

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – March 2016

Tuesday March 1, 2016



Iran: Ahwaz

Four Christians beaten and arrested at a [March 5, 2014 picnic](#) have had their convictions upheld, must report within 15 days to finish their 12 month sentences

Pastor Amin Khaki (**UPDATE**: must serve 13 months in prison, including unserved time from a previous conviction)

Hossain Danial Barro Zadeh (convert; **UPDATE**: must serve 3 months in prison)

Rahman Ziya Bahmani (convert; **UPDATE**: must serve 3 months in prison)

Mohammad Bahrami (convert; **UPDATE**: must serve 4 months in prison)

<http://presenttruthmn.com/newsroom/iran/four-iranian-christians-receive-prison-sentences/>

Wednesday March 2, 2016



Indonesia: Manokwari

Thomas Jefferson Baru (Catholic Youth leader, participated in a demonstration against the continued police harassment of Fr John Djonga)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/papuan-catholic-groups-protest-harassment-of-priest/75393>



Pakistan: Lahore, Punjab province

Justice James Joseph (denied permanent status on the Lahore High Court, had been the only Christian on the court, and only the second ever appointed - the first, Jamshed Rehmatullah, was also denied permanent status in August 2009)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/lahore-high-court-to-remove-only-christian-judge-from-bench/>



Kyrgyzstan

Nurlan Usupbayev (detained after police in [Osh City, Osh region](#) raided an [August 9, 2015](#) worship service in a rented cafe, beaten, strangled, police opened an administrative case against him and listed his fine as four times that allowed by statute; **UPDATE:** prosecutorial appeal of his acquittal denied by the Supreme Court due to late filing)

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



Ethiopia: Gighessa

Bishop Abraham Desta (reported to have described an attack on a pastoral center, convent, and clinic in which the villagers who were served by the center looted and burnt it)

<http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1456892546.html>

Thursday March 3, 2016



Kyrgyzstan: Kemin

Marat Niyazaliev (husband, father, Russian citizen, house church leader, church closed in [spring 2015](#); arrested on a charge of indecent assault of an 8 year old girl on [December 8, 2015](#), released; **UPDATE:** church closing ruled illegal)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Kyrgyzstan-church-leader-in-custody-as-authorities-take-apparent-revenge-for-churchs-court-victory>



Azerbaijan: Mingachevir

Eldar Aliyev (home raided by police during a [January 9, 2016](#) worship service, literature including Bibles seized, charged with holding an unapproved religious meeting;
UPDATE: convicted, fined US\$1,000)

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



Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan

Fr Jalal Yako RCJ (**UPDATE:** spoke on the conditions in his refugee camp "If you are not local, if you speak Arabic and not Kurdish, being accepted is hard. Language has become a factor of discrimination, higher prices, and refusal of medical care. This has also affected Christians. Even in my camp, Asthi One, home to families from Qaraqosh, Mosul, Bartella, the prevailing sentiment is one of fatigue...Those who did find accommodation in a house, now cannot pay the rent because there is no more money. Many have lost their job. Those who have work are not getting paid. Lately, I heard that 250 companies have gone bankrupt. Some construction sites have stopped, the work left unfinished...We celebrate Masses every day. People flock to church, devoutly observe Friday fasting, and participate in the Way of the Cross outdoors. We also recite the Angelus every day. Recently, with the help of an Italian parish, we built a bell tower to call the faithful to the services and give a visible sign of our presence, bearing witness to our faith")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Without-a-home-or-job,-conditions-for-Mosul-refugees-is-getting-worse,-Erbil-priest-says-36846.html>

Friday March 4, 2016



Yemen: Aden

Armed men attacked a nursing home, killing 16 employees and residents including 4 nuns

Sr Anselm MC (aged 57, Indian citizen, **shot dead**)

Sr Judit MC (aged 41, Kenyan citizen, **shot dead**)

Sr Marguerite MC (aged 44, Rwanda citizen, **shot dead**)

Sr Reginette MC (aged 32, Rwanda citizen, **shot dead**)

Sr Sally MC (Indian citizen, escaped by hiding in a refrigerator)

Fr Tom Uzhunnalil SDB (aged 56, Indian citizen, abducted)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Vicar-of-Arabia:-Sisters-of-Mother-Teresa-killed-for-religious-reasons-36859.html>



Turkey: Istanbul

Syrian Christian refugees reported to be awaiting permission to travel to Germany

Naaam Mazie (husband, father of three, waiting to join his family in Germany)

Alexy Kazangy

<http://www.aina.org/news/20160303193241.htm>



Russia: Sergiyev Posad, Moscow region

Two Christians were investigated beginning in **April 2013** for 'incitement of hatred'; **UPDATE:** acquitted

Vyacheslav Yuryevich Stepanov (aged 38)

Andrei Petrovich Sivak (aged 41)

Russia: Tikhoretsk, Krasnodar region

Yekaterina Kuznetsova (acquitted of charges of distributing banned religious literature)

Zinaida Leontyeva (acquitted of charges of distributing banned religious literature)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2287

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2290

Saturday March 5, 2016



China: Changji, Xinjiang

A meeting of leaders of several house churches was raided by 200 police, five were taken into custody

Chen Yajie

Liu Yan

Wang Lulu

Yang Zhaocun

Zheng Lan (home raided)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/08/detained-christians-case-returned-for.html>



Pakistan

A newlywed couple was reported to have been taken hostage by a brick kiln owner in an attempt to force relatives to pay back debts

Imran (aged 24, husband of Sonia, tortured for four days, **throat slit** when the demands were not met)

Sonia (wife of Imran, raped by the son of the owner's manager, widowed)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/christian-man-killed-by-brick-kiln-owner-in-revenge-for-relatives/>

Sunday March 6, 2016



India: Gurudpal village, Paschim Medinipur district, West Bengal state

Kisna Sarel (aged 37, husband, father of two aged 7 and 5, locked with his family in their home by Hindu radicals for 12 hours, dragged out and beaten, hospitalized, said “I am not worried about anything. I have Jesus, and even if they take my life, I will still follow Jesus”)

Bahadur Chand Sarel (church leader, reported on the attack on Kisna Sarel “They blocked the village entry and harassed the Christian family. They told him never to go to the church again but to perform all the Hindu poojahs [offerings to gods] and rituals, and then beat him up”)

India: Kachana colony, Raipur, Chhattisgarh state

Ms Sahu (one of 65 worshippers attacked and beaten in a church by 20 Hindu radicals, women had their clothes torn, one child was thrown on the floor)

Arun Pannalal (president of Chhattisgarh Christian Forum; **UPDATE**: said the attack was probably mounted by the Bajrang Dai, the youth wing of the RSS paramilitary organization "This is the fourth attack on churchgoers in Chhattisgarh in the past five weeks")

Pastor Paul Ciniraj (President of the Christian Ministers of the Churches in India - CMCI, condemned the attack, said "Persecution towards Christians, Dalits and other minorities are seemingly increasing throughout India. Priests, pastors, missionaries, evangelists and believers are being murdered, beaten, abducted and jailed. Women are being raped. Churches and institutions stoned, vandalized and demolished")

India: Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh state

Fr M Chinappa (aged 64, rector of the Gunadala Matha shrine; **UPDATE**: abducted, photographed and video recorded in sex acts while drugged, extorted out of US\$154,000 of his own money, called police after fearing the gang would begin to demand shrine funds, hospitalized with high blood pressure and blood sugar levels)

Fr Muvvala Prasad (said that the abduction and extortion of Fr M Chinappa "have put severe pressure on the aged priest")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Chhattisgarh,-seven-Hindu-radicals-arrested-for-vandalizing-Pentecostal-church--36876.html>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/04/hindu-extremists-on-motorcycles-chase-down-pastor-in-northern-india/>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5829>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-police-investigate-blackmail-of-priest/75490>



Canada: Toronto

Cardinal Thomas Collins (**UPDATE**: said that the proposed new euthanasia law which included provisions to euthanize children and to prevent Christian doctors and hospitals from avoiding involvement in euthanasia should "shock us to the core")

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/03/08/cardinal-urges-canadians-to-fight-euthanasia-proposals/>

<https://www.archtoronto.org/media-centre/news-archive/chancery-news/cardinal-thomas-collins-euthanasia-assisted-suicide-march-2016>

Monday March 7, 2016



Indonesia: North Bekasi district, West Java province

Eman Dapaloka (former seminarian, described how his parish of 7,000 has been unable to build a church since forming in 1999 and since receiving a building permit in July 2015)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bekasi:-Islamic-extremists-demonstrate-against-the-construction-of-a-Catholic-church-36878.html>



