

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – May 2016

**Sunday May 1, 2016**



### **China: Fulong, Guangxi**

Lan (stoned by a mob led by local Communist officials while leading a worship service, hospitalized, transferred to another hospital due to the severity of his injuries)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/06/pastor-stoned-property-destroyed-in.html>



### **Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan**

Ibrahim Shaba Lalo (refugee, said of life in a camp "If we were not believers, half of us would be suicidal")

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/why-iraq-wasnt-what-i-thought-96458/>



### **Nicaragua: Matagalpa**

Bishop Rolando Jose Alvarez Lagos (announced his opposition to the purchase of 112 tanks by the government "Nicaragua is not at war, Nicaragua does not want war, Nicaragua does not need war, nor heavy combat weapons...We recognize the participation of the army in Nicaragua in humanitarian work, as the fact of protecting agricultural production, cattle raising and even to bring medical assistance to the population, but the militarization of some rural communities has caused fear and panic among the rural population, which is why the announced purchase of tanks is totally contrary to the national reality")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/59937->

[AMERICA NICARAGUA Mgr Alvarez Lagos Nicaragua is not at war Buying tanks is contrary to our reality#.Vyf7q8IUUfg](#)

**Monday May 2, 2016**



### **North Korea: Pyongyang**

Pastor Kim Dong Chul (aged 62, U.S. citizen, reported on [January 12, 2016](#) to have been detained on espionage charges; **UPDATE**: reported to have pled guilty, sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment at hard labor)

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/christian.missionary.sentenced.to.10.years.hard.labour.in.north.korea/85194.htm>



### **Tanzania: Kagera area**

Paulina Nkuba (aged 67, said of the arson attack on her church "I live near the church. While I was sleeping, [my grandson], studying at the Kimiza Primary School, told me that the church was on fire. I went to the church and started to put water on the fire, but I could not manage to put it out")

Jackie Mrina (tried to put out the fire at the church)

Sabas Kafuba (church chairman, said the arson attack on his church destroyed furniture, documents, books, and generators)

Fr Fortunatus Bijura (said "Those who think that destroying our church means we won't pray, they are wrong...we have a big tree near the church and will continue meeting there for prayers")

Bishop Almachius Vicent Rweyongeza (appealed for calm and requested that people cooperate with police following the church arson attack)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/05/4447080/>

**Tuesday May 3, 2016**



### **Australia: Canberra**

Kerry Mellor (aged 75, reported to have been cited by police for illegal protest outside an abortion clinic for praying the rosary, said “We do not believe we are protesting. We are praying, which is directed exclusively to almighty God and his Blessed Mother. It’s not a protest, it’s a petition that God will act to change the hearts and minds of people”, said he will not pay the \$750 [US\$562] fine and that he has made a formal request that the charge be withdrawn "on the basis that our quiet prayer cannot possibly be interpreted as any of the types of ‘prohibited behavior’ in the legislation. I’m awaiting the outcome”)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/fined-for-praying-rosary-elderly-aussie-pro-lifers-will-fight-new-buffer-zo>



### **China: Sheshan Seminary, Shanghai**

Bishop Thaddeus Ma Daqin (ordained as bishop in Shanghai on [July 7, 2012](#), then disappeared after stating in his first homily that he would resign from the state-sponsored church;

**UPDATE:** still under house arrest, his Weibo social media account with 50,000 followers reportedly has been suspended)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/chinese-bishops-weibo-account-blocked-movement-restricted/75927>



### **Pakistan: Nazimabad colony [ghetto], Faisalabad**

#### **A family is shot by assailants who called them 'dirty Christians'**

Ayaan (aged 2, son of Samssoon Masih, grandson of Ishaq Masih, **shot dead**)

Samssoon Masih (son of Ishaq Masih, father of Ayaan, painter, wounded in the shooting death of his son)

Ishaq Masih (father of Samssoon Masih, grandfather of Ayaan, wounded in the shooting death of his grandson)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5911>



## **Kazakhstan: Shet district, Karaganda region**

Roman Dimmel (aged 53, arrested in [Konstantinovka, Taiynsha district, North Kazakhstan region](#) on [October 28, 2014](#) for distributing religious literature; convicted on [February 6, 2015](#), fined US\$500; sentenced in [Shet](#) on [November 23, 2015](#) to 3 days' incarceration for refusing to pay his fine; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 3 more days' incarceration for refusing to pay his fine)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2176](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2176)



## **Iraq: Telskuf**

Rita (aged early 20's, described the ISIL attack on her town "My village was under the control of the Kurdish Peshmerga fighters until two days ago. ISIS drove in using a booby-trapped digger truck. In order to get through the fortified defenses, the digger first removed what blocked its path and then it just blew up, killing lots of Peshmerga fighters. My relatives were slightly injured in the blast", ISIL then flooded the town with 20 explosive-laden automobiles and fighters with suicide vests, and were attacked by American and Kurdish forces: "They fought for two days to win back our village and succeeded but what they found was a village in ruins...I can't sleep well. I have nightmares about ISIL. I keep thinking 'what if they manage to get to us while we sleep'. I feel the pain won't go away and that I'll never feel safe")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20160506161217.htm>



## **Egypt**

Sandy Shehata (aged 16, abducted on [April 18, 2016](#) 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 for two weeks; **UPDATE**: thrown from a truck in a deserted area, reunited with her family)

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



## **United Kingdom: Bradford**

Nissar Hussain (convert from Islam, husband of Kubra, victim of multiple attacks from Muslims; **UPDATE:** commented on his interactions with Member of Parliament Naz Shah and her aide Mohammed Shabbir following their suspension from the Labour Party for online anti-Semitic posts, including their attempts to hide the religious motives of his attackers and Shabbir's emailed defense of his attackers)

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/labours-anti-semitic-revelations-only-the-tip-of-the-iceberg-says-nissar-hussain-a-christian-convert>

**Wednesday May 4, 2016**



### **Syria: Aleppo**

Fr Ibrahim Alsabagh OFM (aged 44; **UPDATE:** wrote of missile attacks on a hospital in which 17 children were killed in the obstetrics department and on a mosque with many refugees inside "Yesterday we experienced the worst day of the week, with heavy bombardment... The way we are being forced to live is a real crime against humanity, because targeting children, infants, women in childbirth, college students...call it revenge or terrorism, are truly horrific acts. We ask for compassion and mercy for these innocent victims. We must all be close to all those who suffer, for those who have experienced violence...for infants, the elderly, the desperate. As a Church we are close not only to Christians, but to anyone who has been struck in his dignity by this violence. This is why I renew my appeal to all of you for your prayers and thank you for the solidarity, your closeness to us, your good will")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Pastor-of-Aleppo:-Missiles-on-hospitals,-schools-and-mosques.-Call-for-Masses-for-peace-worldwide-37403.html>



### **Nigeria: Kaduna state**

**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**

Bishop George Jonathan Dodo (**UPDATE:** said "The proposed law is in contravention of the Nigerian Constitution and shall inhibit the preaching of the gospel when it becomes operational. We have reservations over the bill and believe that it will curtail religious freedom of the people, particularly, Christians")

