Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – February 2016

Monday February 1, 2016

Egypt: Alias Manor, Samalout, Minya province

Fr Agathon Hanin (said that no progress has been made toward the opening of a church closed by Muslim neighbors in 2007)

Egypt: Alexandria

Fr Awad Flemon (complained that officials after five years still have not issued a construction permit to allow restoration of his church, but did agree to issue a demolition permit)

http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=65772
http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=65773

Tuesday February 2, 2016

China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Yan Xiaojie (detained in a 'black' jail as of October 29, 2015; **UPDATE**: released)

http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/02/pastor-released-in-wenzhou-amidst.html

Sudan

Rev Hassan Abdelrahim Tawor (arrested in Omdurman on December 18, 2015 by the NISS secret police; **UPDATE**: still captive in an unknown location, wife denied a visitation)

Telahoon Nogose Kassa Ratta (aged 36, church worker, arrested in Bahri on December 14, 2015; **UPDATE**: still captive in an unknown location)

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

Egypt: Hijazah village, Qous, Qena province

Fr Lucas Helmi OFM (said "The building of St. George's Church...was stopped 25 years ago because of tension between Coptic and Muslim families in the village, especially the Muslim neighbors around the old church, which is still unfinished because they refused to allow it to be rebuilt it after it was demolished")

Egypt: Samalout, Minya province

Fr Stephanous Shehata (reported that three churches have been closed for security reasons)

http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=65785
http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=65787

Wednesday February 3, 2016

China: Hangzhou, Zhejiang province

A pastor and his wife were reported to have been arrested on embezzlement and corruption charges, both sent to a black jail, had written that their church had been experiencing "unprecedented, chilling trials. Everyone must equally rely on the Lord's grace to confront [this trial] and triumph over it"

Senior Pastor Gu Yuese (husband of Zhou Lian Mei, removed on January 22, 2016 from his position as leader of the government sanctioned Three Self Patriotic Movement church in his city; **UPDATE**: arrested)

Zhou Lian Mei (wife of Gu Yuese, arrested)

http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/02/breitbart-pastor-of-chinas-first.html

Egypt: Samalout, Minya province

Susanna Reda Thabit (reported to have disappeared under mysterious circumstances)

http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=65795

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; automobile placed under a restraining order on January 12, 2016 due to nonpayment of the fine, seizure likely, **UPDATE**: computer seized)

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

Thursday February 4, 2016

China: Huizhou, Guangdong province

Cao Nan (operator of the Caring Center, a shelter in Shenzhen for the homeless and disabled, shelter raided on June 30, 2015 by 200 police and government agents due to 'illegal religious activities', up to 30 residents were removed and the door welded shut; **UPDATE**: described a police raid on another Caring Center shelter, 15 patients and staff seized and relocated to another shelter)

http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/02/officials-raid-christian-care-center.html

Kenya

Mikhail Reznik (missionary base and orphanage robbed)

http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue27297.html

United Kingdom

Rev Peter Ould (statistician, criticized as deceptive a poll that purported a majority of Church of England members supported same sex marriage)

http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/same-sex-marriage/poll-spun-to-apply-pressure-to-church-of-england-on-same-sex-marriage

Canada

Leye Oyelani (Christian event coordinator, reported on October 29, 2015 to have been denied a permit by the Toronto, Ontario government for 2016 because the event included songs that contained the name of Jesus and thus violated the city's anti-proselytizing policy; **UPDATE**: reported that the municipal agency has agreed to allow the Christian event to proceed)

Peter Ruparelia (said “I believe it’s a victory for all Christians”)

Beena Ruparelia (said “We can now say the name of Jesus in the public square")

https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/breaking-christian-festival-wins-fight-to-sing-name-of-jesus-in-toronto-squ

Friday February 5, 2016

China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Pastor Huang Yizi (aged 42, arrested again on September 12, 2015, charges unknown; **UPDATE**: released)

China: Zhejiang province

Pastor Zhang Chongzhu (possibly abducted by police on September 8, 2015 in Tongxiang, Jiaxing, Zhejiang province; **UPDATE**: officially charged with 'stealing, spying, buying, or illegally providing state secrets or intelligence to entities outside China')

http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/02/authorities-release-zhejiang-pastor.html

http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/02/zhejiang-pastor-detained-charged-with.html

India: Kanker district, Chhattisgarh state

Pastor Simon Tandy (threated by Hindu radicals during an invasion of a January 31, 2016 worship service; **UPDATE**: injured after Hindu extremists deliberately crashed their automobile into him as he and his wife rode their motor scooter)

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

Pakistan

Patras Hanif (father of five, construction worker, reported to have been threatened by coworkers that he would be accused of blasphemy if he did not convert to Islam)

http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/multan-christian-man-considers-suicide-after-mental-torture-from-co-workers/

Russia

Metropolitan Hilarion (said "...despite the remaining obstacles of ecclesial nature, it has been decided that a meeting should be urgently held between His Holiness Patriarch Kirill [of Moscow] and Pope Francis of Rome. The problem of the persecution against Christians will become central at this meeting")

http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Russian-Patriarchate,-the-"genocide-of-the-Christian-population"-made-the-Kirill-Francis-meeting-urgent-36606.html

Cuba: Santiago de Cuba

Rev Alain Toledano (husband of Marilin Alayo Correa; **UPDATE**: church and home demolished by state security while he was attending a religious meeting in the United States)

Marilin Alayo Correa (wife of Rev Alain Toledano, detained by state security while her home and church were demolished, their 11 and 12 year old daughters screamed as she was detained)

http://www.csw.org.uk/2016/02/09/news/2977/article.htm

Saturday February 6, 2016

India: Robertsganj, Uttar Pradesh state

Rev Sajju K John (evening prayers with 20 other Christian leaders interrupted by Hindu radicals, forced onto the street, beaten, arrested by police but released without charge)

http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Rising-violence-against-Christians-in-Uttar-Pradesh-ahead-of-state-elections-36633.html

