 'more equal' than everyone else. The Supreme Court rightly decided that churches and other religious speakers should not be treated like second-class citizens")

<http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2015/June/Supreme-Court-Hands-Victory-to-Houses-of-Worship/>
<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/catholics-in-holy-land-aggrieved-by-arson-attack-on-monastery-in-israel-17603/>

Friday June 19, 2015



India: Delhi

The report *365 Days: Democracy and Secularism Under the Modi Regime* was released by Christians and others including Shabnam Hashmi, Harsh Mander, Professor Apoorvanand, and Vidya Bhushan Rawat

Dr John Dayal (**UPDATE:** participated in the release of a report entitled *365 Days: Democracy and Secularism Under the Modi Regime* which listed almost 400 attacks against Christians and Muslims, accused some state governments of suppressing news of attacks “They are not reported. In those states, which are ruled by the BJP, the police, government and the RSS [paramilitary organization] is one seamless entity. The cases that happen do not come out in the open”)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/attacks-on-minorities-on-rise-under-modi-regime-report-says/73815>



Iraq: Irbil, Kurdistan

Louay Jibrail (refugee, said "There was so much life in our village [Qarakosh], we had everything in those days. Then one day there were terrorist groups calling themselves Daesh [ISIL], or the Islamic State. They took our houses and our land, and they said either become a Muslim, or lock up your house and leave")

Khalee Defareh (refugee, said "The front door of the church was open and the father [Fr Douglas Bazi] took us in and accepted us. We have been here since then")

Fr Douglas Bazi (**UPDATE:** said "Some priests have asked me if I'm mad, saying that people are dying and you are buying books...but when they grow up, I want them to say that when we entered persecution, that is the time I started learning French, that is the time I learned to play guitar... We believe kids are our future, and teenagers, the girls, the females especially, are our next future. If we lose them we are going to lose the community")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150619032432.htm>



Syria

Patriarch Ignatius Ephrem II (aged 50; **UPDATE**: said while in [Rome, Italy](#) "When we look at martyrs we see that the Church is not just one, holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Throughout its journey through history the Church has also been a suffering Church...Jesus suffered for no reason, gratuitously. Given that we follow him, the same could happen to us. And when it happens, Christians do not make demands, protesting 'against' martyrdom. After all, Jesus promised us that he would never abandon us, he never deprives us of his rescuing grace, as the stories of the early martyrs and today's martyrs too, attest. They face martyrdom with a joyous expression and peace in their heart. Christ said so himself: blessed are you when they persecute you because of me. Martyrs are not defeated people, they are not discriminated people who need to free themselves from said discrimination. Martyrdom is a mystery of gratuitous love")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150630200318.htm>



Egypt: Dermwas Center, Minya province

Issa Henry (aged 65, abducted while on his way to his own farm)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1403&A=19180>



Belarus: Gomel

Pastor Sergei Nikolaenko (church raided by OMON riot police on [May 31, 2015](#) who asked "Why did you come to this church, not to a normal or correct one?"; denied permission to rent property for religious services on [June 11, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: fined US\$235 for unauthorized organization of a public event)

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



United Kingdom

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns; **UPDATE:** criticized a report that called for the government to effectively seize control of church schools, said "Church schools would be stripped of their identity and ethos, losing control over their staff appointments...The plans found in this report are deeply worrying. They stifle the freedoms schools currently enjoy and make those schools wide open to legal action from secular campaign groups like the British Humanist Association, and National Secularist Society")

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/education/plans-to-stifle-christian-freedoms-in-schools>



United States - South Carolina: Charleston

Family members of the Bible study attendees slain on [June 17, 2015](#) by a white supremacist forgive him at his bail hearing and call on him to repent and accept Jesus Christ

Felecia Sanders (shooting survivor, daughter of Susie Jackson, mother of Tywanza Sanders, **UPDATE:** said "We welcomed you Wednesday night in our Bible study with open arms. You have killed some of the most beautiful people that I know. Every fiber in my body hurts, and I'll never be the same. Tywanza Sanders was my son, but Tywanza was my hero. Tywanza was my hero. As we said in Bible study, we enjoyed you, but may God have mercy on you")

