

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – June 2016

Wednesday June 1, 2016



Zambia: Lusaka

Fr Cleophas Lungu (**UPDATE:** said "The Catholic Bishops of Zambia are disappointed with politicians who have continued to perpetuate political clashes despite committing themselves to end political violence at the meeting that was called for by the Church leaders", expresses particular disappointment with Catholic politicians who turn to violence)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/60142->

[AFRICA ZAMBIA Bishops denounce Politicians do not keep their promises to end violence#.V1Q1vMIUU5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60142-)



Congo, Democratic Republic: Mambasa, Eastern province

Fr Egide Safari (threatened with death, extortion payments demanded)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/60147->

[AFRICA DR CONGO A priest denounces the fact of having received death threats#.V1Q03cIUU5t](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60147-)

Thursday June 2, 2016



Iraq

Archbishop Nicodemus Daoud Sharaf (**UPDATE:** reported to have said in [Strasbourg, France](#) "We Syrians, are the original inhabitants of this land, then we became a minority and now we are merely refugees in our own country. Christians are cheap people, you can kill them, they count for nothing...the demon first attacks the families to destroy people and the church")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20160602184447.htm>



Sudan: North Khartoum

Gisma Saeed (Christian school principal, arrested and removed from her school, government agents then installed a new principal, released, school land is likely targeted for transfer to a Muslim business)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/07/government-fires-teacher-from-christian-school-in-north-khartoum-sudan/>



Nigeria: Kano city, Kano state

Bridget Patience Agbahime (aged 74, wife of Pastor Mike Agbahime, plastic wares and kitchen utensils shopkeeper, **beaten to death** by a mob after being accused of blasphemy, she had asked her accuser to not perform his Islamic ablutions in front of her shop)

Pastor Mike Agbahime (widower of Bridget Patience Agbahime, witnessed the mob attack on his wife, rescued by police)

Rev Joseph Hayab (reported on the murder of Bridget Patience Agbahime, "We got it on good authority that the slain woman never blasphemed the prophet Muhammad, that the mastermind of the killing was fond of always provoking the [now] deceased and so, on that fateful day, we learned, the said man was doing ablution in front of the woman's shop and was cautioned – that was all. The man raised the alarm that she blasphemed prophet Muhammad. The man deliberately provoked the woman in question just to carry out that gruesome and barbaric act. All those that perpetuated the killing of the innocent woman must be fished out and brought to book")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/06/muslim-mob-in-northern-nigeria-kills-pastors-wife-on-blasphemy-accusation/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/06/4500305/>



United States - New York: Staten Island

Fr Marc Roselli SJ (aged 61, beaten by two robbers outside his church, later said Mass with a black eye)

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/nyc-crime/cops-bust-men-attacked-robbed-priest-staten-island-church-article-1.2659616>

Friday June 3, 2016



China: Xiao Di Ba village, Handan, Hebei province

Bishop Stephen Yang Xiangtai (forced by police to cancel a novena [prayer service] he had organized after three church tabernacles had been desecrated, police surrounded the village where the desecration had occurred to prevent outside worshippers from arriving)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/After-hosts-and-tabernacle-desecrated-in-Handan,-police-ban-reparation-ceremonies-and-novenas-37695.html>



Thailand: Bangkok

Imran Gill (aged 27, Pakistani refugee, disabled, requires crutches, detained, unable to stand or sit in detention)

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/emergency-appeal-for-release-of-desperate-pakistani-christian-asylum-seekers-in-thailand>



Belarus

Fr James Manjackal (Indian citizen, denied entry to the country, had visited twice before to conduct spiritual exercises)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2194

Saturday June 4, 2016



Bangladesh: Savar

Christians were violently prevented from voting

Fr Albert Thomas Rozario (**UPDATE**: described the attack "There are 1,800 Catholic voters out of a total of 2,400, but none of them were able to vote due to violence and fear. Most of the 700 people who went to vote in the morning returned home without casting their vote because the attackers pounded on them")