Sunday February 7, 2016

Bangladesh: Chuadanga district

Nirmal Rozario (general secretary of the Bangladesh Christian Association; **UPDATE**: described an attack on sleeping nuns by 20 armed robbers, one nun was slapped until their savings for convent repairs was turned over)

Fr Naren J Baidya (said "They vandalized the convent's chapel and desecrated the Eucharist from the tabernacle")

http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bangladesh,-Catholic-nuns-robbed-and-beaten-in-the-night-36626.html
http://www.ucanews.com/news/bangladesh-catholic-church-convent-attacked-desecrated/75171

India: Nodia, Uttar Pradesh state

Three Christians arrested for celebrating religious rites without permission

Rev Rampal

Lalu Gautam

Ranjeet

http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Rising-violence-against-Christians-in-Uttar-Pradesh-ahead-of-state-elections-36633.html

Uzbekistan: Okdarya district, Samarkand region

Malika Khidirova (home raided by police, Bible and New Testament seized)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2167

Kenya: Nairobi

Hassan (aged 26, convert from Islam, beaten by a Muslim gang on October 27, 2011, lost two teeth; **UPDATE**: beaten by Muslim relatives while on the way to church, 15 year old brother escaped, suffered major head and abdominal injuries, hospitalized)

http://morningstarnews.org/2016/02/muslim-relatives-of-somali-christian-in-kenya-beat-him-unconscious-for-his-faith/

Peru: Lima

Cardinal Juan Luis Cipriani Thorne (**UPDATE**: criticized the United Nations for advocating abortion in response to the Zika virius, said "There is a genius, a Herod who believes it is necessary to order death, all those who have a child in this period must abort, because there is this danger, even if it is not fully proven. But if in doubt, the best thing is for all to die")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/59368-AMERICA_PERU_Zika_virus_Cardinal_Cipriani_compares_man_to_a_modern_Herod#.Vrvb-sIUUfg

Monday February 8, 2016

China: Shantou, Guangdong province

Jiang Junying (detained for several hours by police for publicly distributing religious literature, refused to answer questions, released)

http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/02/officials-detain-christian-repeatedly.html

Pakistan: Punjab province

Shunila Ruth (member of the provincial parliament, reported to have called on the provincial government to rescue 13-year old Sana John Shahid from her abductors)

Pakistan: Burj Mahalam Chak No.35, Pattoki

Fouzia Sadiq (aged 25, wife, mother of Muqadas, Saniya, and Sahil, abducted by her employer on July 23, 2015 and forcibly married and converted to Islam; **UPDATE**: escaped from her abductor, in hiding, accused by her abductor of stealing gold, family has been threatened by police with arrest of an innocent family member if she is not returned)

Muqadas (aged 9 years, child of Fouzia Sadiq)

Saniya (aged 7 years, child of Fouzia Sadiq)

Sahil (aged 5 years, child of Fouzia Sadiq)

Paris (brother of Fouzia Sadiq, aided her escape, said "God has worked a miracle. I never thought I would see my sister again! Our whole family has grieved her loss as if she was dead. Now she is free we will do whatever we can to make sure she is not forced backed into the depravity her Muslim captor subjected her to. We ask for the prayers and support from Christians everywhere. There is a huge injustice happening in Pakistan and if you do not protect us and ignore our plight one day it could be your daughters and sisters that are trapped. I pray Christians respond to our pain and offer help as we are desperate and need your assistance")

http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/christian-girl-escapes-muslim-abductor-who-raped-and-forced-her-into-islamic-marriage
http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/christian-politician-shunila-ruth-urges-punjab-government-to-recover-sana-shahid/

Egypt: while travelling from Edmu village, Minya province to Cairo

Samira A (aged 25, housewife, reported to have disappeared)

http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/4557-coptic-housewife-disappears-under-mysterious-circumstances-in-minya

Belarus: Gorki

Liliya Shulgan (wife of Mikhail Shulgan, charged on December 29, 2015 with 'not using living premises for their designated purpose' despite the fact she was not present during her husband's Bible study at their home; **UPDATE**: found guilty, fined US$100)

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

Niger

Jocelyn Elliot (wife of Dr Ken Elliot, Australian citizen, missionary, abducted by al-Qaeda linked militants in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on January 15, 2016; **UPDATE**: freed)

http://www.christiantoday.com/article/burkina.faso.al.qaeda.frees.kidnapped.missionary.jocelyn.elliot.but.husband.ken.still.held/78997.htm

Burkina Faso

Dr Ken Elliot (husband of Jocelyn Elliot, Australian citizen, missionary, abducted by al-Qaeda linked militants in Ouagadougou on January 15, 2016; **UPDATE**: still in captivity)

http://www.christiantoday.com/article/burkina.faso.al.qaeda.frees.kidnapped.missionary.jocelyn.elliot.but.husband.ken.still.held/78997.htm

Tuesday February 9, 2016

Pakistan: Partab Nagar, Faisalabad

Qaisar Jahan (hired as a 'water man' who delivers water to students, has been fighting demotion to janitor by the Muslim headmistress after it was discovered he was a Christian, said "Two other friends of mine have been hired as 'water men' in other schools but have been forced to do the janitorial work. I will not do it")

Lala Robin Daniel (activist, **UPDATE**: has been assisting Qaisar Jahan in his attempt to retain his job)

http://www.asianews.it/news-en/A-‘water-man’-discriminated-in-high-school-because-he-is-Christian-and-should-not-give-water-to-students-36634.html

Turkey

Pastor Ihsan Ozbek (Association of Protestant Churches, described several recent attacks on Protestant churches and pastors that were ignored by the police, said “We are anxious and distressed. We are being threatened. There are serious obstacles that keep us from expressing ourselves. We live in difficult conditions. We are unable to open places of worship and perform our religious rituals. ‘You cannot live here,’ is the message we are being sent. The problems we face both in daily life and in terms of representation leave us with a sense of entrapment. The country is already going through a difficult period amid armed conflict, political tensions and uncertainty. Under these conditions, things become even more difficult for us. We expect the government to be more moderate toward us and open channels for dialogue")

