

Today's Martyrs – August 2015

Saturday August 1, 2015



China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Pastor Huang Yizi (aged 41, taken into custody on [August 2, 2014](#) while resisting the demolition of his church's cross; **UPDATE**: released from prison, in good spirits but physically weak)

China

Li Chunfu (human rights attorney, detained)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/08/authorities-release-wenzhou-pastor.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/08/authorities-detain-christian-human.html>



Iraq: Kirkuk, Kurdistan

Archbishop Yousif Thomas Mirkis (**UPDATE**: while visiting family in Canada described conditions among the refugees: "ISIL forced 130,000 Christians to leave their homes there [around Mosul]. Thirteen towns and villages are empty. No one remains. ISIL said, 'If you become Muslim you can stay.' Nobody did. The world must see it as truly amazing that these Christians considered their faith to be the most precious thing they own...This city of 1.5 million has welcomed 500,000 more. Many have been taken in by relatives. I heard about a family with a three-room house and 71 persons living in it. The grandfather had a heart attack and his sons said, 'Is this because you're tired of the noise and the crowd in the house?' 'No,' he said, 'please don't let them go. It is a sin not to offer hospitality'...ISIL, or Daesh, controls eight million persons. This is an ideology that thinks nothing of beheading people, even on You Tube. You can't see that and not realize that no one is far from barbarity. Nobody can say, 'It doesn't concern me'. This is not a question of Christianity and Islam. This is a question of ideology - a very dangerous ideology. If ISIL takes over any more territory, it will be a cancer very difficult to stop...I fear worse is coming. A German journalist who was somehow allowed to spend some weeks with Daesh says it is much worse than we imagine")

<http://www.thestarphoenix.com/news/Archbishop+says+Iraq+difficult+time+history/11259231/story.html>

Sunday August 2, 2015



Pakistan: Kasur

Mana Masih (mosque custodian, beaten by a mosque congregant on [June 24, 2015](#) 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; **UPDATE**: charges dropped after the mosque management testified on his behalf)

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



United States - New Mexico: Las Cruces

Two churches targeted by explosive devices

Dennis Llewellyn (former Marine, said "It was a real bomb, I saw all the parts", helped keep parishioners away until police arrived)

Mike Stewart (inside church during the explosion, helped keep parishioners away until police arrived)

Associate Pastor Scott Rogers (will be meeting with other church leaders, said "We are certainly having conversations about safety")

Pastor Kevin Glenn (wrote on Facebook after a bomb exploded at his church "A house of worship should be a place of peace; making the act of violence especially troubling for us all. Only our Lord is able to provide ultimate security to each of us through Jesus Christ. However, in our daily lives we must be wise and vigilant to do everything possible to provide an environment within which all can feel both welcome and secure")

Fr John Anderson (said "I was right in the middle of saying the words 'take and eat, this is my body' and there was a 'pow!' I mean, I knew it had to be more than a gunshot. It didn't know if it was a shotgun blast, I didn't know what. But it was very loud and I just kept on saying the words")

Ann Marie Sullivan (college student, said "It sounded like something had fallen off and shattered the glass in the back")

Deacon David McNeill Jr (said the diocese will be reviewing security practices in all churches)

http://www.lcsun-news.com/las_cruces-news/ci_28574553/police-mailbox-explodes-near-calvary-baptist-las-cruces

http://www.lcsun-news.com/las_cruces-news/ci_28580281/few-details-but-calls-information-church-bombings
<http://christiannews.net/2015/08/20/bombs-found-planted-at-new-mexico-churches/>

Monday August 3, 2015



Vietnam

Paulus Le Van Son (convicted on [January 9, 2013](#) for "carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the people's administration" for posting accounts of official corruption on the internet, sentenced to 13 years imprisonment; sentence reduced to 4 years imprisonment on appeal on [May 24, 2013](#); **UPDATE**: released)

John Nguyen Van Oai (convicted on [January 9, 2013](#) for "carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the people's administration" for posting accounts of official corruption on the internet, sentenced to 13 years imprisonment; sentence reduced to 4 years imprisonment on appeal on [May 24, 2013](#); **UPDATE**: released)

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/vietnam/vietnam-releases-two-jailed-activists-with-ties-to-religious-groups-08032015163833.html>



Thailand: Chiang Mai province

Isaac Byungdo Lee (aged 41, missionary, U.S. citizen, arrested for aiding the illegal entry of seven North Korean refugees into the country, the arrest came one week after the U.S. State Department gave Thailand a failing grade in its human trafficking report)

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/korea/thailand-korea-08052015174444.html>



United Kingdom

Simon Calvert (Christian Institute; **UPDATE**: commented on a letter from a Member of Parliament which stated that the new antiterrorism law would be employed against Christians who opposed same sex marriage "I am genuinely shocked that we have an MP supporting the idea of teachers being branded extremists for teaching that marriage is

between a man and a woman. This is exactly the kind of thing we've been warning about...The Government says we've got nothing to worry about from their new extremism laws, but here is one of its own MPs writing to a constituent saying EDOs [Extremism Disruption Orders] would stop teachers teaching mainstream Christian beliefs...EDO will be a gross infringement of free speech and undermine the very British values they claim to protect")

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/11780517/MP-use-anti-terror-powers-on-Christian-teachers-who-say-gay-marriage-is-wrong.html>



United States - Texas

Craig James (former NFL player, has brought suit against Fox Sports for his wrongful September 2013 termination due to his traditional Christian marriage views)

<https://www.libertyinstitute.org/craigjames>

Tuesday August 4, 2015



China: Tianshui

Bishop John Wang Ruowang (underground bishop, condemned the cross demolition campaign)

China: Qiqihar

Bishop Joseph Wei Jingyi (underground bishop, condemned the cross demolition campaign)

China: Wenzhou

Bishop Peter Shao Zhumin (underground bishop, condemned the cross demolition campaign)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/protests-over-chinas-cross-removals-gain-steam/74018>



Bangladesh: Dhaka

Pappu Piter God (later protested the failure of police to arrest the Muslim perpetrator who raped a 12-year old Christian girl)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Police-fails-to-arrest-the-rapist-of-a-12-year-old-Christian-girl-34988.html>



Pakistan: Lahore

Sikander Inyat (aged 27, church security volunteer, rickshaw driver, only son and caregiver for his ageing father, lost his right eye in the explosion in the [March 15, 2015](#) terror attacks in [Lahore](#), left leg fractured, as of June 16, 2015 requires surgery on his left eye and a prosthetic right eye; **UPDATE**: received surgery to save his remaining eyesight)

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/sight-for-sore-eyes>



Kazakhstan: Almaty region

Pastor Sergei Li (**UPDATE**: rebutted local media attacks on the church youth camp [which was raided by police on [July 30, 2015](#)] which alleged improper foreign participation and that parents were deceived about the curriculum "All the parents knew very well that the children will be taught on the basis of the Bible and they also gave their written permission" and that the South Korean and U.S. citizens who worked at the camp were not detained)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2089



Iraq

Archbishop Bashar Matti Warda CSSR (**UPDATE**: said at the Knights of Columbus Convention in [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States](#) "Our people are asking these questions: how come we apply for the American visa and are denied? This is a clear case of persecution. They're being denied visas while others who have participated [in the violence] or at least were silent can go...All the statements [by U.S. government and media] have not condemned strongly what damage it is doing. What they are saying is just 'This is not the true Islam. This is violating the picture of Islam.' The issue for them is the image of Islam, but none of these statements speak about the victims, about what has been done to the victims, they are not even mentioned. And that is one of the questions our people have")

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/if-you-wont-help-our-people-stay-help-them-leave---catholic-bishops-from-the-middle-east-53081/>



Syria

Archbishop Jean Clement Jeanbart (**UPDATE**: said at the Knights of Columbus Convention in [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States](#) that it would be cheaper to help Christians stay in the Mideast than to allow them to immigrate: “Help them to stay and help the society there. The first thing they need is peace. Help us to get peace, and then the people will be happy staying in Syria”)

