

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – January 2016

Friday January 1, 2016



Pakistan: Rawalpindi

**Two brothers have gone into hiding as of [December 18, 2015](#) after their Muslim tenant accused them of blasphemy in an apparent attempt to occupy their property;
UPDATE: family beaten by their accusers and others**

Nasir Yousaf

Nisar Yousaf

Kathreen Yousaf (aged 65, widow of Yousaf Masih, mother of Nasir and Nisar Yousaf)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5780>

Saturday January 2, 2016



Philippines: Mindanao

Datu (alias, convert, husband, father, **stabbed to death**)

<http://www.christianaid.org/News/2017/mir20170112.aspx>



Vietnam: Thien An

Three religious brothers accused of illegal deforestation charges after their removal of 15 pine trees in their orange grove on [January 2, 2016](#)

Br Truong Thang OSB (accused)

Br Pham Ngoc Hoang OSB (accused)

Br Phan Van Giao OSB (accused)

Br Stanislas Tran Minh Vong OSB (aged 80, said "some 200 officials, security officers, militia, forest wardens and others suddenly flocked to the monastery, videotaping, threatening and shouting at us with foul language" while they were clearing the trees, added "Benedictines never do as gangsters" after state media accused the brothers of pulling knives on the officials)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/vietnamese-benedictines-summoned-on-deforestation-charges/75347>



Egypt: Dalga

Fr Ayub Yusif (**UPDATE:** reported that Christian cemeteries [sic] in his village have been turned into a garbage dump)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=65494>

Sunday January 3, 2016



Pakistan: near Pasrur

Bashir Masih (church service disrupted by two Muslims who were persuaded to stop but who then filed a police report alleging they had been beaten by the Christians)

Gulshan ("boy", fought with one of the Muslims, separated by the other Christians)

Pakistan: Kasur district, Punjab province

Saima Bibi (aged 15, daughter of Arshad Masih, sister of Riaz Masih, abducted, forcibly converted to Islam, and forcibly married to her abductor)

Riaz Masih (son of Arshad Masih, brother of Saima Bibi, described her abduction and forcible marriage and conversion)

Arshad Masih (aged 53, father of Saima Bibi and Riaz Masih, confined to a wheelchair, has tried to recover Saima from her abductor)

Fr Joseph Louis (said of the abduction and forcible marriage and conversion of Saima Bibi "This is unacceptable, we totally condemn this. The girl was not even mature as the Child Marriage Restraint Act defines the official age of marriage for girls to be 16 years. We demand that courts give justice to the affected family")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/01/muslims-in-pakistan-disrupt-christians-worship-storm-homes/>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/family-says-teen-forced-to-convert-to-islam-after-kidnapping/74964>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/01/4241296/>

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/saima-masian-a-fifteen-year-old-christian-girl-becomes-latest-victim-of-forced-islamic-marriage>

Monday January 4, 2016



Pakistan: near Pasrur

Bashir Masih ([January 3, 2016](#) church service disrupted by two Muslims who were persuaded to stop but who then filed a police report alleging they had been beaten by the Christians,

UPDATE: the Christians filed their own police report only to have their homes attacked by 30 men with axes and clubs)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/01/muslims-in-pakistan-disrupt-christians-worship-storm-homes/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/01/4241296/>



Syria

Fr Dhiya Azziz OFM (aged 41, Iraqi citizen, abducted on [December 23, 2015](#) by persons unknown [on the road between Lattakia and Yacubiyah](#) while returning from visiting his parents who are refugees in Turkey, all other persons in his taxi also missing; **UPDATE:** released)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Fr.-Dhiya-Azziz,-parish-priest-kidnapped-in-Syria,-is-released-36311.html>

Tuesday January 5, 2016



Uzbekistan

Tohar Haydarov (sentenced to 10 years imprisonment in **Gulistan** in **March 2010** on fabricated drug charges, as of **April 17, 2013** has not been allowed to have a Bible; **UPDATE**: told he will not be paroled in 2016, visitor hours have been curtailed since the death of his mother, has complained about salt in his drinking water but has been restricted to 12 kilograms of outside supplies per year)

Gleb Serin (reported on the imprisonment of Tohar Haydarov, said "Tohar's personal Bible was taken away from him about a year ago and he is trying to recite Bible verses from memory. He also cannot find the Bible our Church gave to the prison library. Although he doesn't have the Bible, he feels like God is next to him in prison")

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2149



Zimbabwe: Victoria Falls

Pastor Patrick Mugadza (aged 45, arrested on a charge of criminal nuisance for silently holding a sign that read 'Mr. President, the people are suffering. Proverbs 21:13' outside the Zanu PF party conference, ordered held on an excessive bail of US\$500, **UPDATE**: trial postponed when the arresting officers failed to appear in court, released)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Pastor-arrested-after-peaceful-protest-in-Zimbabwe>

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Zimbabwean-social-media-campaign-pastor-acquitted-of-treason-charges>



United Kingdom: Belfast, Northern Ireland

Pastor James McConnell (aged 78, beginning on **June 17, 2015** has been under prosecution for an anti-Islamic homily posted to the internet; **UPDATE**: acquitted)

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/freedom-of-speech/victory-for-preacher-in-free-speech-case>