Soner Tufan (Association of Protestant Churches, explained that Protestant churches have no official legal standing in Turkey)

Selin Sayek Boke (opposition member of parliament, under attack by pro-government media for being a Christian)

http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/02/turkey-protestants-threats-right-violations.html
http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/02/turkey-opposition-lawmaker-becomes-victim-hate-speech.html#ixzz40fCNrHh6
https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/02/4302178/

Wednesday February 10, 2016

Egypt: Samalout, Minya province

Susanna Reda Thabit (reported on February 3, 2016 to have disappeared under mysterious circumstances; **UPDATE**: returned home safely after hundreds of Copts publicly demonstrated against her disappearance)

http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1573&A=22238

Central African Republic

Bishop Juan Jose Aguirre Munos (**UPDATE**: reported to have said "Since the beginning of 2016 my diocese has been continuously under LRA [Lord's Resistance Army] attack and nobody talks about it. We have been attacked everywhere for over a month. The LRA has attacked more than six villages in the area. Here in Bangassou we have welcomed many displaced people who fled from Niakari area, where the diocese has a place of pilgrimage. In Niakari, last week, the LRA abducted and beat up the residents. Three days ago I went to Bakouma, where on January 21, the local mission had been ransacked, and I brought with me the two nuns and seminarians who were operating there. The LRA group that ransacked the Bakouma mission almost certainly enjoyed the complicity of a Seleka group, the former Central African rebellion. For over two hours the nuns and seminarians were at the mercy of some fifteen armed men...What hurts me the most is that nothing is said about what happens in Bangassou, but we report the news such as the arrest of one of the LRA leaders, Okot Odek, who was captured far from Bangassou, in the north of the Country. Odek is a boy who had been kidnapped by the LRA and then became a criminal leader of this group. But there are several other LRA leaders who continue to hassle us")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/59384-AFRICA_CENTRAL_AFRICA_The_Bishop_of_Bangassou_We_are_continuously_under_LRA_attack_but_nobody_talks_about_it#.Vr04y8IUUfg

Thursday February 11, 2016

Pakistan

Shafaqat Emmanuel (aged 35, husband of Shagufta Bibi, father, handicapped, arrested in Gojra, Punjab state on or before July 21, 2013 for allegedly sending a blasphemous text message; confessed on or before August 5, 2013 to sending the blasphemous text message after being tortured and told by the police that his wife would be tortured; on

February 14, 2014 has been moved to the jail hospital with multiple bed sores which are reportedly more than 3 inches deep, will require surgery if he survives; found guilty at trial in Lahore on April 4, 2014, sentenced to death; **UPDATE**: has filed a request to be released on bail "I have developed bedsores and I may die in jail as there is no possibility of a better treatment there")

Pakistan: Lahore

Sardar Mushtaq Gill (human rights attorney, brother of Pervaiz Gill; **UPDATE**: home looted while his wife was in a maternity clinic delivering their latest child)

http://www.christianpost.com/news/pakistan-christian-man-accused-sending-blasphemous-text-messages-islamic-cleric-appeals-death-sentence-157417/
http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5798

United States – California: Riverside county

Pastor Clark Van Wick (reported to have filed a complaint in federal court against the County of Riverside which has banned churches from Temecula Wine Country, said "It's a tragedy to see our religious liberty eroded in this country where men and women have fought and died to protect our liberty. It's un-American to see churches outlawed like we're seeing here in the neighborhood I've lived in for 27 years")

http://www.charismanews.com/us/55104-calvary-chapel-sues-for-religious-ban-in-wine-country

Friday February 12, 2016

Syria: Aleppo

Bishop George Abu Khazen OFM (**UPDATE**: said "The meeting between Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill is perceived by Christians as the fruit of the cross they are experiencing. The suffering of all Christians in the Middle East bears the fruit of unity. This for us is a great consolation and helps us to move forward, even if we still have to suffer...A few days ago a senior representative of the Moscow Patriarchate explicitly said that what made Cuba's meeting urgent was the common concern for the suffering of fellow Christians in the Middle East. We have also spoken about this in sermons and in our meetings: the faithful feel they have more courage when they realize that their sufferings have to do with the unity between the separated brethren, where Christ embraces us and comforts us all")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/59393-ASIA_SYRIA_The_Bishop_of_Aleppo_the_meeting_between_Francis_and_Kirill_is_also_the_fruit_of_our_suffering_And_this_comforts_us#.Vr587MIUUfg

Kenya

Anatstaciah Mikwa (student, wounded in the April 2, 2015 Islamist attack on Garissa University College, has been able to regain the ability to walk with crutches after 28 surgeries)

http://www.persecution.org/2016/02/12/how-a-persecuted-christian-brought-to-the-edge-of-death-in-kenya-can-forgive-her-persecutors/

United Kingdom: Beverley

Michael Jones (aged 66, street preacher, arrested in his home in Hornsea on December 2, 2015 by police who refused to show identification, held and interrogated for eight hours, charged with religious harassment for anti-Islamic statements; **UPDATE**: charges dropped after a recording of his street preaching demonstrated that the allegations were fabricated)

http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/freedom-of-speech/charges-dropped-against-pensioner-who-was-imprisoned-for-exposing-isi

United States – California: San Leandro

Bishop Teman L Bostic Sr (stabbed to death, an adult son has been arrested)

http://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2016/February/California-Pastor-Murdered-in-Apartment-Son-is-Primary-Suspect

Saturday February 13, 2016

India: New Delhi

Fr Savarimuthu Shankar (spokesperson of the Archdiocese of Delhi; **UPDATE**: rejected a proposal by the RSS paramilitary organization to create a separate Christian organization with its structure)

Dr John Dayal (**UPDATE**: said that Christian leaders had a consensus that dialog with the RSS paramilitary organization was not currently possible "Not only the incidents of Christian persecution but the overall reaction of the Hindutva groups against civil society exposes their thinking, roots and ideology...We would demand a larger discourse on the strengthening of secular, constitutional democracy in India")

http://www.ucanews.com/news/christian-leaders-in-india-reject-hindu-groups-overtures/75227