Syria: Ma'loula

Bishop Constantine Kayal (described threats to a convent by militants)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/if-you-wont-help-our-people-stay-help-them-leave---catholic-bishops-from-the-middle-east-53081/>

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/81228.htm>



Sierra Leone: Freetown

Fr Themis Adams (Australian citizen, former rock musician; **UPDATE**: has helped start the Sierra Leone Albino Association to protect the country's albinos, more than 60 of whom have been killed in witchcraft rituals since late 2007)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2015/08/rock-star-turned-priest-faces-new-challenge-after-dealing-with-the-deadly-ebola-crisis/>

Wednesday August 5, 2015



China: Lower Dafei village

Chen (protested to police the removal of his church's cross: "We have violated no law. We do not oppose the government. We have been good, law-abiding citizens")

China: Muyang village

Tu Shouzhe (described the removal of his church's cross: "It was a surprise attack. We did not let them in, but they broke in by cutting off the lock. We demanded paperwork, but they showed us none. They cordoned us away from the church. They had 60-70 people. We

had just about a dozen or so. Everyone was crying. Our hearts ached. We felt powerless to resist, and only prayed and sang hymns")

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/08/associated-press-severe-crackdown-in.html>



Kazakhstan: Almaty region

Nadezhda Kogay (parent of a church youth camp attendee during the [July 30, 2015](#) police raid,

UPDATE: said "What right do the authorities have to scare our children, and with what right do they film me with a hidden camera, and the TV takes my words out of context?", the television station combined her words on religious freedom with 'expert' commentary about children becoming 'zombified' and video of terrorist bombings)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2089



Syria: Alqariatin

Patriarch Ignatius Ephrem II (aged 50; **UPDATE:** condemned the abduction of over 250 Christians by ISIL)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2015/08/08/patriarch-ignatius-aphrem-ii-slams-terrorist-attack-in-qaryat/>



Sudan: Khartoum

Two pastors are acquitted on charges including espionage and waging war against the state

Pastor David Yein Reith (convicted on 'breaching public peace', released)

Pastor Yat Michael (convicted on 'inciting hatred', released)

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/08/05/sudanese-pastors-acquitted-escape-possible-death-penalty/>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/08/two-south-sudanese-pastors-on-trial-in-sudan-released-serious-charges-dropped/>

Thursday August 6, 2015



China: Huzhou, Zhejiang province

Zhang Chaoxia (reported that 22 Christians camped out on the roof of their church since early July 2015 in an attempt to prevent authorities from removing its cross)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/08/reuters-chinese-christians-hold-protest.html>



Sudan: Khartoum

Two pastors are acquitted on [August 5, 2015](#) on charges including espionage and waging war against the state; **UPDATE: prevented from leaving the country with their families by the NISS secret police**

Pastor David Yein Reith (convicted on 'breaching public peace', released on [August 5, 2015](#))

Pastor Yat Michael (convicted on 'inciting hatred', released on [August 5, 2015](#))

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/08/sudan-bans-freed-south-sudanese-pastors-from-leaving-country/>



Egypt: Giza

Medhat Isaac (arrested for passing out Bibles in a public location, charged with contempt of religion even though he said nothing against any religion, ordered held for 15 days)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1441&A=19865>

Friday August 7, 2015



India: Guwahati, Assam state

Archbishop John Moolachira (protested the vandalism of a statue of St John Bosco "The contribution of the Salesian apostolate to education is well recognized by all religions in Assam, and a significant percentage of the population was emancipated thanks to them. This incident is unfortunate and some elements are responsible. Disagreement and dissent must be seen in a positive light, but to desecrate and then throw into the river wounds our religious sentiment", four members of the BJP Hindu nationalist party were arrested)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Assam:-Don-Bosco-statute-vandalized-and-thrown-into-river-34996.html>



Iran: Karaj, Alborz province

Eight Christians arrested in a raid on a home worship service, two unnamed

Ms Hayedeh Shadnia

Ms Shahin Bashiri

Ms Mona Chahardoli

Mr Esmaeel Falahati

Mr Nematollah Youssefi

Razmik

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/iran-eight-christians-arrested-during-worship-service-in-a-house-church/>



Ethiopia: Kilty, Silte zone, Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' state

Six Christian parish council leaders were charged with inciting public disturbance, destroying public trust in government officials, and spreading hatred after sending a letter to the Prime Minister that documented employment discrimination, church burnings, physical attacks, and death threats, **UPDATE: convicted**

Yemariam Worke Teshager (sentenced to 8 years 8 months' imprisonment)

Masresha Seife (sentenced to 5 years 6 months' imprisonment)

Nigatua Lema (sentenced to 5 years 6 months' imprisonment)

Mulugeta Aragaw (sentenced to 5 years 6 months' imprisonment)

Habtamu Teka (sentenced to 5 years 6 months' imprisonment)

Maru Lema (sentenced to 5 years 6 months' imprisonment)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/08/3982042/>

Saturday August 8, 2015



China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Two elderly Christian women drowned from typhoon-caused flash floods while trying to prevent authorities from demolishing their church cross

Huang Yusong (aged 77, **drowned**)

Zhou Yanxiang (aged 81, **drowned**)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/typhoon-kills-two-elderly-women-who-defended-church-cross/74063>



Kazakhstan: Astana

Maksim Sulyargin (foreign citizen, fined US\$610 and ordered deported for speaking to his religious community)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2207



Uzbekistan: Urgench, Khorezm region

Stanislav Kim (home raided by police on [July 20, 2015](#), passport, books, and automobile seized, detained, interrogated, released at 1 AM, summoned the next day for more questioning; **UPDATE**: fined US\$459)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2192



Iraq

Archbishop Bashar Matti Warda CSSR (**UPDATE:** wrote "For the Chaldean Church, and our sister churches of the East, the persecution our community is enduring is doubly painful and severe. We are personally affected by the need, and by the reality that our vibrant church life is dissolving in front of our eyes. The massive immigration that is now occurring is leaving my church much weaker. This is a deeply sorrowful reality. We who are part of the church hierarchy are very often tempted to encourage our parishioners to stay – keep the presence of Christ alive in this special land. But truly I and my brother bishops and priests can do no more than to advise young mothers and fathers to take all the necessary considerations into account and to pray long and hard before taking such a momentous, and perhaps perilous, decision. The Church is unable to offer and guarantee the fundamental security that its members need to thrive. It is no secret that hatred of minorities has intensified in certain quarters over the past few years. It is difficult to understand this hate. We are hated because we persist in wanting to exist as Christians...", added details on how the global church is helping Iraqis)

Iraq: Bagdad

Saher Hanna Sony (**killed**)

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

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/38299->

[ASIA IRAQ We are hated because we persist in wanting to exist as Christians testimony of Mgr Warda#.VcgwYcLJAfg](#)



South Sudan: Juba

Archbishop Paulino Lukudu Loro FSCJ (**UPDATE:** commented on the continuing intertribal civil war “This war has to end! The peace agreement has to be signed to defend life...war has made people indifferent to human life, people are dying and nobody cares”)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/people-are-dying-and-nobody-cares-say-sudanese-priests/>

Sunday August 9, 2015



China: Hong Kong

Archbishop Paul Kwong (said “Now that the authorities forcefully removed the cross without obvious and immediate danger, it is damaging religious freedom and trampling on Christianity”)

Ng Ka-ho (wrote on Facebook “Can our Church be more proactive aside from expressing itself on written news? We should not stay silent and let outsiders misunderstand that we depend on a regime that demolishes the Church”)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/anglican-archbishop-says-cross-removals-must-stop/74052>



India: Padlava, Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh state

Pastor Ramesh Basuniya (arrested during a church service while a Hindu mob threw stones at him and his parishioners, police refused to accept his family's bail money, local media accused him of throwing stones at Hindus)

India: between Bhaini Kalan village and Gharaunda city, Karnal district, Haryana state

Rajesh Singh (beaten with iron rods until unconscious)