Alana Simmons (granddaughter of Rev Dr Daniel Simmons Sr, said "Although my grandfather and the other victims died at the hands of hate, everyone's plea for your soul is proof that they lived in love, and their legacies will live in love, so hate won't win")

Bethane Middleton-Brown (sister of Pastor DePayne Middleton-Doctor, said "we are the family that love built. We have no room for hate, so we have to forgive. I also thank God that I won't be around when your judgment comes from Him")

Anthony Thompson (husband of Pastor Myra Thompson, asked the killer to accept Christ "Do that and you'll be better off than you are right now. I forgive you and my family forgives you")

Nadine Collier (daughter of Ethel Lance, said "You took something very precious away from me. I will never talk to her ever again. I will never be able to hold her again. But I forgive you and have mercy on your soul. You hurt me. You hurt a lot of people. But God forgives you, and I forgive you", later said "I believe in God and I know that despite everything that our families are going through, God will bring us through")

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/relatives-charleston-shooting-victims-offer-forgiveness-article-1.2264253?ref=Outbrain&ADLocation=footer&ADPosition=2>

Saturday June 20, 2015



India: Raipur, Chhattisgarh state

A 47-year old nun was found bound, unconscious, and half naked at a nursing home, two masked men had entered her room and demanded money but then left the money behind

Sr Annes John (superior of the attacked nun, said she had been drugged)

Fr Sebastian Poomattathil (said of the attack "It should be seen as part of the ongoing attacks on religious minorities. It is targeted. They came prepared and did not disturb the other two women in the building")

Auxiliary Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas (**UPDATE**: condemned the attack, said "This is not just a crime against a Christian nun. It is a crime against the very dignity of women of India. It shows a complete lack of respect for our mothers, sisters and daughters. More importantly these events trouble us as citizens of a great nation traditionally known for its religious tolerance")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Chhattisgarh,-Catholic-nun-assaulted-and-harassed-34574.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-nun-in-raipur-sexually-assaulted/73823>

Sunday June 21, 2015



China: Shenzhen

Pastor Lu (church service raided by DSPS and RAB agents, ordered to register with the Three-Self Patriotic Movement church or stop meeting)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/07/shenzhen-house-church-service-disrupted.html>



India

P B M Basaiawmoit (National Council of Churches, criticized the government for it's scheduling of International Yoga Day, said "Holding such high profile programs on Sundays and other Christian holydays is a serious concern to us. It's not that we do not welcome yoga

minus its religious connotation since it has merits for mind exercise and relieving stress. However, the hype and overboard is just too much")

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



Azerbaijan: Balakan

Fr Demetre aka Levan Tetrushvili (Georgian citizen, denied permission to re-enter the country, no reason given, parishioners now denied the Divine Liturgy and other mysteries [sacraments])

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2080



Israel: Tabgha

Three thousand Israelis, mostly Christians joined by Jewish, Muslim, and Druze clerics protested the arson attack on the Church of the Multiplication

Fr Gregory Collins OSB (said "The attack on the church is an attack on all those who believe in a civilization of love and coexistence")

Shadi Halul (said the attack was "abominable act, just like any damage to a Jewish holy place would be")

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/thousands-rally-for-peace-at-torched-galilee-church/>

Monday June 22, 2015



India: Chhattisgarh

Rev Gigi P Paul (arrested on false accusations by Hindu radicals, denied bail)

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

Five Christian families forced to flee their village on [June 10, 2015](#) along with their pastor by tribal people directed by Hindu extremists, **UPDATE:** families returned

Gossner Ekka (family forced to flee their village, returned)

Vardhan Kujur (family forced to flee their village, returned)

Premchand Kujur (family forced to flee their village, returned)

Masihcharan Kujur (family forced to flee their village, returned)