Syria: Aleppo

Elias Abiad (aged 22, church humanitarian volunteer, killed by mortar shells)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/59414-ASIA_SYRIA_Caritas_volunteer_killed_in_Aleppo_by_a_mortar_shell#.VsQUWcIUUfg

Sunday February 14, 2016

Pakistan: Paulabad

Michael Masih (aged 32, husband, father of two, former bodybuilder and physical trainer, attempted to stop a group of 35 Muslims who were harassing and attacking Christians while leaving church, badly beaten, fight stopped by his Muslim friends, later that day the attackers invaded his home and beat his bed-ridden paralyzed father, some Christian neighbors fled their homes after being threatened)

Khurram Masih (attempted to stop a group of 35 Muslims who were harassing and attacking Christians while leaving church, badly beaten, fight stopped by his Muslim friends)

Liaquat Masih (attempted to stop a group of 35 Muslims who were harassing and attacking Christians while leaving church, badly beaten, fight stopped by his Muslim friends)

http://www.asianews.it/news-en/An-ordinary-story-of-persecution:-Michael-Masih,-a-bullet-in-the-ribs-for-defending-Christians-37463.html

Monday February 15, 2016

Pakistan: Paulabad

Michael Masih (aged 32, husband, father of two, former bodybuilder and physical trainer, attempted to stop a group of 35 Muslims who were harassing and attacking Christians while leaving church on February 14, 2016, badly beaten, fight stopped by his Muslim friends, later that day the attackers invaded his home and beat his bed-ridden paralyzed father, some Christian neighbors fled their homes after being threatened; **UPDATE**: home attacked by a Muslim mob, shots fired into the air, chased by the mob but escaped in an automobile driven by a Muslim friend, police intervened and demanded both sides publicly reconcile, embraced and publicly forgave his attackers)

http://www.asianews.it/news-en/An-ordinary-story-of-persecution:-Michael-Masih,-a-bullet-in-the-ribs-for-defending-Christians-37463.html

Kazakhstan: Astana

Pastor Manarbek Baieke (author of "The History of Christianity in Central Asia and Kazakhstan", book declared 'extremist' and banned by the KNB secret police, not informed of the decision)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2158

Israel: Jerusalem

Rev Nikodemus Schnabel (described the weekly attacks suffered by the monks of the Dormition Abbey: “The people that attack me are never 50-year-old men. They’re always in the beginning of their 20s. I feel sorry for them, I know that at that age it is often difficult to become an adult. I am not angry about these people, I am angry about the people behind them...We pray for the teens – that’s our vocation...These idiots that are attacking us

think with their hate, all of this hate against us as Christians, and they try to spoil our lives to make it difficult. But in fact, with every attack, we have more Jewish friends")

http://morningstarnews.org/2016/02/catholic-monks-in-israel-seek-action-against-root-causes-of-anti-christian-hatred/

Uganda: Nakajete village, Budaka

Amina Napiya (aged 42, convert from Islam, widow, mother of five aged 13, 10, 8, 6, and 4, 13 year old daughter raped by a man who said the rape was in retribution for leaving Islam)

http://morningstarnews.org/2016/03/christian-widow-children-in-uganda-flee-after-threats-rape/

Egypt: Village 2, Samalout, Minya province

Mariam Wagih Fayez Gadaalah (aged 18, disappeared in mysterious circumstances)

http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=65904

Mexico: Navenchauc community, Zinacantan city, Chiapas state

Pastor Ciro Diaz Mendez (church heavily damaged in an arson attack)

http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/protestant-church-raided-burnt-in-chiapas-mexico/

Tuesday February 16, 2016

India

Christian leaders reacted to the announcement by the federal minister for social justice and empowerment that the government would continue its discriminatory policy against Christian and Muslim Dalits [untouchables]

Samuel Jaykumar (National Council of Churches in India; **UPDATE**: said "Though we knew about the stand of the government, it has now come out clearly on the issue. This is very humiliating for Dalit Christians and Muslims")

Fr Z Devasagayaraj (**UPDATE**: said that the government's decision "is against the multicultural, multireligious nature of our country")

http://www.ucanindia.in/news/decision-denying-quotas-criticized-by-christians/31480/daily

Egypt

Michael Gamal Mansour (aged 22, brother of Osama Gamal Mansour, military conscript, died of a gunshot wound while with his unit, death ruled a suicide)

Osama Gamal Mansour (brother of Michael Gamal Mansour, said “My brother did not commit suicide as they alleged in his military unit, but he was killed intentionally”)

http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=65986
https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/03/4341750/

Wednesday February 17, 2016

China: Liuzhou, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

Cheng Jie (wife of Pastor Du Hongbo, mother of two young children, detained on February 18, 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; **UPDATE**: released)

http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/02/church-run-kindergarten-director.html

Uzbekistan: Gullanbog, Yangiaryk district, Khorezm region

Gulnara Rahimov (wife of Oybek Rahimov, home raided during a worship service, all present were questioned at the police station for 3 hours)

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

France: Saint-Pol-sur-Mer

Pastor Philippe Dugard (described conditions in the Grande-Synthe refugee camp: “Between November and December, there was a group of Iranians who confessed their belonging to Christ, who started to attend our church. Some were Orthodox, while others said they were Christians but were not truly converted. But we got to know them, and we felt they had a real spiritual thirst. And then one evening [December 14, 2015], we were informed that two of them were stabbed and the whereabouts of a third one was unknown. We then said that as Christians we cannot leave them alone in that situation, and the victims themselves told us that they no longer wanted to stay in the camp, as they felt threatened”)