Karan Singh (beaten, leg and forearms broken, arms required steel plates to be implanted)

Tinku Ram (beaten)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4008171/>

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Brutally-beaten-and-falsely-accused-Indias-Christians-suffer-spate-of-attacks>



Kyrgyzstan: Osh City, Osh region

Police raid a worship service in a rented cafe, all were threatened with being shot if they moved, police were accompanied by an imam who demanded they revert to Islam

Arstan Botokhanov (detained)

Bakytbek Kubanychbek Uulu (detained, beaten)

Chorobek Kadyrov (detained, beaten, strangled, passed out. "thought he was going to die")

Eldiyar Ormonov (detained)

Iskander Kambarov (detained)

Islamedin Kombarov (detained, beaten)

Manas Bilal Uulu (detained, beaten, strangled, passed out)

Nurlan Usupbayev ('viciously' beaten by police on [April 16, 2013](#); **UPDATE**: detained, beaten, strangled, police opened an administrative case against him and listed his fine as four times that allowed by statute)

Razan Korgolov (detained, beaten)

Tynchtyk Olzhobayev (police "viciously beat him so that his screams of terror and pain could be heard throughout the building" because he recorded the raid and would not relinquish his cell phone to them)

Zhakonchir Asanbayev (detained)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2091



Syria: Alqariatin

Bishop Philip Barakat (spoke on the ISIL abduction of 250 Christians "We have no communication with them [Christian residents], as land lines and mobile lines are being cut off")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150809025854.htm>



Egypt: Beni Suef

Maher Fayez Habib (aged 18, 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](#); reported on [June 29, 2015](#) to have been ordered held another 45 days; **UPDATE**: ordered held another 15 days)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63924>



United States – Maine: Portland

Freddy C Cyrille Akoa (aged 49, church minister, **beaten to death** by three Muslim immigrants)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/usa-a-murdered-christians-head-brutally-smashed-by-three-muslims/>

<http://obituaries.pressherald.com/obituaries/mainetoday-pressherald/obituary.aspx?pid=175555898>

Monday August 10, 2015



Indonesia: North Bekasi, near Jakarta, West Java

Rasnius Pasaribu (church secretary, denied Islamist charges that the church fraudulently obtained signatures of neighbors to gain approval of building permits, the church has been trying to get a permit for 15 years, the Islamists demonstrated to demand that the permit be revoked)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/in-indonesia-muslim-group-protests-against-planned-church-construction/74053>



India: Delhi

Christians protested the continuing exclusion of Christian and Muslim Dalits ["untouchables"] from Scheduled Caste status, thus making them inferior to Hindu, Sikh, and Buddhist Dalits

Rev Dr Roger Gaikwad (National Council of Churches in India; **UPDATE**: said "India became republic the day the Constitution was signed on 10th August 1950 - it was a Black Day for Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims because they have been denied equal rights with other Dalits. It is a tragedy of being Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims in the country. The government must give equal rights to them")

Archbishop Anil Joseph Thomas Couto (**UPDATE**)

Bishop Collin C Theodore

Alwan Masih (**UPDATE**)

Dr John Dayal (**UPDATE**: said "This [exclusion of Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims from Scheduled Caste net] is nothing but racism. And it must be repealed without further delay")

Fr Z Devasagaya Raj (**UPDATE**: criticized the government for maintaining that granting equality to Christian Dalits will facilitate conversions: "By saying this, they are undermining their own religion. People do not convert on a whim")

<http://www.christiantoday.co.in/article/christians.demand.equal.rights.for.dalit.christians.observe.black.day/17800.htm>

<http://www.ucanindia.in/news/christians-rally-for-equal-dalit-rights/29754/daily>



Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan

Srood Maqdasy (Member of Parliament, said Christians are often treated as second class citizens by Kurds "We can call it a feeling of superiority, we have religious problem, we have problem with regard to land occupation and properties, a lot of problems")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150810103646.htm>



Switzerland: Graubunden canton

Bishop Vitus Huonder (sued by homosexual activists for quoting the Bible, could face up to 3 years' imprisonment)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/gay-activists-sue-swiss-catholic-bishop-for-inciting-violence-after-he-quot>

Tuesday August 11, 2015



Vietnam: Binh Thanh district, Ho Chi Minh City

Pastor Dung Kim Kha (reported to have been released from prison in after 5 years, will continue on probation for 5 years, has no home to go to)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Ho-Chi-Minh-City,-Mennonite-pastor-released-from-prison-after-five-years-35009.html>



Pakistan

David Irfan (magazine editor, reported to have fled the country with his family after receiving death threats for his coverage of the March 15, 2015 church attacks in Youhanabad, Lahore)

Pakistan: Sahiwal, Punjab province

Asif Masih (son of Emmanuel Masih, brick kiln worker, reported to have been beaten by his employer when he demanded to be paid the legal minimum wage, hospitalized with a serious head injury but not treated, police refused to act)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5538>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5540>



Kyrgyzstan: Osh City, Osh region

Nurlan Usupbayev ('viciously' beaten by police on [April 16, 2013](#); detained on [August 9, 2015](#), after a police raid a worship service in a rented cafe, beaten, strangled, police opened an administrative case against him and listed his fine as four times that allowed by statute; **UPDATE:** stopped on a public street by police, detained for 40 minutes)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2091



Iraq: Bagdad

Pastor Maher Fouad (along with a deacon survived unhurt a bombing of the garage where he sought bus repairs, several others killed)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/pastor-leading-iraqs-only-christian-radio-station-not-touched-after-bomb-explodes-in-garage-where-he-went-to-fix-church-bus-142985/http://gospeltoiraq.com/media.html>



Syria: Homs

Christians return to their homes after rebel forces left, churches aided them with rebuilding

Emad Husni (teacher, said "I have returned home since the city was liberated from the rebels. Debris and rubble as well as barriers, which were made of pieces of refrigerators and washing machines, were everywhere")

Ali Salim

Ghassan Bitar

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150811185615.htm>



Lebanon: Bekaa Valley

A vehicular convoy of church officials was stopped at gunpoint by a group of outlaws, their leader politely asked them to get his wife released from prison, all were released

Bishop Hanna Alwan

Fr Elias Nasr

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Maronite-bishop-stopped-at-gunpoint-in-a-country-where-anarchy-reigns-35027.html>



Uganda: Nsinze village, Namutumba district

Jafalan Kadondi (convert, mother of Ibrahim Kasoono and Ismael Feruza, beaten and strangled by her Muslim husband for having converted, left for dead, hospitalized, lost her voice and has difficulty swallowing)

Ibrahim Kasoono (aged 18, convert, son of Jafalan Kadondi, brother of Ismael Feruza, beaten by his Muslim father for having converted, right arm broken, has abdominal injuries, hospitalized)

Ismael Feruza (aged 16, convert, son of Jafalan Kadondi, brother of Ibrahim Kasoono, beaten by his Muslim father for having converted, escaped with minor bruises)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/08/muslim-relatives-attack-mother-sons-in-uganda-for-turning-to-christ/>



Egypt: Minya

Mary Magdy Attia (aged 17, reported to have disappeared 3 days after her engagement)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1442&A=19882>



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;

fine upheld on [June 30, 2015](#), judge stated that his plea of 'not guilty' was proof of evasion of responsibility; **UPDATE:** fine overturned on appeal)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2096



United States - Ohio

Judge C Allen McConnell (refused in Toledo on [July 6, 2015](#) to officiate at a same sex wedding citing his “personal and Christian beliefs”; **UPDATE:** told by the state Supreme Court Board of Professional Conduct that he cannot follow his personal beliefs, said that he would comply with the ruling)

<http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2015/August/Ohio-Board-Judges-Must-Perform-Gay-Weddings/>