Syria: Maaloula

Fr Ahmed (reported to have said after the Syrian government forced al-Nusra fighters to leave his city "Look they came even here, look what they have done to our church. All smashed, burned. They have stolen valuable icons and have burned those which have no value. Even the bowl of holy water and clothes of priests were burned, even the stones were broken")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20160307122821.htm>



Cameroon

Bishop Bruno Ateba Edo (**UPDATE:** reported to have said that although Boko Haram has been defeated militarily "Everybody is afraid of the suicide bombers. There is a kind of psychosis. Whenever people gather together, as they do at markets, people don't know who is who, and it is impossible to keep tabs on everyone")

<http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1457313281.html>

Tuesday March 8, 2016



China: Guizhou province

Pastor Li Guozhi aka Yang Hua (husband of Wang Hongwu; detained on [December 9, 2015](#) for 'illegally holding state secrets'; formally charged on [January 22, 2016](#) with 'obstructing

justice' and 'gathering a crowd to disturb social order'; **UPDATE:** denied a visit with his attorneys)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/03/lawyers-denied-meeting-with.html>



Pakistan: Multan prison, Punjab province

Aasiya Noreen aka Asia Bibi (aged 51, wife of Ashiq Masih, mother of five including Isham, daughter of Soran Masih, still incarcerated on a 2009 blasphemy conviction and death sentence; **UPDATE:** security increased in her prison following calls by Islamists for her immediate execution, the calls were prompted by the execution of the killer of Governor Salmaan Taseer, who had been killed for publicly defending her)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/03/security-increased-for-asia-bibi-following-execution-of-islamist-assassin-in-pakistan/>



Nigeria

Muslim Fulani gunmen continued to mount attacks on villages in Benue state

Steven Enada (said “In the last three weeks, Aku, Odugbeho, Aila, Okokolo and Ikobi have been utterly destroyed and over 300 people have been killed. We have corpses littered in the field like a war fought in the Roman Empire by Emperor Nero”)

Ikwulono John Anthony (said “I took the risk and came to Agatu together with the delegation from the presidency of Nigeria, where we visited Obagaji, Egba, Aila, Adagbo, Okokolo, Akwu, Ugboju, Odugbeho and Odejo. Entire villages were burned down completely by Fulani herdsmen. Unidentified corpses of these Christians were discovered, properties were looted by these Fulani invaders. As I speak to you, Fulani herdsmen are living in the deserted villages. I couldn’t believe what my eyes saw”)

Emmanuel Ogebe (attorney; **UPDATE:** said that no evidence could be found that supported the Fulani allegation that the murdered Christian villagers had killed thousands of their cows “Such a mass slaughter would take weeks, and the skeletal remains of the cows would completely dot the landscape of Agatu, and the stench would permeate the air”, added “If they are there on reprisal as they claimed, since they are not indigenes of the villages, why have they not left after the attack – why have they occupied the villages? I feel this is jihad of a sort to take over the villages”)

Andy Obeya (said “There was not a single burnt mosque, where everything else was razed”)

Fr John Attah (said that 7,000 displaced Christians were in desperate need)

Bishop Michael Apochi (**UPDATE:** said "...the surprising thing is that up to this moment these killings are going on in these communities, and the Nigerian government has not been able to stop the carnage")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/03/after-massacre-in-benue-nigeria-muslim-herdsmen-remain-in-villages-sources-say/>

Wednesday March 9, 2016



China: Changji, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region

Deacon Wang Lu (arrested along with a female organizer at a Bible training class which was raided by the authorities)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/04/pastors-church-members-detained-in.html>



India: Daund, Maharashtra state

Raymond Dias (religious display of Our Lady of Fatima vandalized, said "I went to call other people and we found that no valuables had been stolen. So we realized that the act was done only to offend our religious feelings. The statue has a silver crown and several other valuable items, but nothing was touched")

India: Karoate village, Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Ram Prakash (aged 52, hut attacked by 25 Hindu radicals, ordered to leave the village, threatened with loss of his land, brother and sister-in-law beaten, hut set afire, roof and furnishings destroyed, brother hospitalized)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Pune:-thugs-burn-Bible-and-sacred-texts-in-front-of-Our-Lady-of-Fatima-grotto-36913.html>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/04/hindu-extremists-on-motorcycles-chase-down-pastor-in-northern-india/>



Pakistan: Jhelum

Fr John Arshad (**UPDATE:** led prayers for the safety of Asia Bibi following Muslim demands for her execution, said "We fast and pray for Asia Bibi and for all others who are imprisoned, let us pray for their safety and for their release. Now our concern for her has increased, but we pray that tolerance and peace prevail in our country")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Pakistan's-Christians-pray-for-Asia-Bibi:-New-threats-to-her-life-36909.html>



Jordan: Amman

Dr Hena al-Kaldani (presented a paper documenting “a complete cancelation of Arab Christian history in the pre-Islamic era” and “many historical mistakes” in the national school curriculums)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2016/03/09/christianity-erased-from-jordanian-textbooks/>



Brazil: Petropolis, Rio de Janerio state

Fr Antonio Moser OFM (aged 75, theologian, **killed** during a highway robbery)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/59599-AMERICA_BRAZIL_Friar_Antonio_Moser_killed_in_an_attempted_robbery#.VuYs4sIUUfg

Thursday March 10, 2016



Germany: Berlin

Christian refugees have been mistreated in German refugee camps

Rachel Marsuk (Open Doors International, said “We’ve heard much about the nasty treatment of Christians, and we’re compiling a report to push politicians into action...We’ve had questionnaires returned detailing how Christian refugees have been psychologically abused, physically mistreated and denied food. The scale of this problem has been covered up or played down”)

Archbishop Heiner Koch (has discussed the persecution of Christian refugees with local officials)

Stefan Forner (Berlin archdiocesan spokesman, said "Some people don't even want to talk about Christians, fearing Muslims may have a problem with this...We need to help those dealing with refugees to understand the situation of Christians in Syria and other countries of origin and be aware of the potential hazards of putting all the refugees together. When something bad happens, it must have consequences and not be hushed up")

Germany: Munich

Fr Olivier Ndjimbi-Tshiende (Congoese national, refugee, reported to have been forced to leave his parish after receiving "racial slurs and threatening letters", forty thousand Catholics signed a petition demanding he be supported)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/03/11/charity-urges-better-protection-for-christians-in-refugee-camps/>



United Kingdom

Richard Page (aged 68, Justice of the Peace in [Kent](#), disciplined on [January 16, 2015](#) after he admitted that his Christian faith influenced his adoption rulings; **UPDATE:** reported to have been removed from his position one month before retirement after giving a January 2015 interview in which he said that there was not enough evidence to show that adoption by same sex couples was in a child's interest, the interview was for a documentary on Christians being forced out of public life)

Rev Barry Trayhorn (prison gardener at HMP Littlehey, Cambridgeshire, volunteer prison chaplain, resigned on [November 4, 2014](#) from his gardening position after being harassed following a May 2014 homily; **UPDATE:** lost his claim for discrimination and constructive dismissal, said "The Tribunal's reasoning was based on the effect that my message, which included the Bible verses, had on those who heard them. Yet those who attend chapel do so voluntarily to worship God and to learn what the Bible has to say. The congregation know that the Bible will be preached on, and therefore complaints should have been considered in light of that...When the Equality Act went through Parliament, the Government said that Ministers of Religion, speaking in a Church would continue to be able to teach and preach what their faith had traditionally believed. It is clear that this is no longer the case")

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/family/christian-magistrate-removed-from-office-for-belief-about-family>

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/freedom-of-speech/christian-prison-worker-loses-dismissal-claim-over-insensitive-preach>



United States - District of Columbia

Presentation at the National Press Club of a [280 page joint report](#) by the Knights of Columbus and In Defense of Christians on the continuing persecution of Christians

Bishop Angaelos (resident of the United Kingdom, Egyptian citizen, said "If an act of Genocide is decreed, it must be based indiscriminately on the facts alone...If we look at Article 2 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide [1948] we find that these acts against Christians in the Middle East fall very much in line with the requirements laid out by the United Nations...If Christians are excluded from the classification of Genocide, my concern, fear and expectation is that we will be responsible for a greater and more ruthless campaign of persecution against them, not only in Iraq and Syria but throughout the region. People on the ground, regardless of rhetoric, stipulation and convention, will perceive that the international community has supported one group over another, and Christians will become a greater soft target. How can we not declare Genocide if Christians are suffering the same fate, at the same time, under the same conditions, at the hands of the same perpetrators?...What is happening in the Middle East and Syria is criminal and is an indictment of our humanity if left unaddressed. Whether speaking of Yazidis, Christians or other communities, the atrocities they face are deplorable and warrant not only our concern but our intentional action. These are atrocities not only against international convention, but against a God-given right for people to live free, safe and dignified...Inaction is inexcusable and will lead to further persecution, not only of Christians but of others")