Michel Varton (director of Open Doors France, said "Many Christians amongst the refugees are fleeing persecution and discrimination. They are already traumatized by their terrible experience in the Middle East. Imagine their despair to realize that, once here in France, they are suffering the same discrimination and hate from fellow immigrants...It's totally unacceptable that someone could lose their life for their faith once in France”)

https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/02/4305685/

Spain: Alcala de Henares

Bishop Juan Antonio Reig Pla (criminal hate speech charges dismissed, court ruled that his comparison of abortion supporters to the Holocaust was protected as an exercise of religion)

http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/90825.htm

Thursday February 18, 2016

Syria

Fr Yacob Boulos (beheaded by ISIL after praying in his church)

http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/isis-decapitates-another-christian-priest-in-syria/

Turkey: Bursa

Pastor Ismail Kulakcioglu (congregation given 8 days to vacate the only church building in the city)

https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/02/4318459/

Friday February 19, 2016

Indonesia: Wamena

Fr John Djonga (**UPDATE**: summoned for police interrogation for having said a Mass attended by Papuan separatists, said he would not appear until he had secured legal counsel and received permission from his bishop)

Fr Yulianus Bidau Mote (confirmed that Fr John Djonga was sent by his diocese to say the Mass that has been questioned by the authorities)

http://www.ucanews.com/news/indonesian-police-to-question-priest-on-treason-charge/75295

China: Guangzhou

Rev Ng Wah (disappeared from Hong Kong in July 2015; **UPDATE**: reappeared on the mainland, prosecuted on fraud charges along with Lin Jingying)

Lin Jingying (house church organizer, prosecuted along with Rev Ng Wah)

Constant Kim (friend of Rev Ng Wah, said "It is political persecution. Some extreme leftist officials in Guangzhou did this")

http://www.ucanews.com/news/hong-kong-pastor-prosecuted-on-mainland-for-printing-christian-books/75683

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; caught with Bibles while getting off a bus with Pastor Bal Raja in January 2016, beaten, escaped; **UPDATE**: home attacked by Hindu radicals, left hand broken, wife suffered a back injury, daughter suffered several severe cuts on her head, hands and leg, all were threatened with death, police refused to file a complaint and advised him to stop Christian services, said "The best thing that has happened to me is Jesus. I am joyful that I am chased and beaten up for His name's sake. And we will continue to carry the banner of Christ, and one day the attackers will also see Christ")

Pastor Santosh Kumar (aged 80, targeted by name by Hindu radicals in the home of Pastor Rampal, beaten into unconsciousness, hospitalized, vehicle destroyed)

http://morningstarnews.org/2016/03/persecuted-pastor-in-uttar-pradesh-india-keeps-sights-on-christ/

Syria: Aleppo

Fouad Banna (aged 13, brother of Rosy, killed by a rebel rocket barrage on the Christian Quarter, parents both in intensive care, five others also killed)

http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1456093089.html

Cameroon: Meme

Bishop Bruno Ateba Edo (**UPDATE**: described a double suicide Boko Haram bombing in a market in which 20 were killed and dozens wounded, said more would have been killed had a church service not been underway)

http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1479071579.html

Saturday February 20, 2016

Malaysia: Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

Sr Rita Chew (denounced attempts to convert Christian students to Islam in public and Catholic schools, said "...conversions take place, but the government denies this fact. Some Christian parents have found that their children are taught Islamic prayers")

http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Kota-Kinabalu,-Islamic-proselytizing-of-children-in-Catholic-schools-36741.html

India: Chhattisgarh state

Fr Abraham Kannampala (condemned the chemical attack on tribal activist Sori Sori "This is the first attack of this sort heard in the region in recent memory")

India: Dingara, Buldhana, Maharashtra state

Pastor Sardar Solanki (said “At 9:30 in the morning, three Christian families were summoned to the public meeting, where the Hindu extremists told them not to pray and observe Christianity any more in the village...[later] the police and the villagers did not allow me or any other Christian leaders to enter into the village, and, for now, all kinds of Christian meetings have been closed down")

Gopal Solanki (aged 18, convert, summoned to a public meeting led by the village chief, beaten unconscious after refusing to leave Christ, revived)

http://morningstarnews.org/2016/03/persecuted-pastor-in-uttar-pradesh-india-keeps-sights-on-christ/
http://www.ucanews.com/news/church-shocked-at-chemical-attack-on-activist-in-india/75284

Syria

Bishop George Abu Khazen OFM (**UPDATE**: said "The whole population of Aleppo is affected by the lack of water and electricity...For the last 20 days we have been under bombardment, almost daily bombing, that is destroying many houses, many apartments, and causing many, many deaths...A few days ago the Armenian Protestant church was badly damaged, and five days ago our Roman Catholic church was even damaged, along with the pastoral center...Just the other day, a student, a little boy of about 13 years old asked me 'Why do I have to study? I am going to die' - so you understand how terrible things are here")

http://www.aina.org/news/20160219195019.htm

Monday February 22, 2016

Vietnam: Thien An

Three religious brothers refused to answer a police summons on illegal deforestation charges, charges stemmed from their removal of 15 pine trees in their orange grove on January 2, 2016

Br Truong Thang OSB (summoned)

Br Pham Ngoc Hoang OSB (summoned)

Br Phan Van Giao OSB (summoned)

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)

Fr Anthony Nguyen Van Duc OSB (said their monastery had papers to prove ownership of 107 hectares including 101 previously seized by the government, stated that the police action appears to be a prelude to the seizure of the remaining land)

Vietnam: Lam Na district, Lam Dong province

Paul Tran Minh Nhat (Redemptorist News employee; released from prison on or about August 27, 2015; stopped by police on November 8, 2015 near Da Don village, Lam Ha district, Lam Dong province, beaten, and interrogated; **UPDATE**: stoned by police agents while saying evening prayers with his family, suffered a serious head wound, the attackers prevented his hospitalization)

Fr Anton Le Ngoc Thanh CSSR (**UPDATE**: said "The serious attack shows that local authorities flagrantly violate the laws, disregard human life and invade basic human rights")

Fr Joseph Truong Hoang Vu CSSR (said that police agents in the weeks prior to the stoning of Paul Tran Minh Nhat had destroyed his crops and livestock by spreading pesticide and attempted to set his house on fire)

http://www.ucanews.com/news/attack-on-vietnamese-dissident-condemned/75321
http://www.ucanews.com/news/vietnamese-benedictines-summoned-on-deforestation-charges/75347