Wednesday August 12, 2015



India: Ahmedabad, Gujarat state

Fr Cedric Prakash SJ (**UPDATE:** commented on the state government's withdrawal of a textbook on the life of Babasaheb Ambedkar, the Dalit ["untouchable"] father of the Constitution, after it was discovered that the book highlighted his conversion from Hinduism to Buddhism: "It is clear that, with this book, the government wanted to co-opt as many Dalits and Buddhists as possible. However, they realized that in highlight Ambedkar, they also had to address the honest but painful reality of what he thought of Hinduism")

India: Gudsakal, Bhairamgarh, Bijapur, Chhattisgarh state

Sukhdev Negi (**killed** in front of his wife and three children by Maoist guerrillas)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Gujarat,-book-on-father-of-the-Constitution-withdrawn-because-anti-Hindu-35023.html>



Syria

Fr Isaac Moawad (abducted, still missing as of [April 22, 2013](#); **UPDATE**: reported to have been **executed**)

Fr Michel Kayyal (aged 27, abducted by rebels on [February 10, 2013](#) near [Aleppo](#); **UPDATE**: reported to have been **executed**)

Syria: Hassake

Archbishop Jacques Behnan Hindo (**UPDATE**: said that the recent release of 22 elderly Christian captives by ISIL could be the harbinger of another attack “Perhaps we can do an analysis on why [the Islamic State] returned them, because one month ago they attacked Hassake to take it, [and] they couldn’t. Maybe, maybe, they are giving a signal that we are expecting another attack. It’s a little like a drug for us, to reassure us so that we aren’t vigilant, and then they’ll make a new, large attack”)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/kidnapped-priest-killed-chopped-up-by-isis-as-christians-become-a-form-of-currency-in-mid-east-war-says-aid-to-the-church-in-need-142658/>
<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/could-the-release-of-22-christians-signal-another-islamic-state-attack-31187/>



Cameroon

Rev Samuel Heteck (**UPDATE**: said “All our summer [programs], such as youth camps, spiritual retreats and evening film-projections have now been cancelled” due to Boko Haram attacks)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Cameroonian-Christians-fearful-after-Boko-Haram-attacks>



Nigeria: Bayelsa state

Ese Rita Oruru (aged 13, abducted and forcibly married and converted to Islam)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/11/4727148/>

Thursday August 13, 2015



China: Hong Kong

Cardinal John Tong Hon (**UPDATE**: issued an appeal entitled 'The Sufferings of the Cross' which called upon the central government to stop the provincial governments' dismantling of church crosses, wrote "The cross is the sign most representative of the Christian faith. As Christians, we must follow Christ. That requires us to carry the cross together with Jesus Christ" and called on Christians "to choose some forms of penance, such as fast and abstinence and pray for religious freedom, the dignity of the faith and share the sufferings of the Christians" in Zhejiang province)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hong-Kong-cardinals,-Catholics-and-Protestants-denounce-the-sufferings-of-Zhejiang-crosses-35035.html>



India: Ganj Basoda, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh state

Fr Nitish Jacob (said after his church was burglarized and cash stolen "This is the third theft or attempted theft from this church [in less than a year]")

Bishop Anthony Chirayath (said of the police "They are inactive, and don't take any action when churches are attacked. They don't take seriously our complaints. What can we do? It is the duty of the police to investigate and take action against the culprits")

India: Sulega, Narayanpur, Chhattisgarh state

Jankon Bai Juri (elderly woman, **died of natural causes**, denied a Christian burial, the next day police and media convince the villagers to allow the funeral)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/proof-of-impunity-seen-in-church-robbery-indian-christian-leaders-say/74093>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4008171/>



Ukraine: Donbass

Three religious arrested by the government while providing humanitarian aid

Sr Tatiana Shirolapova (later released)

Archimandrite Alexander Dublyazhenko

Fr Leonid Mironenko (later released)

Archpriest Zakharia Kerstyuk (reported on the arrest of the three religious)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/81370.htm>

Friday August 14, 2015



China: Hong Kong

Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-Kium SBD (**UPDATE:** said a Mass on the theme "Safeguarding the faith, safeguarding the Cross" in response to continuing desecration of church crosses)

China: Qiqihar, Harbin

Bishop Joseph Wei Jingyi (underground bishop; **UPDATE:** criticized the ordination of priests in two separate incidents by CPCA bishops not in communion with the Vatican, another church leader said "If similar incidents continue to happen, I also would suspect the government of increasing its control on the Church, turning the Church into a tool of the state to fulfill its political agenda")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hong-Kong-cardinals,-Catholics-and-Protestants-denounce-the-sufferings-of-Zhejiang-crosses-35035.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/excommunicated-illicit-bishops-ordain-new-priests-in-china/74082>



Kazakhstan: Astana

Yklas Kabduakasov (aged 54, arrested by KNB secret police for spreading 'religious discord' by discussing his faith with others and offering Christian books to others)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2092



Canada: Ottawa, Ontario

Eric Brubacher (street missionary, witnessed the stabbing of a fellow missionary by a pro-homosexual activist, the missionary was hospitalized and released)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/christian-man-stabbed-on-busy-street-after-sharing-beliefs-on-homosexuality>

Saturday August 15, 2015



India: Telarai, Malkangiri, Odisha state

Pastor Gurumurthy Madi (aged 29, **killed** by Maoist guerrillas after refusing to hand over a former Maoist convert)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4008171/>



Pakistan: Gujrat, Punjab province

Four Christians arrested on blasphemy charges after one referred to his deceased minister father as a prophet

Pastor Aftab Gill (**UPDATE**: arrested)

Unitan Gill (brother of Pastor Aftab Gill, arrested, released on bail)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5557>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5556>



Kazakhstan: Astana

Yklas Kabduakasov (aged 54, arrested by KNB secret police for spreading 'religious discord' by discussing his faith with others and offering Christian books to others, **UPDATE**: ordered held in a two-month pretrial detention)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2092



Syria

Fr Antoine Boutros (aged 50, husband, father of a daughter, missing on **July 12, 2015** near **Shahba, Sweida** with his Muslim driver; **UPDATE**: freed, his driver is still missing)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/08/3975611/>



Belarus: Smolevichi

Pastor Nikolai Pinchuk (open air baptism interrupted by the town executive committee deputy chairman who called police, police asked him to move away from the public beach, apologized for the chairman's rudeness, and refused to file a report against him)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2096



Nigeria: Nekede, Imo state

Fr Dennis Osuagwu CMF (**shot dead** in a road ambush)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/38316->

[AFRICA NIGERIA Claretian Missionary priest killed in road ambush#.VdKJMsLlsfg](#)

Sunday August 16, 2015



China: Wuhan, Hubei province

Pastor Li Yongguang (worship service raided by police, beaten, said “They told us to go register [with the Three-Self Patriotic Movement, the official Protestant church]. They said that if we didn’t go register, our house church would be destroyed, and we would be arrested. They said, ‘If you don’t go register, you aren’t Christians. It is necessary for you to have the administration of the government’...[A police officer] said, ‘You don’t listen to me. I could have you arrested.’ I said, ‘You deprive us of our faith...Just do whatever you want, whether it be arresting people or demolishing the house church. I’m not afraid”)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/08/hubei-officials-threaten-to-destroy.html>



Egypt: Ezbet Dous village, Beni Suf province

Fr Felopatir Mina (reported that an application to construct a school had been rejected by zoning officials, land purchased after Christian students who currently attend school in a nearby village were harassed by Muslim men)

Egypt

Ibrahim Girgis Atallah Ibrahim (aged 54, husband of Josephine Morris Hanna, disappeared during the August 2013 government crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood; **UPDATE**: still missing)

Josephine Morris Hanna (wife of Ibrahim Girgis Atallah Ibrahim; **UPDATE**: said police did not care and were not serious about the case)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64013>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64015>



Nigeria: Kofar Gwari village, Kokona local government area, Nasarawa state

Idi Ibrahim (**killed** by Muslim Fulani gunmen)

Yaweh Oshawu (**killed** by Muslim Fulani gunmen)

Nigeria: Old Netim, Akamkpa local government area, Cross River state

Pastor James Eni (**beheaded** by a career criminal)