Jonas Costa (aged 48, council member, said "I was 100 percent sure about re-election but I have been forced into defeat, but I don't accept it. We will go to court to challenge the result and demand a new election")

Bilash B Gomes (filed a police report)

Ronel Gomes (aged 23, said "They attacked me in the polling center and I rushed to my home, but they chased me and beat me at home. They threatened to kill me if I voted. We are living in fear because a legal case has now been filed. If justice is not delivered it would be tough for us to live in this area", left hand fractured)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/catholics-attacked-during-local-election-in-bangladesh/76256>



Uganda: Kadama village, Kibuku district

Yokannah Zirinkuma (aged 50, widower, father of two daughters aged 17 and 22, **found dead** in a pool of blood, had been strangled and had other wounds)

Pastor Samuel Keffa (said "Yokannah mentioned to me that three Muslims from his village followed him till he entered the church for the seminar, and that he did not know where they went after that. He looked fearful for his life")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/06/christian-killed-in-eastern-uganda-after-religious-discussion-with-muslims/>

Sunday June 5, 2016



China: Nanyang, Henan province

Bai Fengju (farmer, land seized in an attempt to build 'temples', land returned and compensation and apology made after his family posted news of the seizure with overseas news media)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/06/gang-member-destroys-christians.html>



Bangladesh: Bonpara village, Natore, Rajshahi district

Sunil Gomes (aged 71, brother of Fr Proshanto Gomes, fruit and vegetable shopkeeper, **killed** by reputed ISIL members after returning to his shop after Mass)

Sopna Gomes (aged 45, daughter of Sunil Gomes, said "He was an innocent, simple and pious man. We don't know why he was murdered like this. We are living in fear")

Fr Proshanto Gomes (**UPDATE**: said of his brother's murder "I am shocked, saddened. My brother had no enemies. This seems a premeditated murder, an exceptionally brutal one which is unprecedented in this area and people are afraid")

Fr Bikash Rebeiro (reported on the murder of Sunil Gomes)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Islamic-murders-in-Bangladesh:-Catholic-slaughtered,-policeman's-wife-killed-in-front-of-child-37690.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/catholic-hacked-to-death-in-bangladesh/76240>



India: Balrampur district, Chhattisgarh state

Pastor Alvish Bara (beaten by 20 Hindu militants, arrested on forced conversion charges, other Christians also beaten)

India: Kas Mahal, Patna, Bihar state

Pastor Meera Rani (beaten by 25 members of the ABVP [the student wing of the BJP Hindu nationalist political party] during a church service, one of her fingers was fractured and her neck was cut under the ear)

Arun Kumar (described the attack "The church service was disrupted by members of the ABVP disguised as students. They stormed the venue, created a disturbance and proceeded to beat the Christians present using their belts. They also pelted stones at the women and children present...Many of the Christians were seriously injured and had to be admitted to the local hospital for treatment and first aid...The ABVP people have warned the

Christians not to conduct any more worship services in the church or else next Sunday they will come with guns and swords and will kill the Christians and cut them to pieces”)

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

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/60207->

[ASIA INDIA Protestant pastor and faithful beaten#.V19-PMIUU5s](#)



Uganda: Kakira parish area, Kisozi sub-county, Kamuli district

Nassif Malagara (aged 9, starved and beaten by his father after he said that he had accepted Jesus, tied to a tree and burned, rescued by neighbors, hospitalized)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/06/muslim-in-eastern-uganda-burns-9-year-old-son-for-accepting-christ-sources-say/>



United Kingdom: London

Wilson Chowdhry (**UPDATE**: criticized the British government for denying asylum to Christian converts from Muslim countries because they fail "Bible trivia" questioning, their failures happen due to a lack of Bibles in their countries of origin, lack of religious training, or translation errors)

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/converts-to-christianity-seeking-asylum-in-the-uk-rejected-on-very-spurious-grounds>