India: Haryana

Christian leaders responded to the government granting special rights to the Jat caste after members rioted, killing 16 and injuring 150

Fr Savarimuthu Shankar (**UPDATE**: said "This proves that with muscle power, you can do anything. Giving reservation to such an influential class is a gross injustice to people who really deserve these special rights...it has become easy for every community to demand it and have it by indulging in violence")

Fr Gyanprakash Topno (said "It is very unfortunate. The loss of lives and property looks like that there is no rule of law in the country")

Fr Jas (said "The situation is very bad. Everything is burned out on the streets...there is a simmering anger among non-Jats as they became the victims of the violence and suffered huge losses for no fault of theirs")

http://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-church-leaders-denounce-newly-enacted-quotas/75286

Syria: Aleppo

Rosy Banna (aged 17, student, sister of Fouad who was killed by a February 19, 2016 rebel rocket barrage on the Christian Quarter, parents both in intensive care, at his funeral said to Archbishop Jean-Clement Jeanbart "Father, I beg you, ask the Lord to heal my two parents")

http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1456093089.html

Tuesday February 23, 2016

Sri Lanka: Mullikulam

Parishioners forced out of their homes by the military before the end of the civil war in 2009 have still not been allowed to return home

Vincentamma Croos (aged 81, said "The military during the final stages of the war told us to vacate our homes around the church and that we could return soon but we have never been allowed to return and we all became displaced")

Fr Anton Thavaraja (said "Earlier there were many restrictions with people only being allow to visit the church at a time specified by the military. We had Sunday Mass at 11 a.m. but elderly people find it difficult to return home after Mass in the heat of the sun...During

Lent we want to conduct the Way of the Cross but the elderly can't come to church by walking four kilometers. Therefore we have the service near where they live now in the forest")

http://www.ucanews.com/news/displaced-sri-lankan-catholics-yearn-for-lenten-services/75296

Turkey: Bursa

Pastor Ismail Kulakcioglu (congregation given 8 days to vacate the only church building in the city; **UPDATE**: order rescinded)

https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/02/4318459/

Wednesday February 24, 2016

Philippines: Davao, Mindanao

A church operated refugee center was attacked and burned, five people including two children were injured

Nardy Sabino (said "We condemn this violence against our tribal people and the attack on the church")

Br Nosi Balgado CSSR (said "We are urging the government to immediately respond to the incident and bring the perpetrators to justice")

http://www.ucanews.com/news/church-run-shelter-for-refugees-torched-in-mindanao/75304

China: Liuzhou, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

Family forced to leave their home due to harassment by the authorities

Cheng Jie (wife of Pastor Du Hongbo, mother of two young children, kindergarten director, detained on February 18, 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; released on February 17, 2016; **UPDATE**: forced to leave her home, has been unable to find work)

Pastor Du Hongbo (husband of Cheng Jie; **UPDATE**: said “After a few days, we plan to leave Liuzhou. We will pack in two days and take [Cheng] for a thorough examination. The public security bureau keeps calling me every couple of days, harassing and threatening”)

http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/02/authorities-harass-kindergarten-teacher.html

India

The RSS paramilitary organization will be reissuing a book written in 1946 by one of its founders that purports that Jesus was a Tamil Hindu

Fr Nigel Barrett (said that if Jesus was Hindu "then why does the RSS has so many issues with people converting to Christianity?...This is a move in keeping with the current trend of intolerance in this country")

Fr Gyanprakash Topno (**UPDATE**: called the book "nonsensical and funny")

http://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-church-downplays-controversial-book-on-jesus/75307

Kyrgyzstan

Event: A mother and daughter have been under house arrest since March 20, 2013 on fraud charges after their church filed registration applications; acquitted on all charges on October 7, 2014, judge called the case 'fabricated'; on October 29, 2015 won their appeal that confirmed the dismissal of fraud charges, NSC secret police attempted twice to detain their attorneys prior to the hearing, then invaded the judges' chambers in an attempt to influence or delay the ruling; **UPDATE: the Supreme Court agreed with a request by prosecutors to open a new trial**

Oksana Koryakina (aged 36)

Nadezhda Sergienko (aged 57)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2155

Egypt: Alexandria

Fawzi Osama Ibrahim (aged 16, arrested on July 11, 2015 for distributing food and Christian literature to Muslims during Ramadan; **UPDATE**: charges dismissed)

Stephen Boutros Fayed (aged 21, arrested on July 11, 2015 when he went to the police station to see Fawzi Osama Ibrahim; **UPDATE**: charges dismissed)

Shady Saeed (aged 20, arrested on July 11, 2015 when he went to the police station to see Fawzi Osama Ibrahim; **UPDATE**: charges dismissed)

http://morningstarnews.org/2016/02/case-dropped-against-christians-arrested-for-evangelizing-in-alexandria-egypt/

Thursday February 25, 2016

Thailand

Asia Johnson (aged 38, wife of Johnson Masih, mother of Eashal, Reemal, and Rumaisa, Pakistani refugee, detained on December 24, 2015, **UPDATE**: released)

Reemal Johnson (aged 7, daughter of Johnson Masih and Asia Johnson, Pakistani refugee, detained on December 24, 2015, **UPDATE**: released)

Eashal Johnson (aged 3, daughter of Johnson Masih and Asia Johnson, Pakistani refugee, detained on December 24, 2015, **UPDATE**: released)

http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/idc-victim-released-after-staying-2-months-in-idc

Pakistan: Kasur district, Lahore, Punjab province

Eric John (attorney; **UPDATE**: gunshots fired into his home)

http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/christian-lawyers-house-attacked-in-lahore/

Turkey: Samsun

Pastor Orhan Picaklar (**UPDATE**: described an attack by four Muslims on his church in which they tried to kick in a door "They attacked us knowing that they would get caught – they even looked at the security camera and smiled. Later they went to the police and turned themselves in, and today they were set free. So what should I do to these guys who drink until they get drunk, and when they get caught instead of fear and sadness yell, 'Allahu