Premchand Ekka (family forced to flee their village, returned)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Chhattisgarh,-Pentecostal-pastor-jailed-on-false-charges-34607.html>

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



Uzbekistan: Dostabod, Kuyichirchik district, Tashkent region

Pastor Sergei Rychagov (fined US\$3,675 for illegal religious activities at a [February 27, 2015](#) court hearing of which he was unaware with statements coerced from five orphans;

UPDATE: found out about his conviction)

Uzbekistan: Kattakurgan City, Samarkand region

Galina Podtikhova (stopped in a public park along with Nilufar Bulatova, police found religious material on their tablet)

Nilufar Bulatova (stopped in a public park along with Galina Podtikhova, police found religious material on their tablet)

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

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2160



Tanzania: Zanzibar

Pastor Philemon (husband, father of five aged 6 to 16, driven into hiding by Muslims who have taken over his rented hall, parish has declined to 25 members, is supporting several converts from Islam)

Tanzania: Chukwani, Zanzibar

Pastor Amos Lukanula (had been forced to pay US\$100 in court costs each month to defend his church's land ownership, said “The Muslims are waiting for the time when we shall fail to attend the court hearing, implying losing the case and subsequently having to pay a substantial amount of money”)

Annah Philippo Barihuta (widow of the man who sold the land to the church, mother of seven, impoverished, has had to bear some of the legal costs for defending her husband's prior ownership of the land)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/06/muslims-in-zanzibar-take-worship-hall-bleed-another-church-with-court-costs/>



Belarus

Bishop Sergei Komar (contacted by police, asked to sign a statement against Pastor Sergei Nikolaenko, refused)

Belarus: Brest

Viktor Kalina (aged 21, indicted for refusing military service, had been exempted from military service the previous year due to heart disease)

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

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2094



Nigeria: Apple Junction, Amuwo Odofin area, Lagos state

Pastor Chukwuemeka Okpokpo (**shot dead** by unknown gunmen after withdrawing money from a bank)

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2015/06/lords-chosen-pastor-shot-dead-in-lagos/#sthash.F6vodmHq.dpuf>



United States – Tennessee: Knoxville

Pastor Cleveland Hobdy III (church damaged by arson, said ""When I look at this I see, I think of an intention to try to destroy this entire church. It makes it sad. It's sad either way that someone would put their mind to try to damage a church that's trying to help people")

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/black-churches-targeted-burned-in-wake-of-charleston-massacre-fbi-launches-probe-140980/>

Tuesday June 23, 2015



North Korea: Pyongyang

Two South Korean pastors detained in late 2014; **UPDATE: convicted on espionage and attempting to topple the regime charges, sentenced to life imprisonment at hard labor**

Pastor Kim Kuk Gi

Pastor Choe Chun Gil

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/north-korea-sentences-two-south-koreans-to-life-terms/73833>



Malaysia: Kuala Lumpur

Jill Ireland (CDs containing the word 'Allah' seized in 2008; **UPDATE: an appeals court ordered the return of the CDs**)

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/malaysia-appeals-court/1934368.html>



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

Five Christian families forced to flee their village on **June 10, 2015** along with their pastor by tribal people directed by Hindu extremists, families returned on **June 22, 2015**;

UPDATE: their homes were pelted with stones the following day

Gossner Ekka (family forced to flee their village, returned)

Vardhan Kujur (family forced to flee their village, returned)

Premchand Kujur (family forced to flee their village, returned)

Masihcharan Kujur (family forced to flee their village, returned)

Premchand Ekka (family forced to flee their village, returned)

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



Pakistan: Lahore

Nine Christians wrongfully implicated in the rioting that followed the [March 15, 2015](#) attempted bombing of two churches have been granted bail

Riaz Masih (son of Javed Masih)

Nazir Masih (son of Javed Masih)

Tariq Masih (son of Javed Masih)

Arshad Masih (son of Javed Masih)

Asif Masih (son of Javed Masih)

Ishfaq Masih (son of Javed Masih)

Tariq Masih (son of Naseem Hayat)