Monday June 6, 2016



China

Pastor Li Guozhi aka Yang Hua (husband of Wang Hongwu; formally charged on [January 22, 2016](#) with 'obstructing justice' and 'gathering a crowd to disturb social order'; **UPDATE**: wrote to his wife from jail "It must be the result of everyone's prayers that my lower back pain is no longer an issue. I sleep soundly at night. Don't worry. I've adjusted to other aspects of life well. As the Book of Isaiah says, 'In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength' [Isaiah 30:15]. It's also a kind of rest, staying inside...You shouldn't be too anxious. It is best to remain peaceful and wait for God. God

is omniscient. I believe that he never makes a mistake. If it is convenient, please send me a [recent] picture of you and our sons. Let's pray and leave other things to God. Thank you for investing everything in this family. I am grateful for what God has given me; let's carry the cross and hasten down the road to heaven, until the day we meet the Lord...Always be happy and peaceful. Never stop praying. Be grateful, because that's God's will conveyed through Jesus Christ...Amen! Emanuel!")

China: Guangzhou, Guangdong province

Li Hongmin (criminally detained on 'illegal business operations' charges for printing religious literature)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/06/guangzhou-christian-detained-for.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/06/imprisoned-pastors-letter-to-wife-pray.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; 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; as of [May 27, 2016](#) has begun a hunger strike in an attempt to force prison authorities to give her proper medical treatment, is said to be nearly comatose; **UPDATE**: has been granted a medical leave, hospitalized)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/06/4488553/>



United Kingdom

Three street preachers were arrested on public order offences

Adrian Clark

Michael Overd (**UPDATE**)

Michael Stockwell

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/freedom-of-speech/street-preachers-convicted-for-quoting-bible-in-modern-day-heresy-tri>

Tuesday June 7, 2016



China: Guangdong province

Pastor Zhang (interrogated by the authorities, told to move his church, to join the official church, and to provide a list members and funding information, said “I made my position clear. I told [the authorities] that the church was by no means a recent establishment, it had been there for a few decades...We cannot join the Three-Self Patriotic Movement. The town government [that operates] in the village hasn’t come to find us yet, but the landlord said today that officials from the public security, firefighting and various other industry and commerce departments will soon enforce the law here. No [official] has come yet, but the landlord is already very frightened. He said ‘You need to move out immediately...’ This is our current circumstance”)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/06/house-church-harassed-in-growing.html>



Iran: Rasht

Mohammad-Reza Yohan Omid (UPDATE: released on bail)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/06/4488553/>



Norway

The government's child welfare agency has reportedly agreed to return the children from a Christian family after an international outcry

Marius Bodnariu (husband of Ruth, father of five, Romanian national)

Ruth Bodnariu (wife of Marius, mother of five, Romanian national)

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/family/children-to-be-reunited-with-christian-parents>



Nigeria: Kaduna city, Kaduna state

Francis Emmanuel Olokpo (aged 41, carpenter, stabbed for eating in his shop in the daytime during Ramadan, hospitalized)

Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah (**UPDATE**: said “The ugly things we have seen in the last one week are ungodly and totally unacceptable. Somebody goes out to buy food and you attack him and say, ‘Why are you not fasting?’ It is totally unacceptable. The culprits must be arrested, tried and punished. There is no other way you can end this impunity”)

Sunny Oibe (director of National Issues of the Christian Association of Nigeria, wrote “The attack on the carpenter for allegedly eating when Muslims were fasting goes to show the level of intolerance of some people, particularly some of our Muslims. Even if somebody refuses to fast, nobody has the right to embark on such animalistic behavior of attempting murder. The leadership of the Christian Association of Nigeria is asking Nigerian security agencies to ensure that this matter is not swept under the carpet”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/06/muslim-gang-in-nigeria-stabs-non-muslim-for-eating-on-ramadan/>



United Kingdom

Toni Coulton (director of Festive, described how a college has banned a Christian student fellowship on the grounds that it violated the government's counter-terrorism and extremism initiatives)

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/freedom-of-speech/prevent-strategy-used-to-ban-christian-union>