Fr Douglas al-Bazi (Iraqi citizen, **UPDATE:** said: "I'm here to tell you that my people — they feel that we are forgotten and alone. And I am here to tell the Americans the first right step should be taken is to call it a genocide")

Nina Shea (Hudson Institute, spoke on the Knights of Columbus / In Defense of Christians report on persecution)

Carl Anderson (Knights of Columbus CEO, said "There is only one word that adequately, and legally, describes what is happening to Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East. That word is genocide...While we believe this to be the most comprehensive report on this subject to date, covering incidents in Iraq, Syria, Libya, Egypt and Yemen, we continue to receive new reports and new evidence")

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/former-isis-captive-iraqi-priest-talks-about-his-people/>
<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/280-page-long-report-on-christian-genocide-submitted-to-u-s-state-department/>
<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2016/03/11/report-details-isis-atrocities-against-christians-presses-state-for-genocide-label-2/>

Friday March 11, 2016



Pakistan: Rawalpindi

Sonia Gill (illegally told that her 7 year old nephew could not attend a school because he was Christian)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5870>



Belarus: Minsk

Fr Yury Sanko (Bishop's conference spokesman; **UPDATE**: said that two priests from Poland were denied entry to the country in December "It's becoming ever more difficult for priests from abroad to come to Belarus")

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



Macedonia

Event UPDATE: The retrial of the Serbian Orthodox bishops continued, the prosecution's chief witness has disappeared, the court has continued to reschedule hearings for two months for the purpose of delay and has refused to allow the Church to use its frozen but empty bank accounts nor open new accounts

Archbishop Jovan aka Zoran Vraniskovski (aged 50)

Bishop Marko aka Goran Kimev

Bishop David Ninov

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/?p=46554>

Saturday March 12, 2016



India: Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu state

Prince Calvin (church general secretary, described a church attack by a mob "The attackers broke the main door of the church, damaged the furniture, altar and the stained glass", Christians were threatened with "dire consequences if they continued worshipping there")

<http://www.ucanindia.in/news/police-arrest-four-over-church-attack/31716/daily>



Pakistan: Faisalabad

Mehwish Masih (aged 14, daughter of Tanveer Masih and Najma Bibi, hired by a Muslim family as a domestic servant for a party, not allowed to return home)

Tanveer Masih (aged 42, husband of Najma Bibi, father of Mehwish Masih, rickshaw driver, filed a police report after his daughter did not come home)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Muslims-kidnap-Christian-girl-in-Faisalabad,-kill-father-when-he-tries-to-rescue-her-38020.html>



Uzbekistan: Fergana

Pastor Latifahon Mamazhanov (arrested, whereabouts unknown, sentenced to 15 days' imprisonment for 'not submitting to authorities')

Marifzhon Mamazhanov (brother of Pastor Latifahon Mamazhanov (home illegally searched by police, computers and books seized)

Murot Turdiyev (found with a Christian book in his car on [August 31, 2013](#) in [Andijan City](#), detained and pressured on [October 9, 2013](#) to become a police informant; arrested on [May 8, 2015](#) at a traffic stop at the border between [Samarkand region](#) and [Navoi region](#), taken to [Karmana district](#) police station, beaten into unconsciousness; **UPDATE**: drove to the prosecutor's office to protest the arrest of Pastor Latifahon Mamazhanov, denied entry to the office by police, automobile seized for unspecified traffic violations)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Police-in-Uzbekistan-search-Christian-homes-and-jail-church-pastor-in-illegal-raid>

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2159

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



Kosovo: Pristina

Fr Darko Marinkovic (reported that pro-ISIL graffiti has been painted on his church)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/?p=46512>

Sunday March 13, 2016



Pakistan: Youhanabad, Lahore, Punjab province

Three thousand attended a memorial Mass for the victims of the [March 15, 2015](#) terror attack which included calls for volunteer security guard Akash Bashir, who knowingly tackled a suicide bomber, to be declared a saint

Archbishop Sebastian Francis Shah (**UPDATE**: spoke on the sacrifice of Akash Bashir "We are proud of our brave son who lived a short but meaningful life. It was the result of his spiritual passion and the teachings of Bible...Prevalent indifference in society has led to terrorism. With mercy in their hearts, Christians can offer a different face of Pakistan")

Father Francis Gulzar (**UPDATE**: spoke on the sacrifice of Akash Bashir "Akash is our hero, his bravery saved more than 2,000 people inside the church. He has inspired local Christian youth and now many are joining the church's security", said of the calls for Akash to be declared a saint "We have just begun the movement at grassroots level")

Bashir Emmanuel (father of Akash Bashir, **UPDATE**: has helped publish a booklet of his son's life and death called "Unforgettable Sacrifice" which included eyewitness accounts of his actions during the terror attack)

Sikander Inyat (aged 28, church security volunteer, rickshaw driver, only son and caregiver for his ageing father, lost his right eye in the explosion in the terror attack, left leg fractured; **UPDATE**: said "I am out of work but I found a new dignity. We protect the bishop and other priests, staying close to them during their pastoral visits", like his fellow volunteers is now armed with guns and ammunition)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/A-year-later,-Church-and-survivors-remember-the-Lahore-attacks-36945.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/sainthood-calls-for-young-pakistani-martyr/75474>



Uzbekistan: Gisht-Kuprik and Tashkent

Boris Prokopenko (Kazak citizen, detained at a border crossing for possession of religious materials on his electronic devices, held for two days, released after having an administrative case opened against him)

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



Sudan: North Khartoum

Pastor Philemon Hassan (worship music composer, arrested without charge, released that night)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/03/pastor-in-north-khartoum-sudan-arrested-without-charges/>



Nigeria: Auchi

The Kaduna state government has proposed a law that would ban 'offensive' homilies, require state licensing of preachers, and ban street preaching under penalty of 2 years' imprisonment

Rev Johnson Suleman (in a YouTube video accused Kaduna Gov El-Rufai of using the bill to intimidate Christians)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/05/bill-in-kaduna-state-nigeria-would-criminalize-street-evangelism-offensive-preaching-clergy-say/>



Ivory Coast: Grand-Bassam

Fr Armand Zanou (described the beachside terror attack "We had started a procession outside our church around noon. At about 1pm we heard the first shots of firearms and soon after we saw several people run away from the beach and come towards us. We asked them what was happening and they told us that gunmen were firing on people. While the noise of the shooting intensified, the number of those who sought refuge at the Cathedral increased. Later, after about an hour, the special military forces arrived and brought about fifty hostages who were freed from the attacked resort. They protected us until the area was declared safe, at around 7:30 pm...The shooting of the terrorists followed by the clash with the army lasted about 45 minutes, maybe an hour. The exchange of gunfire was very violent. All the people who sought refuge in the presbytery of the church threw themselves on the floor. We had three groups of people who sought refuge in the presbytery: the parishioners who were there for our activities and were blocked by the

events, the first wave of holidaymakers who escaped from the terrorists and the third group, made up of hostages freed by special forces who were brought in the church. In total about one hundred people including Ivorians, French, Belgian, Lebanese and other nationalities. There were also several children")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/59634->

[AFRICA IVORY COAST Assault in Grand Bassam a hundred people take refuge in the cathedral the testimony of the pastor#.VueGncIUUfg](#)



United Kingdom: Kings Lynn

Nissar Hussain (convert; **UPDATE:** shared the story of his persecution at the hands of British Muslims with The Branch Christian Fellowship)

David Bizley (leader at The Branch Christian Fellowship, said "It is perhaps easier for us to pray and send money to organizations that are ministering to our brothers and sisters away from our direct view, it takes a level of courage though for Christians in the UK to stand up for persecuted brethren right on our doorstep")

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/christians-in-kings-lynn-pray-for-peace-after-moving-wake-up-call-of-increasing-persecution-in-uk>

Monday March 14, 2016



India

Cardinal Oswald Gracias (**UPDATE:** has relaunched the web site www.release7innocents.com to secure the release of seven Christians falsely accused of the 2008 murder of Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati, which led to the Kandhamal pogrom in which nearly 100 Christians were killed)