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2015/08/i-ll-do-it-again-if-says-man-who-beheaded-pastor/>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/09/attacks-in-plateau-state-nigeria-kill-38-displace-5000/>



United States – Nebraska: Omaha

Fr James Netusil (described the video of a criminal attack on a 76 year old parishioner in the church vestibule “After the first kid grabbed her purse, the second one hits her, and there’s no point to it. It was just evil”)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/elderly-woman-brutally-attacked-in-church-responds-with-forgiveness-60714/>

Monday August 17, 2015



Egypt: Sylla village, Minya province

Eid Rashid Gergis (aged 55, farmer, disappeared)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1451&A=20051>



Belarus: Brest

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

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

Tuesday August 18, 2015



Indonesia: Mandumpang village, Aceh province

Rev Erde Berutu (**UPDATE**: said that his church was destroyed by arson "We want local police to fairly investigate the case. We lament that the police still believe that a short circuit was the cause of the fire. We don't see it that way...There's an indication that our church was burned down [on purpose]. There was a reuncong [in the rubble]. This reuncong [machete] wouldn't be there by itself...There was a religion-based conflict in 1979 and our church was set on fire. In 1999, another group tried to burn down our church, but a member of the congregation saw the fire on the door and immediately put it out")

Rev Domeniktus Padang (said that the church destruction might be related to the restrictive local building codes, which make it almost impossible to build a church)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/dispute-over-cause-of-fire-after-indonesian-church-burns-down/74137>



China: Shantou, Chenghai district, Guangdong province

Pastor Guo (husband threatened by police that 'something bad' would happen if their congregation did not join the official church, said “The Religious Affairs Bureau wants us to join the Three-Self, but I will not agree. We have endured for many years already. We will never compromise to them”)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/08/guangdong-house-church-sealed-after.html>



Pakistan: Faisalabad, Punjab province

Prison officials reported to have announced an end to Sunday worship for Christian prisoners

Hashmat Barkat (attorney, said "Restricting the right of Christian prisoners to profess freely their own religious faith is a clear violation of Article 20 of the Constitution of Pakistan...This example of freedom denied to Christian prisoners increases the sense of fear, deprivation, pessimism, and insecurity among minorities, particularly Christians”)

Fr Khalid Rashid Asi (**UPDATE:** said ""The government has to foster a climate of tolerance and respect for minorities and ensure the protection of minority rights through the law")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Faisalabad's-central-prison-denies-Christian-prisoners-the-right-to-a-Mass-35069.html>



Syria: Aleppo

Fr Elias Ganji (said that the 2 week cutoff of water to the city is especially harming children and the elderly)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64035>



Ukraine: Ugrinov village, Horikhiv district, Volhynia region

Fr Rostislav Sapozhnik (husband, father of 11 and 17 year old sons, church illegally seized by the Kiev Patriarchate on [September 10, 2014](#); **UPDATE:** ordered evicted along with his family from their adjoining home which they have occupied for 17 years, ordered to pay US\$2,690 in 'back rent')

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/81544.htm>



United Kingdom: Bradford

Nissar Hussain (convert from Islam, husband of Kubra, resident of Manningham, shunned by his extended family, has been labelled a "Christian Jew dog", wife has been sworn and spat at, children have been ostracized at school, automobile firebombed; sent a letter with his wife on [May 15, 2015](#) to their Member of Parliament listing the acts of terrorism against them by their Muslim neighbors and police since their 1996 conversion from Islam, these acts included being 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 [May 15, 2015](#), the MP has yet to reply as of [June 10, 2015](#); **UPDATE:** automobile pelted with eggs)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Local-Muslim-community-persecutes-British-convert-from-Islam>

Wednesday August 19, 2015



Vietnam

John Thai Van Dung (**UPDATE:** released from prison)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hanoi-frees-two-Catholic-activists,-four-years-in-jail-for-anti-government-activities-35160.html>



Sudan

UPDATE: Two pastors are allowed to leave the country, had been prevented from doing so by the NISS secret police on [August 6, 2015](#)

Rev David Yein Reith

Rev Yat Michael

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/08/freed-pastors-arrive-home-from-sudan-after-ordeal-of-false-charges-travel-ban/>



Israel: Nazareth

Fr Abdel Masih Fahim OFM (complained of recent government actions that may force the closure of up to 48 Christians schools "The Education Ministry is financially strangling the Christian schools that have existed for hundreds of years" while independent Orthodox Jewish schools remain 100% funded despite legal requirements to not discriminate)

Boutros Mansour (said that some Christians see the government's actions as an attempt to pressure the Christian schools to become public schools "If this is the case, the whole Christian faith emphasis would be lost...[the schools provide an] important base of establishing Christian identity in Israel. Without them there is almost no social identity [outside church]")

<http://www.catholicsun.org/2015/08/19/christian-educators-say-israeli-policies-could-force-school-closures/>



Egypt: Damanhour, Beheira province

Dr Michael Iskandar (aged 27, son of Eman Ramzi Fahim, has been persecuted by the psychology and neurology department chair at his hospital)

Eman Ramzi Fahim (real estate manager, mother of Dr Michael Iskandar, reported on her son's persecution at the local hospital)

Egypt

Mariam Malak Zakry Tadros (aged 16, student ranked first in her class in Minya, exams altered on or before [July 26, 2015](#) to give her a failing grade; **UPDATE**: appealed to President al-Sisi for help)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64050>

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1448&A=19991>



United States – Oregon: Gresham

A Christian couple was found guilty of discrimination for refusing to bake a cake for a same sex wedding discovered to have been sending free cakes to homosexual activists with the words "We really do love you!" on the cakes)

Aaron Klein (husband of Melissa Klein)

Melissa Klein (wife of Aaron Klein)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/oregon-christian-bakers-fined-135k-respond-by-sending-hand-baked-cakes-to-1>

Thursday August 20, 2015



Pakistan: Kasur

Naveed Aziz (British-Pakistani Christian Association officer, travelled to the recently flooded areas, said "I was shocked at the immense devastation before me it was a lot to take in. People are in real desperation and children are starving. I am surprised and shocked at the lack of help from Pakistani authorities...When it comes to flooding of Christian communities, the government seems to back away. Whereas with Muslim communities, they go straight in there, so do the Muslim charities", many charities demanded that the Christian flood victims convert to Islam to receive aid)

Pakistan: undisclosed location

Robin Ghosh (husband of Saniya, father of Rajeel and Rahul, beaten, in hiding)

Saniya Ghosh (convert, wife of Robin, father of Rajeel and Rahul, subject of a fatwa calling for her death for leaving Islam, in hiding)

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/floods-worsen-already-deplorable-lives-of-pak-christians>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5645>



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; fine upheld on [June 30, 2015](#), judge stated that his plea of 'not guilty' was proof of evasion of responsibility, fine overturned on appeal on [August 11, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: fine reinstated)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2096



United Kingdom: Bradford

Nissar Hussain (convert from Islam, husband of Kubra, resident of Manningham, **UPDATE:** 40 young Muslim men gathered outside his home in an act of intimidation, son's automobile windows broken)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Local-Muslim-community-persecutes-British-convert-from-Islam>



United States

Maria Goldstein (request to print an anti-Planned Parenthood flyer denied by Office Depot, later received an apology after retaining legal counsel)

United States - New Mexico: Las Cruces

Minister Norman Story (reported to have called police after the church groundskeeper discovered an explosive device in a sprinkler box during the previous week, police detonated the device)

<http://christiannews.net/2015/08/20/bombs-found-planted-at-new-mexico-churches/>
<http://www.charismanews.com/us/51978-office-depot-apologizes-for-discriminating-against-christian>

Friday August 21, 2015



Australia: Sydney

Pastor Bobbie Houston (called on women to pray in opposition to ISIL's 'theology of rape':
"Perhaps if we committed ourselves to pray each day at 12 [noon - the girl was 12yrs old] for a few moments. If you don't know HOW to pray - pray Psalm 10 over this situation. Pray in the Spirit. Pray with understanding. Pray with authority. Pray for the victims. Pray for the perpetrators. Yes. Pray for the enemy. All I know is that PRAYER MAKES A WAY")