Wednesday January 6, 2016



Thailand: Bangkok

Pervaiz Ghori (aged 53, Pakistani refugee, father of six daughters, arrested on [September 10, 2015](#) on a visa violation despite having a tumor and heart condition; **UPDATE** released from the detention center and hospitalized in grave condition after his health conditions went untreated in detention)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/no-hope-in-hell-another-pakistani-christian-dies-in-thai-detention-center/>

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/another-pakistani-christian-asylum-seeker-dies-in-brutal-thailand-immigration>



Pakistan: Baath, Manga Mandi, Lahore

Pastor Yaqoob Saroya (church heavily damaged in an arson attack by Muslims who objected to the use of loudspeakers during a service)

Dildar Bhatti (catechist, described details of the arson attack on his church “The police were called, who initially said it was a short circuit, but there were no electric wires near the fire and none were burned. Also, the church boundary wall had footprints, suggesting someone had scaled it”)

Karamat Masih (said “All the local Christians are now in great fear, the fire illustrates that Christians are not wanted in the local area”)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/christians-not-wanted-in-pakistan-says-a-believer-from-the-church-which-was-set-on-fire-few-days-ago/>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5749>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/01/4241296/>



Iran: Esfahan

Misem Hojatti (arrested in his parent's home by plain-clothed intelligence officers on [December 23, 2015](#), hand-cuffed and slapped, religious items, electronics, and a Christmas tree seized; **UPDATE**: released on bail)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=2770>

Thursday January 7, 2016
Christmas – Eastern Calendar



Pakistan: Kasur

A young Muslim was caught burning books in a church, arrested, police said he could not be prosecuted due to mental illness, witnesses said he was not mentally ill and pointed out that mentally ill Christians are usually prosecuted in similar circumstances, the arsonist was also seen being dropped off at the church by others

Sadiqa Bibi (wife of John Masih, caught a young Muslim burning Bibles and hymnals in church)

John Masih (husband of Sadiqa Bibi, detained a young Muslim for burning Bibles and hymnals in church)

Allah Wasaya (detained a young Muslim for burning Bibles and hymnals in church)

Al Tamash Hunny (detained a young Muslim for burning Bibles and hymnals in church)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5747>



Slovakia: Bratislava

Fr Anton Srholec SDB (aged 86, sentenced to 11 years in prison in 1951 for attempting to illegally cross the border to pursue a theological education; released in 1960; **UPDATE: died of cancer**)

<http://spectator.sme.sk/c/20070713/priest-former-dissident-srholec-died.html>

Friday January 8, 2016



Indonesia: Aceh Singkil district, Aceh province

Rev Jasman Bancin (described the provincial government efforts to tear down tents erected by his and other churches following the government's demolition of their church buildings "Mothers, children and youths blockaded them. They made their objections clear")

Fr Blasius S Yesse (spoke on the provincial government efforts to tear down tents erected by churches following the government's demolition of their church buildings "This must not happen in Indonesia...Everyone has the right to worship anywhere. No one has the right to ban others to do so. The only hope is central government intervention. So local regulations don't go too far. The state must be there to guarantee freedom of worship")

Fr Alfons Pandiangan OFM Cap (has been sheltering refugees after at least 8,000 Christians fled Muslim attacks on [October 13, 2015](#) over 'illegal' temporary; **UPDATE**: said that religious freedom in the province seems to be difficult to enforce)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/sharia-police-prepare-to-remove-church-tents-in-aceh/74919>



China: Tianjin

Hu Shigen (church elder in Beijing, disappeared on July 10, 2015; **UPDATE**: formally arrested on a charge of 'subversion of state power')

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/01/beijing-church-elder-formally-arrested.html>



Bangladesh: Jabripara village, Naogaon district

Louis Soren (aged 40, husband of Gugita, **murdered**)

Gugita (widow of Louis Soren)

Fr Emilio Spinelli PIME (reported on the murder of Louis Soren)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Rajshahi:-tribal-Catholic-killed,-possibly-linked-to-land-feud-36356.html>



Mali: Abaradjou, Timbuktu

Beatrice Stockly (social worker, missionary, Swiss citizen, abducted on [April 15 2012](#), released on [April 24, 2012](#); **UPDATE**: abducted, had received death threats)

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/08/swiss-national-beatrice-stockly-abducted-second-time-mali-timbuktu>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/01/4215120/>



Algeria: Tizi Ouzou

Pastor Mustapha Krireche (described the looting and vandalism of his church “Thieves broke into the inside of our church through the window, because we installed a reinforced door very hard to force open. They took the music equipment like guitars, synthesizer, percussion and sound equipment, plus a printer, the trunk of tithes, a sum of money and other material”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/01/church-building-in-algeria-looted-vandalized/>



Cuba: Versalles, Camaguey

Rev Bernardo de Quesada Salomon (husband of Damaris, **UPDATE:** detained during a 4 AM raid on his home, released after the demolition of his church was completed)

Damaris (wife of Rev Bernardo de Quesada Salomon, detained during a 4 AM raid on her home, released after the demolition of her church was completed)

Cuba: Victoria de las Tunas

Rev Juan Carlos Nunez Velazquez (church demolished)

Cuba

Pastor Mario Felix Lleonart Barroso (**UPDATE:** home surrounded by state security, not arrested because he was not home)