Akbar!' [God is greater]?...Those who have attacked us [in the past] and been caught have always apologized, and we have always forgiven them, because this is what God wants us to do. If we only say, 'Forgive your enemies' when we're giving a sermon, we're hypocrites. Those who attacked us this time are really different, however")

http://morningstarnews.org/2016/03/anti-christian-hatred-seen-in-attack-on-church-building-in-samsun-turkey/

Friday February 26, 2016

Indonesia: Wamena

Fr John Djonga (summoned on February 19, 2016 for police interrogation for having said a Mass attended by Papuan separatists, said he would not appear until he had secured legal counsel and received permission from his bishop; **UPDATE**: met with two police officers for four hours of questioning with his attorney)

Bishop Leo Laba Ladjar (**UPDATE**: defended Fr John Djonga)

http://www.ucanews.com/news/indonesian-bishop-backs-priest-questioned-for-treason/75344

China: Jinhua, Zhejiang province

Twelve Christians sentenced to prison on embezzlement charges

Pastor Bao Guohua (husband of Xing Wenxiang, detained on July 26, 2015 on embezzlement charges after trying to prevent the demolition of a cross on a church; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment)

Pastor Xing Wenxiang (wife of Bao Guohua, detained on July 26, 2015 on embezzlement charges after trying to prevent the demolition of a cross on a church; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment)

Deacon Bao Chenxing (son of Pastors Bao Guohua and Xing Wenxiang, detained on July 26, 2015, tortured; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment)

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**: appeared on Chinese television where he confessed "Such religion cases are sensitive, they can lift my fame quickly and bring some economic interest. Foreign countries also focus on the cases, it also improves my fame overseas")

http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Zhejiang-Protestant-pastor-sentenced-to-14-years-for-defending-Cross-36796.html
http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/02/pastor-wife-sentenced-to-10-plus-years.html

Thailand

Pastor Joshua (convert, Pakistani refugee, described why he fled Pakistan "My bone was broken - the one right above the heart. And they tried to cut my arm off. My sister was murdered, she was burned alive, just because she spoke the word 'God'. They hate the word 'God' so much. She was burned for this reason alone")

Nazeem (aged 19, Pakistani refugee, detained along with her infant cousin)

Daniel (Pakistani refugee, detained, said "Jesus said to us, 'If someone troubles you, don't ask for curses for him, instead, you should ask for blessings for him.' So, we ask for blessings for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees")

http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35654804

United States - Louisiana

Fr Jeff Bayhi (ordered by the state supreme court to divulge the contents of a confession, his diocese has condemned the ruling as of July 7, 2014 and stated that it will not comply; appeal declined by the U.S. Supreme Court on January 21, 2015, a hearing will now be held to determine if he must be compelled to testify; **UPDATE**: a state court ruled that the state cannot compel the disclosure of a confession)

http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/priests-cant-be-forced-to-break-seal-of-confession-la-judge-rules-70940/

Saturday February 27, 2016

Pakistan: Qayum, Faisalabad

A Christian family was attacked with gunfire while eating a meal by a Muslim neighbor who had been spurned by their mother, police refused to file a report until the

family hired a Muslim to represent them, the neighbor was released on bail and proceeded to threaten to rape the family's daughters if the charges were not dropped, family has asked for aid to go into hiding

Noel Tahir (aged 17, son of Tahir Qadeer and Shazia Tahir, shot dead)

Akash Tahir (aged 25, son of Tahir Qadeer and Shazia Tahir, shot in the arm, wife also shot)

Tahir Qadeer (aged 48, husband of Shazia Tahir, father of Noel and Akash, shot, said "This man has destroyed our lives, he has murdered my son and now I can't bear to live. He has always desired my wife and has hated me because of my marriage to her, but I never thought he could be this evil. I have cried every day, my wife is inconsolable and few people have offered help despite the terror we face every day. I pray God will help us save the rest of our family and that He punishes this evil man")

Shazia Tahir (aged 42, wife of Tahir Qadeer, mother of Noel and Akash, shot)

http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/covetous-muslim-man-shoots-boy-dead-after-christian-wife

Egypt: Minya

Four teens were convicted of contempt of Islam for making a parody video of the Islamic State's beheading videos, three were sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment and one was remanded to juvenile custody

Alber Ashraf Hanna

Bassem Amgad Hanna

Clinton Magdy Youssef

Molar Atef Edward

Egypt: Qena

Ghabriel Suriel (forced to turn over 183 square meters of land to a Muslim family by a 'customary meeting')

http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/4592-egypt-jails-coptic-christians-for-insulting-islam

http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/4554-egyptian-commission-calls-for-dropping-blasphemy-charges-against-4-christian-children

http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=66021

Sunday February 28, 2016

Egypt: Minya

Mervat Sephan (newly appointed school principal, appointment protested by Muslim students and teachers)

http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=66040

United States – Ohio: Dayton

Rev William B Schooler (aged 70, former teacher, principal, and school board member, shot dead by his mentally ill brother during choir practice)

Alberta Blayth (heard the shooting of Rev William B Schooler)

http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/28/us/ohio-dayton-church-pastor-killed/

Monday February 29, 2016

Pakistan

Rioting has broken out following the execution of the Islamist murderer of Punjab Governor Salmaan Taseer

Kaneez Bibi (said "I work as a beautician but I did not go into work today. Our bosses told us to stay at home as they are not opening their businesses due to threats of violence. My family and I are bunkering down at our home and it is very frightening")

Tariq Parvez (said "I work in a permaflex and printing company. I could not get through to work this morning. A large group of protestors threatened to beat me if I tried to reach my work premises. The group looked scary and was shouting out about how Kaffir [infidels] were ruining the country. I am fearful for my life and my family")

Shakil Masih (music and fine art teacher, said "I was travelling to school and was stopped by protesters. They threatened to kill me and beat me on my back to send me home. I later called the school and found out it was closed, but no-one from management had contacted me")

