

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – April 2016

Friday April 1, 2016



Philippines: Kidapawan, Cotabato province

Bishop Ciriaco Francisco (threatened with legal action including church closures for 'harboring' illegal demonstrators, the demonstrators were farmers who had blocked a highway to ask for government aid to survive a drought, also condemned the use of live ammunition on the farmers)

Bishop Ephraim Fajutagana (called on clergy to "open cathedrals and churches to shelter farmers who suffer state persecution")

Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Soncuaco Pabillo (**UPDATE**: called for those who used force to disperse the farmers to be punished)

Fr Edu Gariguez (later said "If real justice should be served, those found guilty should be penalized")

Sr Susan Bolanio (later said she did not agree with the blocking of the highway but "the violence that erupted must be thoroughly investigated")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/philippine-church-threatened-for-harboring-protesters/75664>
<http://www.ucanews.com/news/religious-order-chiefs-urge-solidarity-with-hungry-farmers/75688>



India

Gornath Chalanseth (father of four, as of [December 19, 2012](#) was still in [Orissa state prison](#) after four years, falsely accused of the murder of Hindu leader Laxamananda Saraswati; convicted on [September 30, 2013](#) and sentenced to life imprisonment; **UPDATE**: reported to have been granted bail)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/03/4383286/>

Saturday April 2, 2016



China: Yujiang

Bishop Emeritus Thomas Zeng Jingmu OP (aged 96, **died after suffering a fall and injuring his head**, hospitalized but denied visitors, had spent a total of 23 years in prison)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Chinese-Church-mourns-passing-of-Mgr-Zeng-Jing-Mu,-a-true-witness-of-Christ-37120.html>



Kenya

Leonard Rotich (survivor of the [April 2, 2015](#) terror attack on [Garissa University College](#), said “I lost my closest friends in that attack and I never want to go back to Garissa University again. Many of those that died were the first in their family to go to university, only to return home in caskets. Most families are still traumatized”)

Kenya: Moi University, Eldoret

Christians and others commemorated with a candlelight service the first anniversary of the Garissa University College terror attack in which 147 were killed

James Kazungu (survivor, former Christian Union vice chairman, said “Lighting the candles is our show of love towards our heroes of faith as we reflect back on what happened. We also light the candles to acknowledge the sovereignty of God – He is our light”)

Purity (survivor, said “This time last year I was eight month pregnant and lying under a bed, not daring to move and begging God to save my baby. He did! Though I lay on my belly under the bed for 12 hours, my son survived. I named him Kiama [Miracle]”)

Margie (survivor, said of the murder of two dear friends “God showed me that indeed [they] went into eternal safety with Him in heaven...But I am sad because they left me here, alone”)

Victor (survivor, said “You never said goodbye, you were gone before I knew it...If love alone would have saved you, you never would have died”)

Pastor Boniface O Odhiambo (said “It is always hard to accept the will of God when something terrible and bigger occurs in our lives. Know this: God will remain God in every situation”)

<http://www.persecution.org/2016/04/06/one-year-after-garissa-suffering-kenyan-christians-can-teach-us-all-a-lesson-of-faith/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/03/4383144/>



Palestine: al-Khader

Metropolitan Swerios Malki Murad (arrested without charge, released on bail after a few hours)

Bishop Atallah Hanna (said the treatment of Metropolitan Swerios Malki Murad was "degrading, unjustified and unacceptable")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/59763->

[ASIA HOLY LAND The Syriac Orthodox Church the arrest of Metropolitan Swerios is offensive and humiliating#.VwcN-sIUUfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/59763-)



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 on [March 30, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: church members released after three days and replaced with volunteers)

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

Sunday April 3, 2016



China

Deacon Kim WonHo (South Korean citizen, husband, father and grandfather, disappeared, may have been abducted by North Korean agents)

<http://www.bosnewslife.com/36780-breaking-news-korean-christian-worker-feared-kidnapped-by-north-korea>



India: Kawardha district, Chhattisgarh state

Sajan K George (**UPDATE**: reported on a prayer meeting attack by Hindu extremists in which worshippers were threatened and Bibles seized)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/59752-ASIA_INDIA_Intrusion_during_a_Christian_assembly_faithful_threatened_Bibles_confiscated#.VwccgsIUUfh

Monday April 4, 2016



Nepal: Kathmandu

Pastor Chari Bahadur Gahatraj (**UPDATE**: reported to have criticized the government's repeal of Christmas as a legal holiday and its statement that Christian government employees will be granted leave, said "Christians do not just work for the government. If Christmas is not a national holiday, the workers of the private sector will not be able to celebrate it. The Government recognizes 83 festivities for Hindus and other communities, but none for Christians", also criticized a new anti-conversion law "Article 156 deliberately targets Christian priests by stating that the government may imprison Christian priests who perform conversions")

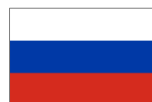
<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/-Nepal-cancels-Christmas-as-a-public-holiday;-Christians-retort-that-Hindus-have-83-37122.html>



Uganda: Kachomo village, Budaka district

Ntende Hawa (aged 38, convert from Islam, mother of four aged 10, 6, 4, and 2, attacked by her estranged husband with a machete, forced him to drop the machete, strangled, rescued by her brother-in-law, in hiding with her children, said "My marriage with him is now over. I cannot go back to Islam. The burden to raise up the children is on my shoulders. I need prayers at this difficult moment")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/04/muslim-in-uganda-attacks-threatens-to-kill-wife-for-becoming-christian/>



Russia: Gulkevichi, Krasnodar region

G M Rakhmanin (acquitted of charges of distributing banned religious literature)

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



United States – Virginia: Purcellville

Pastor Dave Janney (stabbed by his 19 year old son, hospitalized in stable condition)

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/local/virginia/pastor-of-va-church-stabbed-in-his-home/120977531>

Tuesday April 5, 2016



India: Budhani Chak village, Patna district, Bihar state

Deepak Kumar (Bible college graduate, attacked by ten Hindu militants from the RSS paramilitary organization while preaching about Christ in a street in Patna, Bihar state, beaten for five hours, stripped, given electric shocks, had alcohol rubbed into his wounds, told he would be left on railroad tracks if he did not insult the name of Jesus, replied “Kill me, but I will not abuse the name of Jesus”)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Hindu-extremists-target-Christians-in-two-separate-attacks-in-state-of-Bihar-East-India>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/59768->

[ASIA_INDIA_A_Christian_attacked_because_he_proclaimed_the_Gospel_in_the_street#.VwcLIMIUUfg](#)



Uganda: Nalugondo village, Mayuge district

Kamaala Yokosani (pigs killed by Muslim neighbors, had received a text message which read “We are soon coming for the heads of your pigs”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/04/muslims-in-uganda-kill-christians-livestock-demolish-church-building/>



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 and another on [March 31, 2016](#) "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>



United States – California: Orange county

The homes and office of investigative journalists were raided by police, video recordings of Planned Parenthood officials negotiating the illegal sale of tissue harvested from aborted children were seized

David Daleiden

Sandra Merritt

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/california-agents-raid-david-daleidens-home-seize-undercover-planned-parent>