<http://www.csw.org.uk/2016/01/11/press/2948/article.htm>

Saturday January 9, 2016



Bangladesh: Tongi

Rev Gilbert Biswas (detained by police for preaching the Gospel at a Muslim pilgrimage site)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-clergyman-arrested-as-a-threat-to-the-Bishwa-Ijtema-Islamic-pilgrimage-36385.html>



Azerbaijan: Mingachevir

Arzu Ibrahimova (told that an administrative offense would be put in her file for 'failing her parental responsibilities' for attending or allowing her child to attend the worship service at the home of Eldar Aliyev)

Eldar Aliyev (home raided by police during a worship service, literature including Bibles seized, charged with holding an unapproved religious meeting)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2184



Egypt: Samalout, Minya province

Adly Aziz (aged 48, **murdered**)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=65550>

Sunday January 10, 2016



Thailand: Bangkok

Pervaiz Ghori (aged 53, Pakistani refugee, father of six daughters, arrested on [September 10, 2015](#) on a visa violation despite having a tumor and heart condition; released [on January 6, 2016](#) from the detention center and hospitalized in grave condition after his health conditions went untreated in detention; **UPDATE: died**, family advised to not attend the funeral as they would be subject to arrest)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/no-hope-in-hell-another-pakistani-christian-dies-in-thai-detention-center/>

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/another-pakistani-christian-asylum-seeker-dies-in-brutal-thailand-immigration>



Iran

Naghmeh Shariat Panahi Abedini (wife of Saeed Abedini, who has been sentenced to eight years imprisonment; **UPDATE**: wrote "My travels over the last three years have opened my eyes to the condition that the body of Christ is in: pursuing fame, wealth and 'followers / numbers' has become normal in the Christian world. We are becoming like the world and we are totally OK with that")

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/naghmeh-abedini-christians-pursuing-fame-despite-enemies-god-warning-154621/>



Uganda: Katende, Jinja district

Mohammed Nsera (convert, beaten by his family after they learned of his conversion, escaped, home that they had built for him destroyed by them by arson, in hiding)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/03/young-christian-in-eastern-uganda-who-left-islam-is-beaten-ostracized/>



Nigeria: Lokoja, Kogi state

Pastor Ayo Raphael (abducted, US\$249,000 ransom demanded)

<http://www.bosnewslife.com/36382-breaking-news-islamic-militants-kill-dozens-of-christians-children-torched>

Monday January 11, 2016



China: Nanning Women's Prison

Officials ordered a church operated kindergarten to close at the end of the academic year and banned all teachers from further employment in education, leaders still imprisoned

Cheng Jie (wife of Pastor Du Hongbo, mother of two young children, detained in [Liuzhou, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region](#) on [February 18, 2014](#), charged with "engaging in illegal business operation" for running a Christian kindergarten; convicted on [May 1, 2015](#) of "illegal business operations" for having printed course materials without a permit, sentenced to two years' imprisonment and fined US\$806, appeals planned because the permit law does not apply to internal documents; **UPDATE**: still imprisoned, forced to perform hard labor for 10 to 15 hours per day)

Li Jiatao (wife of Ma Jiawen, mother of two, detained on [June 24, 2014](#) by police in [Liuzhou, Guangdong province](#) without warrant; arrest application for illegally publishing children's books approved by prosecutors on [July 30, 2014](#); convicted on [May 1, 2015](#) of "illegal business operations" for having printed course materials without a permit, sentenced to two years' imprisonment and fined US\$806, appeals planned because the permit law does not apply to internal documents; **UPDATE**: still imprisoned, forced to perform hard labor for 10 to 15 hours per day)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/01/officials-close-kindergarten-bar.html>



Iraq: Bagdad

Auxiliary Bishop Shlemon Warduni (**UPDATE**: said in response to ISIL suicide bomb attacks "These acts of violence against God and man have no justification whatsoever. They are cannibalistic acts; even animals do not commit such terrible acts, hitting at a mall where there are women, children, young people. There are no excuses... I call on everyone to pray that Europe, the United States, the West wake up from their slumber and act not to make war, but to promote true peace. Do not sell weapons, but rebuild together. Two years ago I said that without decisive action, [Jihadis] would come knocking on your door, at the gates of Europe")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Mgr-Warduni,-Baghdad-attacks-are-cannibalistic-acts;-a-weak-government-does-not-provide-security-36371.html>



United Kingdom: London

Four Christian Members of Parliament signed a letter stating that a government proposal to establish government oversight of Sunday schools could lead to their closure when traditional Christian beliefs were taught

David Burrowes

Fiona Bruce (**UPDATE**)

Gary Streeter

Sir Gerald Howarth

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/education/sunday-schools-could-be-banned-for-teaching-biblical-view-of-marriage-say-mps>

Tuesday January 12, 2016



North Korea

Pastor Lim Hyeon-Soo (aged 61, Canadian citizen, disappeared after his January 31, 2015 entry to the country; sentenced in Pyongyang on December 16, 2015 to life imprisonment at hard labor; **UPDATE:** stated in an interview that he spends 8 hours a day, 6 days a week digging holes for an orchard in frigid temperatures in a labor camp where he is the only inmate)