Wednesday June 8, 2016



Libya

'Maizah' (aged 20's, convert, after her conversion was beaten, threatened with death, and offered to escape death by becoming a fourth wife, escaped the country to Europe after agreeing to marry her captor but demanding her injuries be treated in a hospital, the Christian family who had aided her has been arrested)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/06/4500447/>

Thursday June 9, 2016



Nepal: Dolakha district

Seven Christians have been arrested for illegal conversions

Balkrishna Rai (arrested)

Banita Dangol (arrested)

Bhim Bahadur Tamang (arrested)

Bimal Shahi (school principal, arrested)

Kiran Dahal (arrested)

Philip Tamang (arrested)

Prakash Pradhan (school principal, arrested)

<http://www.christiantimes.com/article/nepal-authorities-arrest-seven-christians-over-allegations-of-converting-people-to-christianity/57081.htm>



Azerbaijan: Gakh

Rahim Karimov (detained on [May 15, 2016](#) after speaking about the Bible; **UPDATE**: acquitted)

Luka Khusishvili (detained on [May 15, 2016](#) after speaking about the Bible; **UPDATE**: acquitted)

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



Iraq: near Duhok

Najiba (wife, refugee along with her husband)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/06/4501605/>



Chile: Santiago

Auxiliary Bishop Luis Fernando Ramos Perez (**UPDATE**: condemned a church attack during a student demonstration in which a crucifix was removed and destroyed in the street "It is a very painful situation for us. A religious icon of great value to us has been destroyed and we do not want this to happen again in our country", later thanked the Minister of the Interior for his support, added "our churches are open, they are places of worship to come and praise God and we don't want to lock ourselves in so those who want to terrorize Chileans with violence achieve a success they don't deserve")

Fr Marek Burzawa (said "This is not the first time that they've attacked a church in downtown Santiago. Violence leads nowhere, it is very painful for us that they would attack the symbols of our beliefs, the symbols of our faith")

Fr Galvarino Jofre (said "We hope there'll be better protection and hopefully these demonstrations won't end in the same location. We're looking into legal action")

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/crucifix-smashed-in-attack-on-emblematic-chilean-church-37674/>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/60205->

[AMERICA CHILE After the peaceful march some students break into a church and destroy a crucifix#.V1-B4MIUU5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60205-AMERICA_CHILE_After_the_peaceful_march_some_students_break_into_a_church_and_destroy_a_crucifix#.V1-B4MIUU5s)

Friday June 10, 2016



India: Palamu district, Jharkhand state

Dharaya Singh (husband of Sumitra Singh, threatened with expulsion from his village)

Sumitra Singh (wife of Dharaya Singh, threatened with expulsion from her village)

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



Pakistan: Dhoopsari, Sandha, Lahore, Punjab province

Babu George Salamat (spoke after gunshots were fired into his church on June 4, 2016 "These are terrible times in Pakistan, Christians are not safe and many of us will be killed for our faith. Muslims in this country are brought up hating us - they persecute us as they fear the power and authority of Jesus. But we will continue to show love as Christ commanded and will pray for the word of God to touch their hearts and change their lives")

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/no-respite-for-lahore-christians-two-years-after-mob-attack-on-st-josephs-community-gun-shots-fired->

Sunday June 12, 2016



China: 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; still under house arrest as of [May 3, 2016](#), his Weibo social media account with 50,000 followers has been suspended in the last week of [April 2016](#); **UPDATE**: consternation erupted in China after an apology for his resignation from the state-sponsored church was posted on his social media account, no evidence exists that he authored the apology)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/China-and-Vatican:-incredulous-reactions-and-distress-over-Shanghai-Bishop-Ma-Daqin's-volte-face-37798.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mgr-Ma-Daqin:-the-text-of-his-“confession”-37799.html>



Vietnam: Muong Khuong, Lao Cai province

Fr Joseph Nguyen Van Than (Mass in a private home interrupted by 30 police and other officials, three people who attempted to record the interruption were beaten and their phones seized)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/police-assault-catholics-breakup-mass-in-vietnam/76301>