Solomon Musa (**UPDATE**: said that the government needs to stop the incessant attacks on Christians by armed Muslims instead of passing an anti-Christian law)

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

**Thursday May 5, 2016**



**Vietnam: Vinh**

**A group of Christians had been deliberately run over by a military truck**

Pastor Dang Ba Nham (aged 56, husband, **killed**, wife seriously injured, hospitalized)

Phan Thi Thanh Huyen (convert, hospitalized)

Hoang Ngoc Hung (church elder, hospitalized, given a 20% chance of survival)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/05/accident-kills-evangelical-pastor-new-christian-in-vietnam/>



**India: Jobat, Madhya Pradesh state**

Nirmal Raymind Nigam (accused along with his brother of desecrating Hindu flags that had been installed in front of his church, arrest warrant issued)

Pastor Emmanuel Ariel (church service of 300 Christians interrupted by a dozen Hindu extremists on [March 1, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: said that the Hindu flags "were probably torn because of the wind...RSS [paramilitary] activists, the BJP and Bajrang Dal [the RSS youth wing] led by former district chief, threw stones at members of the community, attacked our women and broke the church lamps...all this happened before the eyes of the police officers, who stood by as silent spectators")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Madhya-Pradesh,-Hindu-extremists-stone-Protestant-church-37406.html>

**Friday May 6, 2016**



**Vietnam: Vinh**

Phan Thi Thanh Huyen (convert, deliberately run over by a military truck on [May 5, 2016](#), hospitalized; **UPDATE: died**)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/05/accident-kills-evangelical-pastor-new-christian-in-vietnam/>



**Congo, Democratic Republic: North Kivu province**

Deaconess Eva Makanaiye (aged 40, mother of five, **killed** by Islamist militants)

Eva-Mamulu (aged 12, child of Deaconess Eva Makanaiye)

Alima-Franchine (aged 9, child of Deaconess Eva Makanaiye)

Sami-Sumbuka (aged 7, child of Deaconess Eva Makanaiye)

Unamosi-Jouele (aged 4, child of Deaconess Eva Makanaiye)

Amali-Daniel (aged 2, child of Deaconess Eva Makanaiye)

Rose (mother of five, **killed** by Islamist militants)

Mike Anticoli (founder of Eglise du Rocher [Church on the Rock], said “We are heartbroken, questioning our faith, half-terrified, but determined, and carrying on. We are a small but growing church organization, founded in 2005, and have 13 churches and three ministry training schools in the danger zone of North Kivu. We may be targeted due to the fact that we train local leaders and aspiring missionaries from several churches and denominations...Our pastor ran away with two of his children. The whole night he did not know where his wife was, or his three other children. People spent the night in the jungle under heavy rain. This morning our pastor came back and found his wife and children all alive. Praise God!”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/05/4453970/>

**Saturday May 7, 2016**



**Vietnam: Son Duong district, Tuyen Quang province**

Fr Joseph Nguyen Van The ("kind old priest", beaten by police while travelling to celebrate Mass, hospitalized with serious hand and feet injuries, attack was likely motivated by his statements against corruption)

Fr Joseph Nguyen Van Phong (said "This is a deliberate attack, under the direction of the local government and police. It was not a random aggression")

Bishop Cosma Hoang Van Djat (visited Fr Joseph Nguyen Van The in the hospital)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Priest-beaten-by-police-after-reporting-corruption-37494.html>



### **Pakistan: Chak 44, Mandi Bahaudin**

Imran Masih (aged 25, hospital janitor, beaten on [April 15, 2016](#) by three pharmacists for allegedly having a blasphemous video on his cell phone, in hiding with his family;

**UPDATE:** mosque loudspeakers drew a crowd of 1,000 which was then incited to kill him, a bounty of US\$9,551 was posted for his death, many local Christians fled their homes, those that remained were threatened with death and refused business at local food stores)

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

**Sunday May 8, 2016**



### **China: Lucheng district, Wenzhou, Zhejiang province**

He Jiyi (beaten by the local Party Secretary after he refused to withdraw a lawsuit)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/05/wenzhou-house-church-leader-beaten-by.html>



### **Vietnam: Vinh**

Pastor Dang Ba Nham (aged 56, husband, **killed** after being deliberately run over by a military truck on [May 5, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** funeral held, church crowded to overflowing, when the eulogist asked "Who will take his place?" approximately 30 young people stood)



<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/05/accident-kills-evangelical-pastor-new-christian-in-vietnam/>



**India: Palamu district, Jharkhand state**

**Sixteen Christian Dalits [untouchables] were called to a village meeting to explain their abandonment of Hinduism**

Naresh Bhuiya (said “They wanted us to shout to hail the Hindu god. When we refused, they tied our legs and hands and beat us mercilessly”) \ Pastor Sanjay Kumar Ravi (convert, said “About 100 people from three neighboring villages were waiting when we reached the place and started to tell us that it is wrong for us to pray to Jesus and that we should follow Hinduism and perform puja [Hindu rituals] to the idols only”, gave his personal testimony on his conversion, after all of the Christians refused “They shouted to each other to bring kerosene oil so that they could burn us all”, suffered a painful internal injury in his chest, lacerations on his hands and abrasions all over his body, filed a police report)

Naresh Ram (father of Eraj Ram, beaten, hands broken)

Eraj Ram (aged 5, son of Naresh Ram, begged that his father be spared from the beatings, thrown aside by the Hindu radicals)

Rev Akash Nandi (**UPDATE:** gave additional details of the attack on the Christians led by Pastor Sanjay Kumar Ravi “The pastor’s testimony enraged the crowd more and they started to beat him and the other five Christian men...”, when threatened with death the Christians replied "Do whatever you like, we are not going to leave Christ at any cost")

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/india-christian-villagers-beaten-over-refusal-to-convert-to-hinduism/>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/06/police-in-india-threaten-to-fine-christians-attacked-by-hindu-extremists/>



**Pakistan: Chehl Kalan village, Gujranwala, Punjab province**

Suleman Hadayat Maish (aged 14, son of Hadayat Masih, **killed** by his employer who had slapped him for wasting hay which caused him to fall and suffer a lethal head injury, body then hung with a rope in the stable in an attempt to fabricate a suicide, autopsy showed evidence of sodomy)

Hadayat Masih (Army janitor, father of Suleman Hadayat Maish)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5926>



**Uganda: Mbaale village, Imanyiro sub-county, Mayuge district**

Mariam Nakirya (aged 30, mother of five, **strangled to death** by her Muslim husband for leaving Islam, the husband attempted to bury his five children but was stopped by neighbors of both faiths)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/05/muslim-in-eastern-uganda-kills-christian-wife-for-leaving-islam-relatives-say/>

**Monday May 9, 2016**



**China: Zhejiang province**

Pastor Zhang Chongzhu (possibly abducted by police on [September 8, 2015](#); officially charged on [February 5, 2016](#) with 'stealing, spying, buying, or illegally providing state secrets or intelligence to entities outside China'; **UPDATE**: released)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Protestant-pastor-who-proteted-cross-demolitions-is-released-37478.html>



**India: Mumbai**

Dr Pascoal Carvalho (condemned the rape and murder of a 28 year old Dalit [untouchable] law school student, said "The life of women is considered less important than that of men. Their exploitation starts even before birth, with sex-selective abortion; then continues with the industry of wombs for rent...Violence against women is not only the most widespread example of a human rights violation , gender bias is all too prevalent in India, causing grave concerns for women's safety in India. This horrific and brutal assault on the young women is another shame on the safety of our women...")