Wednesday April 6, 2016



Vietnam: Houg Phuong village, Quang Binh province

Fr Le Nam Cao (described an attack by troops against his church in which three parishioners were injured and decorations torn down, said "It was noon time and most of the men were at work, so only old women and children were at home. Parishioners told me of the crackdown. I told them that I would not go out and they should go home and just let them do whatever they wanted because we had no weapons, so it was not good for us. Some people did not agree, so they fought back against the troops including policemen and soldiers who were well equipped with tear gas, bullets and batons...One parishioner was looking at the scene, and he was detained and beaten by the police while some people got

tear gas in their eyes, but they were not in danger. I heard the ones that were seriously injured were treated in the hospital, and the rest just went home. The parishioners took care of bruises and bleeding")

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/vietnam/clash-at-church-04072016135448.html>



Pakistan: Sheikhpura district, Punjab province

Nazeer Masih (aged 55, disabled real estate agent, son of Nazeer Masih, , husband of Rasheeda Bibi, father of three including Iqbal and Patris Masih, **stabbed to death** by Muslims for a real estate dispute or a dispute over illegal drug sales to Christian youth [accounts vary], body mutilated, Muslim coworker also stabbed but survived, police refused to file a report)

Rasheeda Bibi (widow of Nazeer Masih)

Patris Masih (aged 35, son of Nazeer Masih, identified his father's body)

Iqbal Masih (son of Nazeer Masih, attempted to file a police report)

Pastor Alfred Azam (said "This is not the first incident of persecution of Christians in our village, local Muslims are always creating problems for our Christian community. Before and after our church services Muslim drug dealers swarm around our church trying to sell drugs to our vulnerable youth. Some drug pushers move around in Christian residential areas and beat young Christians forcing them to take drugs in an attempt to get them addicted. When our older men tell these criminals to leave our young people alone they get killed")

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/christian-man-butchered-like-an-animal-for-stopping-muslim-drug-pushers->

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/we-have-finished-the-infidel-a-handicapped-christian-brutally-butchered-by-three-men/>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5868>



Uganda: Kampala

Church leaders opposed a government proposal to require that churches register with the government

Bishop John Baptist Kauta (said "If what we are doing is good, then why should we be registered? Why should a faith that has been in existence for centuries need an operation license?")

Bishop Macleord Baker Ochola (said "Why should a child tell a father how to lead a family? We have been here for decades. What is the logic behind registering well known religions?")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/59764-AFRICA_UGANDA_Churches_are_opposed_to_the_proposed_registration_of_religious_denominations#.VwcM4MIUufg



Turkey: Istanbul

David Byle (aged 46, Canadian-U.S. citizen, husband of Ulrike, father of five; **UPDATE:** detained without charge for 30 days pending deportation, labelled 'a danger to public order' by the Interior Ministry)

Ulrike Byle (wife of David Byle, said "I think the reason he is being held is because of his evangelistic activities")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/04/u-s-evangelist-in-turkey-detained-ordered-to-be-deported/>

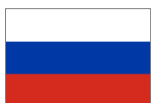


Canada

Dr Nazir S Bhatti (from [Karachi, Pakistan](#) criticized the closure of the government's Commission on Religious Freedom, which had been dedicated to the assassinated Pakistani Christian Shahbaz Bhatti, said "The persecuted communities around globe have no objection if Prime Minister Justin Trudeau personally welcomes Syrian Muslim refugees or wears Pakistani dress to join Muslim prayers or to secure his Muslim vote bank arranges Iftar Parties for them but he must not downplay with human right values which land of Canada upholds from decades that he will turn his back on Religious freedom which is fundamental part of Universal Declaration of Human Rights by member states of United Nation")

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5864>

Thursday April 7, 2016



Russia: Kirov

Roman Pinegin (fined US\$25 in [Kirovo-Chepetsk, Kirov region](#) on [February 16, 2016](#) for having posted an online link to a banned web site; **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

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



United Kingdom

Victoria Wastenev (occupational therapist in East London, disciplined on [July 1, 2014](#) for praying for the health of a Muslim co-worker despite the co-worker agreeing to her prayer and despite a witness testifying he was pressured into making a statement against her; the Employment Tribunal in London ruled on [April 8, 2015](#) in her employer's favor, said that giving a Christian book to her co-worker constituted "harassing and bullying"; **UPDATE**: appeal against the Employment Tribunal denied, the judge ruled that the Tribunal had acted reasonably, said "What the Court clearly failed to do was to say how, in today's politically correct world, any Christian can even enter into a conversation with a fellow employee on the subject of religion and not, potentially, later end up in an Employment Tribunal. If someone sends you friendly text messages, how is one to know that they are offended? I had no idea that I was upsetting her. For example, I was sent the following text message by the Muslim complainant: - 'Hope your okay Victoria, your am amazing manager and a wonderful person, I hope you never feel otherwise!! Anyone that can't see that is an idiot, see you tomorrow xx' - I believe the NHS singled me out for discipline because Christianity is so disrespected. Previously a Christian worship service that I set up for patients was closed down, but accommodation for Muslims to practice their faith wholly facilitated and encouraged")

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/employment/christian-nhs-worker-loses-appeal-over-freedom-to-talk-to-a-muslim-colleague>

Friday April 8, 2016



Philippines: Sulu Island

Rolando Del Torchio (aged 57, former priest and missionary, abducted on [October 6, 2015](#) in [Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte, Mindanao](#); **UPDATE**: released)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/PIME-missionaries-happy-for-Del-Torchio's-release-37180.html>



Bangladesh: Boronala village, Khagrachhari district

Rev Sushil Jibon Talukdar (wife raped by four 'land grabbers', police refused to file a report, said "[I] arrived just in time. The four brutes were attacking my wife and trying to kill her. But we heard her cries and saved her. Her clothes were all torn up... We just want justice for my beloved wife")

Rosaline Costa (**UPDATE:** said "I strongly condemn the attack and rape. As members of a minority, they have become victims. The police refused to file the complaint, saying that they would consult the victim after local elections, months from now. That is totally unethical. [They] are working for the criminals and violating human rights. I condemn the attitude of the local police")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Wife-of-Protestant-minister-raped-to-seize-their-land-37193.html>



Syria: Qaryatain

Fr Jihad (spoke on the liberation of Qaryatain from ISIL "The residents who have fled, both Christians and Muslims, are afraid. They fear that ISIL may come back again. The swift return of the people is also dependent upon how long the city will remain a military zone. Further, infrastructure such as water and electricity has largely been destroyed. And besides, many residents no longer even live in Syria, but have fled to other countries...The walls of the church are still standing, even though the roof is no longer there. The altar, unfortunately, was destroyed. They also smashed the sarcophagus of St Elian. St Elian is greatly revered by the Christians. Muslims also used to go on pilgrimage to his grave. We want to gather the holy relics and give them a worthy place again. Until the possible restoration of the monastery, the remains could be taken to another place...A great deal more vital than the restoration of the stones and the recovery of the monastery is the reconciliation of hearts")