Pastor Kim Dong Chul (aged 60, U.S. citizen, detained on espionage charges)

<http://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2016/January/Pastor-Digging-Holes-in-Labor-Camp-Desperate-for-Family-Contact>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-usa-detainee-idUSKCN0UQ0PY20160112>



Kenya

Bishop Mark Kariuki (chairman of the Evangelical Alliance of Kenya; **UPDATE:** spoke against a proposal for the government to register churches and license clergy "Registration of churches was stopped since 2014. We believe this is meant to stop evangelism and growth of the church since other societies are being registered freely", added that the "2017 [election] is very close and we will not hesitate to use those [voter] cards" for a change of government)

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-35291150>



Germany

Fr Daniel Irbits (wrote on conditions in German refugee camps "Christian refugees from Syria, Eritrea and other countries are exposed to humiliation, manhunt and brutal harassment at

the camps for refugees by Muslim neighbors. This also relates to the Yazidi religious minority. The cases when humiliation comes to injuries and threats of death are frequent...Many Christians who came from the Middle East are suffering from such a strong harassment that they want to come back home, because their situation there seems to them a lesser evil as compared to the circumstances at German refugee accommodation centers")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20160112064812.htm>

Wednesday January 13, 2016



India: K. Kamuduvalasa village, Makkuva Mandal, Vizianagaram district, Andhra Pradesh state

A Christian husband and wife were murdered for suspicion of performing black magic after a young boy in the village died of a leg infection

Pandayya (husband of Seethamma, father of three, beaten and **burnt to death**)

Seethamma (wife of Pandayya, mother of three, beaten and **burnt to death**)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Christian-couple-falsely-accused-of-black-magic-and-burnt-to-death-in-India>



Pakistan: Gujranwala

Liaquat Masih (aged 47, husband of Rubina, father of Khurram, Kinza, Adeel, and Zarish, driver, arrested for allegedly stealing gold from his employer, tortured by police,

UPDATE: died of a heart attack while being tortured)

Rubina (aged 40, widow of Liaquat Masih)

Khurram (aged 20, son of Liaquat Masih and Rubina, arrested and tortured, **UPDATE:** witnessed his father's death)

Kinza (aged 15, daughter of son of Liaquat Masih and Rubina)

Adeel (aged 12, son of Liaquat Masih and Rubina)

Zarish (aged 9, son of Liaquat Masih and Rubina)

Pakistan: Defence Colony [ghetto], Lahore

Three Christian girls were deliberately run over by four drunk Muslim men after they refused their advances to get in their automobile, were told "Christian girls are only meant for one thing the pleasure of Muslim men"

Kiran (aged 17, beautician, skull fractured, **died from internal bleeding**)

Shamroza (aged 18, beautician, ribs fractured)

Sumble (aged 20, beautician, hip fractured)

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/5th-christian-man-dies-while-in-custody-of-pakistans-christianophobic-police>

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/christian-girl-killed-for-shrugging-off-advances-of-rich-muslim-boys>



Kenya

The government has withdrawn its proposal to regulate churches after Christian opposition

Bishop Philip Anyolo (said the proposal was a "clear violation of the constitution")

<http://www.ecumenicalnews.com/article/kenya-government-climbs-down-on-religious-restrictions-after-catholic-evangelical-opposition/37423.htm>

Thursday January 14, 2016



Thailand

Zahid Younis (Pakistani refugee, wrote a letter to Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau asking for asylum for himself and others)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5753>



India: Dahar village, Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh state

Twelve people claiming to be "followers of Jesus" but "not Christians" arrested under the anti-conversion law during a Hindu festival

Janu Bai (aged 35, arrested)

Shankar Singh (arrested, said "I have faith in Jesus and regularly pray to him")

Pastor Anar Jamre (advisor to the group of "followers of Jesus")

Richard James (**UPDATE**: said "police were hand in glove with the right-wing Hindu activists")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/india-arrests-12-for-violating-anti-conversion-law/74989>



Pakistan: Gujranwala

Adeel (aged 12, son of Liaquat Masih and Rubina, **UPDATE**: arrested and beaten by police along with 5 other Christians during a peaceful demonstration against police misconduct prior to his father's wake)

Riasat Masih (brother of Liaquat Masih, arrested and beaten by police along with 5 other Christians during a peaceful demonstration, said that his brother will not be buried until the police officers responsible for his torture and murder are arrested)

Pakistan: Sialkot Tehsil, Punjab province

Nazir Masih (husband of Samina, father of Waqar, Dilawar, Zoya, Zoha, and Zohaid, street sweeper, **shot dead** while performing his duties in front of the municipal administration building, no one arrested, government has refused to pay a death benefit)

Samina (aged 50, widow of Nazir Masih)

Waqar (aged 21, child of Nazir Masih)

Dilawar (aged 18, child of Nazir Masih)

Zoya (aged 16, child of Nazir Masih)

Zoha (aged 14, child of Nazir Masih)

Zohaid (aged 11, child of Nazir Masih)

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/5th-christian-man-dies-while-in-custody-of-pakistans-christianophobic-police>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/01/police-in-pakistan-torture-christian-to-death-family-says/>

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/christian-cleaner-shot-dead-while-at-work>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5760>