Pakistan: Fazlia colony [ghetto], Lahore, Punjab province

Pastor Riaz Rehmat (assaulted by police after a noise complaint was registered against the church)

Rizwan Aslam (witnessed the police raid on his church)

<http://www.newsx.com/world/32476-christians-in-lahore-protest-against-police-harassment>
<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/06/4512847/>

Monday June 13, 2016



Spain: Valencia

Cardinal Antonio Canizares Llovera (aged 70, protested a 'blasphemous portrayal' of the Virgin Mary by a homosexual group and called for reparative prayer)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/spanish-government-opens-investigation-of-cardinal-after-he-complains-of-ga>

Tuesday June 14, 2016



Nepal

Pastor Shakti Pakhrin (arrested for associating with Christians arrested on [June 8, 2016](#) for handing out Bibles, released after several days)

Pastor Jeevan Lama (described the arrest of Pastor Shakti Pakhrin and the Christians arrested on [June 8, 2016](#))

<http://www.bosnewslife.com/37060-nepal-to-prosecute-evangelical-christians-for-spreading-bibles>



Spain: Valencia

Cardinal Antonio Canizares Llovera (aged 70, on [June 13, 2016](#) protested a 'blasphemous portrayal' of the Virgin Mary by a homosexual group and called for reparative prayer;

UPDATE: criminal investigation begun for homilies in which he said “The family is being stalked today, in our culture, by endlessly grave difficulties, while it suffers serious

attacks, which are hidden from no one...We have legislation contrary to the family, the acts of political and social forces, to which are added movements and acts by the gay empire, by ideologies such as radical feminism, or the most insidious of all, gender ideology” and “[gender ideology is] the most insidious and destructive towards humanity in all of history...world powers are seeking to impose it more or less stealthily with evil laws, which one should not obey”, if convicted would face up to 4 years' imprisonment)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/spanish-government-opens-investigation-of-cardinal-after-he-complains-of-ga>

Wednesday June 15, 2016



Syria: Raqqa

Mostafa Abu Alzer ('elderly man', reported to have been forced to convert to Islam, could no longer make his jizya [tribute] payments as required of Christians by the Sharia [Islamic] law, his only other remaining option was death)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20160614213235.htm>

Thursday June 16, 2016



China: Baiyun district, Guangzhou city, Guandong province

Pastor Mark Ma Chao (**UPDATE:** church closed due to an 'inadequate' fire suppression system, landlady then called to say that the authorities had forced her to terminate the church lease)

Paul (church elder, described the inspection of the church fire suppression system which led to his church closure)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/07/threats-from-authorities-force.html>



India: Malakpet neighborhood, Hyderabad, Telangana state

Pastor Jaipal (church demolished, now being rebuilt)

Lion C Francis (described the demolition of a church to widen a road “the pastor was never informed by local authorities. The community is upset. This is a slum area and locals work mainly as stone crushers. People just came to pray and worship Jesus, and experience his liberating grace in order to survive their heavy and oppressive situation”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Two-Pentecostal-churches-destroyed-in-Telangana-37823.html>
<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Protestant-churches-and-believers-attacked,-one-church-under-reconstruction-37931.html>



Pakistan: Bugri village, Kasur district, Punjab province

Manzoor Masih (aged 50, father of 10, home invaded by neighbors, after he disputed his payment for crops grown by his family, beaten, shot in the hand, clothes torn on female family members, home set afire, no arrests made, said “About six months ago my family and I labored in the fields...They [my neighbors] divided the profit among themselves and refused to give me my due - 26,000 rupees [roughly US\$260]. Whenever I demanded it they beat me up. On June 15, they again beat me, after which I informed the police...That night around 2am, around 15 men, armed with axes, batons and firearms, scaled the boundary wall and entered our house, calling us names, and saying they had been insulted in the village on our behalf. They fired one shot in the air and another into my left hand. Then they beat my wife and daughters, and humiliated them by touching their private parts...The police arrived and saw us all injured and bruised, but they were still not willing to register a case. This only became possible after several Christians from Lahore arrived and pressurized the police”, threatened with blasphemy charges if he pursues prosecution)