<http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1460360829.html>



Palestine: Gaza

Fr Ibrahim Nairouz (protested the destruction of the archeological remains of a 1,500 year old Byzantine church for a shopping mall, wrote "If they had found the remains of a mosque or a synagogue or any other ancient structure would they have handled the situation in the same way?")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/59778->

[ASIA HOLY LAND In Gaza the ruins of an ancient Byzantine church destroyed by bulldozers to make way for a shopping center#.VwiV0MIUUh](#)

Sunday April 10, 2016



India: Nabinagar, Aurangabadin district, Bihar state

Pastor Suresh Lakhra (beaten by 35 Bajrang Dal [the RSS paramilitary organization's youth wing] members at the end of a religious conference, arrested by police)

Jebakumar Dhanraj (religious conference organizer, beaten at the end of the conference by 35 Bajrang Dal [the RSS paramilitary organization's youth wing] members)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Hindu-extremists-target-Christians-in-two-separate-attacks-in-state-of-Bihar-East-India>



Uganda: Nalugondo village, Mayuge district

Samuel Kijali (church lay leader, pigs killed by Muslim neighbors, had received a text message which read “Let this be known to your church members that pigs are extremely unholy and an abomination before Allah, very outrageous and shameful. They are haram [forbidden] and unlawful as our holy Quran does prohibit them”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/04/muslims-in-uganda-kill-christians-livestock-demolish-church-building/>



United States - Florida

Fr Rene Wayne Robert OFM (aged 71, **killed** by a recently released prisoner for his automobile)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/59866->

[AMERICA UNITED STATES A priest who disappeared a week ago found dead#.VxhhgsIUUfg](#)

Monday April 11, 2016



Kazakhstan: Arkalyk, Kostanai region

David Leven (charged by police in [Arkalyk, Kostanai region](#) on [September 11, 2015](#) after distributing religious material; acquitted on [March 24, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: charges reinstated)

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



Azerbaijan: Gakh

Gulara Huseynova (**UPDATE**: detained for distributing religious literature)

Rasmiyya Karimova (detained for distributing religious literature)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2222



Egypt: Cairo

Heba (aged 17, disappeared while coming home after tutoring)

<http://www.persecution.org/2016/06/07/wave-of-kidnappings-rock-upper-egypts-christian-community-part-3/>

Tuesday April 12, 2016



Indonesia: Central Aceh district

Remita Sinaga (aged 60, publicly whipped 28 times for selling alcohol under Islamic [sharia] law despite assurances that sharia would apply only to Muslims)

Rev Betty Manurung (said "Our concern is that the law isn't in line with the national penal code. What we understood is that Shariah law is only supposed to be for Muslims")

Fr Paulus Christian Siswantoko (secretary of the Indonesian Bishops' Conference's Commission for Justice, Peace and Pastoral for Migrant-Itinerant People; **UPDATE**: said "Jakarta has allowed Aceh to implement Shariah law. But never force this law down the throats of other religions")

Woro Wahyuningtyas (**UPDATE**: called for the national government to review Aceh's implementation of sharia, said "discriminative bylaws are against the constitution")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/christians-criticize-caning-of-first-non-muslim-in-aceh/75778>



Uganda: Nalugondo village, Mayuge district

Samuel Kijali (church lay leader, pigs killed by Muslim neighbors on [April 10, 2016](#), had received a text message which read "Let this be known to your church members that pigs are extremely unholy and an abomination before Allah, very outrageous and shameful. They are haram [forbidden] and unlawful as our holy Quran does prohibit them"; **UPDATE**: church destroyed by Muslim neighbors, musical instruments and 500 plastic chairs lost)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/04/muslims-in-uganda-kill-christians-livestock-demolish-church-building/>



Chile: Canete, Biobio district, Araucania region

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

Bishop Hector Eduardo Vargas SDB (said after the [April 5, 2016](#) arson attack on a chapel and another on [March 31, 2016](#) "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"; **UPDATE**: said after the burning of a chapel "the burned churches are found in the Mapuche communities, these churches were built by them. The Mapuche, such as the group of 'loncos', are the first animators of the community. People now are scared. These attacks affect not only the Church, but the same local communities")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/59810-AMERICA_CHILE_Church_fires_do_not_stop_the_solution_is_in_dialogue#.Vw8QO8IUUfh

Wednesday April 13, 2016



Vietnam: Tay Son district, Binh Dinh province

Phan Vinh Su (church leader, described an attack by 100 masked men on Christians who were trying to prevent an illegal seizure of church property, added that construction on the parcel began "surrounded by police all day and night")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/vietnamese-christians-protest-seizure-of-church-property/75807>



Pakistan: Jaleki village, Kasur

Zuhra Bibi (wife of Sheeda Masih, mother of three, victim of an attempted rape in her home)

Sheeda Masih (husband of Zuhra Bibi, father of three, threatened by police when he attempted to file a report concerning the attempted rape of his wife)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5876>



Eritrea: Asmara

Patriarch Abune Antonios (disappeared in 2007, reportedly detained by the government in a darkened room, diabetic condition requires medical attention; **UPDATE**: still under house arrest)

Pastor Kidane Weldou (husband, father of four, vehicle found abandoned in 2005, assumed to have been arrested; **UPDATE**: believed to still be in prison)

Rev Haile Naigzhi (arrested on May 23, 2004; wife and three children fled the country under threat of arrest in 2013; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

Pastor Kiflu Gebremeskel (former professor of mathematics, husband, father of four, arrested in May 2004; **UPDATE**: believed to still be in prison)

Pastor Meron Gebreselasie (anesthesiologist, arrested June 3, 2004; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

Fr Futsum Gebrenegus (psychiatrist, arrested in November 2004; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

Fr Gebremedhin Gebregiorsis (theologian, arrested in November 2004; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

Fr Tekleab Menghisteab (physician, arrested in [November 2004](#); **UPDATE**: still in prison)

Eritrea: Barentu

Pastor Ogbamichael Teklehaimanot (arrested on [January 9, 2005](#) after participating in a wedding; released in [2011](#), rearrested six months later; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/04/4407264/>



Sweden

F G (aged 54, Iranian refugee, convert, fled Iran in 2009, ordered returned to Iran by the Swedish government; **UPDATE**: the European Court of Human Rights Grand Chamber ruled he could not be deported)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=2881>

Thursday April 14, 2016



China: Zhumadian, Henan province

Pastor Li Jianguo (husband of Ding Cuimei, deliberately buried alive by a bulldozer which was demolishing his church, escaped)

Ding Cuimei (wife of Pastor Li Jianguo, deliberately buried alive by a bulldozer which was demolishing her church, **died of suffocation**)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/04/church-leaders-wife-dead-after-buried.html>



Vietnam: Pleiku, Gia Lai province

Tran Thi Hong (wife of Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh [who has been serving 11 years in prison for 'undermining national unity'], taken from her home by police after she refused to answer questions concerning her [March 30, 2016](#) conversation with U.S. diplomats, beaten at the police station, returned and dumped unconscious in the road in front of her home)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Police-Vietnamese-beat-wife-of-jailed-Mennonite-pastor-37258.html>



Pakistan: Jodh Singh Chak No.13 village

Laveeza Bibi (aged 23, daughter of Sarwar Masih, abducted at gunpoint during a home invasion, father and mother threatened with death, forced into an Islamic marriage)