Bijay Kumar Sanseth (**UPDATE:** still imprisoned)

Gornath Chalanseth (**UPDATE:** still imprisoned)

Durjo Sunamajhi (**UPDATE:** still imprisoned)

Bhaskar Sunamajhi (**UPDATE:** still imprisoned)

Budhadeb Nayak (**UPDATE:** still imprisoned)

Munda Badamaji (**UPDATE:** still imprisoned)

Sanatan Badamajhi (**UPDATE**: still imprisoned)

http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2016/03/15/card_gracias_launches_website_for_kandhamals_innocents/1215562



Sudan: North Khartoum

Pastor Philemon Hassan (worship music composer, arrested without charge on [March 14, 2016](#), released that night, **UPDATE**: rearrested by the NISS secret police, whereabouts unknown)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/03/pastor-in-north-khartoum-sudan-arrested-without-charges/>



Belarus

Bishop Sergei Tsvor (said his church has no plans to apply for a radio broadcast license as it knows it is impossible to be granted)

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

Tuesday March 15, 2016



Pakistan: Youhanabad, Lahore, Punjab province

Qaisor Pervez (church security volunteer, husband of Samina, father of Sitiash and Cornelius, cousin of Wilson Chowdhry, 85% of his body burned in the [March 15, 2015](#) terror attacks, in a coma, several bones broken, teeth shattered, vision affected, coma lifted prior to [June 16, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: said at an ecumenical memorial service for the first anniversary of the terror attacks on the Anglican and Catholic churches that was attended by thousands "I thank God for this day, where he has placed Muslims and Christians together talking about peace and unity. This attack was the most traumatic event that I believe my family will ever have to go through. God saved me through a miracle and my love for Him has grown through the knowledge of His commitment. I am praying that one day all the people of Pakistan can live together without violence")

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/mourners-remember-the-victims-of-lahore-bombing-1-year-ago>



Iraq

Yacoob Gewargis (Member of the Kurdistan Parliament, reported to have said "The American delay in officially declaring what has happened to the Christians officially as genocide, or mass extermination and systematic persecution has caused a huge disappointment among the Christians. They have waited a long time for the international community, especially America, to declare this so that they can be supported and protected in their own country")

Martin Alqas (refugee, reported to have said "My feeling is utter disappointment that the West has left us, everybody has left us. The West, with all its advanced technology, can finish ISIL. But they are delaying that due to political purposes which are unknown to us. We as Christians, and other minorities in Iraq, are facing extinction and we are paying the price")

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2016/03/14/iraqs-christians-frustrated-by-us-debate-over-genocide.html>

Wednesday March 16, 2016



Pakistan: Peshawar

Cecil Shane Chaudhry (**UPDATE**: condemned the bombing of a bus that killed 16 and wounded 30 "We condemn the latest terrorist attack. All the victims were government employees. This is the reaction to recent positive steps taken by the State")

Rev Jaffrey Samuel (concerned after the bombing of a bus that killed 16 and wounded 30 "Peace for us is limited to short intervals between bombings. Whenever we put faith in law and order, tragic incidents like these wreck our nerves. Apparently, the Taliban do not want peace talks anymore and we should prepare for war...Life is tough for Christian pastors and priests. Our biggest challenge is to organize safe Sunday prayers and church activities. My church is located in an army cantonment but the area is usually sealed. Our sermons usually carry a message of encouragement to heed the Gospel without fear")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Pakistan%E2%80%99s-Catholic-Church-condemns-attack-against-bus-carrying-government-employees-36966.html>



Kazakhstan

Pastor Manarbek Baieke (author of "The History of Christianity in Central Asia and Kazakhstan", book declared 'extremist' and banned by the KNB secret police in [Astana](#) on [February 15, 2016](#), **UPDATE**: said "I knew nothing about the case until the court decision came into force on March 15, 2016. The court authorities did not inform me. So I have not been given the chance to appeal", added that the book "does not even contain a hint of extremism. They concocted all this out of thin air. They accused me in a one-sided way without the chance to respond", expressed fears that the ban may lead to his arrest)

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



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 on [February 25, 2016](#) by a man who said the rape was in retribution for leaving Islam; **UPDATE**: fled from her home with her children after receiving texted death threats, in hiding)

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



Guatemala: Quiche region

Pastor Juan Saturnino Guachiac (widower, father of four adult children, **shot dead** in an apparent assassination)

Bishop Otoniel Collins (said "He was an outstanding leader. We were supporting him for even a greater leadership, but violence took him away from us. We feel helpless and vulnerable in the face of the unstoppable violence that has taken hold of our country")

<http://www.charismanews.com/world/55942-prominent-church-of-god-pastor-assassinated>

Thursday March 17, 2016



Russia: Birobidzhan, Jewish Autonomous Region

A E Shinder (fined US\$33 for possession of banned religious literature)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2287

Friday March 18, 2016



Syria: Damascus

Patriarch Gregorios III Laham (aged 82, said of the U.S. State Department declaration of genocide "it is a wrong approach because now is a time to work for peace and coexistence, not generate even more divisions...[that create] animosity between groups, Sunnis vs Shias, Christians vs Muslims...We must avoid labelling religion as a cause of war. Military interventions as well as economic and political interests are the cause of wars, while religions are exploited as a tool and a pretext")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Responding-to-Kerry,-Patriarch-Laham-says-war-is-taking-place-in-Syria,-not-genocide-36989.html>



United Kingdom: London

Bishop Angaelos (UK resident, Egyptian national, wrote "We have received very welcomed but unexpected news today from the United States of America, through Secretary of State John Kerry, acknowledging that ISIL 'is responsible for genocide against groups in areas under its control including Yazidis, Christians and Shiite Muslims'...This announcement has come after individuals and organizations in the United States, some of which I have personally worked with, have advocated tirelessly to shed light on this important issue of human suffering and the violation of human dignity...This is a significant step, that follows the European Union recognition of Genocide, that I hope will encourage Her Majesty's Government to also recognize these unacceptable acts of Genocide against vulnerable communities in the Middle East)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/?p=46502>

Saturday March 19, 2016



Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan

Remi Marzina Momic (seminarian, refugee, had been injured along with his sister in a bus bombing in 2010, at his request will be ordained to the diaconate in a refugee camp, three other refugee seminarians have joined in the request)

http://www.angelusnews.com/news/world/these-seminarians-are-being-ordained-in-a-refugee-camp-10364/#.Vuy_ocIUUfg

Sunday March 20, 2016



India: Sabli village, Rajasthan state

Pastor Sumati Prakash Kharadia (attacked by a mob of 25 Hindu extremists, hospitalized with multiple fractures)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/59698-ASIA_INDIA_Protestant_Pastor_attacked_in_Rajasthan#.VvNSzsIUUfg



Pakistan: Burj Mahalam Chak No.35, Pattoki

Fouzia Sadiq (aged 31, wife, mother of Muqadas, Saniya, and Sahil, abducted by her employer on [July 23, 2015](#) and forcibly married and converted to Islam; escaped from her abductor on [February 8, 2016](#), in hiding; **UPDATE**: recaptured by her abductor when she went to her mother's home to celebrate Palm Sunday)

Pakistan: Jhang

Asif Manawer (described how local officials drained a sewer line into a 40 foot deep pit next to a Christian ghetto of 540 families with over 4,000 residents, several residents have become ill and moved, alleged that the draining was done to force Christians to move from land that is rising in value)

Pastor Naveed Akhtar (expressed concern that adults travelling in the dark and children could fall into the sewage pool, said "Our church building is extremely close to the effluent pool. During heavy rain and considering the growing depth of the water we are fearful that our church will become water logged and contaminated. I believe this act of hatred was intentional and that local officials are planning to forcibly vacate the land so that it can be used by developers and Christians are removed from close to the Muslim city. We residents however will stand against this injustice. We are equal citizens of the country and our quality of life should be restored")

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5846>

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/Christians-flushed-out-by-local-authority-in-sewage-scandal>



Congo, Democratic Republic: Katwiguru

Fr Jonas CRM (shot in the right arm, leg, and spine in a roadside ambush by suspected FDLR guerrillas while on his way to Mass, hospitalized, driver and another passenger also hit)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/59680->

[AFRICA DR CONGO Adorno father seriously injured in a road ambush in the north east#.VvCrFcIUUfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/59680-)



Cuba: Taguayabon, Villa Clara Province

Mario Felix Leonart Barroso (husband of Yoaxis Marcheco Suarez; **UPDATE**: arrested just hours before the arrival of U.S. President Barack Obama, denied food and water, had been stabbed with a pin on public transport earlier in the week, later developed jaundice and a distended stomach)