**India: Rourkela, Odisha state**

Pastor Abraham Biswas Surin (aged 64, last seen on [May 5, 2016](#), **body reported to have been found under a bridge, throat slit**, hit multiple times with an axe)

Eliazer Topno (said "We are shocked by the murder. Perhaps the pastor was killed for circumstantial reasons. We asked the Lutheran Evangelical Christians of Rajgangpur to take the matter to the police and the government of Odisha...I do not understand because

the pastor had informed his family that he was going to Ranchi, when his body was found in Rourkela, 215 km from that city")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Indian-bishops:-Total-condemnation-of-rape-and-murder-of-young-Dalit-woman-37436.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Odisha:-evangelical-clergyman-killed,-throat-cut,-body-dumped-under-a-bridge-37445.html>

**Tuesday May 10, 2016**



**India: Dhamtari, Chhattisgarh state**

Umesh Patel (arrested on forced conversion charges for publicly handing out brochures on the Gospel)

**India: Palamu district, Jharkhand state**

Pastor Sanjay Kumar Ravi (convert, **UPDATE:** said of the police response to the [May 8, 2016](#) attack "We were forced to sign the bond [that stated they would worship only in their homes], we have no other choice as we have nowhere else to stay except in the village...Our names were also cut off from the list where houses were allotted to the [Dalit] villagers by the state authorities")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Chhattisgarh:-Evangelical-Christian-arrested-for-handing-out-brochures-on-Gospel-37469.html>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/06/police-in-india-threaten-to-fine-christians-attacked-by-hindu-extremists/>



**Pakistan: Faisalabad**

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 on [March 12, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** **shot dead** after he refused to withdraw his complaint)

Najma Bibi (widow of Tanveer Masih, mother of Mehwish Masih, unable to work or leave her home due to threats, said "several months after my daughter's kidnapping, the police have not done anything because we have no money to defend our rights. We live in a hopeless situation, we need help. I pray that my daughter will continue to place hope and faith in Jesus Christ...I want my daughter back. I want the perpetrators brought to justice. I have no money to buy food or continue the legal battle. I ask help from God's people")

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



### **Sudan: Khartoum**

Telahoou Nogose Kassa Ratta (aged 36, arrested in Bahri on December 14, 2015; **UPDATE**: released)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/05/sudan-releases-one-of-two-church-leaders-arrested-in-december/>

**Wednesday May 11, 2016**



### **Vietnam**

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 on April 14, 2016 after she refused to answer questions concerning her March 30, 2016 conversation with U.S. diplomats, beaten at the police station in Pleiku, Gia Lai province, returned and dumped unconscious in the road in front of her home; **UPDATE**: forced by police to attend a meeting at the People's Committee Office)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Jailed-Vietnamese-pastors-wife-severely-beaten-son-arrested-family-harassed>



### **Thailand: Bangkok**

Mehwish Anna (wife of Sajjad Chand, mother of Sataish and Priscila, Pakistani refugee, arrested on September 10, 2015 for overstaying her visa; **UPDATE**: released on bail after interviewed for a BBC documentary)

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/Pak-Christian-Asylum-seeker-set-free-after-9-month-incarceration-in-brutal-Thai-detention-centre>



### **United States - North Carolina: Charlotte**

Pastor Matt Bentley (stabbed multiple times after interrupting a burglary at his home, treated at a hospital, released)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/megachurch-pastor-stabbed-4-times-north-carolina-home-invasion-163856/>

**Thursday May 12, 2016**



### **Vietnam: Gia Lai province**

Tran Thi Hong (wife of Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh [who has been serving 11 years in prison for 'undermining national unity'], forced by police to attend a meeting at the People's Committee Office on [May 11, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: held to the ground by four policewomen who repeatedly pinched her)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Jailed-Vietnamese-pastors-wife-severely-beaten-son-arrested-family-harassed>



### **Pakistan: Bihar Colony [ghetto], Lahore**

Maryam Mushtaq (aged 24, college student, daughter of Mussarat Mushtaq, sister of Romail Mushtaq, abducted by two masked men on a public street, two witnesses chased the abductor's automobile on motorcycles but the abductors escaped)

Romail Mushtaq (aged 11, son of Mussarat Mushtaq, brother of Maryam Mushtaq, witnessed his sister's abduction, threatened with violence by her abductors)

Mussarat Mushtaq (aged 53, mother of Maryam and Romail Mushtaq, filed a police report on her daughter Maryam's abduction, police reported that Maryam had converted to Islam and married a Muslim, the police will likely be forced to continue the case due to the large number of witnesses to the abduction, said "Three years ago my husband died of cancer, two years ago Maryam's sister died. Now kidnappers have taken away my daughter, I am devastated. Maryam was a good intelligent hard working girl, she went back to college to improve her chances for employment so that she could support her family. The kidnappers have destroyed her future. Maryam had a good relationship with her brother

Romail and remaining sister Khusboo [23 years], they would know if she had been interested in this man. None of them have ever even seen him before. Maryam like the rest of us attends church every week there is no way she would give up her whole life and salvation to marry a Muslim man. Jesus has always been the center of her life")

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/brazen-abduction-of-christian-girl-in-broad-daylight-by-two-masked-muslim-men-sparks-concern-over-he>



#### **Azerbaijan: Gakh**

Gulara Huseynova (detained for distributing religious literature on [April 11, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** acquitted)

Rasmiyya Karimova (detained for distributing religious literature on [April 11, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** acquitted)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2222](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2222)



#### **Egypt: Beni Mazar, Minya province**

Mariam (aged 16, abducted on her way to school, ransom of US\$28,185 demanded, tortured and abused)

#### **Egypt: Esmaelia al-Bahreia, Minya province**

Bishop Makarios (**UPDATE:** reported on a church arson attack, said "St Mary's Church in the village of Esmaelia al-Bahreia was burned down completely after an attack carried out by extremists...The [wooden] makeshift church has been used for worship for over a year... since a proper church is yet to be authorized by the government since 2009")

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/extremists.burn.down.church.in.egypt/85988.htm>

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2016/07/13/wave-of-kidnappings-rock-upper-egypts-christian-community-part-6/>



#### **Turkey: Mus**

Aziz Dagecin (condemned the desecration of a Christian cemetery, said "We call for an end to the desecration of our tombs: they do not contain anything other than the bones of our

ancestors, who were buried wrapped in sheets. There are no valuables, and the same goes for our monasteries")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/60006-ASIA\\_TURKEY\\_Armenian\\_cemetery\\_desecrated\\_in\\_Mus#.Vzq43sIUUfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60006-ASIA_TURKEY_Armenian_cemetery_desecrated_in_Mus#.Vzq43sIUUfg)