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/hillsong-church-pastor-bobbie-houston-horrified-by-islamic-states-theology-of-rape-mobilizes-women-everywhere-to-pray-143378/>



Vietnam: Hanoi

Fr Anton Le Ngoc Thanh CSSR (**UPDATE**: criticized the draft religious law, called it "a step backward compared to the Ordinance on Belief and Religion of 2004. The new law imposes cumbersome procedures, stringent mechanisms, and a number of constraints that make religious activity impossible")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hanoi-ignores-Caodaists-and-Catholics-who-criticise-new-religious-bill-for-violating-human-rights-35104.html>



Pakistan: Lahore, Punjab province

Soran Masih (father of Aasiya Noreen aka Asia Bibi, has petitioned the High Court to overturn a lower court decision which denied him permission to visit his daughter on death row)

Date: August 21, 2015

Location:

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5562>

Saturday August 22, 2015



Egypt: Rashid, Beheira province

Fr Luka Radi (**UPDATE**: described how historical church furniture was to be auctioned to pay a US\$19,157 fine against him and Pope Twardos)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64085>



Nigeria: Kortse village, Gassol local government area, Taraba state

Ushahemba Kumashenge (brother of Sughter Kumashenge, farmer, **killed** by Muslim Fulani gunmen)

Sughter Kumashenge (brother of Ushahemba Kumashenge, farmer, **killed** by Muslim Fulani gunmen)

Rev Caleb Ahema (**UPDATE**: reported on the murders of Ushahemba and Sughter Kumashenge)

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

Sunday August 23, 2015



India: Kanheipur village, Odisha state

Pastor Sushil Lima (aged 45, arrested on forced conversion charges while visiting an elderly Christian, released later in the evening)

Mahendra Nayak (along with his wife visited Pastor Sushil Lima in jail)

India: Batala, Gurdaspur, Punjab state

Pastor Rani Gil (sexually assaulted and stabbed, another pastor assaulted, church and cross urinated on)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Police-and-Hindu-radicals-insult-and-attack-Christians-visiting-elderly-believer-in-India>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4008171/>



Pakistan: Lahore

Soran Masih (father of Aasiya Noreen aka Asia Bibi, has petitioned the High Court on August 21, 2015 to overturn a lower court decision which denied him permission to visit his daughter on death row; **UPDATE**: the High Court granted the petition, ordered prison authorities to allow family visitations)

Rehana Bibi (sister of Aasiya Noreen aka Asia Bibi, allowed visitation rights)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/pakistan-court-clears-way-for-father-to-visit-asia-bibi/74142>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5565>



Syria: Damascus

Archbishop Samir Nassar (**UPDATE**: spoke on the shelling of two churches and multiple residences that killed 9 and wounded more than 50: "Part of the war in Syria is to live under indiscriminate bombing, a kind of Russian roulette which is always unpredictable...Of those who died, at least you will not have to see and live this cruel tragedy without end. You will not see your children, your friends and your neighbors suffer and die in the blind violence and fanatical killing unable to save them or help them without understanding why...The survivors bury the dead without having been able to treat the wounded since they lack means and competence. They sink into silent prayer before the relics of martyrs, the seeds of Faith")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/38348->

[ASIA SYRIA Mortar attacks on two churches in Damascus The Maronite Archbishop our life is like a game of Russian roulette#.Vd5seMLlsg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38348-ASIA_SYRIA_Mortar_attacks_on_two_churches_in_Damascus_The_Maronite_Archbishop_our_life_is_like_a_game_of_Russian_roulette#.Vd5seMLlsg)



Egypt: Rahmaniya village, Qena province

Fr Angelous Mikhail (complained of the now 30-year closure of a church "for no reason" by security forces, the church is only one of two available in the village for 22,000 Christians)

Egypt: Minya

Mariam Malak Zakry Tadros (aged 16, sister of Dr Bassem, student ranked first in her class, exams altered on or before [July 26, 2015](#) to give her a failing grade; appealed on [August 19, 2015](#) to President al-Sisi for help; **UPDATE**: prosecutors have questioned her three times in apparent retaliation for her original complaint, appear to be building a case that her previous high grades were the result of cheating and fraud)

Egypt: Marsa Matruh

Bahaa Saeed Karam (aged 22, soldier, shot with four bullets while with his battalion, **died in hospital**)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64099>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64094>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64146>



Nigeria: Jos, Plateau state

Rev Samuel Dante Dali (husband of Dr Rebecca Dali; **UPDATE:** reported to have said “Nigeria will overcome the Boko Haram challenge soon. 70% of our [Church of the Brethren] churches have been destroyed in Adamawa, Yobe and Borno states by Boko Haram; over 8,000 of our members were killed. 176 of the girls kidnapped in Chibok are our members”)

Nigeria: Barkin Ladi local government area, Plateau state

Ibrahim Nyam (**shot dead** by suspected Fulani Muslim gunmen)

Jimmy Pam (**shot dead** by suspected Fulani Muslim gunmen)

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2015/08/boko-haram-killed-over-8000-members-of-my-church-eyn-president/>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/08/stabbed-pastor-in-nigeria-goes-into-relapse-plateau-state-christians-protest-in-abuja/>

Monday August 24, 2015



India: Kanheipur village, Odisha state

Mahendra Nayak (along with his wife visited Pastor Sushil Lima in jail on [August 23, 2015](#); **UPDATE:** along with his wife was forced to attend a village meeting, tortured and threatened with banishment)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Police-and-Hindu-radicals-insult-and-attack-Christians-visiting-elderly-believer-in-India>



Egypt: Sylla village, Minya province

Eid Rashid Gergis (aged 55, farmer, disappeared, **UPDATE:** **body found, had been murdered**)

Egypt: Giza

Medhat Isaac (aged 35, arrested on August 7, 2015 for passing out Bibles in a public location, charged with contempt of religion even though he said nothing against any religion, ordered held for 15 days; **UPDATE:** ordered held another 15 days)

Rafik Rafaat (attorney, said that the judge will likely continue to extend Medhat Isaac's detention until the case is no longer under public scrutiny and then impose a sentence of up to 5 years' imprisonment)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1451&A=20051>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/08/christian-in-egypt-kept-in-prison-on-false-charge-of-blasphemy-attorney-says/>



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, fined US\$235 on [June 8, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: fine upheld on appeal)

Yuri Volodenko (church raided by OMON riot police on [May 17, 2015](#), arrested, fined US\$235 on [June 8, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: fine upheld on appeal)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2096



Nigeria: Kaduna state

John Danfulani (said "[Christians] are being wiped out with impunity, and the casualty figures increase with every attack. Everything points to the fact that our people are being used as sacrificial lambs")

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



United States – Illinois: Chicago

Robert DeKelaita (aged 52, husband of Ester, father of two sons, immigration attorney, indicted in [September 2014](#) on charges of making false allegations of religious persecution on asylum requests of Christians from Egypt, Iraq, and Syria, said "The way that some of our federal judges view the plight of Christians in Iraq and the way some of the adjudicators view them, you would honestly think 'what is wrong with these people?' Why can't they see what the rest of the world sees?")