Yoaxis Marcheco Suarez (wife of Mario Felix Leonart Barroso; **UPDATE**: placed under house arrest with their children)

<http://www.csw.org.uk/2016/03/21/news/3029/article.htm>

Monday March 21, 2016



Indonesia: Larantuka, East Flores district, East Nusa Tenggara province

Bishop Franciscus Kopong Kung (reported to have welcomed increased police security for Holy Week)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/authorities-tighten-security-for-holy-week-in-east-flores/75538>



China: Henan province

Fr Joseph Lu (led a protest of 300 Christians over the March 17, 2016 beating of a nun, the nun had been photographing church property that had been seized during the Cultural Revolution, also demanded the return of the property)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/chinese-catholics-seek-return-of-confiscated-compound/75580>



Sudan: Omdurman

Pastor Ayoub Tilian (arrested, released, ordered to appear at the NISS secret police, questioned about statements at a pastoral meeting in Ethiopia concerning persecution in Sudan)

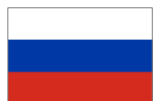
<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/03/authorities-in-khartoum-sudan-arrest-another-church-leader/>



Egypt: Minya

Michael (aged 8, student, leg fractured in more than one location by his teacher, hospitalized)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1601&A=22731>



Russia: Kez, Udmurt Republic

V V Vasilyev (fined US\$15 for possession of banned religious literature)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2287



Congo, Democratic Republic: Vitungwe-Isale village, North Kivu province

Fr Vincent Machozi Karunzu AA (aged 51, fled to the United States in 2003 following death threats; **UPDATE: shot dead** by Congolese armed forces soldiers days after he had posted documentation of atrocities and massacres linked to the Congolese and Rwandan governments, last words were “Why are you killing me?”, had predicted his murder in October 2015)

Fr Emmanuel Kahindo AA (reported on the murder of Fr Vincent Machozi Karunzu)

<http://www.assumption.us/news/1360-congolese-assumptionist-priest-murdered-in-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo>

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/gunmen-kill-congolese-priest-who-reported-on-atrocities-24672/>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/59691->

[AFRICA DR CONGO Assumptionist priest who denounced the exploitation of Coltan to the detriment of local populations has been killed#.VvH4o8IUUfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/59691-)



Nigeria: along the Kaduna-Abuja Highway, Kaduna

Church prayer camp attacked by gunmen, church leaders abducted, ransoms demanded)

Rev Dr Emmanuel Dzigau (president of the church, abducted)

Rev Iliya Anto (deputy president of the church, abducted, released due to illness)

Rev Yakubu Dzarma (retired church leader, abducted)

Rev Jibrailu Wobiya (church general secretary, escaped during the attack with other church members, said “We were all holding a prayer meeting at the prayer camp located along the Kaduna-Abuja Highway in the city of Kaduna. We were working on the camp site in preparation for our forthcoming church conference when the kidnappers invaded the place and began shooting into the air”)

Rev Moses Ebuga (said “The kidnappers have contacted me, being the general secretary of TEKAN, about the two pastors they are holding captive, and they are demanding that we pay them a ransom of 100 million naira [US\$502,476]. Where are we going to get that kind of money?”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/03/pastors-kidnapped-in-kaduna-state-nigeria/>

Tuesday March 22, 2016



Bangladesh: Kurigram

Ali Hossain Sarkar (aged 68, convert from Islam, **stabbed to death** by three people on a motorcycle)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Muslim-convert-to-Christianity-slaughtered-37014.html>



Uzbekistan: Gullanbog, Yangiaryk district, Khorezm region

Gulnara Rahimov (wife of Oybek Rahimov, home raided during a **February 17, 2016** worship service, all present were questioned at the police station for 3 hours, **UPDATE**: fined 10 times the monthly minimum wage, husband also fined although he was not a member of her church)

Uzbekistan: Okdarya district, Samarkand region

Christians in an unregistered church were fined for storing religious materials and for unauthorized religious education

Malika Khidirova (home raided by police on **February 7, 2016**, Bible and New Testament seized; **UPDATE**: fined US\$900)

Munis Oblakulov (fined US\$2,700)

Sanobar Aripova (fined US\$450)

Khudoyor Muhamadiyev (fined US\$450)

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

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



Russia: Yakutsk

N N Golchenko (fined US\$26 in **Mirny, Sakha Republic** on **January 12, 2016** for distribution of banned religious literature; **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2287



Belgium: Brussels

Fr Michel Gaillard (Brussels Airport chaplain, later said of the terror bombing “Most of those affected here were common, simple people, catching planes for holidays, to visit family members over Easter or to do their jobs”)

Rocky Gathright (missionary, U.S. citizen, had dropped off a friend at the airport just before the Islamic terror bombing, tended to the wounded)

Richard Norby (aged 66, missionary, U.S. citizen, injured in the airport Islamic terror bombing, hospitalized with leg injuries and second degree burns)

Joseph Empey (aged 20, missionary, U.S. citizen, injured in the airport Islamic terror bombing, hospitalized with leg injuries and second degree burns)

Mason Wells (aged 19, missionary, U.S. citizen, injured in the airport Islamic terror bombing, hospitalized with a foot injury)

Fanny Rachel Clain (aged 20, missionary, French citizen, injured in the airport terror bombing, not hospitalized)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/03/24/airport-chaplain-struck-by-profound-humanity-after-brussels-blasts/>

<http://www.charismanews.com/world/56028-missionary-survives-brussels-blast-ministers-to-victims>

<http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/brussels-attacks/mormon-missionaries-utah-among-belgian-bombing-survivors-n543446>



United Kingdom: London

Lord David Alton (human rights advocate; **UPDATE:** responded to the House of Lords voting down 148 to 111 an Immigration Bill amendment which would have required a High Court judge to rule whether ISIL has been committing genocide “It was disappointing that both the Government and Opposition declined to respond to the powerful calls made from around the Chamber. This was a day when Britain neither salved its conscience or offered practical help but chose to look the other way...When historians come to consider the lamentable failure of both parliament and government to speak and act they will surely conclude that we failed to recognize the crime above all crimes”)

<http://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/03/22/house-of-lords-blocks-move-to-have-isis-atrocities-declared-genocide/>

Wednesday March 23, 2016



China

Zhang Kai (civil rights attorney; disappeared in [Wenzhou, Zhejiang province](#) on [August 25, 2015](#); appeared on Chinese television on [February 26, 2016](#) 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"; **UPDATE:** reported to have been released from the 'black jail', has returned to his parents' home)

China: Guiyang, Guizhou province

Pastor Li Guozhi aka Yang Hua; **UPDATE:** finally allowed to meet with his attorneys in jail, said he had lost weight but has not been tortured, was repeatedly told by government officials "We know we cannot change your beliefs. However, we control everything and can completely succeed in painting you as a greedy pastor, causing you to lose all of your reputation")

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/03/christian-today-china-christian-lawyer.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/03/lawyers-for-detained-pastor-allowed-to.html>



Azerbaijan: Gakh

Givi Khusishvili (home raided by police during a worship service, 56 attendees detained for hours, religious items including Bibles seized)

Gulbahar Guliyeva (detained during the police raid on the home of Givi Khusishvili, case proceeding)

Konul Guliyeva (detained during the police raid on the home of Givi Khusishvili, case proceeding)

Yevdokiya Sobko (**UPDATE:** detained during the police raid on the home of Givi Khusishvili, case proceeding)

Vagif Aliyev (**UPDATE:** detained during the police raid on the home of Givi Khusishvili, case proceeding)

Matanat Qurbanova (**UPDATE:** detained during the police raid on the home of Givi Khusishvili, case proceeding)

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



Syria: Hassake

Archbishop Jacques Behnan Hindo (**UPDATE**: spoke on the recent ISIL terror attacks in Europe: "Although several European leaders until recently had the fall of the government of Assad as the main geopolitical goal, they also aimed at accrediting the jihadist militia of al-Nusra Front [an al-Qaeda affiliate] as 'moderate Muslims'...European leaders, and the entire West have maintained for decades the preferential axis with Saudi Arabia and the emirates of the Arabian Peninsula. In recent decades, they have ensured these Countries the possibility of financing the whole of Europe, and also in Belgium, the birth of a network of mosques where Wahhabism was preached, the ideology that poisons Islam and serves as the ideological basis for all jihadist groups. And all this happened because economic logic and billion dollar contracts with oil bosses prevailed: flows of money and resources...Europe on the issue of refugees chose to become hostage to Turkey. I understand the European difficulties, but I highlight that the IDPs [refugees] welcomed in Europe in 2015 do not exceed 0.2 percent of the population, while in a small Country like Lebanon their share now corresponds to half of the local population. I understand the tears of the European Commissioner for Foreign Policy. But I want to point out that for 5 years thousands of Syrian Muslims and Christians, men women and children have been killed. And there are no tears for them...unfortunately innocent people [in Paris and Brussels] reap what European powers have sown in Syria and Iraq in the last few years")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/59702->