Namee Bhatti (son of Naseem Hayat)

Yousaf Masih (son of Mashooq Masih)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5429>



Lebanon

Charbel (aged 14, Syrian refugee, in school)

Cynthia (aged 9, Syrian refugee, in school)

David (aged 8, Syrian refugee, in school)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2015/06/assyrian-children-bear-scars-of-war-face-new-challenges-in-exile/>



Sweden: Stockholm

Shahrzad Sakiani (convert, wife of Mahmoud Mohammadi, arrested after her asylum request was rejected, scheduled for deportation to Iran on July 15, 2015, had previously been arrested in 2010 at a house church in Iran and fled the country while on bail)

Mahmoud Mohammadi (convert, husband of Shahrzad Sakiani, reported on his wife's arrest after her asylum request was rejected and on her scheduled deportation to Iran on July 15, 2015, had previously been arrested in 2010 at a house church in Iran and fled the country while on bail)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=2390>



United States – Georgia: Macon

Assistant Pastor Jeanette Dudley (church damaged by a 'suspicious' fire, said "The times that we're living in...it's not going to get any better. It's going to get worse")

United States - North Carolina: East Charlotte

Pastor Mannix Kinsey (church damaged by arson, said "We have already forgiven them and we're hoping that the investigation will take its place and do what's necessary. These buildings can be repaired, they can be built over. This is the opportunity for God to really touch the hearts of individuals ... we don't have any malice against anyone else")

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/black-churches-targeted-burned-in-wake-of-charleston-massacre-fbi-launches-probe-140980/>

Wednesday June 24, 2015



Pakistan” Kasur

Mana Masih (mosque custodian, beaten by a mosque congregant after he told the congregant that he could not take water from the mosque's lavatory after prayers per instructions from the mosque management, arrested on a false charge of attempted sodomy after the congregant filed a police report)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5518>



Egypt: Sinai

Bahaa Gamal Mikhael Silvanus (aged 24, military conscript, son of Gamal Silvanus, **found dead** in his barracks, death ruled a suicide despite being shot twice and having been hit in the head with a blunt object, had been planning to enter the monastery, a friend had said “he told me that the persecution of the fanatical Muslim conscripts in the battalion against him had been increased the last days, and they threatened him with death that they would kill him if he wouldn't convert to Islam...We lost a sweet spirit and a beloved friend”)

Fr Youannis Saad (said "There is a criminal suspicion behind Mikhail's death")

Dr Joseph Nady (said “Bahaa told me during his last vacation at Rezka village forty days ago ‘you will visit me in prison or you will not see me again’”)

Gamal Silvanus (father of Bahaa Gamal Mikhael Silvanus, said “My son was killed by someone. He didn't kill himself”)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63490>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63482>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63461>

https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/07/article_3912611.html



Nigeria: Maiduguri, Borno state

Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme (**UPDATE:** said that the June 22, 2015 suicide bombings that killed 32 "are intended to show that the group is still alive and able to strike after the latest military offensives. We know, however, that Boko Haram has suffered significant losses and lost control of different territories. The defeat of Boko Haram fighters will not happen in one day. It will be necessary to dislodge them from their strongholds, especially in the forest, then proceed towards their complete disarmament... We hope that this will happen in the near future. We continue to pray for this to happen")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/38061->

[AFRICA NIGERIA Despite the latest attacks we hope that Boko Haram will be soon defeated says the Bishop of Maiduguri#.VYuKqMLJAfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38061-)

Thursday June 25, 2015



India: New Delhi

Fr Frederick D'Souza (executive director of Caritas India, said "We heard media reports saying that Caritas India had been added to the list of NGO that require ‘prior approval’ from the Home Affairs Ministry. However, we have not received any official communication in the matter”, an anonymous government official has said that Caritas has been accused of “anti-Indian activities”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Caritas-India-under-watch-but-not-yet-requiring-“prior-approval”-34613.html>



Pakistan: Islamabad

Three Filipino missionaries have been ordered by the Interior Minister to leave the country after 10 years, appeal underway