**Friday May 13, 2016**



**China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province**

Xiang Lihua (wife of Pastor Wen Xiaowen, mother of Wen "Eden" Yidian, criminally detained on [April 25, 2016](#) along with her husband and son, the detentions were likely in response for their meetings with U.S. Consulate officials in Shanghai; **UPDATE**: released, husband and son still detained)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/05/zhejiang-pastors-wife-released-pastor.html>



**Vietnam: Gia Lai province**

Tran Thi Hong (wife of Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh [who has been serving 11 years in prison for 'undermining national unity'], forced by police on [May 11, 2016](#) to attend a meeting at the People's Committee Office; held to the ground on [May 12, 2016](#) by four policewomen who repeatedly pinched her; **UPDATE**: taken by police at 6 AM along with her 18 year old son [leaving her other children unattended], abused for 3 hours which including having chopsticks forced into her mouth, released, her son was released later that day)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Jailed-Vietnamese-pastors-wife-severely-beaten-son-arrested-family-harassed>



**Bangladesh: Kushtia**

Fr Domenic K Halder (spoke on the rape of one of his parishioners, a 26 year old high school teacher, by her principal and another "We were advised by a local newspaper [which had a reporter who was a witness in some way]. We sought help from the local police for the victim. The girl is very frightened. We pray for her, she is still in hospital")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Protests-erupt-after-rape-of-Catholic-teacher-37503.html>



### **Iran: Rasht**

Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani (aged 37, husband of Fatema Pasindedih Nadarkhani, father of Daniel and Yoel, released on [September 8, 2012](#) from prison with time served, had been sentenced to death for apostasy; re-arrested on [December 25, 2012](#) and returned to prison because the director of Lakan Prison claimed he had been released several days too early and needed to complete his term and finish his paperwork, was unable to celebrate Christmas with his family; released [January 7, 2013](#); **UPDATE**: arrested)

Fatema Pasindedih Nadarkhani (wife of Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani; arrested)

Yasser Mosayebzadeh (home raided by VEVAK agents on [February 16, 2015](#), religious items seized, warned on [February 17, 2015](#) to leave the country; **UPDATE**: arrested)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/iran-christian-persecution-pastor-yousef-nadarkhani-arrest-163895/>



### **Egypt: Dar Al-Salam, outside Cairo**

Mina Thabet (aged 26, civil rights activist; **UPDATE**: arrested on false terrorism charges by National Security Agency agents for continuing his civil rights work, had returned home to face arrest so that his 21 year old brother would not be arrested)

Safwat Samaan Yasaa (civil rights activist; **UPDATE**: said of the arrest of Mina Thabet and others "These people are treated as terrorists. This a problem facing everybody who works in these fields, and many have stopped writing, opposing, or objecting to what's happening, afraid they will be arrested next")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/05/egyptian-crack-down-on-human-rights-defenders-reaches-key-christian-activist/>



### **Congo, Democratic Republic**

Fr Gaston Mumbere AA (wrote to President Joseph Kabila to call for intervention to stop the massacres in North Kivu, added that with 8 million dead in the last 20 years "at this rate, you could become the President of the dead, cemeteries and mass graves")



<http://www.fides.org/en/news/60017->

[AFRICA DR CONGO Appeal of an Assumptionist father President intervene to stop the massacres in North Kivu#.Vzq5c8IUUfg](#)

**Saturday May 14, 2016**



**Pakistan: Lahore**

Faraz Masih (aged 30, reported to have been tortured by police)

Doya Masih (aged 40, reported to have been tortured by police)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/bilawal-bhutto-slams-lahore-police-for-savagely-torturing-two-christians/>



**Uzbekistan: Tortuvli village, Denau district, Surkhandarya region**

**Four Christians were detained in an NSS secret police raid, detained, released**

Bakhtiyor Odinayev (home raided by NSS secret police, detained, released)

Andrei Serin (**UPDATE:** detained in the raid on the home of Bakhtiyor Odinayev, released)

Mahmud Hakimjanov (detained in the raid on the home of Bakhtiyor Odinayev, released)

Shamsiddin Begmatov (detained in the raid on the home of Bakhtiyor Odinayev, released)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2219](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2219)



**Iran: Rasht**

Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani (aged 37, arrested on [May 13, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** released)

Fatema Pasindedih Nadarkhani (arrested on [May 13, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** released)

Saheb Fadaie (home raided by VEVAK agents on [February 16, 2015](#), religious items seized, warned on [February 17, 2015](#) to leave the country; **UPDATE:** still under arrest)

Mohammad-Reza Yohan Omidi (**UPDATE:** still under arrest)

<http://www.bosnewslife.com/36868-breaking-news-iran-pastor-nadarkhani-and-wife-released-three-other-christians-detained>

**Sunday May 15, 2016**



**India: Parapur village, Lohandiguda area, Bastar district, Chhattisgarh state**

Kamli Kawasi (aged 22, sister of Bamaan Kawasi, beaten unconscious by four men because her family was Christian, hospitalized with significant internal bleeding, has lost the hearing in her left ear, now in hiding with her family)

Bamaan Kawasi (aged 19, brother of Kamli Kawasi, had been the initial target of his sister's attackers, now in hiding with his family)

Pastor Bhupendra Khora (**UPDATE**: described the attack on Kamli Kawasi)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Hindu-extremists-in-India-beat-young-Christian-woman-unconscious>



**Azerbaijan: Gakh**

Rahim Karimov (detained after speaking about the Bible)

Luka Khusishvili (**UPDATE**: detained after speaking about the Bible)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2222](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2222)



**Belarus: Biarozauka, Lida district**

Fr Andrzej Stopyra (Polish citizen, refused permission to stay in the country [had served for 25 years], said his last Mass and left the country)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2194](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2194)



**Uganda: Kasecha village, Kibuku district**

Pastor Micah Byamukama (aged 61, widower, **died from poisoning with insecticide** after disputing the Islamic theology of Jinns)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/05/baptist-pastor-poisoned-to-death-in-eastern-uganda/>

**Monday May 16, 2016**



**Nepal: Kathmandu**

Fr Silas Bogati (called on the government to repeal the unconstitutional anti-conversion law rather than reduce the punishments)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/nepal-should-scrap-anti-conversion-law-not-water-it-down/76049>



**Pakistan: Gujrat**

Sonia Bibi (seamstress, sister of Shoukat Gill, accused of blasphemy for using floor mats with pictures of local politicians, local police found the allegations to be baseless)

Shoukat Gill (brother of Sonia Bibi)

**Pakistan: Lahore**

Tahira Gill (aged 55, nurse, mother of Zeeshan Gill, critically injured in the **March 27, 2016** suicide bombing in **Lahore**, hospitalized; **UPDATE: died from her injuries**)