Sarwar Masih (father of Laveeza Bibi, threatened with death during his daughter's abduction, filed a police report)

Afzal Masih (said "Within this month at least five Christian girls have been abducted and converted to Islam and married with their abductors in this village from where this girl has been abducted and no legal protection for them in such issues")

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5885>



Sudan: Nyala

Fr Gabriel El Anthony (reported to have been abducted by unknown persons)

Bishop Elia (superior of Fr Gabriel El Anthony)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/?p=46874>

Friday April 15, 2016



China: Baoding, Hebei province

Fr Yang Jianwei (underground priest, disappeared, a total of five have disappeared in one month, only two have been released)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/another-priest-missing-in-chinas-hebei-province/75790>



Pakistan: Chak 44, Mandi Bahaudin

Imran Masih (aged 25, hospital janitor, beaten by three pharmacists for allegedly having a blasphemous video on his cell phone, in hiding with his family)

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/pakistani-christian-accused-of-blasphemy-for-watching-debate-on-islam>



Syria

Patriarch John X aka Youhanna Yazigi (aged 61, brother of Archbishop Boulos al-Yazigi; **UPDATE:** spoke on the third anniversary of the abduction of his brother and of Archbishop Yohanna Ibrahim, said "We hope that the bishops are alive, but unfortunately, the world is silent and nobody has provided physical evidence")

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/?p=46894>



Turkey: Istanbul

David Byle (aged 44 [2014], Canadian-U.S. citizen, husband of Ulrike, father of five, detained without charge on [April 6, 2016](#) for 30 days pending deportation, labelled 'a danger to public order' by the Interior Ministry; **UPDATE:** released from detention, deportation still pending)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/04/u-s-evangelist-in-turkey-detained-ordered-to-be-deported/>



Sweden

Ellinor Grimmark (aged 39, wife of Carl Johan, mother of two, refused employment as a midwife because she refused to perform abortions, as of [March 6, 2014](#) has filed a discrimination complaint; reported on [November 30, 2015](#) to have lost her employment appeal in a Swedish court, the court ruled in effect that her rights had been violated but that the maternity clinics right to provide abortions superseded her rights, has been forced to work as a midwife in Norway; **UPDATE:** has appealed the lower court decision, has been ordered to pay all court costs for the defendant - a municipal maternity clinic - which total approximately US\$100,000, will be forced to sell her home if her online fundraising fails, said "Maybe what I consider being the most unfair part is the fact that even though I have never asked for job positions that require abortion-related work, I'm also being banned from working as a midwife in clinics that do not deal with abortions. This fact has been ignored in a major part of the media debate, by the employers, and

ultimately by the court...It's considered a problem when somebody disagrees with the current consensus regarding abortion and doesn't want to perform abortions because of his/her conscience. Others may feel questioned about their own actions by this and it creates strong reactions...Freedom of conscience is so important. In the future it will otherwise be difficult for certain groups, e.g. religious, to work within health care. The debate about euthanasia is growing in Sweden [it is not allowed yet] and, just like with abortion, it should be unthinkable to not allow freedom of conscience if this becomes a part of our society...My faith is of course a strong source of courage and strength in this situation. I truly believe in my heart that life is sacred and given by God. This is the view of most Christians worldwide and it needs to be respected")

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/exclusive-swedish-pro-life-midwife-appeals-ruling-that-she-must-perform-abo>



Norway

Ezekiel Bodnariu (aged 13 months, son of Marius and Ruth Bodnariu, Romanian national, reported to have been returned to his parents, had been taken on [November 16, 2015](#) and placed in foster care after his older siblings were caught singing Christian songs at school and the government decided they were "radical Christians who were indoctrinating their children" in concepts such as sin)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/92530.htm>



Kim Davis (aged 50, Rowan county clerk, jailed on [September 3, 2015](#) for contempt of court for refusing to issue same sex marriage licenses, court denied her request to remove her pro forma signature from the licenses, still being held despite the fact her office has complied with the law by issuing licenses, appeal underway; released on [September 8, 2015](#);
UPDATE: a suit against her by the American Civil Liberties Union was declared moot after the state legislature passed legislation granting her the accommodation she sought)

United States - New York: Tonawanda

Kim Vaillancourt (wife of Phil, mother of Ryan, Hailey, Kamila, Josie and Charlie, gave birth to her son Wyatt Eli one month early, had been diagnosed with an aggressive brain cancer after seeking help for headaches only days after adopting Kamila, Josie and Charlie - help she sought only because she was pregnant, delayed chemotherapy and radiation treatment to save Wyatt but had surgery for the same reason, has been given about a year to live but would have lived only days without the surgery)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/aclu-loses-charge-kim-davis-legal-fees-miller-v-177151/>

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/mom-puts-off-treatment-for-aggressive-brain-cancer-to-save-her-baby>

Sunday April 17, 2016



India: Tokapal, Bastar district, Chhattisgarh state

Pastor Deenanath (home invaded by Hindu radicals, beaten along with his seven-month pregnant wife and two small children, forced to sing a Hindu hymn, had gasoline thrown on them before they managed to escape, Bibles ripped, church burned)

Arun Pannalal (president of Chhattisgarh Christian Forum; **UPDATE**: described the attack on Pastor Deenanath and his family, accused police of trying to avoid arresting the perpetrators)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/raipur/Pastor-pregnant-wife-assaulted-in-Chgarh/articleshow/51888310.cms>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Chhattisgarh,-another-attack-on-Pentecostals:-a-pastor-and-his-pregnant-wife-assaulted-37262.html>



Kazakhstan: Atyrau

Aleksandr Revkov (arrested in a cafe following a religious service, six others arrested, charged with 'violation of procedures established in law for conducting rites' possibly for having consumed tea in the cafe)

Bagitzhan Zholdybayev (arrested in a cafe following a religious service, six others arrested, charged with 'violation of procedures established in law for conducting rites' possibly for having consumed tea in the cafe)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2177



Syria: Qaryatain

Fr Jack Murat (described the situation after Qaryatain was liberated from ISIL by Syrian and Russian soldiers: "Those who could not pay [the jizya tribute] were kidnapped, tortured

and killed" in the cellar of the church, pointed to the many shoes left behind and said "They come from the terrorists...The church is the most peaceful place in the world. It radiates nothing but goodness. But knowing what has been done here, of all places, my heart bleeds")

Twenty-one Christians have been identified as having been killed by ISIL in Qaryatain, 179 Christian prisoners are still missing and have likely been moved to Raqqa

Abdo Hassib Al-Khoury (aged 42, **killed** by ISIL)

Awad Nadim Atallah (aged 53, **killed** by ISIL)

Bashar Abdelkarim Al-Sattah (aged 34, **killed** by ISIL)

Fadi Moussa Maher (aged 45, **killed** by ISIL)

Fadi Salim Atallah (aged 47, **killed** by ISIL)

Faheed Yaacoub Khazaal (aged 66, **killed** by ISIL)

George Al-Khazaal (aged 31, **killed** by ISIL)