Ramon Michael (Assyrian immigrant, said "Dangerous people are allowed to come in across our borders and these people [Assyrian asylum seekers], I'd let these people babysit my kids,

that's how much I fear these people. Something is up. I don't know what, but it seems to be very anti-Christian to me...[There was an inaccurate and outdated European report that] was saying there is no persecution of Christians in Iraq and for many years [the immigration courts] were using that to deny asylum and Robert was able to get that stopped, and that was when things started going bad for him. He was able to make a pretty substantial impact if judges were no longer able to cite that report")

Mimi Odicho (Assyrian immigrant, said "My sister and her three young children are among the Assyrian hostages in Syria. We don't even know if they're still alive. Instead of trying to help save them - save these innocent people - the U.S. government is trying to take down a man who has been our people's only hope for years. Robert [DeKelaita] is our hero. I don't think anyone could possibly understand what he means to us")

Narsai Oshana (Assyrian immigrant, said "I think our community finds hope in Robert [DeKelaita] because he is an attorney that is not foreign to our part of the world, to our plight and our history. He knows exactly what we have endured, because he's lived it himself. He represented me in my asylum claim when I didn't have any way to pay him except with thanks. That was enough for him. I will never forget that. To me, like many, Robert was light at the end of a very long, horrid tunnel. His name is known everywhere. I am forever indebted to him")

Bishop Gewargis Younan (said "He [Robert DeKelaita] escaped persecution as a child, and resettled in the United States. He had every reason to fail, but instead he went on to graduate from the prestigious University of Chicago and ultimately was considered the best attorney for Middle Eastern Christians. His entire career has been aimed at giving back - to his church, to his heritage, to his people. He is a role model for members of our community, both American-born and immigrants. I can say with confidence that every parishioner in our church has either themselves been represented by Mr DeKelaita, or has a relative that was represented by him. When the charges were filed, the community was in outrage and disbelief, and rightfully so. There is not a single Assyrian family anywhere in Iraq or Syria that has not been directly impacted by religious persecution. The manner in which Mr DeKelaita's case has been approached seemingly moves to challenge this truth. We are proud of Mr DeKelaita's achievements, and will continue to support him during this time")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150824143535.htm>

Tuesday August 25, 2015



China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Zhang Kai (civil rights attorney; **UPDATE**: disappeared, apparently detained in response to his defense of churches during the cross removal campaign)

Pastor Huang Yizi (released from prison on [August 1, 2015](#), in good spirits but physically weak;
UPDATE: officials forced themselves into his home and placed his family under house arrest for 24 hours, then began 24 hour surveillance of his activities)

Wang Zhen (detained)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/08/international-business-times-china.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/08/new-york-times-lawyer-who-represented.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/09/zhejiang-authorities-issue-new-church.html>



India: Nawagad, Jaitlkhar, Kondagaon, Chhattisgarh state

Six converts to Christianity expelled from their village, including three sisters

Lalita Mandavi

Tija Mandavi

Tejai Mandavi

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4008171/>



Pakistan: undisclosed location

Khurram Naveed (aged 33, husband of Sobia Mariam Naveed, father of Ramia and Eman, former teacher, in hiding due to his wife's conversion, said “My wife, I and our children have had to flee from place to place. We feel threatened as soon as people find out about by wife’s Muslim past. However, running from one place to another is not easy. There are so many problems. Until now I have to change job six times and finding new employment is not easy. But we need security for our life and we ask for help from the people of God”)

Sobia Mariam Naveed (aged 25, convert, wife of Khurram Naveed, mother of of Ramia and Eman, former teacher, in hiding due to her conversion, said “Since I am still registered as a Muslim, we are open to threats. I really hope someone will help us because it is now impossible to lead a free life. In any event, despite all these problems, we remain firm in our faith following the teaching of the Lord Jesus until the last breath. I accepted Him in my heart and shall not go back”)

Ramia Naveed (aged 4, daughter of Khurram and Sobia Mariam Naveed, in hiding due to her mother's conversion from Islam)

Eman Naveed (aged 2, daughter of Khurram and Sobia Mariam Naveed, in hiding due to her mother's conversion from Islam)

Pakistan: undisclosed location: Faisalabad

Rev Mukhtar Fazal (former owner of The Light Christian Primary School, said "Although the school was doing well and was highly respected, it was impossible to keep it open in the city after Sobia's [Sobia Mariam Naveed 's 2010] conversion. I had to sell the building at half of its market value. My business was ruined even though I was not directly involved in the affair")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Faisalabad:-Christian-family-forced-to-flee-from-place-to-place-after-wife-converts-from-Islam-35131.html>



Egypt

Gamal Silvanus (father of military recruit Bahaa Gamal Mikhael Silvanus, said "My son was killed by someone. He didn't kill himself"; **UPDATE**: said "The forensic report on the killing of my son is not true")

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64116>

Wednesday August 26, 2015



China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Yan Xiaojie (**UPDATE**: detained, sentenced to 8 days' administrative detention)

Associate Pastor Wei Wenhai (detained)

Associate Pastor Zhou Jian (detained)

Associate Pastor Cheng Congping (detained)

Elder Wang Yunxian (detained)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/08/zhejiang-pastor-administratively.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/09/zhejiang-authorities-issue-new-church.html>



Iraq: Bagdad

Salma Lewis (**murdered**, body found)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64126>



Albania: Dhermi, Himara

Church leaders protested the destruction of a church in the middle of the night by the government

Fr Pandeli Mitru

Fr Efthim Bixhili

Fr Athanasius Kareem

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2015/08/31/the-orthodox-church-of-st-athanasius-destroyed-in-albania/>

Thursday August 27, 2015



Vietnam

Tran Nhat Minh (released from prison)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hanoi-frees-two-Catholic-activists,-four-years-in-jail-for-anti-government-activities-35160.html>



Pakistan: Chak No 221 GB village, Samundri

Nasim (aged 26, wife of Dilawar Masih, harassed and insulted by a Muslim for being pregnant)

Khaliq Masih (brick kiln worker, husband of Kalsoom, verbally defended Nasim, home attacked, severely beaten, arm fractured with an axe, hospitalized)

Kalsoom (wife of Khaliq Masih, attacked, injured, hospitalized)

Fr Abid Tanveer (**UPDATE**: called the attack 'shameful')

Prof Anjum James Paul (**UPDATE**: said “Pakistani non-Muslims are being threatened. They are not considered equal. Attacking non-Muslims in Pakistan has become a routine. They are

either being forcibly converted from their original religions or leaving their homeland as they do not feel secure in their motherland.”)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5573>



Nigeria: Abuja

Cardinal John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan (aged 71, **UPDATE**: marched with the Bring Back Our Girls organization to protest 500 days of captivity for the remaining 219 Chibok schoolgirls, said "My heart bleeds for the children. I feel terribly ashamed. I feel ashamed that about 300 girls should disappear just like that")

<http://news.yahoo.com/nigeria-marks-500-days-since-boko-haram-schoolgirl-052602199.html>



Cuba: Havana

Berta Soler (**UPDATE**: reported to have said “We’re really worried. When Pope Benedict XVI came to Cuba they shut down telephone lines in an area of some 15 to 25 miles. They did the same to the cell phones of human rights activists and their close relatives. Cuban officials began arresting all the human rights activists so we couldn’t participate in the Masses the Pope celebrated in Santiago de Cuba and Havana. We’re waiting, we’re thinking the same thing is going to happen when the Holy Father Pope Francis comes”)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/ahead-of-papal-visit-cubas-women-in-white-fear-government-crackdown-66398/>

Friday August 28, 2015



Indonesia: Timika, Paupa province

Drunken soldiers attack a graduation party inside a church compound, killing two and injuring five

Herman Mairimau (aged 23, **killed**)

Yulianus Okoware (aged 23, **killed**)

Fr Amandus Rahaded (officiated at the funeral Mass for Herman Mairimau and Yulianus Okoware, said of the military's investigation into the attack "The legal process must be transparent. Everyone must know about the ongoing legal process" and that previous investigations "faded away...so now people feel hopeless")

Bishop John Philip Saklil (condemned the church attack, said "Based on our record, there are a number of violent incidents being brutally committed by members of the Indonesian military and police in our ecclesiastical area")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/indonesian-bishop-seeks-justice-for-killings-in-restive-papua/74194>



India: Nakhnool village, Rajasthan state

Pastor Malkeet Singh (reported to have said "Since June 27 [2015], we have not been able to have any kind of worship meetings. The extremists threatened to harm us if we utter the name of Christ or conduct any Christian meetings")