Sr Miraflor Aclan Bahan

Sr Delia Coyoca Rubio

Sr Alizabeth Umali Seguenza (school principal, a teacher at the school who left under 'strained' circumstances is the wife of the Interior Minister who issued the expulsion order)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/principal-and-nuns-face-expulsion-on-interior-ministers-order/#sthash.lcOpkcgndpuf>

<http://directory.ucanews.com/news/pakistan-expels-filipino-nuns/2372>



Iran: Rajaei-Shahr prison, Karaj

Pastor Farshid Malayeri Fathi (aged 36, in jail since [December 2010](#); charged on [March 5, 2015](#) with insulting the prison imam after he refused to give up his Bible for 'inspection'; appeal to overturn his sentence of an additional year imprisonment and 74 lashes denied on [May 30, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: reported to have been transferred to the 'infamous' Ward 1 of the prison)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=2321>



Syria: Kobane

Shigho (aged 19, **executed** by ISIL for converting to Christianity)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Syrian-Christians-flee-their-homes-after-fresh-assaults-on-Hassake-and-Kobane>



Egypt: Beni Suef

Mariam Maher Lateef (aged 17, reported to have been abducted)

Waael Shokralla (witnessed the abduction, identified the abductors, beaten)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1407&A=19255>



Belarus: Gomel

Lyubov Kundas (present during the [May 17, 2015](#) police raid, accused of reading a Bible;

UPDATE: fined US\$95 for refusing to testify against the other church members)

Pastor Sergei Nikolaenko (church raided by OMON riot police on [May 31, 2015](#) who asked "Why did you come to this church, not to a normal or correct one?"; denied permission to rent property for religious services on [June 11, 2015](#); fined US\$235 for unauthorized organization of a public event on [June 19, 2015](#), **UPDATE:** home searched by police, threatened with a criminal investigation which could result in 2 years' imprisonment)

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

Friday June 26, 2015



Philippines

Rolly Pelinggon (reported to be opposed a government agreement with Islamic militants that will introduce sharia law to the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao)

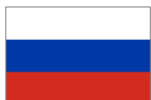
Philippines: Zamboanga City

Maria Isabella Climaco Salazar (aged 48, mayor, reported to be opposed to inclusion of her city in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao)

Philippines: Cotabato

Jojo Sibug (tribal chieftain, said "Our ancestors were already here even before Islam came to Mindanao. This Philippine government should consider the welfare and plight of the indigenous tribes, and the Aquino administration should not only focus on one sector, but it should remember the indigenous people were also the first inhabitants of Mindanao")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/06/christians-fear-creation-of-muslim-sub-state-in-philippines/>



Russia: Cherkessk

Dmitry Metelin (detained, questioned, and beaten on [May 21, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: detained, questioned, and beaten again)

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

**Eritrea: Asmara**

Patriarch Abune Antonios (**UPDATE**: is now into his eight year of illegal detention)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2015/06/the-illegal-detention-of-patriarch-abune-antonios-of-eritrea-enters-8th-year/>

**Syria: Hassake**

Bishop Antoine Audo SJ (**UPDATE**: spoke on the latest ISIL attack "The militiamen of Daesh [aka ISIL] bombed in the night between Wednesday and Thursday all areas of the city. Then, in the early morning of Thursday, [June] 25, the mass exodus began, which also involved hundreds of Christian families. Only among the Chaldeans, at least sixty families have moved to Qamishli along with pastor Nidal, while ten other families reached the parish of al-Malikiyah")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/38075-ASIA_SYRIA_Mass_escape_from_Hassake_attacked_by_the_jihadists_of_Daesh_Bishop_Audo_the_agenda_of_the_forces_is_not_clear#.VY4W_MLJAfg

Saturday June 27, 2015

**Vietnam**

Le Quoc Quan (aged 43, husband of Nguyen Thi Hien, attorney, blogger, and human rights activist; convicted on tax evasion charges in a two-hour long trial in Hanoi on [October 2, 2013](#), sentenced to 30 months in prison and a US\$56,000 fine, denied a Bible in prison; **UPDATE**: released)