[ASIA SYRIA Syrian Archbishop on the massacres in Brussels unfortunately Europe is reaping what has been sown in Syria and Iraq#.VvNUzcIUUfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/59702-)



Egypt: Suez

Gergis Fawzy (reported to have been arrested on blasphemy charges)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1602&A=22769>

Thursday March 24, 2016



Malaysia: Putrajaya

Victoria Jayaseele Martin (attorney, appeal to be allowed to practice Islamic law before the country's sharia courts denied by the Supreme Court in violation of Parliament's intention that non-Muslims be allowed)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/03/christian-lawyer-in-malaysia-loses-appeal-to-practice-in-sharia-courts/>



Vietnam: Hanoi

Nguyen Huu Vinh (aged 60, former police officer, arrested in May 2014 on 'abuses of freedom and democracy' and 'violating State interests' charges; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hanoi:-Catholic-blogger-sentenced-to-five-years-for-defamation-of-the-Party-37035.html>



India: Karoate village, Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Ram Prakash (aged 52, hut attacked by 25 Hindu radicals on [March 9, 2016](#), ordered to leave the village, threatened with loss of his land, brother and sister-in-law beaten, hut set afire, roof and furnishings destroyed, brother hospitalized; **UPDATE**: chased by Hindu radicals on three motorcycles, run off the road, leg injured when he fell off his motorcycle, beaten, hospitalized)

Pastor Santosh Kumar (said of Pastor Ram Prakash's attackers "The accusation they levied against the pastor is completely untrue")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/04/hindu-extremists-on-motorcycles-chase-down-pastor-in-northern-india/>



Pakistan: Changa Manga, Punjab province

Nabila Bibi (fiancée of Sajid Masih, daughter of Bashir Masih, abducted one month before her wedding, forced to convert to Islam and to marry a Muslim on or before [October 16, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: reported to have been returned to her family through legal action, said under questioning "I have strong faith that Jesus is Alive and He died for our sins, I have no faith in Islam")

Rev Saleem Masih (assisted the recovery of Nabila Bibi from her abductor)

Pakistan: Pakpattan, Punjab province

Chaudhry Javed (attorney, published a report showing that a municipal sanitation department is composed of 60 Christians and 80 Muslim "ghost" [no-show] employees, the Muslims are paid a higher hourly wage)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5851>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5852>



Kazakhstan: Arkalyk, Kostanai region

David Leven (charged by police in [Arkalyk, Kostanai region](#) on [September 11, 2015](#) after distributing religious material; ; **UPDATE**: acquitted)

Gennadi Zhirov (arrested in [Arkalyk, Kostanai region](#) on [September 10, 2015](#) for distributing religious literature, released after 5 hours of questioning, literature seized; charged by police on [September 11, 2015](#) after distributing more religious material; **UPDATE**: fined US\$252)

Yuri Bekker (arrested in [Arkalyk, Kostanai region](#) on [September 10, 2015](#) for distributing religious literature, released after 5 hours of questioning, literature seized; charged by police on [September 11, 2015](#) after distributing more religious material; **UPDATE**: fined US\$252)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2176



Nigeria: Ancha Gida, Ancha district, Ninzo chiefdom, Kaduna state

Mr Daniel (**shot dead** by suspected Fulani gunmen)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/05/bill-in-kaduna-state-nigeria-would-criminalize-street-evangelism-offensive-preaching-clergy-say/>

Friday March 25, 2016



Kazakhstan: Almaty

Pastor Maxim Maximov (**UPDATE:** U.S. resident, wrote of KNB secret police raids on five church owned buildings and the homes of 6 pastors and church workers including his own, and the seizure of 54 computers and US\$276)

Pastor Sergei Zaikin (home raided)

Pastor Vadim Martynov (home raided)

Pastor Erkin Nurmanov (home raided)

Pastor Natalya Nefedova (home raided)

Pastor Larissa Maximova (home raided)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2163

Saturday March 26, 2016



Pakistan

Abrar Younas (union leader, said “Despite the government’s decision authorizing Christians to have time off at Easter, the Faisalabad Waste Management Company has required that Christian sanitary workers work on Good Friday and Easter Monday. This is discrimination against poor sanitary workers”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Some-but-not-all-Pakistani-Christians-can-celebrate-Easter-37054.html>



Russia: Moscow

Two Christians were investigated beginning in [April 2013](#) for 'incitement of hatred'; acquitted in [Sergiyev Posad, Moscow region](#) on [March 4, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** acquittal overturned

Vyacheslav Yuryevich Stepanov (aged 39)

Andrei Petrovich Sivak (aged 41)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2290

Sunday March 27, 2016

Easter [Pascha] – Western Calendar



Pakistan: Lahore

A suicide bomber attacked children's carnival rides in a public park killing 78 and injuring 350, the terrorist group claimed it was targeting Christians

Annie (wife of Falak Sher, married for six weeks, **killed**)

Wasif Masih (young man, **killed**)

Naveed Ashraf (aged 21, married four months, **killed**)

Waqar Masih (aged 16, son of Parvaiz Masih, **killed**)

Sahil Rehmat (aged 10, son of Rehmat Masih, **killed**)

Somal Tariq (aged 12, daughter of Tariq Masih, **killed**)

Sahil Masih (aged 17, son of Parvaiz Masih, **killed**)

Sonum (9th grade student, **killed**)

Arroj (10th grade student, **killed**)

Junaid Masih (aged 16, son of Imran Masih, **killed**)

Salamat Masih (son of Yousaf Masih, **killed**)

Tahir Masih (son of Javed Masih, **killed**)

Wasif Amanat (aged 17, son of Amanat Masih and Zubaida Amanat, **killed**)

Sharoon Patras (aged 15, son of Patras Masih and Fouzia Patras, brother of Irfan Patras, **killed**)

John Masih (**killed** along with his family)

Amir Masih (son of Mungal Masih, **killed**)

Arsalan Masih (aged 18, son of Parvaiz Masih, **killed**)

Nauman Paul (aged 19, son of Paul Masih and Asia James, beautician apprentice, **killed**)

Rehmat Masih (daughter killed)

Sagar Masih (aged 17, son of Ashraf Masih, **killed**)

Aman John (aged 12, son of Sohail John, **killed**)

Shan Masih (aged 17, son of Mangal Masih, **killed**)

Tahir Masih (aged 19, son of Javed Masih, **killed**)

Adnan Masih (aged 17, son of Guddu and Samina, injured, hospitalized in critical condition with shrapnel in his brain, parents told he likely will not survive)

Tahira Gill (aged 55, nurse, mother of Zeeshan Gill, critically injured, hospitalized)

Irfan Patras (aged 17, son of Patras Masih and Fouzia Patras, brother of Sharoon Patras, injured, hospitalized in critical condition, said "I saw a bearded man who looked overweight. He suddenly started to shout loudly in Arabic I did not understand it all but knew it to be in Arabic. I and my friends knew what was going to happen next but it was too late for us to get far away, we started shouting to no avail the incendiary device around the man's waist was set off. We all fell down before the force of the blast it took a few moments for me to recover. I saw Sharoon had collapsed next to me he was badly injured. I helped get him into a rickshaw with other people in the area we also helped an unknown girl get into the same rickshaw. Everyone was intent on getting the injured to hospital so they could get treated quickly. I got into the rickshaw last I was injured and bleeding too and must have collapsed before I got to the hospital as my last memory is waking in the ward")

Kajal Shaukat (aged 17, lost her right eye, both legs fractured, said "A sudden flash of light, and everyone was on the ground. Soon after, I could not see anything anymore")

Zaeeshan Taj (aged 24, left arm burnt, both legs broken, one friend died, said "Every two weeks we played cricket in the park. That evening we were about to leave when the bomb exploded. For five seconds, all I saw was on fire...I tried to stand up after the explosion, but my legs were not working. I gave my phone to a passerby, who called my father. But then he left without giving me back my phone. I was helpless and hopeless")

Akash Masih (hospitalized with leg injuries)