India: Pinguli village, Kudal, Sindhugurh

Pastor Benjamin Gomes (reported to have said "On every Sunday for more than a month now, around 100 Hindu extremists gathered near where we are conducting Sunday meetings and threatened to harm some of our church members if they continue to attend the prayer meetings. Even the village head told us to stop the meeting")

Rev Anand Chougule (reported to have said that the church of Pastor Benjamin Gomes had been accused of forcible conversions, but every member testified to the contrary)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/08/death-threats-forced-conversions-of-christians-cited-in-india/>



Egypt: Minya

Ashraf Thabet (aged 33, reported to have been **stabbed to death** during a dispute with Muslim neighbors)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1454&A=20102>



Argentina: Río Tercero, Cordoba province

Pastor Marcelo Nieva (aged 35, husband of Janet, father of Marta, as of [May 5, 2014](#) has been subjected to death threats, church vandalized by police; shot at multiple times on [October 21, 2014](#) in an apparent murder attempt by organized criminals in revenge for their work with addicts and prostitutes, not injured; **UPDATE**: an appellate court ordered police on [May 29, 2015](#) to station officers at the church to protect it from violence, police have yet to follow the order)

<http://www.csw.org.uk/2015/08/28/news/2744/article.htm>

Saturday August 29, 2015



China: Baoding

A presidential amnesty for elderly prisoners resulted in a petition to free a missing bishop

Bishop James Su Zhimin (aged 82, disappeared while in police custody in 1997; has spent 43 total years in captivity; **UPDATE**: family told that he is being held as a bargaining chip with the Vatican)

Su Tianyou (nephew of Bishop James Su Zhimin, church leader, signed the petition)

Fr Lu Genjun (signed the petition, had been released in August 2014 after 8 years' detention)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/chinese-catholics-appeal-for-release-of-long-imprisoned-bishop/74182>



Nigeria

Pastor Emmanuel Danjuma Garkida (husband, father, stabbed several times by Muslim youths on [April 13, 2015](#) in [Saminaka, Lere local government area, Kaduna state](#), saved by an older Muslim, hospitalized; **UPDATE**: still hospitalized, reportedly has suffered a relapse)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/08/stabbed-pastor-in-nigeria-goes-into-relapse-plateau-state-christians-protest-in-abuja/>



Argentina: Alta Gracia

Fr Luis Jesus Cortez (aged 73, **killed by strangulation** in his home, home set afire to hide the murder)

Archbishop Carlos Jose Nanez (later spoke at the funeral Mass of Fr Luis Jesus Cortez)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/38380->

[AMERICA ARGENTINA We cannot accept violence we have to react the Archbishop of Cordoba at the funeral of the murdered priest#.VeZxLMLlsg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38380-AMERICA_ARGENTINA_We_cannot_accept_violence_we_have_to_react_the_Archbishop_of_Cordoba_at_the_funeral_of_the_murdered_priest#.VeZxLMLlsg)

Sunday August 30, 2015



China: Baiyun district, Guangdong province

Pastor Ma Chao (detained along with three other parishioners at the airport, said “We went to the Guangdong Provincial Bureau for Letters and Calls three times and twice to the Guangzhou Municipal Bureau for Letters and Calls. We have no avenue to solve these problems [i.e. persecutions]. Yesterday, we went to the office and again received no answer. We decided to go to Beijing to petition because the local government paid no attention to our problems....We were heading to the gate with the boarding passes. More than two dozen police officers were waiting for us — two in uniform, the others in plainclothes — with officials from the Baiyun District government. They took us to the back of the Baiyun District Police Station and did not say how long we had to wait. Nobody talked to us. I saw the chief of the local religious affairs bureau named Yu Guigang, who had taken our things before”)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/09/petitioners-detained-at-airport-en.html>



India: New Delhi

Rev Richard Howell (**UPDATE:** said during a demonstration of 7,000 Christians against persecution “But ground realities have not changed. Christians are still being targeted in different states”)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/india-about-7000-christians-protest-against-increasing-persecution-of-their-community-across-the-country/>



Ethiopia: Guder village, Oromia state

Alem (aged 40-plus, beaten by Wakefeta animists after leaving church)

Godana (aged 55, husband of Beza, father of eight, **killed** by Wakefeta animists with machetes inside his church)

Beza (widow of Godana, said: “I suffer from pneumonia and have been receiving treatments for many years. Godana was responsible for everything in the house. I don’t know what I will do”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/10/4052246/>

Monday August 31, 2015



China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Zhang Kai (civil rights attorney; disappeared in Wenzhou, Zhejiang province on [August 25, 2015](#), apparently detained in response to his defense of churches during the cross removal campaign; **UPDATE**: reportedly has been sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment for 'endangering national security' and 'gathering a crowd to disturb public order', denied legal representation due to the national security charge, is being held in a 'black' jail outside of the normal judicial review, had said “I’ve made up my mind: the most they can do is jail me. But if I stay silent, I’ll regret it my whole life”)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/08/zhejiang-authorities-sentence-human.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/08/china-change-work-of-lawyer-zhang-kai-i.html>



Somalia

Sharif (aged 31, convert, left his wife and four children, fled to Ethiopia due to fear of arrest)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/08/somali-christians-fleeing-islamic-extremists-lose-family-fingers/>



Nigeria: Jos, Plateau state

Rt Rev Benjamin Kwashi (archbishop, said “As a pastor, I have conducted more burial services of those killed through attacks than weddings and naming ceremonies since 2001. It’s sad to note that most victims of the attacks are harmless children, some infants, women and youth”)

Daniel Meshak (said that 50,000 Christians have been displaced from their homes in Barkin Ladi and Riyom local government areas)

Nigeria: Tanabu village, Gashish district, Barkin Ladi local government area, Plateau state

Akare Mangam (**shot dead** by Muslim Fulani gunmen, body desecrated)

Mashingil Mangam (**shot dead** by Muslim Fulani gunmen, body desecrated)

Paul Akare (**shot dead** by Muslim Fulani gunmen, body desecrated)

Elizabeth Ezekiel (**shot dead** by Muslim Fulani gunmen, body desecrated)

Josephine Sunday (**shot dead** by Muslim Fulani gunmen, body desecrated)

Rev Dachollom Datiri (**UPDATE**: confirmed the attack)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/09/clergyman-in-nigeria-has-conducted-more-funerals-than-weddings/>



Cuba: Valle Grande prison, San Antonio de los Banos

Rev Jesus Noel Carballeda (aged 45, imprisoned for four months in 2000; **UPDATE**: released after six months' imprisonment, had been held without trial since early February 2015 for unauthorized religious activities)

<http://www.csw.org.uk/2015/09/02/news/2749/article.htm>



Mexico: Union Juarez village, La Trinitaria municipality, Chiapas state

Rene Vazquez (detained by village authorities for 24 hours for breaking a curfew which has been applied only to Protestants, two others stopped with him but not detained, money and cell phone stolen by the authorities)

<http://www.csw.org.uk/2015/09/04/news/2755/article.htm>

August 2015, date unknown



India: Lupungi Messasai village, Chaibasa municipality, Jharkhand state

Rev Akash Nandi (described an attack on four Christian families “The believers in this village could not go anywhere, as they are restricted from walking on the road and taking water from the public pump, and the children were banned from the school. They were not allowed to take care of their herds of cattle, and the extremists threatened to kill and take hold of all their possession if they did not denounce Christ”)

India: Nerul village, North Goa district

Hindu nationalists in late August 2015 seized land owned by a religious order, built a temple on it with police assistance

Fr Wilfred Fernandes SDB (said that the mob threatened to attack "our people" if the land was developed by Christians)

Br Pilar Eusebio Miranda (church newspaper editor, said "The entire episode against the Salesians is stage managed. We had predicted before the elections that if the BJP comes to power, this will be the fate [of us]")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/09/christians-in-jharkhand-india-attacked-with-axes-clubs/>
<http://www.ucanindia.in/news/temple-in-church-property-threatens-goas-peace/30155/daily>