<http://directory.ucanews.com/news/vietnam-releases-dissident-catholic-blogger/2381>



Tanzania: Morogoro

Cecian Peter (**killed** by 50 radical Muslims after seen carrying a Bible)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Tanzanian-Christians-unlawfully-arrested-attacked-and-killed-for-their-faith>



Palestine: Beit al-Baraka

Bishop Atallah Hanna (arrested by Israeli Forces during a peaceful demonstration against the illegal seizure and sale of a church-owned hospital)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/80326.htm>

Sunday June 28, 2015



India: Andhra Pradesh state

Pastor Anand Raj (church attacked by a mob of 40 Hindu radicals, threatened with death, police refused to file a report and ordered him to stop holding services, said "This is not the first time, the Hindu radicals attacked us. In April 2011, the radicals vandalized the church, destroyed the musical instruments, and burnt the Bibles. Again in 2013, the electricity was disconnected to the church by the authorities through the sheer influence and involvement of radical Hindu organizations")

India: Bhiwani district, Haryana state

Rev Prakash Messey (church damaged in two vandalism episodes by four men on motorcycles, said it was "an attempt to provoke tensions in the community")

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/07/08/christian-church-in-india-shut-down-by-police-following-series-of-assaults-by-hindu-radicals/>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Vandals-attack-Baptist-church,-damage-cross,-in-Bhiwani-34644.html>



Iran: Abdel-Abad prison

Homayoon Shokoohi-Gholamzadeh (convert, husband of Fariba Nazemian, arrested during a home church meeting in Shiraz, Fars province on [February 8 2012](#), charged with “acts harmful to the Islamic Regime”; sentenced to a total of four years and two months in prison on [June 16, 2013](#); **UPDATE**: released from prison)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=2347>



Egypt: Cairo

Dr Wadie Ramses (aged 63, orthopedic surgeon, father of Amir Wadih Ramses, abducted on [June 13, 2014](#) in [el-Arish, Sinai](#), ransom demand of US\$ 1.4 million made; released on [September 15, 2014](#) after a "large" ransom was paid; **UPDATE**: recounted his abduction, suffered two broken ribs and a fractured arm when beaten for resisting conversion to Islam, said “They’d ask me how, as an educated man, I could believe that God had a son. Then they’d ask me if I believe in the Quran, and when I said I didn’t because that would make me a Muslim, they’d use a plastic whip. I know some of the men who beat me were members of the security forces...I was at peace during the whole ordeal, I had my faith with me”, added that his abduction was "the best thing that ever happened to me” and “the best 92 days of my life” because "I had forgotten how to pray, how to talk to God, and [the abduction] proved a good time to do this...God allowed for me to go through this so I could become a better person")

<http://www.cruxnow.com/faith/2015/06/30/kidnap-victim-details-92-day-ordeal-and-his-view-of-christian-plight-in-egypt/>



Belarus: Gomel

Aleksandr Chuev (present during the [May 31, 2015](#) police raid on his church; **UPDATE**: home searched by police)

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



United States - New York: Manhattan

Fr Jonathan Morris (spat upon by two men who recognized him as a priest)

<http://insider.foxnews.com/2015/06/29/father-jonathan-morris-i-was-spat-2-men-gay-pride-parade>

Monday June 29, 2015



China: Dagan, Guizhou province

Eight Christians have been detained for illegally meeting and for organizing cult activities, they have been split up into detention facilities in three counties, apparently to make their legal representation more difficult

Dai Xiaoqiang

Huang Huaxin (**UPDATE**)

Kang Chengju (**UPDATE**)

Kang Chenglin (**UPDATE**)

Tang Honggui (**UPDATE**)

Xu Guoqing (**UPDATE**)

Xu Junfen

Zhou Xunmin (**UPDATE**)

Pastor Yang Hua (**UPDATE**: reported on the detention of the eight Christians, driver's license still not returned)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/07/eight-house-church-christians-from.html>