**Pakistan: Partab Nagar, Faisalabad**

Qaisar Jahan (hired as a 'water man' who delivers water to students, as of **February 9, 2016** has been fighting demotion to janitor by the Muslim headmistress after it was discovered he was a Christian, said "Two other friends of mine have been hired as 'water men' in other schools but have been forced to do the janitorial work. I will not do it"; **UPDATE: reinstated in his position by the Education District Office, headmistress ordered to publicly apologize to him**)

**Pakistan: Pogabhaduki, near Chunia**

Khaleel Masih (aged 42, husband of Nazia Bibi, father of six, ice cream vendor, beaten unconscious by a mob for being unclean and for having an evil spirit, bicycle damaged, ice cream destroyed, US\$24 stolen, police refused to file a report and forced him to sign a

forgiveness contract, said "I am now terrified of selling my ice-creams I only go to Christian communities but this has drastically reduced my income. Soon I will not be able to feed my children. I have reached my lowest point and seek refuge from God")

Nazia Bibi (wife of Khaleel Masih, said "These Muslims attacked my innocent husband while he was working. They say Christians have an evil spirit in them but we are peaceful and innocent victims who harm nobody? The Police ignored our pleas for help and I find this very demoralizing. My children have always been bullied at school but now the bullying is worse, what have we done to deserve this?")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/A-Christian-water-man-marginalised-for-his-religion-gets-his-job-back-37530.html>

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/christian-ice-cream-seller-brutally-beaten-for-fear-of-evil-spirit-contamination-of-ice-creams>

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

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5928>



#### **Uzbekistan: Urgench, Khorezm region**

Nikolai Serin (**UPDATE:** present at the home of Stanislav Kim when it was raided by police)

Stanislav Kim (home raided by police on [July 20, 2015](#), passport, books, and automobile seized, detained, interrogated, released at 1 AM, summoned the next day for more questioning; fined US\$459 on [August 8, 2015](#); **UPDATE:** home raided again by police)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2192](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2192)



#### **South Sudan: Yei**

Sr Veronica Rackova SSPS (aged 58, Slovak citizen, shot by Sudan People Liberation Army soldiers while driving an ambulance)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/60075-AFRICA\\_SOUTH\\_SUDAN\\_Slovak\\_missionary\\_who\\_was\\_shot\\_and\\_seriously\\_wounded\\_has\\_died#.VOA-mMIUufg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60075-AFRICA_SOUTH_SUDAN_Slovak_missionary_who_was_shot_and_seriously_wounded_has_died#.VOA-mMIUufg)

**Tuesday May 17, 2016**



### **Uzbekistan: Urgench City Criminal Court in north-western Khoresm Region**

Jurabek Vapayev (home raided by anti-terrorism police, no religious literature found, personal diary and cell phone seized, beaten and tortured)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2206](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2206)



### **Nigeria: Sambisa Forest**

Amina Ali Nkeki (schoolgirl, abducted on [April 14, 2014](#) in [Chibok, Borno state](#) by Boko Haram gunmen; **UPDATE**: recovered by the Nigerian army with her Boko Haram husband and their child, insisted that her husband had been forced into joining)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4678875/>

**Wednesday May 18, 2016**



### **Pakistan: Punjab province**

Prof Anjum James Paul (**UPDATE**: wrote to the Chief Minister [Governor] to complain that a Muslim scholar did not have his PhD thesis approved because it was concerned with discrimination against religious minorities in the educational system)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5927>



### **Uzbekistan: Urgench, Khorezm region**

Nikolai Serin (present at the home of Stanislav Kim when it was raided by police on [May 17, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: questioned at the police station for six hours)

Stanislav Kim (home raided again by police on [May 17, 2016](#), Christian literature seized; **UPDATE**: questioned at the police station for six hours)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2192](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2192)



### **Belarus: Brest**

Viktor Kalina (aged 23, indicted on [June 22, 2015](#) for refusing military service, had been exempted from military service the previous year due to heart disease, trial begun on [August 17, 2015](#); acquitted on [September 8, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: re-tried in a second trial, convicted, fined US\$1,050)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2204](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2204)

**Thursday May 19, 2016**



### **Pakistan: Christian Town, Faisalabad**

Pastor Kamal Chughtai (worship service with hundreds of parishioners invaded by several policemen who forced them out of the church and mistreated women, beaten when he demanded they stop their misconduct, taken to his home which was then searched and ransacked without warrant, beaten again at the police station, charged along with 34 other Christians, released, complained to higher officials but was ignored, said “but we shall not be silenced; we shall continue to raise our voice on behalf of minorities. I am glad my community is standing by me in the fight for justice”)

Pervaiz Younus Khokhar (arrested)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Faisalabad:-hundreds-of-Christians-protest-police-brutality-against-their-pastor-37623.html>

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/despair-for-faisalabad-christians-after-police-arrest-dozens-for-alleged-terrorism>



### **Egypt: Karma, Minya province**

Soad Thabet (aged 70, mother of Ashraf Attiya, said after she reported to police that her home had been ransacked by a mob "The police chased us out of the police station. They said we were troublemakers”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/06/4493895/>



**Nigeria: Shettima Aboh, Damboa local government area, Borno state**

Serah Luka (recovered from Boko Haram by the Nigerian army along with 96 other women and children)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4678875/>



**France: Manosque, Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur**

Pastor Alain Denizou (described an arson attack on his church)

[http://evangelicalfocus.com/europe/1633/Evangelical\\_church\\_in\\_France\\_set\\_on\\_fire](http://evangelicalfocus.com/europe/1633/Evangelical_church_in_France_set_on_fire)

**Friday May 20, 2016**



**India: Guwahati, Assam state**

Archbishop John Moolachira (**UPDATE**: commented on the electoral victory of the Hindu nationalist BJP party in Assam state "It [Hindu nationalism] may not work in Assam because of the multiplicity of tribes and cultures. We do not expect any serious problem in the state. We are praying and hoping so")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/assam-bishop-praying-as-hindu-nationalists-win-polls/76094>



**Lebanon**

Fr Paul Karam (**UPDATE**: said that Syrian refugees cannot register the births of their children nor find proper burial grounds for their dead, have resorted to mass graves)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Caritas-Lebanon:-the-plight-of-Syrian-refugees-who-cannot-register-newborns-or-bury-their-dead-37550.html>



### **Kenya: Nairobi Hospital**

Sr Veronica Rackova SSPS (aged 58, Slovak citizen, shot by Sudan People Liberation Army soldiers while driving an ambulance in [Yei, South Sudan](#) on [May 16, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** [died of her injuries](#))

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/60075-AFRICA SOUTH SUDAN Slovak missionary who was shot and seriously wounded has died#.V0A-mMIUufg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60075-<u>AFRICA SOUTH SUDAN Slovak missionary who was shot and seriously wounded has died#.V0A-mMIUufg</u>)



### **Egypt**

Mariam Khamis (aged 16, abducted, family demonstrated in front of their local police station to demand her return)

Izzat Ibrahim Ezzat (rights activist; **UPDATE:** said that police know who abducted Mariam Khamis but have taken no action)