Ashir Paul (aged 18, brother of Nauman Paul, seriously injured, hospitalized, inconsolable after informed of the death of his brother)

Shehzad Mehboob (hospitalized, sole survivor of his family)

Falak Sher (aged 26, husband of Annie, married for six weeks, hospitalized, widowed)

Husnain (had been leaving the children's park with his family, had been thrown to ground by the explosion, said "Fortunately none of us were injured badly but I remember feeling this sudden eruption of searing heat that quickly dissipated. In the ensuing panic children were separated from their families as they ran in a panic not knowing what to do. All I could hear was screaming and shouting people came to help the injured. Everyone was crying it was a very emotionally draining experience and all I can remember is all the dead people around me")

Arif Masih (a young Christian who was at the park with his family, said "There was blood and bodies everywhere, it was devastating, I almost fainted")

Asma Masih (cried "...my whole world has ended, the children insisted to come to the park to enjoy themselves, now I cannot find them, I have lost everything")

Ghulam Asghar (said "I was almost deafened, there were bodies everywhere. The deaths are more than the official toll. I was entering the park with my six kids when the explosion occurred")

Amanat Masih (had brought his 3 children and 2 nephews to the park, lost 2 sons and a nephew, wailed "We were just here to enjoy the weather and have a good evening. What kind of people target innocent people and little children in a park?")

Esther Murad (teacher, neighbors lost 4 family members and 3 young children, said “What a brutal end to Easter celebrations. Words cannot do justice to their pain”)

Parvaiz Masih (aged 48, father of Waqar and Nisha Masih, said “I don’t know when Waqar left and went to the park with friends. After he got injured he was taken up to Sheikh Zahid Hospital, from where he was shifted to the Mayo Hospital, but he succumbed to his injuries. Waqar was a Class-9 student at St. John’s School, Youhanabad. He dreamt of growing up and serving his country and the community”)

Nisha Parvaiz (aged 17, sister of Waqar Parvaiz, afraid now that he will not be walking her to school)

Patras Masih (aged 40, husband of Fouzia Patras, father of Irfan and Sharoon Patras, laborer)

Fouzia Patras (aged 32, wife of Patras Masih, mother of Irfan and Sharoon Patras, homemaker)

Amanat Masih (aged 45, husband of Zubaida Amanat, father of Wasif Amanat, government employee, said "These murderers have killed my son, for no other reason than his love for the true and living God. I know my son is in heaven today and I know that God will take care of him. He was a kind gentle boy who loved all people. I do not know why Muslim people hate Christians? We do them no harm. One day they will have to answer for their crimes before God they will then rue the crimes they committed")

Zubaida Amanat (aged 42, wife of Amanat Masih, mother of Wasif Amanat)

Guddu (aged 38, husband of Samina, father of Adnan Masih)

Samina (aged 35, wife of Guddu, mother of Adnan Masih)

Pari Paul (aged 17, said "Nauman was very caring I owe him so much. I cannot stop crying. I remember him how he was, young energetic and passionate - not the dead body that was shown to us after his murder. He was expecting so much on completion of his beautician course but will never experience the joy of a career he deserved. I will always miss him."

Paul Masih (aged 62, father of Nauman, Ashir, and Pari Paul, disabled)

Asia James (mother of Nauman, Ashir, and Pari Paul, said "He was forced to leave school early when his father became ill and for this he has struggled with so many difficult and painful jobs, but he never complained. He never gave up on life and was strong and resolute and always stayed optimistic he built up my confidence when I was down too. Nauman was very active with church and he loved his brother and both sisters more than anything, an example that they all have followed. I have failed my son, his life has been taken away before he could experience marriage and the joy that that brings and all he has known is hardship. I hope God will forgive me and that he will treasure my son who loved Him so much")

Kashif Suba (social activist, described the murder of his cousins Sahil Rehmat, Somal Tariq, and Sahil Masih “They [the parents] were looking at their children when the suicide bomber ripped through the crowd and blew himself up”)

Fr John Tanveer (said "Hearing the blast, I immediately ran to the place of the tragedy...Daytime in Pakistan is very hot and most families go for a walk with their children in the evening and that is when tragedy struck")

Fr Morris Jalal (**UPDATE:** said "many Christians were killed...Instead of difficult and hard targets [military barracks, etc.], the terrorists now aim at soft targets. They use suicide bombs to cause as many victims as possible as quickly as possible")

Fr Emmanuel Yousaf Mani (**UPDATE:** said "We are in a situation similar to that in Syria. The terrorists are followers of a religion of terror. They spare neither Christians nor Muslims. They think they have license to even kill families and children")

Fr Jamil Albert OFM (said "They did not target just one sect. Followers of all religions are crying with tears of blood")

Archbishop Sebastian Francis Shah OFM (**UPDATE:** said "I visited every bedside and every victim, of whatever faith. It was truly difficult because I saw so many children, only four or five, both Christians and Muslims, who had been wounded or killed by this terrible attack...There are no words to console a mother whose 4 and 6 year old children are seriously injured, while her husband and another son were killed. An authentic tragedy. Hope can only come from God...Another mother lost her two sons and her husband. She had come to Lahore from Sindh province, for Easter. She lost her entire family: she will go back home alone. Her life is no longer the same. How can you comfort her?...To my own faithful I said that they must not give up hope because, even though we were going through a period of grave difficulties, we have to learn to rise up again, just as Christ was able to raise himself again, despite carrying the Cross")

Peter Jacob (**UPDATE:** said that the park may also have been attacked because it was near the Prime Minister's family home "his brother Shahbaz Sharif lives here, hence we can't exclude the possibility that the attackers wanted in some way to send a warning to the authorities")

Naveed Aziz (**UPDATE:** began reporting from the crime scene)

Wilson Chowdhry (**UPDATE:** said in London, UK "This recent attack is a clear targeting of Christians during their Easter celebrations. Families celebrating the resurrection of their Lord and Savior have lost mothers and children as a consequence of this depraved violence. The bomb attack happened on the same day that thousands of 'average' Muslims marched through Islamabad incensed by the judicial hanging of Mumtaz Qadri, murderer of Governor Salman Taseer an advocate for minorities in Pakistan. The majority of Muslims in Pakistan believe he is an Islamic martyr and national hero for killing a man who stood for Christians and other minorities. I am sure that this growing hatred of minorities in the wake of Mr Qadri's death was a trigger for today's blast, one that we predicted and called on Pakistan's government to protect Christians during this tenuous period. Pakistan is not safe for Christians as there is a genocide taking place there. Not a genocide that is state sponsored in it's entirety but a genocide nevertheless. Unless western governments wake up to this problem the death toll for Christians living there is set to rise exponentially")

Juliet Chowdhry (Trustee of the British Pakistani Christian Association, lost 13 family members in the [September 22, 2013 Peshawar](#) church bombing, two cousins killed in the Lahore bombing, said in London UK "The evil men that planned this event need to be caught and punished. My family grows smaller year by year while the world looks on and does nothing. God will bring rest to the weary souls who have lost their lives and I take solace

in knowing that he will care for my family members in a place they will not be discriminated against or persecuted. I will weep for them now but one day God will restore my joy")

<http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1459290844.html>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/03/taliban-splinter-group-in-pakistan-targets-christians-in-easter-suicide-bombing/>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Taliban-in-Lahore:-We-wanted-to-kill-Christians.-But-victims-include-Muslim-women-and-children-37059.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Survivors-of-Lahore-attack:-A-sudden-flash-of-light-and-then-flames-everywhere-37084.html>

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/Bomb-Blast-Devastates-Lahore-Easter-Celebrations-Death-Toll-50-and-Rising>

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/mother-weeps-as-she-buries-19-year-old-breadwinner-son-after-heartless-suicide-bomb-attack>

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/gulshan-e-iqbal-park-blast-outcome-another-christian-succumbs-to-critical-injuries/#comments>

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2016/03/31/pakistan-christians-bury-their-dead-after-easter-massacre/>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5860>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/church-condemns-easter-bomb-attack-in-lahore/75587>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/pakistan-mourns-lahore-park-massacre-victims/75598>



Kazakhstan: Alamty

Pastor Sergei Zaikin (home raided by the KNB secret police on [March 25, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** allowed to leave the country on a pre- scheduled trip)

Pastor Larissa Maximova (home raided by the KNB secret police on [March 25, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** allowed leave to the country on a pre- scheduled trip)

Pastor Vadim Martynov (home raided by the KNB secret police on [March 25, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** prevented from leaving the country on a pre-scheduled trip with Pastor Ivan Kryukov)