Thailand: Bangkok

Pakistani refugees extremely ill

Salmoon Barkat (caught a skin infection while in the Immigration Detention Center)

Kamran (asylum applicant, husband, father of a one month old son, cancerous tumor removed from his foot, is at risk of a leg amputation)

Shafqat Nasir (bedridden, medical testing unavailable)

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/appeal-for-medical-needs-for-pak-christians-in-thailand>



Pakistan: Wazirabad

Aftab Masih (aged 40, father of five including Akash and Adnan, accused of blasphemy after he demanded that a local Muslim stop trying to convert his sons to Islam “I only defended my Christian faith but it was taken as blasphemy. Whenever my children went outside, Zain told them to convert to Islam. We draw our drinking water from the nearby mosque. Zain told my children that they could not take water until they convert to Islam; otherwise, they were defiling the taps. But respectable Muslims said that there was no other place for them, so they could fill up with water from here”)

Akash (aged 12, son of Aftab Masih, object of repeated attempts to convert him to Islam)

Adnan (aged 5, son of Aftab Masih, object of repeated attempts to convert him to Islam)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4032430/>



Uganda: Budaka district

Hassan Muwanguzi (convert, abandoned by his family, beaten, and fired from his teaching position for converting to Christianity; poisoned by relatives with insecticide on [March 31, 2014](#) in [Kadimukoli village, Budaka district](#), treated, refused further treatment due to financial hardship; victim of a home invasion in [Katira](#) on [June 16, 2014](#) by four Muslims who stated their intention to kill him, locked himself in a room, the men then attacked his 12 year old daughter Grace in an apparent attempt to force him to leave the room, knocked unconscious when he attempted to rescue his daughter who later died; **UPDATE:** met with a man who claimed to have important information, brought witnesses, the man confessed to have been hired to kill him)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/07/islamic-extremists-in-uganda-try-to-kill-former-muslim-sheikh-who-survived-poisoning/>



Egypt: Beni Suef

Maher Fayeze Habib (secondary school student, reported on [May 18, 2015](#) to have been arrested on a charge of insulting Islam, held for 4 days in jail; judge ordered him held another 15 days on [June 12, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: ordered held another 45 days)

Egypt: Dermwas Center, Minya province

Issa Henry Shamrokh(aged 65, reported on [June 19, 2015](#) to have been abducted while on his way to his own farm; **UPDATE**: rescued by police)

Egypt: Tama Center, Sohag province

B P (aged 28, shipping office owner, beaten and robbed while sitting in a cafe)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1409&A=19298>

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1409&A=19303>

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1409&A=19301>



United Kingdom: Belfast, Northern Ireland

Bernadette Smyth (pro-life activist, convicted on [November 19, 2014](#) of harassment of the director of an illegal abortion facility, her defense attorney denied that any harassment had occurred and that the director had initiated all contacts with his client; **UPDATE**: conviction overturned after the appellate court decided that the clinic director's professions of fear were not credible, in part due to the director's links with a Protestant paramilitary group)

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/abortion/victory-for-pro-life-campaigner-in-harassment-battle>



Mexico: Matias Romero municipality, Oaxaca state

Bishop Oscar Armando Campos Contreras (condemned the beating of three elderly nuns during a robbery, wrote "We cannot continue to avoid our responsibility to eradicate this evil that will end by destroying social development and even the lives of many people, including the lives of our young people")

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

<http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/bishop/bcamcon.html>

Tuesday June 30, 2015



China: Shenzhen

Cao Nan (operator of the Caring Center, a shelter for the homeless and disabled, shelter raided by 200 police and government agents due to 'illegal religious activities', up to 30 residents were removed and the door welded shut)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/07/200-shenzhen-police-disguised-as.html>



Pakistan: Islamabad

Event: Three Filipino missionaries have been ordered by the Interior Minister to leave the country after 10 years, **UPDATE: the High Court upheld their expulsion**