Friday January 15, 2016



Syria

Bishop Mario Zenari (apostolic nuncio, **UPDATE**: said of the civil war “Using hunger, and thirst, as a weapon of war is a crime, a shameful thing...I am surprised that the international media is just talking about it now. In some places, people have been dying of hunger for more than a year with lorries full of food, milk, and medicines, just waiting outside”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Nuncio-to-Damascus,-using-hunger-and-thirst-as-a-weapon-of-war-is-an-outrage-36405.html>



Egypt: Khosous, Cairo

Fr Thomas Fekry (described parishioner protests against the government closure of their church on a permit technicality)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1554&A=21902>



Burkina Faso: Ouagadougou

Amy Boyle Riddering (widow of Michael Riddering, wrote "In 2011 Mike and I left our life in south Florida and traveled with our family halfway around the world to Burkina Faso. He submitted himself to The Lord's Will by dedicating the last four years of his life to advocating and defending the most vulnerable people in society. He made an eternal impact on an immeasurable number of people in Burkina Faso and throughout the world. His legacy on earth will not be forgotten")

Carol Boyle (mother-in-law of Michael Riddering, said that he was “extremely well-loved and respected...He had his guiding light, and he followed it”)

Charles-Elie Carrier (aged 19, son of Yves Carrier and Gladys Chamberland, Canadian citizen, missionary, **shot dead**)

Dr Ken Elliot (husband of Jocelyn Elliot, Australian citizen, missionary, abducted)

Gladys Chamberland (wife of Yves Carrier, stepmother of Maude Carrier and mother of Charles-Elie Carrier, former civil servant, Canadian citizen, missionary, **shot dead**)

Jocelyn Elliot (wife of Dr Ken Elliot, Australian citizen, missionary, abducted)

Louis Chabot (teacher, Canadian citizen, missionary, **shot dead**)

Marie-Claude Blais (sister of Gladys Chamberland, wrote “I still can’t understand how people who had such a love of life, who were always ready to help, always smiling and loved by so many people, can be taken away in such a horrendous way. They did good only to be killed by evil”)

Maude Carrier (aged 37, daughter of Yves Carrier and stepdaughter of Gladys Chamberland, mother of two, secondary school teacher, Canadian citizen, missionary, **shot dead**)

Michael Riddering (husband of Amy Boyle Riddering, U.S. citizen, missionary, orphanage director, **shot dead** in a cafe by al-Qaeda linked militants, 27 others also killed)

Suzanne Bernier (former school principal, Canadian citizen, missionary, **shot dead**)

Pastor Valentin (witnessed the murder of Michael Riddering, hid from the terrorists, rescued by the army)

Yves Carrier (husband of Gladys Chamberland, father of Maude and Charles-Elie, retired secondary school principal, Canadian citizen, missionary, **shot dead**)

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2016/01/17/american-missionary-killed-in-burkina-faso-attack-by-al-qaeda-linked-militants.html>

<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2016/01/18/six-canadians-did-only-good-to-be-killed-by-evil.html>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/01/4249436/>

Saturday January 16, 2016



Thailand: Bangkok

Riaz Masih (Pakistani refugee, became critically ill while in detention, hospitalized)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/thailand-another-pakistani-christian-asylum-seeker-in-critical-condition/>



Iran

Pastor Saeed Abedini (aged 35, convert, US citizen, husband of Naghmeh Shariat Panahi Abedini, father of Rebekka and Jacob, arrested during a family visit, held in Evin Prison in Tehran and threatened with death; convicted on [January 27, 2013](#) of undermining the government by spreading Christianity and sentenced to eight years in prison; **UPDATE:** released, expected to leave the country within days)

<http://www.persecution.org/2016/01/16/pastor-saeed-abadini-freed-from-prison-in-iran-along-with-three-other-americans/>



Sudan

Rev Kowa Shamal (arrested in [Khartoum Bahry](#) on [December 18, 2015](#) by the NISS secret police; **UPDATE**: released)

<https://barnabasfund.org/new/Sudan-releases-pastor-but-another-pastor-and-a-Christian-activist-still-held>

Sunday January 17, 2016



Indonesia: Jakarta

Archbishop Ignatius Suharyo Hardjoatmodjo (**UPDATE**: condemned the January 14, 2016 terror attack)

Bishop Yohanes Harun Yuwono (joined in an anti-terror demonstration attended by 10,000 people)

Fr Alexius Andang Binawan SJ (said "We are shocked but life in the capital continues normally. As the government and public officials say, we have also told the faithful not to be overcome by the fear of terrorism. Terrorists want visibility and demonstrate the supposed weakness of the government. Indonesian people will respond in a united manner, with firmness and dignity, without fear")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/39195-ASIA_INDONESIA_After_the_massacres_Christians_and_Muslims_together_in_the_street_against_terrorism#.Vp2uCMIUUfg
<http://www.ucanews.com/news/indonesian-bishops-denounce-terrorist-attack/74991>



India: Nagepur village, Telangana state

A Christian prayer service was attacked by Hindu radicals, six Christians hospitalized with severe internal injuries, a four year old girl suffered a fractured leg

Pastor Nitin Kumar (said “It was very scary scene. They tore my cassock and I received blows, punches, kicks from all directions as I was their prime target. Bibles were snatched from us and were tore and trampled. Believers ran to all directions as they were chased by the mob”, later developed an infection in a back wound)