### **Egypt: Karma, Minya province**

Soad Thabet (aged 70, mother of Ashraf Attiya, said after she reported to police that her home had been ransacked by a mob on [May 19, 2016](#) "The police chased us out of the police station. They said we were troublemakers"; **UPDATE:** "On Friday [the next day], sometime in the evening, our home was stormed. They beat my husband severely. When I started screaming, they dragged me out into the street. They repeatedly beat me and stripped me of all my clothes. They left me as naked as the day I was born...I wish they had only beaten me, no matter how hard, but not stripped me entirely naked as they did", rescued from the mob by a Muslim neighbor named Ramadan Kamal, reported the assault to police only to find that "The complaint I filed earlier on Thursday was not found. The police then claimed I never reported anything", has left her village along with her husband)

Ashraf Attiya (aged 31, son of Soad Thabet)

Bishop Makarios (**UPDATE:** said of the attack on Soad Thabet "The law should take its course until the perpetrators are brought to justice. Such issues have to be tackled head on. The root causes have to be exposed", rejected the use of the extrajudicial reconciliation meetings "Often the specter of 'consequences', or 'dangers' to our children and our businesses, is raised in order to force us to such settlements")

Fr Rafik Greich (**UPDATE:** condemned the Islamist attack on Soad Thabet "It's all hearsay. The story about an affair between a Christian man [the woman's son] and a Muslim woman is not true. It is a pretext used by extremists to attack. They burnt [seven] homes and stripped the woman [naked,][who downplayed the thing to police] and drove her around



the village in a car...Inaction or complicity by local police is an added factor [, local Christians had warned of a pending attack but police intervened] more than two hours after the incident, making things worse...If anything good has come out of it, it is that Egyptians strongly condemned the sad and painful incident", the attack has become front page news and President Sisi has ordered the military to rebuild the destroyed homes)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Extremist-attack-on-Coptic-woman-in-Minya-due-to-pretext,-sparks-outrage,-says-Fr-Rafic-37614.html>

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1643&A=23479>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/06/4493895/>

**Saturday May 21, 2016**



### **Vietnam**

Fr Thadeus Nguyen Van Ly (aged 70's, sentenced on [March 30, 2007](#) to 8 years' imprisonment and 5 years' house arrest, had previously spent 14 years in prison [between 1977 and 2014](#); **UPDATE**: released, refused a pardon because he said he did nothing wrong, thanked the impending visit of U.S. President Obama as the cause of this 'good will' gesture)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/To-please-Obama,-Hanoi-releases-Catholic-human-rights-icon-Fr.-Van-Ly--37560.html>



### **Iran: Evin prison, Tehran**

Maryam Naghash-Zargaran aka Nasim (aged 38, began serving four years imprisonment on [July 15, 2013](#), apparently has had a heart attack in prison, transferred to Modares hospital on [September 29, 2013](#), condition unknown; subjected to an extremely invasive and public strip search upon returning to prison on [November 12, 2014](#) after a four day furlough, health has been precarious; granted a leave for medical treatment on [October 27, 2015](#), forced to return to prison on [October 27, 2015](#) midway through her treatment; **UPDATE**: has continued to endure significant medical problems in prison, currently has nausea and pain in her ear, has been told to not move her head for two weeks, may require surgery, also suffers from spinal pain)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=2913>



### **Mexico: Veracruz**

Bishop Eduardo Patino Leal (wrote "things are getting worse and worse" after criminals invaded a church during Mass to abduct a parishioner and family man for ransom, added "These things are not possible, churches therefore are no longer places of peace and communion?...As we have been saying for several years, month after month, we want peace! There is no security, because many criminals are free")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/60095->

[AMERICA MEXICO Kidnapping during the Mass the Bishop denounces things are getting worse and worse#.V0RmycIUUfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60095-AMERICA_MEXICO_Kidnapping_during_the_Mass_the_Bishop_denounces_things_are_getting_worse_and_worse#.V0RmycIUUfg)

**Sunday May 22, 2016**



### **India: Naupur, Jaunpur district, Uttar Pradesh state**

Pastor Lalta Ram (aged 66, husband of Sushila Devi, beaten unconscious during a worship service by four masked Hindu extremists, hand fractured, hospitalized for 5 days, said of the 15 Christians who were injured in the attack "Anybody who needs prayer and counseling can come over to my place, and if anyone needs a home visit, I will go and visit")

Sushila Devi (aged 59, wife of Pastor Lalta Ram, beaten along with four other women when all tried to protect him, hand fractured, face and back injured)

Assistant Pastor Vijay Bahadur (said "Pastor Ram was beaten up severely on his body, hand, leg and head. The cut in his head was two inches deep, and he started to bleed profusely and fell unconscious on the ground...The policemen at the station told us to close down the church and questioned us about whether we are forcibly converting anyone. They further claimed that because of the church and the preaching, all the sorcerers in the area had lost their businesses, as the people no longer believed in them but in Jesus")

### **India: Satna, Madhya Pradesh state**

Rev V A Anthony (husband of Prabha, automobile stopped by Hindu extremists, beaten, arrested on false forcible conversion charges along with his wife and Praveen Choudhary)

Prabha (wife of Rev V A Anthony, automobile stopped by Hindu extremists, arrested on false forcible conversion charges along with her husband and Praveen Choudhary)

Praveen Choudhary (arrested along with Prabha Anthony and Rev V A Anthony)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Three-evangelical-Christians-arrested-in-Madhya-Pradesh-for-forced-conversions?-37570.html>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/06/hindu-extremists-in-india-beat-66-year-old-pastor-unconscious/>



**Kazakhstan: Zyryanovsk, East Kazakhstan region**

Yegor Prokopenko (aged 89; **UPDATE**: home raided by police during a worship service, fined US\$625)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2188](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2188)



**Syria: al-Wusta district, Qamishle**

George Lahdo (reported to have been **killed** in an ISIL attack on several restaurants)

Karim Simon (reported to have been **killed** in an ISIL attack on several restaurants)

Toma Khosho (reported to have been **killed** in an ISIL attack on several restaurants)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/isis-attack-assyrian-district-in-syria-five-killed/>

**Monday May 23, 2016**



**Pakistan: Kot Amam Din village**

Jagga (forced to flee his village along with his wife after a Muslim relative had been falsely accused of blasphemy)

Waris Masih (said “My uncle Jagga and his wife were called by their landlords, who told them to leave the village, or they would face dire consequences. Since then, at least 10 Christian families have locked their houses and gone to their relatives for an unspecified time”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/06/4494176/>



### **Uzbekistan: Sergeli district, Tashkent**

Aleksandr Ko (home raided on [April 28, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: fined US\$893 under administrative law, criminal case opened)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2219](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2219)

**Tuesday May 24, 2016**



### **Sudan**

Rev Kowa Shamal (arrested in [Khartoum Bahry](#) on [December 18, 2015](#); released on [January 16, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: arrested by the NISS secret police without charge)

Abdulmonem Abdumawla Issa Abdumawla (convert, held in jail)