George Ibrahim Al-Gharib (aged 44, **killed** by ISIL)

Gergess Zaghir Al-Gharib (aged 66, **killed** by ISIL)

Hani Moussa Khazaal (aged 25, **killed** by ISIL)

Ibrahim Zaghir Al-Gharib (aged 73, **killed** by ISIL)

Jalal Al-Gharib (aged 30, **killed** by ISIL)

Hani Afif Khazaal (aged 27, **killed** by ISIL)

Mourfaq Ibrahim Khalaf (aged 49, **killed** by ISIL)

Moutazz Moussa Khazaal (aged 39, **killed** by ISIL)

Nassim Moussa Khazaal (aged 42, **killed** by ISIL)

Rafic Ibrahim Khalaf (aged 52, **killed** by ISIL)

Wadad Mtanous Malghouj (aged 67, **killed** by ISIL)

Wassim Moussa Khazaal (aged 40, **killed** by ISIL)

William Fayez Al-Khoury (aged 33, **killed** by ISIL)

Ziad Farah (aged 49, **killed** by ISIL)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/?p=46904>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20160417140143.htm>



Ecuador: Playa Prieta

Sr Clare Theresa Crockett (aged 33, missionary, voice actor, British national, **killed in a magnitude 7.8 earthquake**, also killed were postulants Jazmina, Mayra, María Augusta, Valeria, and Catalina, injured were postulants Guadalupe and Mercedes and Sr Merly)

Sr Estela Morales (missionary, Spanish national, injured)

Sr Therese Ryan (missionary, Irish national, injured)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/god-captured-my-heart-the-story-of-a-nun-killed-in-ecuadors-quake-97210/>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/59849->

[AMERICA ECUADOR Also a monastery destroyed by the earthquake a nun and five postulants among the 272 dead#.VxceB8IUUfg](#)

Monday April 18, 2016



India: Madhya Pradesh state

Archbishop Leo Cornelio (**UPDATE:** said that a state report that called for a reassessment of religious minority preferences in public schools and the certification of religious schools was part of an anti-Christian agenda and would "halt the standard of the education in the state")

Fr Maria Stephen (spokesman for the regional bishops' council, said of a state report that called for a reassessment of religious minority preferences in public schools and the certification of religious schools "It is highly disappointing to note that the minority panel has given a report against the minorities to the state government. The minority commission is meant for protecting and promoting the welfare of the minority institutions but by this move it has failed to do its duty")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/official-panel-upsets-church-leaders-in-central-india/75794>



Uganda: Nalugondo village, Mayuge district

Samuel Kijali (church lay leader, pigs killed by Muslim neighbors on [April 10, 2016](#), had received a text message which read "Let this be known to your church members that pigs are extremely unholy and an abomination before Allah, very outrageous and shameful. They are haram [forbidden] and unlawful as our holy Quran does prohibit them"; church destroyed by Muslim neighbors on [April 12, 2016](#), musical instruments and 500 plastic chairs lost; **UPDATE:** assaulted, wrist broken, threatened with death)

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



Egypt

Sandy Shehata (aged 16, abducted while shopping for Easter clothes, hit on her head, awoke to find herself "surrounded" by older Muslim men who demanded she convert, refused, repeatedly beaten and raped)

Egypt: Minbal village, Minya province

Antonious Nawar (child, reported to have been returned to his family after they paid a US\$33,825 ransom, had been abducted in front of his school)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2016/07/01/wave-of-kidnappings-rock-upper-egypts-christian-community-part-5/>

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1620&A=23075>



United Kingdom

Several Christian charities issued a statement that read in part "Requiring churches in England to register before they are legally allowed to help children learn the Christian values our nation was built on is an unjustified restriction of religious liberty. Whether the threshold is 6 hours in any week or higher, the principle of outlawing 'unregistered churches' from teaching children the gospel is an unacceptable overreach of the state...We call on Christians, churches and affected organizations in England to contact their MPs and urge them to oppose these plans"

Andrea Minichiello Williams (CEO of Christian Concern, **UPDATE:** wrote "Christians teaching biblical truth on Sunday or any other day of the week should not be looked upon as if they are somehow doing something so awful that the State needs to be constantly looking over their shoulder. Christians are not terrorists and should not be treated as if they are")

Colin Hart (Director of The Christian Institute, **UPDATE:** wrote "Christians are justifiably alarmed at the prospect of OFSTED conducting 'British values' inspections of church youth work. The freedom to proclaim the Gospel, and indeed our wider civil liberties, must be protected, not undermined in the name of 'counter-extremism'")

Mark Jones (wrote "The Lawyers' Christian Fellowship condemns violence and terrorism. We have grave concerns about the proposals, which could be counter-productive to the stated aims and may arguably place the UK in breach of its international human rights obligations")

Nola Leach (CARE Chief Executive, wrote "The Government's plans to empower OFSTED to inspect Sunday Schools and other church activities is simply not the best way to tackle the radicalization of young people. It is a wholly unwarranted undermining of religious freedom. We support tackling extremism, but not in this sweeping, overly broad manner")

Simon McCrossan (Evangelical Alliance Head of Public Policy, wrote "These proposals amount to the wholesale nationalization of youth work and the state regulation of private religious practice, more akin to 'Big Brother' than 'Big Society'. If implemented, there is a real risk churches will feel forced to step back from the valuable services they currently provide to young people across society")

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/freedom-of-speech/christian-charities-urge-opposition-to-government-plans-for-registrat>



Chile: Concepcion

Archbishop Fernando Chomali (commented on the need for a political solution for the Mapuche conflict in which several churches have been burned)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/59851-AMERICA_CHILE_Mgr_Chomali_after_the_churches_burned_The_Mapuche_issue_is_a_political_issue#.VxcfmCIUUfg



United States – Texas: Midlothian

Terri Bevers (aged 45, fitness instructor, **murdered** in a church)

<http://www.charismanews.com/us/56615-manhunt-underway-as-christian-found-dead-in-dallas-church>

Tuesday April 19, 2016



Pakistan: Lahore

Bishop Irfan Jamil (**UPDATE**: has led opposition to the government taking part of the cathedral property for construction of a sewage pumping station)

Rev Shahid Mehraj (said “The church congregation is very much disturbed to hear the news about building a pumping station here. Christian community strongly condemns this move for making sewerage pumping station where all the waste of neighboring areas would be stationed. We have decided not to stage protest on roads. We do it peacefully inside the church compound. We believe the Almighty has strange way of doing things and this issue would soon be resolved”)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/christians-protest-against-construction-of-a-sewerage-pumping-station-on-the-property-of-lahore-cathedral/>



Nigeria: Abuja

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

Fr Evaristus Bassey (**UPDATE**: said “The danger in Nigeria is the manipulation of structures and institutions by strong individuals. Thus, the fear is that even if the proposed bill contains good aims, the proposed restrictions would play into the hands of officials of state who have a hegemonic mentality and would allow them the freedom to persecute one religion in favor of another...Gov El-Rufai, who is quite dogged in the pursuit of anything, given this tool, would pursue ardently both what is good and what may be divisive. We advise that Kaduna state rely on existing laws and existing state instruments of law enforcement to maintain religious harmony in Kaduna state, instead of reinventing the wheel...[separation of church and state would be] severely battered if this bill is pursued in the way it is”)