Mr Poshetti (home attacked)

<http://www.persecution.org/2016/02/16/six-christians-hospitalized-including-4-year-old-girl-following-brutal-attack-by-hindu-radicals/>



Iran

Pastor Saeed Abedini (aged 35, convert, US citizen, husband of Naghmeh Shariat Panahi Abedini, father of Rebekka and Jacob, arrested during a family visit, held in Evin Prison in Tehran and threatened with death; convicted on [January 27, 2013](#) of undermining the government by spreading Christianity and sentenced to eight years in prison; released on [January 16, 2016](#), expected to leave the country within days; **UPDATE**: has left the country and has been undergoing medical testing in [Germany](#))

<http://aclj.org/persecuted-church/breaking-american-pastor-saeed-abedini-and-other-americans-have-just-been-freed>



Syria: Aleppo

Prof Jany Haddad (humanitarian aid distributor; **UPDATE**: wrote "On Sunday service morning at Emanuel Armenian Evangelical church, just after the general service there was a youth gathering, it was concluded just around 11:45-11:50, and the attack was just when the leader of the youth went out of the church. We are very grateful to my Lord's protection and guidance. Otherwise, the number of deaths and wounded Christians were going to be in tens and hundreds...Still as you know, the weather is getting cold more due to a windy snow storm. Still no fuel, no heating system, and since more than four months no electricity to cover some heating needs. Gas cylinders are rare and rocketing in the prices...Daily, there are people admitted to hospitals, private and general, with H1N1 [avian] flu and daily we hear about one or two deaths. In spite the government has, generously, providing vaccine to everyone who needs it, but the epidemic is still active and spreading like crazy horse. No control. The pollution rate increasing and no control for it as well")

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Syrian-Christians-in-Aleppo-endure-terrible-suffering-as-rockets-kill-and-swine-flu-spreads>



Israel: Jerusalem

Auxiliary Bishop William Shomali (**UPDATE**: condemned vandalism at the Basilica of the Dormition which included Hebrew script reading 'May his name be obliterated')

Theodoros Mitropoulos (principal of the Patriarchal School of St Zion, school vandalized)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Cowardly-acts-against-Christians,-education-against-intolerance,-says-vicar-for-Jerusalem-36423.html>

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/?p=45823>

Monday January 18, 2016



India: Chennai

Fr Seraphym (Russian citizen, deported, had arrived to serve the pastoral needs of Russian diplomats)

India: New Delhi

Joseph Dias (**UPDATE**: said of a report on Christian persecution in India "There is at least a 20% increase in the incidents in terms of the number of people victimized as against 2014. The real numbers are much higher as many don't want to report such incidents as the police force is communal. Then we have incidents from areas where RSS [paramilitary] is very dominant and victims are threatened to not report the attacks. In some cases the media is also biased. Being less in number, Christians can't fight back...With the BJP government in the center, there is huge increase in RSS shakhas [Hindu religious schools]. Even though there is no BJP government in Kerala, the state has the highest number of shakhas. West Bengal, which has long been under communist rule and is now governed by liberal forces, BJP has a strong hold over five districts where reconversions are picking up. There is saffronization of secular institution and in every sphere secular activities have been saffronized - be it in the northeast, Tamil Nadu, Kerala or Goa")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Delhi-Moscow-spat-over-visa-denied-to-Orthodox-priest-36431.html>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/85-major-anti-Christian-incidents-in-2015-claims-NGO/articleshow/50618719.cms>



Israel: Jerusalem

Archbishop Atallah Hanna (said "Threats by Jewish terrorists to slaughter Christians strengthens our determination to adhere to Jerusalem, to our holy places, to our nation and to our national cause")

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=65634>

Tuesday January 19, 2016



Vietnam: Ho Chi Minh City

Sr Mary Le Thi Thao LHC (has been fighting the government seizure of three schools, asked for prayers)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Card-Marx-calls-for-action-to-defend-religious-freedom-and-the-Lovers-of-the-Holy-Cross-in-Th%E1%BB%A7-Thi%C3%A4m-36441.html>

Friday January 22, 2016



China: Guizhou province

Senior Pastor Gu Yuese (removed from his position as leader of the government sanctioned Three Self Patriotic Movement church in his city)

China: Hangzhou, Zhejiang province

Pastor Li Guozhi aka Yang Hua (husband of Wang Hongwu; **UPDATE:** formally charged with 'obstructing justice' and 'gathering a crowd to disturb social order')

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/01/pastor-of-largest-government-approved.html>
<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/01/guizhou-officials-formally-arrest-house.html>



India

Sr Bertilla Capra (aged 77, Italian citizen, director of the Vimala Dermatological Center in [Mumbai](#), reported on [December 30, 2015](#) to have been denied a visa to stay in the country, has cared for people with leprosy for 44 years; **UPDATE**: has been granted a one-year visa)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Sister-Bertilla-Capra-receives-a-one-year-Indian-visa-36466.html>

Saturday January 23, 2016



Egypt: Aswan

Fr Bolous Halim (described the placement of a homemade bomb next to a church)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=65666>