Pastor Ivan Kryukov (accompanied by Pastor Vadim Martynov when he attempted to drive to a church meeting in Kyrgyzstan, elected to not leave the country and remained with Pastor Vadim until he was released)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2163



Iraq: Alqosh

Fr Ghazwan Yousif Baho (**UPDATE**: celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus with his parishioners, said "Yes, we are celebrating today in Alqosh and we are only 15 kilometers away from the frontlines of the war. But we tried to show that we are far from the war, because we have hope and we ask God to save us and everyone else from wars, especially in our areas")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20160327140111.htm>



Syria: Tel Tamar

Mariam Dawod Talia (abducted by ISIL from [Tal-Shameran village](#) on [February 23, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: released)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/?p=46628>



Egypt: Cairo

Amal Shaky (aged 19, daughter of Zakaria, college student, abducted on [April 4, 2011](#); freed on [April 20, 2011](#); **UPDATE**: disappeared on her way to class, police refused to file a report and accused her father of having killed her)

Zakaria (father of Amal Shaky)

<http://www.persecution.org/2016/06/12/wave-of-kidnappings-rock-upper-egypts-christian-community-part-4/>

Monday March 28, 2016



Uzbekistan: Fergana

Pastor Latifahon Mamazhanov (home illegally searched by police on [March 12, 2016](#), arrested, whereabouts unknown, sentenced to 15 days' imprisonment for 'not submitting to authorities'; **UPDATE**: released, had been held in a cell designed for two with seven others, fed poor food once a day, cell contained lice and bedbugs, two prisoners with tuberculosis were deliberately placed in the cell)

Murot Turdiyev (drove to the prosecutor's office on [March 12, 2016](#) to protest the arrest of Pastor Latifahon Mamazhanov, denied entry to the office by police, automobile seized for

unspecified traffic violations; **UPDATE**: tried on charges of 'failure to carry out the lawful demands of a police officer or other persons carrying out duties to guard public order', court issued him a warning, automobile returned, police cut the electricity to his home while he was on trial and spoiled food in his refrigerator worth US\$37)

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

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2182



Germany

Fr Dale Johnson (aged 65, abducted in 1991 in Iraq, released after 3 days; abducted in Iraq in 1995, released after 4 months; **UPDATE**: now working with refugees, said "I am constantly amazed at how tough they are, and yet as I interview them, they often admit to having nightmares. They are wounded, physically and spiritually, and are carrying with them suffering that isn't visible on the surface...What I can provide is prayer in their own language that they learned as children, and liturgical movements that are familiar to them. All this brings healing")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20160328134424.htm>



Mexico: La Chachalaca village, Santiago Camotlan municipality, Villa Alta region, Oaxaca state

Lauro Nunez Perez (reported on September 14, 2015 to have been detained three times since July 2015 for refusing to convert to traditionalist [syncretic] Catholicism, fears that leaving his home will result in another arrest, officials refuse to register his children for school; **UPDATE**: beaten and imprisoned by a mob after entering the village to visit his mother, two others who protested the attack were also imprisoned, his mother's home was then attacked and all her possessions destroyed)

<http://www.persecution.org/2016/03/29/expelled-christian-minority-brutally-beaten-by-mob-and-incarcerated-while-returning-to-visit-family-in-oaxaca-mexico/>

Tuesday March 29, 2016



Pakistan: Jaranwala, Punjab province

Naveed Rafique (aged 13, prevented from taking an Islamic Studies exam because as a Christian he could not say certain Islamic prayers)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/a-christian-schoolboy-not-allowed-to-sit-for-an-exam-of-islamic-studies/>



Iraq: west Bagdad

Fr Muyessir al-Mukhalisi (said his people were "threatened with extinction...This is a harsh word but every day we are being depleted. Our people are travelling, migrating")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20160329154854.htm>



Nigeria: Bayelsa state

Ese Rita Oruru (aged 13, abducted on [August 12, 2015](#) and forcibly married and converted to Islam; **UPDATE**: freed, pregnant)

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

Wednesday March 30, 2016



Ukraine: Pticha village, Rivne region

Archpriest Anatoly Bogdanov (described the actions of members of the Kiev Patriarchate who locked members of the Moscow Patriarchate in their church without food and water)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/92244.htm>



Nigeria

Rev Dr Emmanuel Dzigau (president of the church, abducted on [March 21, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: released)

Rev Iliya Anto (deputy president of the church, abducted on [March 21, 2016](#), released due to illness; **UPDATE**: had been released into the wild, **died**)

Rev Yakubu Dzarma (retired church leader, abducted on [March 21, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: released)
<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/04/one-kidnapped-pastor-in-nigeria-dead-two-others-released/>



Uruguay: Canelones

Bishop Alberto Sanguinetti (aged 70, wrote concerning government opposition to the erection of a statue of the Blessed Virgin "In Uruguay 'secularism' has been used as a weapon to exclude religion from public life. Secularism has been used by some groups against religion that brings together a large part of the population, the Catholic religion, to obstruct the Catholic presence in the life of the country")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/59704-AMERICA_URUGUAY_Secularism_to_obstruct_the_Catholic_presence_in_the_life_of_the_country#.Vv9PI8IUUfg

Thursday March 31, 2016



China: Hangzhou, Zhejiang province

Senior Pastor Joseph 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; was reported on [February 3, 2016](#) to have been arrested on embezzlement and corruption charges, sent to a black jail, had written that his church had been experiencing “unprecedented, chilling trials. Everyone must equally rely on the Lord’s grace to confront [this trial] and triumph over it”; **UPDATE**: released, placed under travel and meeting restrictions)

Date: [March 31, 2016](#)

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/04/authorities-place-new-restrictions-on.html>



United Kingdom

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns; **UPDATE:** described how a former Muslim has been banned by court order from taking his 9 year old son to church, said "This is a form of judicial bullying. The wife is abusing the law to coerce and silence a father's right to determine his son's religious education and experience. There is a general tendency with the judicial system to avoid upsetting Islam, a willingness to suppress the Christian faith and punish those who practice it...This would not have happened the other way around. If a Christian parent was trying to deny a child access to a mosque, there would be a huge outcry and claims of Islamophobia")

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/islam/father-banned-from-taking-son-to-church>



Venezuela: San Cristobal

Fr Darwin Antonio Zambrano Gamez (aged 38, **found dead**, had been beaten and stabbed)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/59723-AMERICA_VENEZUELA_Priest_found_dead_in_San_Cristobal#.Vv9RLsIUUfg



Chile: Quepe, Freire municipality, Araucania region

Churches built by the Mapuche people have been destroyed by a Mapuche succession movement

Bishop Hector Eduardo Vargas SDB (said after the arson attack on a chapel "On the one hand there is a historical debt with the Mapuche people. On the other hand, acts of violence increase and spread, with all the problems that this entails")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/59748#.VxH74sIUUfh>

March 2016, date unknown



Iran: Rajai Shahr Prison, Karaj

Ebrahim Firouzi (aged 31; **UPDATE**: exhorted fellow prisoners in the [last week of March 2016](#) “If you are courageous in God’s way, God’s grace will be with you. Do not fear what you are doing, and raise the banner of Jesus in the name of God...If you want to do good to others, who can harm you?...Keep your conscience clean so that people will be ashamed if they cause you harm. If it is God’s will that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing good”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/04/amid-crackdown-prisoner-in-iran-encourages-faithful-to-stand-strong/>



Ethiopia: Addis Ababa

Workitu (aged 50-plus, mother of Mustafa and Kedir, convert from Islam, **beaten to death** by her husband and another man)

Mustafa (son of Workitu, converted to Christianity after his mother's murder)

Kedir (son of Workitu, converted to Christianity after his mother's murder)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/muslim-brothers-turn-christ-watching-slain-mother-beaten-converting-christianity-162597/>



Turkey: Diyarbakir

Six churches have been expropriated by the government in [late March 2016](#)

Gafur Turkay (convert [family had accepted Islam during the Armenian genocide to survive], said the government has not said when the churches will be returned)

Fr Yusuf Akbulut (church attacked with rocket propelled grenades during a [January 28, 2016](#) 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; **UPDATE**: has been negotiating for the return of his 1,700 year old church)

Pastor Ahmet Guvener (convert; **UPDATE**: has been considering suing the government to recover his church, said “The government didn’t take over these pieces of property in order to protect them. They did so to acquire them”, also complained of the expropriation being done while the country has been building taxpayer-funded mosques in the United States)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/04/4392638/>

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