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

Wednesday April 20, 2016



Kazakhstan: Sandyktau

Nikolai Levin (convicted of leading an illegal religious meeting in [Sandyktau](#) on [February 11, 2014](#), fined 100 MFIs; **UPDATE**: fined US\$63 for refusing to pay his previous fines)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2177



Egypt: Huseinia city, Sharkia province

Fr Morkos Youssef (described how Muslims surrounded his church to protect it from attack by Muslim radicals after a Christian was accused of killing a Muslim girl, said it was the third such act of support in recent years)

Egypt: Luxor

Noura Youssef (wife of Amgad Romany, disappeared, last seen being followed by a Muslim who had sexually harassed her, police refused to add the stalker's name to their report)

Amgad Romany (aged 25, husband of Noura Youssef)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1622&A=23112>

<http://www.persecution.org/2016/05/25/wave-of-kidnappings-rock-upper-egypts-christian-community-part-2/>

Thursday April 21, 2016



Pakistan: Fatehgarh, Sialkot district

Teddy Masih (forcibly evicted from his home of 30 years by a land mafia which had presented false documents to a court, family now sleeping outdoors)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/a-flat-broke-christian-family-spends-days-and-nights-under-open-sky-as-land-mafia-expropriates-their-house/>



United States - Missouri

Andrew Cash (graduate student, reported to have been dismissed from a master's program in counselling after stating his religious beliefs would require him to refer same-gender couples to another counselor, has filed a discrimination lawsuit against Missouri State University)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/this-counseling-student-says-he-was-expelled-for-his-christian-beliefs-66893/>

Friday April 22, 2016



Philippines: Davao, Mindanao

Fr Amado Picardal CSSR (alleged that a death squad operated by Mayor and presidential candidate Rodrigo Duterte killed 1,424 people between 1998 and 20015, asked for prayers)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/filipino-priest-lays-bare-existence-of-davao-death-squad/75844>



China

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'; finally allowed on March 23, 2016 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"; **UPDATE**: attorneys stated after a visit that they saw prison officials threaten their client, suspected he has been subjected to inhumane treatment and possible torture)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/05/guizhou-pastors-case-transferred-to.html>



Pakistan: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Dr Nazir S Bhatti (**UPDATE**: condemned the assassination of Sikh leader, provincial assembly member and minorities' minister Dr Sardar Soran Singh)

Pakistan: Shadman Colony [ghetto], Peer Mahal

Qaisar Masih (aged 18, son of Sardar Masih, reported to have been tortured and **strangled to death** with a rope, then hung from a tree for hours)

Sardar Masih (father of Qaisar Masih, reported his son's killers prevented him from removing his body from the tree in which they had hanged him)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5883>
<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5884>



Azerbaijan: Baku

Two Christians were detained for talking with a neighbor about their faith, ordered to return to the police station the next day

Khayala Jafarova

Jaarey Suleymanova

Azerbaijan: Shaki

Eldar Aliyev (home in [Mingachevir](#) raided by police during a [January 9, 2016](#) worship service, literature including Bibles seized, charged with holding an unapproved religious meeting; convicted in [Mingachevir](#) on [March 3, 2016](#), fined US\$1,000; **UPDATE:** appeal denied)

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

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2222



Egypt: Luxor

Fr Estiphanos (church reported to have been damaged in a fire, said that no candles were lit and that he had shut off electricity in the building when he left, added that the security cameras should show the cause)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1624&A=23144>

Saturday April 23, 2016



Pakistan: Lahore, Punjab province

Ruth Bibi (wife, mother of three, entire family reportedly trapped in bonded labor, repeatedly raped by her landlord-employer, 12 year old daughter now subjected to sexual demands, landlord is demanding US\$3,817 for their freedom)

Pakistan: 291-GB village, Rajana town, Toba Tek Singh district, Punjab province

'Shazia Masih' (alias, husband away on military duty, reported to have been raped by two Muslim men at gunpoint during a home invasion, rescued by neighbors, under pressure to drop charges after police took action)

Zahid Masih (rescued 'Shazia Masih' from her rapists)

Ayub (rescued 'Shazia Masih' from her rapists)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/a-landlord-subjects-a-christian-family-to-bonded-labour-demanding-4-lac-rupees-for-their-release/>

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/toba-tek-singh-stinking-rich-brats-gang-rape-a-christian-woman-at-gunpoint/>



Azerbaijan: Baku

Two Christians were detained on **April 22, 2016** for talking with a neighbor about their faith, ordered to return to the police station the next day; **UPDATE: returned to the police station, both subjected to further verbal abuse, told to leave their faith**

Khayala Jafarova

Jaarey Suleymanova

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2222

Sunday April 24, 2016



Nigeria: Otukpo, Benue state

Fr John Adeyi (abducted, held for ransom)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/06/catholic-priest-kidnapped-in-nigeria-found-dead/>



Algeria: Maatkas, Kabylie province

Rev Mahmoud Haddad (criticized a government order to close a church, said “The new Constitution, passed in February 2016, has duly established freedom of religious worship. Its Article 36 clearly states that freedom of religious worship is guaranteed in compliance

with the law. The house where church conducts its worship was rented on behalf of the EPA [the Protestant Church of Algeria], which has an official agreement from the Ministry of the Interior. The majority of churches affiliated to the EPA are in the same situation. They rent rooms or houses to celebrate their worship. Are authorities going to send such notifications to all these churches?")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/04/4437754/>



United States - New Jersey: Newark

Fr Edwin Leahy OSB (assaulted by a mentally ill man while in church, said "People like this, who suffer, don't tend to take their medication. So they are dangerous to themselves and to somebody else")

Fr Philip Waters (witnessed the assault on Fr Edwin Leahy, aided police in the arrest of the perpetrator)

<http://abc7ny.com/news/newark-church-assault-highlights-crisis-of-mentally-ill-priests-say/1307757/>

Monday April 25, 2016



China: Hong Kong

Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-Kium SDB (aged 85, **UPDATE**: led a demonstration against the mainland's cross demolition campaign, said "The freedom is less and less. So we have to speak out because we, in Hong Kong, can see the possibility of the anti- Christian campaign spreading from the mainland...We need to speak out, to take action to prevent this from spreading")

China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Pastor Wen Xiaowu (husband of Xiang Lihua, father of Wen "Eden" Yidian, criminally detained along with his wife and son, the detentions were likely in response for their meetings with U.S. Consulate officials in Shanghai)

Xiang Lihua (wife of Pastor Wen Xiaowu, mother of Wen "Eden" Yidian, criminally detained along with her husband and son, the detentions were likely in response for their meetings with U.S. Consulate officials in Shanghai)

Wen "Eden" Yidian (son of Pastor Wen Xiaowen and Xiang Lihua, criminally detained along with his parents after being charged with interfering in their arrests)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hong-Kong,-Christians-protest-against-demolition-of-crosses-37314.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/05/christian-today-christian-pastor.html>