<http://www.meconcern.org/en/prayer-requests/1096-sudan-pastor-re-arrested>

**Wednesday May 25, 2016**



### **India: Jalandhar, Punjab state**

Anoop Masih (aged 47, auto-rickshaw driver, protested Hindus throwing garbage in a Christian cemetery “I told them not to demean the Christian land and reminded them that the sentiments of the Christians are with their dead buried here”, said that later that day a customer “who seemed to me a learned gentleman...asked to stop for a moment in front of a shop in Santokhpura area, where seven men were waiting to ambush me. They suddenly pulled me down from my auto-rickshaw and started to assault me, saying that they are going to put me in a grave today...They hit me all over my body with many blows using their fists and legs, and then started to hit me in my private parts. One of them was wearing boots and his boot repeatedly hit one of my testicles so hard that I collapsed with the intensity of pain and I almost thought I’ll soon be dead”)

Pastor Vishnu Dev (said “The Hindu extremists intended to spread fear and teach [Anoop] Masih a lesson for speaking for the Christian community”)

Rev Vijayesh Lal (**UPDATE:** said “The situation for Christians in Punjab is getting difficult. This also coincides with the rise of the RSS [paramilitary organization] in the state”)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Rising-persecution-in-Punjab-India-alarms-Christian-community>



### **Uzbekistan**

Pastor Latifahon Mamazhanov (brother of Marifzhon Mamazhanov, arrested in Fergana on [March 12, 2016](#), sentenced to 15 days' imprisonment for 'not submitting to authorities'; released on [March 28, 2016](#), 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; **UPDATE:** has fled the country with his family to avoid further persecution)

Murot Turdiyev (drove to the prosecutor's office in Fergana to protest the [March 12, 2016](#) arrest of Pastor Latifahon Mamazhanov, denied entry to the office by police, automobile seized for unspecified traffic violations; 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 on [March 28, 2016](#), automobile returned, police cut the electricity to his home while he was on trial and spoiled food in his refrigerator worth US\$37; **UPDATE:** has fled the country with his family to avoid further persecution)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2182](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2182)



### **Israel: Nazareth**

Auxiliary Bishop Giacinto-Boulos Marcuzzo (complained that the Israeli Ministry of Education has not followed its agreement to continue partial funding of Christian schools and is still attempting to merge them into the public system)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Vicar-of-Jerusalem:-Christian-Schools-without-funds,-Israel-not-respecting-agreements-37592.html>



### **Sudan**

Fr Gabriel El Anthony (abducted in [Nyala](#) on [April 14, 2016](#) by unknown persons; **UPDATE:** reported to have been released)

<http://foreignaffairs.co.nz/2016/05/25/africasudan-release-of-coptic-monk-kidnapped-in-darfur/>



**Malawi: Mangochi**

Bishop Monfort Stima (expressed concern over the growing radicalization of Muslims and the growing violence after Friday prayers)

<http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1464229470.html>



**Uganda: Busalamu village, Bukanga sub-county, Luuka district**

Pastor Brian Mukisa (aged 29, threatened with death for his conversion of Muslim children, church destroyed)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/08/youths-in-eastern-uganda-pay-heavy-price-for-turning-to-christ/>



**Egypt: El-Isyan village**

Mariam (aged 16, abducted on her way to school in [Beni Mazar](#), [Minya province](#) on [May 12, 2016](#), ransom of US\$28,185 demanded, tortured and abused, **UPDATE:** freed in a police raid)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2016/07/13/wave-of-kidnappings-rock-upper-egypts-christian-community-part-6/>



**Nigeria: Ninte village, Jema local government area, Kaduna state**

Ango (aged 55, men's fellowship treasurer, attacked by Fulani herdsmen with machetes, left for dead, hospitalized)

Naomi Sali (aged 45, described the attack “A Christian whose name is Ango was returning from his farm at about 5 p.m. when he was ambushed and attacked by a band of three Fulani Herdsmen. Ango was pursued by three sons of the Ardo [Fulani leader] in the area. They captured him and dragged him to the bush close to a stream, where they cut him with machetes. He was left there unconscious as they thought he was dead. Ango was in pains and crying out after he regained consciousness. The Baptist pastor who found Ango in a pool of blood met some Christian women who were also returning from their farms and requested they rush to the village to alert others for help to take him to the hospital”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/06/muslim-fulani-herdsmen-in-nigeria-kill-three-christians-attack-another-with-machetes/>

**Friday May 27, 2016**



#### **India: Gurdaspur, Punjab state**

Arif Chouhan (aged 29, described an assault “Each of them was carrying a sickle in their hand and they hit me holding it upside down in a way that I would get internal injuries and not bleed. While assaulting me the attackers said that they had been following me for ten days and finally found me in a secluded place. I was unable to move for two weeks and the police have now given me two security personnel for my safety. In my 16 years of ministry as a Christian leader, I have not faced such opposition before”)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Rising-persecution-in-Punjab-India-alarms-Christian-community>



#### **Iran: Evin prison, Tehran**

Maryam Naghash-Zargarán aka Nasim (aged 38, began serving four years imprisonment on [July 15, 2013](#), apparently has had a heart attack in prison, transferred to Modares hospital on [September 29, 2013](#), condition unknown; subjected to an extremely invasive and public strip search upon returning to prison on [November 12, 2014](#) after a four day furlough, health has been precarious; granted a leave for medical treatment on [October 27, 2015](#), forced to return to prison on [October 27, 2015](#) midway through her treatment; as of [May 21, 2016](#) has continued to endure significant medical problems in prison, currently has nausea and pain in her ear, has been told to not move her head for two weeks, may require surgery, also suffers from spinal pain; **UPDATE:** has begun a hunger strike in an attempt to force prison authorities to give her proper medical treatment, is said to be nearly comatose)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/06/christian-prisoner-in-iran-begins-hunger-strike-over-denial-of-medical-treatment/>



**Albania: Kruja**

Violeta Gjika (religious pilgrim, **died** after her bus caught fire from an electric spark, eleven other pilgrims hospitalized)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/the-tragic-accident-of-a-group-of-orthodox-pilgrims-from-vlora/>

**Saturday May 28, 2016**



**Iraq: Bagdad**

Patriarch Louis Raphael I Sako (**UPDATE**: asked all Iraqis to pray together on May 30, 2016, said "A prayer in the church, with women and men carefully listening the texts of our hymns and our Psalms will also help Muslims [who are in attendance] reflect. We need a new way of thinking, a new culture, and our Muslim brothers must update their thinking for the goodness and peace we invoke are for everyone")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Baghdad-Patriarch-calls-on-Christians-and-Muslims-to-pray-for-peace-between-May-and-Ramadan-37619.html>

**Sunday May 29, 2016**



**China: Dongguan, Guangdong province**

Huang Xiaorui (pulled from the church pulpit during a police raid, donation boxes opened and US\$439 seized as illegal income)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/06/officials-raid-church-seven-times-since.html>





### **India: Naupur village, Jaunpur district, Uttar Pradesh state**

Pastor Lalta Prasad (aged 58, assaulted along with his wife by four masked men with wooden sticks during a worship service of more than 50 Christians, denied medical treatment)