Monday January 25, 2016



Pakistan: Muridke, Punjab province

Tariq Masih (husband of Rukhsana Bibi, father of seven, arrested, **tortured to death** by police)

Rukhsana Bibi (widow of Tariq Masih)

Pakistan: Rawalpindi

Kathreen Yousaf (aged 65, widow of Yousaf Masih, mother of Nasir and Nisar Yousaf, sons accused of blasphemy by a tenant on or before [December 18, 2015](#), beaten by the accusers and others on [January 1, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: beaten again, this second beating appeared to be an attempt to kill her but Muslim neighbors intervened)

<http://www.bosnewslife.com/36408-christian-tortured-to-death-by-pakistan-police>
<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5780>



Syria: Qamishli

Two Christians killed and three injured in a double suicide terror bombing

Morris Khajo (**killed**)

Fawzi al-Kaldani (**killed**)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/?p=45895>



Nigeria: Okene, Kogi state

Pastor David Onubedo (abducted, US\$249,000 ransom demanded)

<http://www.bosnewslife.com/36382-breaking-news-islamic-militants-kill-dozens-of-christians-children-torched>

Tuesday January 26, 2016



Mexico: Jalisco state

Rosa Blanca Vazquez de la Rosa (wife of Victor de la Cruz Gonzalez, expelled from her home along with her daughter aged 9 and son aged 3 and six other families by 2,000 "Traditionalist [syncretic] Catholics", said "They put us in the vans and abandoned us right there outside the village, at Las Banderitas crossing, with nothing at all but the clothes we had on when they came", later was living in a wine cellar)

Victor de la Cruz Gonzalez (husband of Rosa Blanca Vazquez de la Rosa, primary school teacher, was teaching when his family was expelled, still teaching)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/01/4865086/>

Wednesday January 27, 2016



Uzbekistan: Kogon, Bukhara region

Christians fined 30 times the minimum monthly wage for attending a worship service at the home of Aziz Pulatov, sentenced to 10 days in jail

Andrei Yu

Yelena Yu

Christians fined 100 times the minimum monthly wage for attending a worship service at the home of Aziz Pulatov

Aziz Pulatov

Fazliddin Tukhtayev

Christians fined 50 times the minimum monthly wage for attending a worship service at the home of Aziz Pulatov

Akpar Pulatov

Shahzoda Pulatova

Mukaddas Rakhmatova

Zuhra Tashayeva

Malyuda Kuldasheva

Christians fined 30 times the minimum monthly wage for attending a worship service at the home of Aziz Pulatov

Shahnoz Gulomova

Shahzoda Mavlyanova

Mukhabbatkhon Mirzayeva

Mokhidil Zairova

Gulnora Norova

Dilfuza Kobilova

Orom Khaydarova

Soliya Niyazova

Mahliyo Zhurayeva

Ibodillo Zhurayev

Gulchehra Ibadova

Shoista Mamedova

Shahin Norov

Zarina Kosimova

Munavvar Mardonova

Azamzhon Ismatilloev

Farida Amonova

Zarina Amonova

Christians fined 5 times the minimum monthly wage for attending a worship service at the home of Aziz Pulatov

Gulbahor Mavlonova

Nilufar Ibrohimova

Mizhgona Ismatillayeva

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



Uganda: Numuseru village, Naboja sub-county, Budaka district

Laurence Maiso (aged 28, convert from Islam, husband, **killed** in his home four days after receiving death threats from a local imam, the imam was seen leaving his home with seven other men on the night he was killed)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/02/imam-arrested-in-killing-of-christian-convert-in-eastern-uganda/>



Belarus

Fr Sergiy Lepin (Synodal department leader, told by the government that no frequency was available for a religious radio broadcast station, said "We are waiting for the right opportunity and meanwhile we have programs on state channels")

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2157

Thursday January 28, 2016



India: Ettimada, Tamil Nadu state

Four Christian employees of an AIDS clinic were attacked by Hindu radicals after the death of a child patient, drove with the attackers in pursuit until they saw a police jeep, stopped but the police refused to protect them, the attackers told the victims to call on Jesus to protect them

Fr Kannumkuzhy Jose (aged 49, attacked, beaten, hospitalized in intensive care in critical condition with a head wound)

Lijo (attacked, beaten, hospitalized)

Stanley (attacked, beaten, hospitalized)

Joseph (attacked, beaten, hospitalized)

Fr Johnson Veeppattuparambil (eparchy [diocese] spokesman, described the attack)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Tamil-Nadu,-priest-and-three-Catholics-assaulted-and-accused-of-killing-a-child-in-a-center-for-AIDS-patients-36562.html>



Pakistan: Shadab Colony [ghetto], Maqbool Chauk Chung – Multan Road, Lahore, Punjab province

Saima Rasheed (daughter of Rasheed Pervez, abducted and forced into an Islamic marriage)

Rasheed Pervez (aged 58, father of Saima Rasheed, has attempted to recover his daughter from her abductors but police have refused to cooperate)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/victim-of-dispute-christian-girl-abducted-raped-forced-to-convert/>



Azerbaijan: Baku

Irina Zakharchenko (aged 55, widow, disabled, cited for distributing religious literature door to door in Pirallahi on December 5, 2014, detained by the NSM [now SSS] secret police on February 17, 2015; **UPDATE:** convicted of illegally distributing one religious booklet, fined US\$4,391, fine suspended due to time served, released)