India: Kadapa district, Andhra Pradesh state

Bishop Gallela Prasad (aged 54, abducted along with his driver after his automobile was forced to stop, beaten for hours, released, later said "They hit me and punched me resulting in injuries all over my body. I did not resist...They appeared to be paid goons and non-Christians from the way they talked and behaved")

Archbishop Thumma Bala (condemned the abduction and beating of Bishop Gallela Prasad "It's amazing that such violent atrocities have been perpetrated against a senior member of the minority community...against a person who has devoted his whole life to God and to the service of the needy and the marginalized")

Cardinal Oswald Gracias (**UPDATE:** issued a statement on the abduction and beating of Bishop Gallela Prasad "We are deeply saddened by this sacrilegious attack on Bishop Prasad. We assure him of all our support and prayers, and we appeal to the authorities to apprehend the culprits as soon as possible...The fact that this attack was perpetrated as the prelate was performing his duties is a source of anguish and grief. Mgr Prasad has always been concerned for the poor and for women. One of the major commitments of his ministry is in favor of women's empowerment. Since most girls in rural India do not attend school beyond the age of 15 years, the diocese offers an 11-month training program that culminates in the gift of a sewing machine worth US\$ 100. This allows graduates to go on to earn a living...We pray for the bishop's quick recovery and call on God's merciful love to touch and turn the hearts of those who committed this sacrilegious assault)

India; Katodi village, Kanker district, Chhattisgarh state

Moses Annel (described the beating of six families of Christians after they refused to give up Christianity, six individuals hospitalized)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Andhra-Pradesh:-Catholic-bishop-kidnapped-and-beaten-for-hours-37356.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Card-Gracias,-saddened-by-the-attack-on-Bishop-Gallela-Prasad,-champion-of-the-poor-37364.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-bishop-tells-of-being-kidnaped-and-assaulted/75906>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/tribal-christians-flee-indian-village-following-threat/75917>



Kazakhstan: Orel

Dina Sarsebekova (convicted of illegal missionary activity, fined US\$636)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2177



Syria: Suleymaniye and Ashrafiyah districts, Aleppo

Sevag Tashdjian (said of recent shelling of the Armenian neighborhoods in which 17 were killed including 3 children "We woke up under the bombs, it is Turkey's gift, entire neighborhoods have caught fire and we went under the bombs to bring relief to sick and elderly trapped in their homes and take them to safety, to safer underground shelters...Where are you Bashar [Assad]? You claim to protect Christians, why have you forsaken our neighborhoods at the mercy of Islamic terrorists for 4 years now? Syrian troops are freeing areas controlled by 'Isis all over the country, even in the desert so why not here?")

Diana Yaqo (said: "All I can say on this situation, that it is incredibly sad and it's not a surprise either. We are being hunted all the time, not just for being a minority people but for our religion also...This week was the commemoration 101 years since the genocide of Armenians, Assyrians at the hands of Ottoman Empire. This genocide I feel will continue to follow us, world leaders can recognize it, stamp it onto papers, but what's the use when we are still being killed for the same reasons we were being killed 101 years ago?")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20160426131112.htm>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/In-memory-of-the-genocide,-Armenian-districts-of-Aleppo-bombarded.-Christians-rail-against-Assad-37323.html>



United States – Colorado: Denver

Jack Phillips (bakery owner, cited in 2013 for refusing to make a cake for a same gender wedding; **UPDATE**: the state Supreme Court refused to hear his appeal)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/colorados-high-court-rejects-appeal-of-christian-ordered-to-bake-gay-wedding>

Tuesday April 26, 2016



Philippines

Fr Angel Calvo CMF (Spanish national, **UPDATE**: condemned the beheading of a Canadian citizen "It is shameful. This is the work of evil people, people of no faith", said the national failure to stop terrorism was also to blame)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/canadians-death-points-philippines-failure-combat-terror-says-missionary/75872>



Myanmar: Hlaingbwe township, Karen state

Bishop Saw Stylo (called on Christians to not hold grudges after Buddhists seized church land and built a pagoda on it)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Karen-State:-Buddhist-militants-erect-a-pagoda-on-land-owned-by-an-Anglican-church-37326.html>



Bangladesh: Dhaka

Bishop Emeritus Theotonius Gomes (said that Islamic extremism is growing in the country)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/islamic-radicals-slaughtering-christians-bangladesh-dhaka-bishop-warns-162802/>



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; home attacked by a Muslim mob on [February 15, 2016](#), 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; **UPDATE**:

shot in the chest while walking home from work, hospitalized, bullet not removed, unable to work)

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



Russia: Serov, Sverdlovsk region

Igor Rudakov (fined US\$31 for possession of banned religious literature)

Russia: Severodvinsk, Arkhangelsk region

S N Paukshtaitene (charged with posting an online link to a banned web site, outcome unknown)

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



Mexico: Irapuato, Guanajuato state

Bishop Jose de Jesus Martínez Zepeda (condemned the armed robbery of a church and attack on a priest and two female parishioners, said "there is crime everywhere, in homes, families are robbed, on the street, even with violence, crime does not respect anyone, not even priests")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/59911-AMERICA_MEXICO_Priest_assaulted_and_handcuffed_the_arms_trade_is_flourishing_denounces_the_Bishop#.VyR05sIUUfg

Wednesday April 27, 2016



Pakistan

Asher Azeem Gill (movie director, movie of a fictional story concerning corruption banned by the federal government despite having been filmed with military support)

Pakistan: Pind Jora village, near Kasur

Shaukat Masih (reported to have been pistol whipped by two drunken Muslims)

Shafique Masih (tailor, reported to have been beaten by two drunken Muslims after he asked for payment for his work, hospitalized, said “They have several times tried to extract money from us, they ask us to pay them tax. I call upon the authorities to take strong action against them”, said the two had also terrorized young Christian girls)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/kasur-influential-men-terrorize-local-christians-extort-money-and-harass-young-girls/>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5890>

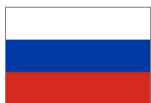


Iraq: Bagdad

Auxiliary Bishop Shlemon Warduni (**UPDATE:** said "No one is really able to understand what's going on, or anticipate what will happen in the future...They say that this is the land of oil, but what good is it to us today if we do not even have fuel to put in generators. It would be better not to have it because all of our suffering comes from it...you Western Christians, where are you in this Year of Mercy? Iraq and the believers of our land need you")

Yonadam Kanna (member of parliament, **UPDATE:** said that sectarianism has been hurting the country and that "Iraq has many problems that we cannot solve alone because they involve the whole region and the great powers")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Baghdad-auxiliary-bishop,-Iraq-“is-a-mess”,-at-a-“low-point”-of-its-history-37341.html>



Russia: Izhevsk, Udmurt Republic

V V Vasilyev (fined US\$15 in [Kez, Udmurt Republic](#) on [March 21, 2016](#) for possession of banned religious literature; **UPDATE:** appeal withdrawn)

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



Nigeria

Bishop Emmanuel Olisa Chukwuma (**UPDATE:** wrote a press statement concerning the Muslim Fulani attacks that have moved into the south of the country “What happened in Agatu is again being spread to other areas, and this is breeding serious civil war that is very much in breach of peace in this country. We don’t want war, but the way things are happening,

if care is not taken, there is going to be another war which nobody can avert. It is either Nigeria must be one, or we disintegrate and go our ways”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/04/muslim-fulani-herdsmen-massacres-reach-southern-nigeria/>