Sr Miraflor Aclan Bahan

Sr Delia Coyoca Rubio

Sr Alizabeth Umali Seguenza (school principal, a teacher at the school who left under 'strained' circumstances is the wife of the Interior Minister who issued the expulsion order)

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



Syria: Qamishli

Archbishop Jacques Behnan Hindo (**UPDATE:** reported to have fled from [Hassake](#) along with nearly all Christian families after ISIL gained control of a southern suburb, said "One must also point out that a part of the local population is on the militants' side: when these arrived in the south-eastern district of al-Nachwa, women and children were asked to leave the city. But young boys and adults remained, and have sided with Daesh [aka ISIL]. And now that very large neighborhood is at the center of the most violent clashes between government forces and those of the so-called Islamic State", said of the refugees "the needs increase day by day. There are no wounded among Christians, but many of them, like everyone else, are concentrated in makeshift camps. Many sleep in the open, and the situation gets more and more complicated by the day, due to the unbearable heat")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/38085->

[ASIA SYRIA Thousands of Christian families fleeing Hassake Archbishop Hindo jihadists have found support in the local population#.VZNwMsLJAfg](#)



Belarus: Gomel

Pastor Sergei Nikolaenko (church raided on [May 31, 2015](#) by OMON riot police who asked "Why did you come to this church, not to a normal or correct one?", denied permission on June 11, 2015 to rent property for religious services; fined US\$235 on [June 19, 2015](#) for unauthorized organization of a public event, home searched by police [on June 25, 2015](#), threatened with a criminal investigation which could result in 2 years' imprisonment; **UPDATE:** fine upheld, judge stated that his plea of 'not guilty' was proof of evasion of responsibility)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2083



United Kingdom

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns; **UPDATE:** criticized comments by the Education Minister who said that incidents where schoolchildren state negative comments about homosexuality might lead to them being reported to the police, wrote "Christians believe that homosexual practice is wrong and that marriage between a man and a woman is the pattern given by God and the only proper place for sexual expression. Is Nicky Morgan now saying that that is an 'extremist' view that needs to be monitored or punished?...We are on the verge of a sinister new era of 'thought-policing' in our schools. This is the imposition of a new sexual ideology under the guise of fighting extremism. The real problem is violence and terrorism that has sprung out of Islamic ideology. But if Nicky Morgan gets her way, Christians and others with mainstream views on marriage will fall under suspicion and be punished...Nicky Morgan's deliberate choice of homosexuality as an example in this morning's interview is further evidence that a right desire to fight Islamic-inspired terrorism is having the effect of creating a Trojan Horse to impose a new sexual ideology")

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/education/homosexuality-comments-could-be-sign-of-extremism-says-education-secretary>



United States – Mississippi: Grenada

Linda Barnette (circuit court clerk, resigned her position of 24 years rather than grant wedding licenses for same-sex marriage, said "The Supreme Court's decision violates my core values as a Christian. My final authority is the Bible. I cannot in all good conscience

issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples under my name because the Bible clearly teaches that homosexuality is contrary to God's plan and purpose for marriage and family...I choose to obey God rather than man")

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2015/06/30/mississippi-circuit-clerk-same-sex-marriage/29520689/>

June 2015, date unknown



India: Sagarkatta village, Chaibasa municipality, Jharkhand state

Buthram (sons aged 10 and 12 given food by Hindu radicals, **both died from poison**)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/09/christians-in-jharkhand-india-attacked-with-axes-clubs/>



Iran

Fatemeh Torkajouri (wife of Behrouz Kanjani, mother of a 'young' daughter, tried in absentia in Tehran on [August 6, 2014](#) for "action against national security" due to her activities with the Church of Iran, had fled the country in 2011; **UPDATE**: sentenced in absentia to 5 years' imprisonment, property and finances seized)

<http://www.csw.org.uk/2015/07/07/press/2653/article.htm>



Egypt: Alexandria

Nesma Hamdi Gad (aged 16, disappeared in [mid-June](#))

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63545>