Valida Jabrayilova (aged 39, cited for distributing religious literature door to door in Pirallahi on December 5, 2014, detained by the NSM [now SSS] secret police on February 17, 2015; **UPDATE:** convicted of illegally distributing one religious booklet, fined US\$4,391, fine suspended due to time served, released)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2144



Uganda: Kanyumu village, Pallisa district

Samson Mukama (aged 40, **strangled and beaten to death** by an iman and two other Muslims, 22 year old daughter later beaten and raped by three men after she testified in court against the iman)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/04/woman-in-uganda-says-muslims-beat-raped-her-for-accusing-imam-of-killing-her-father/>



Turkey: Diyarbakir

Fr Yusuf Akbulut (**UPDATE**: church attacked with rocket propelled grenades during a fight between Turkish and Kurdish forces, sheltered his family in the church residence, escaped, later falsely charged by the media with caching ammunition for Kurdish forces)

Pastor Ahmet Guvener (**UPDATE**: repeatedly called his friend Fr Yusuf Akbulut to plead that he escape the fighting)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/02/4276119/>

Friday January 29, 2016



India: Rendhar village and Orai, Jalaun district, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Avdhesh Savita (aged 35, husband, father of four, Dalit [untouchable] caste member, abducted by Hindu extremists posing as policemen, beaten for allegedly leading illegal conversions, head half-shaved including eyebrow and moustache, forced to ride a donkey, later said "“The mob that was parading me was shouting, ‘Kill him, cut him in pieces,’ but I kept telling them that faith unites, it does not divide. I told my tormentors that I believe in Christ out of my own freewill, and that I have never hurt anyone, but they just did not listen to me...I kept praying throughout the ordeal, I am not afraid of dying. I thought, ‘This is the day when I will stand before my Savior.’ But I also thought of my children, they are young, and that was my only concern. In the Lord I am persecuted, I am thankful for this privilege”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/02/humiliating-attack-in-india-tests-young-pastors-faith/>



Belarus: Rechitsa, Gomel region

Dmitry Chorba (aged 24, conscientious objector, criminal case opened on [June 11, 2015](#) against him; case closed in [July 2015](#); **UPDATE**: found not guilty in court, expects to be called again for military service)

Belarus: Soligorsk

Pastor 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](#); fine upheld on appeal on [August 24, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: automobile placed under a restraining order due to nonpayment of the fine, seizure likely)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2146

Saturday January 30, 2016



Kazakhstan: Aktau

Pastor Maksim Tashenov (church service raided by police without warrant, an Indian citizen in attendance was questioned and harassed)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2147

Sunday January 31, 2016



India: Ettimada, Tamil Nadu state

Four Christian employees of an AIDS clinic were attacked on [January 28, 2016](#) by Hindu radicals after the death of a child patient, drove with the attackers in pursuit until they saw a police jeep, stopped but the police refused to protect them

Fr Kannumkuzhy Jose (aged 49, attacked, beaten, hospitalized in intensive care in critical condition with a head wound, **UPDATE**: still unconscious)

Lijo (attacked, beaten, hospitalized, **UPDATE**: released)

Stanley (attacked, beaten, hospitalized, **UPDATE**: released)

Joseph (attacked, beaten, hospitalized, **UPDATE**: released)

India: Vasai village, Maharashtra state

Three Christians were arrested on witchcraft charges for having prayed over the sick

Rev Sebastian Marin (arrested)

Vishnu Kudve (arrested)

Vaibhav Tare (arrested)

Sajan K George (**UPDATE**: said "Pentecostal Christians see no contradiction in prescribing medicine, and, at the same time, trusting God for divine healing. People go to this center, as well as Pentecostal-run facilities to pray, hoping to receive physical healing...Jesus is the Healer and there's nothing magic about praying or laying hands. The arrest of the three Christians is unfair and has, as its sole purpose, to intimidate the community")

India: Kanker district, Chhattisgarh state

Pastor Simon Tandy (threatened by Hindu radicals during an invasion of a worship service)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Tamil-Nadu,-priest-and-three-Catholics-assaulted-and-accused-of-killing-a-child-in-a-center-for-AIDS-patients-36562.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Maharashtra:-Pentecostal-pastor-arrested-on-charges-of-practicing-black-magic-36603.html>

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Christian-leaders-left-in-critical-condition-after-violent-attacks-in-India>



Kenya: Kaisari area, Maporomoko village

Mwaura (**beheaded** in an al-Shabaab terror attack)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/02/al-shabaab-kills-christians-in-raid-on-village-in-coastal-kenya/>

January 2016, date unknown



India: Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Rampal (aged 55, convert, bicycle repair shop owner, forced into a Hindu temple and forced to bow before idols in [October 2015](#); threatened with death by Hindu radicals who had invaded a [December 2015](#) prayer meeting, bicycle shop vandalized; **UPDATE**: caught with Bibles while getting off a bus with Pastor Bal Raja, beaten, escaped)

Pastor Bal Raja (caught with Bibles while getting off a bus with Pastor Rampal, beaten, escaped
<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/03/persecuted-pastor-in-uttar-pradesh-india-keeps-sights-on-christ/>

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