Thursday April 28, 2016



Malaysia

Roneey Anak Rebit (aged 41, born a Christian but converted to Islam by his parents at age 8, returned to Christianity in 1999, A High Court ruled on [March 24, 2016](#) to allow Islam be removed from his national ID card; the Attorney General has appealed the High Court decision)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Attorney-general-of-Malaysia-appeals-against-Christian-being-allowed-to-change-religion-on-identity-card>



Pakistan: Lahore

Sardar Mushtaq Gill (attorney; **UPDATE:** present during a hearing on the [November 4, 2014](#) lynching of Shahzad Masih and Shama Bibi, objected when prosecutors verbally and physically assaulted Christian witnesses to the lynching and relatives of the deceased, the judge overruled his objections)

Khurram (eyewitness to the [November 4, 2014](#) lynching of Shahzad Masih and Shama Bibi, prosecutors pushed him and pulled his hair while he was giving testimony)

Shahbaz (eyewitness to the [November 4, 2014](#) lynching of Shahzad Masih and Shama Bibi, prosecutors physically assaulted him while he was giving testimony)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/lahore-eye-witnesses-of-christian-couples-lynching-assaulted-by-prosecution-during-court-hearing/>



Kazakhstan: Arkalyk, Kostanai region

David Leven (charged by police in [Arkalyk, Kostanai region](#) on [September 11, 2015](#) after distributing religious material; acquitted on [March 24, 2016](#); charges reinstated on [April 11, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: charges dismissed)

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



Uzbekistan: Sergeli district, Tashkent

Aleksandr Ko (home raided)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2219

Friday April 29, 2016



India: Katodi village, Kanker district, Chhattisgarh state

Moses Annel (described the [April 25, 2016](#) beating of six families of Christians after they refused to give up Christianity, six individuals hospitalized; **UPDATE**: homes demolished and threatened with death, all fled the village)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/tribal-christians-flee-indian-village-following-threat/75917>



Syria: Aleppo

Joseph Yeghia (commented on the recent attacks that have killed at least 202 in the last week "Violence, attacks, and bombs are everywhere in the city...[The streets are] full of wounded, many of them children, [the skies are] obscured by a thick blanket of black smoke, [the] sound of ambulances is nonstop...We do not know the exact number of dead and wounded. Not even hospitals have a precise idea... We ask you to pray for us. We only need your prayers. All we want is for God to grant us peace")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/As-Aleppo-comes-under-attack,-with-hundreds-of-dead-and-wounded,-Caritas-Syria-aid-crucial-37362.html>



Russia: Kotlas, Arkhangelsk Region

N A Zvereva (fined US\$16 for posting an online article that contained a link to a banned web site)

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



Nigeria: Edo state

Cardinal John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan (aged 72; **UPDATE**: automobile damaged by gunfire while travelling, escaped thanks to his driver, motive of the gunmen unknown)

Nigeria: Nsukka, Enugu state

Bishop Godfrey Igwebuike Onah (issued a pastoral letter entitled *Stop This Madness!* concerning the [April 25, 2016](#) attack by Fulani gunmen in [Nimbo](#), wrote "... The news of the attack was soon followed by a flood of human beings fleeing their homes and emptying into the urban center of Nsukka, many of them scantily clad women clutching only their babies. Wailing filled the air as vans brought in lifeless bodies of persons who were slaughtered like animals for the crime of having been found in their homes or on the way to their farms...They burnt the house of one Pastor and from there headed straight to the residence of the Catholic Priest, where they attempted to burn the house but could not, since they did not find any petrol in the car and a motorcycle parked there, in the generator, and in the containers. When their attempt to break into the house also failed, they fired gunshots into the rooms, in an attempt to kill all those whom they suspected were hiding inside. And we are forced to ask: If these men were only herdsmen, why did they particularly single out Churches for their attack?...")

<http://nsukkacatholicdiocese.org/stop-this-madness.html>

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/05/02/nigerian-cardinal-unhurt-after-being-shot-at-by-gunmen/>

Saturday April 30, 2016



China: Changbai, Changbai Korean Autonomous County, Jilin province

Pastor Han Chung-Reol (aged 49, husband, father of a son and daughter, Chinese citizen of Korean ancestry, pastor of a government sanctioned church, **stabbed and beaten to death** by likely North Korean agents)

<http://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2016/may/murdered-by-north-korea-martyred-chinese-pastor-served-refugees>



Syria: Aleppo

Fr Ibrahim Alsabagh OFM (aged 44; **UPDATE**: said jihadist groups such as al-Nusra and ISIL "have launched heavy attacks, dragging in the other rebel groups" and need to be repelled with force "because with them you can not dialogue...My city is a ghost town...without water, without electricity, where there is no work and where bombs fall everywhere. It is inhuman...schools are closed, children stay at home, shops have lowered their shutters, [everyone] avoids having to go out, although this does not mean that homes are safer, because the bombs can strike anywhere", the Church has been working to "stem the emergency, providing food boxes, meeting people, listening to their stories of suffering, giving them words of hope and comfort", if their homes have been destroyed "we try to find new accommodation, we suffer with them, we too are under fire")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Pastor-of-Aleppo:-My-city-is-a-ghost-town.-Our-Lady,-bring-us-peace!-37367.html>



Jamaica: Boscobel

Harold Nichols (aged 53, husband of Teri, missionary, **murdered**, body found the next day)

Randy Hentzel (aged 48, missionary, **murdered**)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/american-missionaries-found-brutally-murdered-jamaica-163181/>

April 2016, date unknown



Sudan: Khartoum

Rafat Samir (church building committee chairman, arrested following accusations by his predecessor of trespassing, criminal possession and illegally impersonating the chairman - the accuser in fact was illegally reappointed to the position by the government and has sold church property to government-connected business interests)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/11/sudan-two-church-leaders-fined-trial-five-others-postponed/>



Egypt

Event: Four teens were convicted in **Minya** on **February 27, 2016** of contempt of Islam for making a parody video of the Islamic State's beheading videos, sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment; **UPDATE: fled the country for Istanbul, Turkey**

Alber Ashraf Hanna

Bassem Amgad Hanna

Clinton Magdy Youssef

Molar Atef Edward

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/09/coptic-teenagers-sentenced-to-prison-in-egypt-for-defaming-islam-in-video-flee-to-switzerland/>



United States – California: Travis Air Force Base

Oscar Rodriguez Jr (retired Air Force Master Sergeant, assaulted by uniformed airmen and forcibly ejected from the base for having mentioned 'God' in a flag folding speech during a retirement ceremony in violation of regulations which state that the exact text is chosen by the retiree)

<http://www.charismanews.com/politics/issues/58011-pentagon-to-investigate-incident-involving-airman-s-religious-freedom>

Today's Martyrs

2490 Black Rock Turnpike #455

Fairfield CT 06825-2400

<http://todaysmartyrs.org/events/>

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