Rafique Gill (scrap merchant, said "It is worrying that the protesters are in the streets with such animosity. So far Christian areas have not been attacked but there is, as yet, no extra policing for our communities. I have taken the risk of opening my business as it is far from the city centre and most of my clients are Christian. But if I am threatened I will close the shop. It is not worth the loss of life, even though I desperately need the money")

Shamim Masih (**UPDATE**: said "The Christians of Pakistan are in great fear and want the Government to ensure their safety. Threats have already been made to Christian communities and those who have fled their homes to escape to more rural areas will no doubt return to find their homes have been looted. Christians remember the attacks on the communities of Shati Nagar, Gojra and St Joseph's colony where mob violence resulted in loss of lives, homes and churches. They also remember the recent bomb attacks in Peshawar and Lahore, they do not believe extremist and conservative Muslims need much of a reason to attack them and feel the current climate is creating great animosity towards them")

Wilson Chowdhry (**UPDATE**: said "What chance do Christians have for survival in a nation that openly places hero status on murderers? Mumtaz Qadri was involved in the heinous murder of Governor Taseer, an act that traumatized Pakistan and brought to light the extent of extremism and hatred towards minorities in Pakistan. This man enjoyed privileges whilst in Pakistani prisons that few obtain and was able to spread his evil ideology within prison often coercing wardens to punish those involved in blasphemy cases - which contributed to the death of a British Prisoner. Most alarmingly the legal fraternity of Pakistan have come out in support for Mr. Qadri and declared a one day strike, an act that is a clear indictment of the extremism that is ubiquitous throughout all tiers of Pakistani Muslim society. The few voices of liberality in Pakistan will have an uphill struggle making the nation one that is egalitarian, yet in the meanwhile western nations including Britain have deduced that Christians in Pakistan rarely face persecution, a judgment that has led to the re-persecution of thousands of Pak-Christians stranded in Thailand")

http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/protest-erupt-in-pakistan-after-hanging-of-islamic-hero-mumtaz-qadri-a-terrorist-who-assassinated-fo

Palestine: near the Jordan River near Jericho

Archimandrite Chrysostomos (the Monastery of St John the Baptist and Forerunner was extensively vandalized, began to document the damage)

http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/91535.htm

Nigeria: Agatu, Benue state

Ada Ojechi (survived a Muslim Fulani attack on his village, said "Our people were caught napping because we relaxed when we heard what we considered the cheering news that the federal government has intervened. Unfortunately, the Fulanis knew we had relaxed and took advantage of us to unleash a terrible massacre on us. As we speak, corpses litter everywhere in the village. I have been trying to reach many of my family members without success. We feel terribly let down by the government that announced a joint security team. We have not seen the security men - be they policemen or military, as I speak")

https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/03/4332785

United Kingdom: Sheffield University

Felix Ngole (aged 38, reported to have been expelled from graduate school after he posted a defense of traditional Christian morality on Facebook)

http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/freedom-of-speech/christian-student-expelled-from-social-work-course-over-views-on-marr

February 2016, date unknown

Pakistan

Komal (alias, said "I do not remember the exact date, but it was almost middle of June, the hottest month of 2015, when my misery started. I am 15-years-old, the youngest daughter of my elderly parents who work at a brick-kiln factory. They did not have enough of income for my education, therefore I have never been to school, although I wished. I was sleeping along with my mother on a single bed during a power-cut time in my house yard. Around midnight, five armed men with masks climbed over the boundary wall and entered into house. The armed men brutally beat the entire family and threatened them severe consequences if they shouted for help. Then, the kidnappers dragged me from my mother's lap to their car in the street. My eyes and mouth were covered with a piece of cloth and they took me to unknown place where five of them raped me in front of each other, taking turns. I think it was a neighboring city from where they kidnapped me...Burning my female parts with cigarettes was a routine exercise for them. The kidnappers often teased Christians, especially disrespecting Christian women. Almost for two months they beat me every day for nothing and did not give enough food to

eat...After almost two months of inhuman treatment and humiliation, they took me to a courthouse and forced me to put my thumb impression on a document that declared me the wife of a Muslim. I did not want this to happen, however, I had no other option because they threatened to kill my parents if I did not obey. Therefore, they forcefully married me to a Muslim and converted me to Islam. Without my wish they changed my religion, my identity and even my name. My new husband, who continued to rape me for the next two months, then moved to another city. This man already had two wives at his house...At this stage, I experienced the worst agony of all. I felt like dying every day when my husband forced me to have [relations] with other visitors for earning money. I had become a forced prostitute. He even hired a watchwoman to keep an eye on me almost round the clock. I spent the next six months in captivity. However, I had faith that Jesus would get me out of this hell. In February, I had a golden opportunity to escape. Before sun rose, I managed to sneak away from the house to an urban area after walking for about five hours. I begged for money from the people there to cover a bus fare and was able to reach my home after sunset on the same day...I am thankful for this mercy and the miracle of rejoining my parents now. I couldn't stop crying when I hugged my parents and family for the first time. One can hardly imagine the painful situation which I and my parents experienced. It was like rising from the dead. When I returned home, I was five months pregnant. I am confused about what to do with my unborn baby. What will the future of my child be if I give birth to him or her? I want justice, but do not want to put my parents into danger. Those people are very rich and influential and therefore we cannot go into the legal process against them. I just want to be divorced and try to plan a happier life")

http://www.persecution.org/2016/04/05/forever-scarred-by-persecution-victim-of-forced-conversion-in-pakistan-shares-her-testimony/

Turkmenistan: Ashgabad

Dayanch Jumayev (sentenced to 1 year's imprisonment for refusing military service, subjected to home confinement, one-fifth of his wages seized)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2196
http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2220

Ethiopia: Moyale

Abdu Godana (aged 35, convert, wife and children abducted by her family after their conversion)

http://morningstarnews.org/2016/04/family-church-buildings-lost-in-predominantly-christian-east-african-countries/

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