Dinanath Jaiswar (said “The doctor on duty warned the couple of the consequences of getting a medical examination done and on filing a case against the assaulters on the basis of the medical test. The couple got extremely frightened and agreed not to get into further trouble and decided not to proceed with the medical examination and thus the police complaint was not filed. The political pressure on the police and the medical staff is evident in this case”)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/More-attacks-on-Indian-Christians-at-Sunday-worship>



### **Uzbekistan: in or near Navol City**

Sergei Alekseyev (home raided by anti-terrorism police without warrant)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2206](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2206)



### **Nigeria: Pandogari, Rafi local government area, Niger state**

Methodus Chimaije Emmanuel (aged 24, trader, **killed** by a mob after being accused of blasphemy)

Rev Daniel (said by telephone “The incident began with Facebook chats between a Muslim and Christian youth in the town. The Muslim youth mobilized other Muslims in the town on claims that the Christian youth had blasphemed the prophet Muhammad. The Muslims went to Fellowship Baptist Church along Allawa Road, Pandogari, and burned down the church”, added that two Christians had been shot and wounded)

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2016/05/4-killed-churhes-burnt-niger/>  
<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/06/muslim-mob-kills-christian-in-niger-state-nigeria-for-blasphemous-facebook-post/>

**Monday May 30, 2016**



### **Nigeria: Pandogari, Rafi local government area, Niger state**

Larai (said by telephone after the killing of Methodus Chimaije Emmanuel “Pandogari is a no-go area as the situation is terribly bad. Christians are being attacked even as I speak to you now”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/06/muslim-mob-kills-christian-in-niger-state-nigeria-for-blasphemous-facebook-post/>



### **United Nations: New York City**

Bishop Joseph Bagobiri (Nigerian citizen, presented the report *The Impact of Persistent Violence on the Church in Northern Nigeria*, in which was stated "Christian communities in the predominant Christian states in the Middle Belt areas are the most affected by the Muslim Fulani herdsmen forceful invasions and attacks. This is a blatant foreign invasion of the ancestral lands of the Christian and minority communities. In these middle belt states, the Fulani herdsmen have incessantly terrorized many communities, wiping out some from existence, and in places like Agatu in Benue State and Gwantu and Manchok in Kaduna State, these attacks assumed genocidal character, as between 150 – 300 vulnerable persons were killed overnight")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/60130-AFRICA\\_NIGERIA\\_More\\_than\\_1\\_3\\_million\\_Christians\\_forced\\_to\\_flee\\_from\\_northern\\_Nigeria\\_says\\_a\\_Bishop#.V1Q7QsIUU5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60130-AFRICA_NIGERIA_More_than_1_3_million_Christians_forced_to_flee_from_northern_Nigeria_says_a_Bishop#.V1Q7QsIUU5s)

**Tuesday May 31, 2016**



### **Sri Lanka: Ampara district**

Janani (aged 21, convert, wife, **beaten to death** by her mother after her conversion)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Christian-daughter-killed-by-Hindu-mother-in-Sri-Lanka-for-converting-to-Christianity>



### **Sudan: El Obeid, Nubia**

Bishop Emeritus Macram Max Gassis (wrote on continued military attacks “...on May 18 teachers at the San Vincenzo Ferrer school counted 15 bombs which fell close to the school, three no more than a 300 meters away. [On 26 May a missile launched by a fighter jet hit the school compound causing serious damages] The missile tore holes in the roof of the library and to make things worse it began to rain and the books must have been soaked”)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/60137-AFRICA\\_SUDAN\\_Continual\\_bombing\\_in\\_Nuba\\_Mountains\\_area\\_a\\_Catholic\\_school\\_damaged\\_Bishop\\_Gassis\\_reports#.V1Q3lcIUU5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60137-AFRICA_SUDAN_Continual_bombing_in_Nuba_Mountains_area_a_Catholic_school_damaged_Bishop_Gassis_reports#.V1Q3lcIUU5s)



### **Nigeria: Ninte village, Jema local government area, Kaduna state**

Zakka Kagoma (aged 40, **killed along with two other Christians** by Fulani herdsmen, several homes burned)

Rev Saleh Yamusa (fled his home with his family before it was burnt, unhurt)

### **Nigeria Andaha village, Jema local government area, Kaduna state**

Naomi Sali (aged 45, **UPDATE**: fled her home during a Fulani attack)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/06/muslim-fulani-herdsmen-in-nigeria-kill-three-christians-attack-another-with-machetes/>



### **Colombia: Tibu**

Bishop Omar Alberto Sanchez Cubillos OP (aged 52, said "Catatumbo is a place where many of the people are scarred, stigmatized also as victims. Catatumbo today is for the rest of the country a part of the territory which has nothing except coca, and in abundance...However few are aware of the complexity of this travailed region, whose wealth appears to have become its misfortune and the cause of its many ills that are far worse than presented by the media...Gradually the peasants became prisoners in a prison with open doors, they traded culture and traditions for work which allowed them to put bread on the table at home...Today it's a matter not only of illegal plantations, but also of a society in decomposition, a transformation of behavior and values...Catatumbo people have learned to live side by side with armed gangs. This is a territory under strict control and those in charge control also personal relations and behavior. The people have adapted

to this because they love the little piece of land on which they live and they want to make sure their families are safe, left in peace, because they have seen so much, too much, and are simply not interested in contradicting anyone...people here are simply content to survive")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/60139->

[AMERICA COLOMBIA In Catatumbo people are simply content to survive testimony by Bishop Sanchez Cubillos#.V1Q2ZMIUU5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60139-AMERICA_COLOMBIA_In_Catatumbo_people_are_simply_content_to_survive_testimony_by_Bishop_Sanchez_Cubillos#.V1Q2ZMIUU5s)

**May 2016, date unknown**



**Egypt: el-Arish, Sinai**

Masiq (aged 58, husband of Magda, **killed** by ISIL)

Magda (aged 52, widow of Masiq, mother of three sons, fled her home, said after his murder “The security forces are doing what they can but it is not enough. They are just as targeted as we are and are too scared to intervene. When a bomb goes off in Arish and we call the security forces to come, most of the time there is an ambush waiting for them. The militants appear out of nowhere. It’s a war zone and we are all being hunted”, may have to return home despite death threats against her eldest son)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2017/04/03/they-called-my-husband-an-infidel-and-killed-him/>



**Kazakhstan: Ekibastuz, Pavlodar region**

Sofya Bunyak (**UPDATE**: fined approximately US\$318 by police - not a court - for holding a worship service in her home in late May)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2200](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2200)



**Nigeria: Ninte, Jema local government area, Kaduna state**

Joshua (**killed** by Muslim Fulani herdsmen)

Saleh (**killed** by Muslim Fulani herdsmen)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/08/at-least-13-christians-killed-in-muslim-fulani-herdsmen-attacks-in-kaduna-state-nigeria/>



**United States: Flushing, Queens, New York City**

Javier Chavez (department store detective, fired for directing a man who claimed to be a woman to leave the women's dressing room)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/macys-fires-catholic-employee-for-supporting-natural-gender>

## **Today's Martyrs**

*For more information please visit our web site at <http://todaysmartyrs.org/>  
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