Mary Gill (Member of the Provincial Assembly, met with the family of Manzoor Masih, brought pressure on the government to prosecute their attackers)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/kasur-a-christian-peasant-and-family-brutally-tortured-by-landlord-mpa-mary-gill-succors-the-victims/>
<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/pakistani-christian-farmer-shot-in-hand-after-demanding-his-share-of-crop-sale-profit>
<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/06/4526165/>



Kazakhstan: Astana

Robert Panczykowski (cardiologist, Polish citizen, charged on [August 24, 2013](#) with acting as an unregistered missionary; fined US\$1,100 on [November 18, 2013](#) and ordered deported; **UPDATE**: appeal upheld, case dismissed)

Kazakhstan: Kalbatau

Lozovoi (detained while handing out religious literature on the street)

Pikalina (detained while handing out religious literature on the street)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2207

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2225



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

Jurabek Vapayev (home raided by anti-terrorism police on [May 17, 2016](#), no religious literature found, personal diary and cell phone seized, beaten and tortured; **UPDATE**: fined US\$308 but not notified of his fine)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2206



Turkmenistan: Seydi, eastern Lebap region

Artur Yangibayev (detained for refusing military service, forced to retract his petition for alternative service, released)

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



Egypt

Dr Sameh Saad Sadiq (reported that his father had received death threats in an attempt to seize the family's land)

Egypt: Boulaq Dakrou

Camellia (aged 15, disappeared, uncle said “We don’t know if she is still alive or dead. We went to the police station many times after we filed the report to follow up with them but none of them have helped us or assured us. We accuse them of apathy towards our case”)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1664&A=23917>

<http://www.persecution.org/2016/11/15/family-members-disappear-as-kidnappings-continue-to-plague-egypts-christian-community/>

Friday June 17, 2016



India: Pakhowal village, Ludhiana district, Punjab state

Pastor Dharminder Bajwa (reported to have had a complaint filed with police for illegal conversions)

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



Jordan: Zarqa

Fr Jihad Ammari (described an attack on his church during a Divine Liturgy, the attackers had targeted a passerby who then took refuge in the church, the building and parishioners' automobiles were damaged)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/60286-ASIA_JORDAN_Reconciliation_meeting_in_Zarqa_in_the_church_damaged_during_a_fight#.V2ykisKV8fg



Uganda: Busandha village, Kiloba parish, Bukanga sub-county, Luuka district

Angel Nabirye (aged 24, infant daughter poisoned by her Muslim in-laws after she was seen eating during the Ramadan fast, she had broken the fast to breastfeed the ill baby)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/06/muslim-villagers-in-eastern-uganda-kill-christian-woman-infant-girl-sources-say/>



Egypt: Qaryat Al Bayda village, south of Alexandria

Naeem Aziz (home attacked after his construction of a second home on his property for his son was thought to be a future church, said “Six Muslims and six Copts were arrested. The police officer immediately let go of the Muslims and began putting the blame on us, using very vague excuses and explicitly telling us he did not care if we were right, to the extent that one of the injured was denied medical treatment until the police chief arrived”, has not been allowed back into his home by police, has been sleeping outdoors with his family)

Pastor Karas Nasr (church attacked by the mob, automobile destroyed)

Ramy Kashwaa (civil rights activist, said “Had it not been for the intervention of our sane Muslim brothers, the pastor would have died...The building has always been there, serving more than 80 families in the neighborhood...The violent assembly of nearly 1,200 people assaulting Copts and destroying private and public facilities has not even been subject to the Protest Law. We have warned that if no serious penalty is applied to perpetrators, there will be more of these attacks”)

Herfy Fawzi (arrested on sedition charges when he arrived in the village to reassure his daughter's safety)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2016/06/20/sectarian-violence-against-copts-reported-near-alexandria/>

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1666&A=23973>

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1666&A=23998>



Central African Republic: Bozoum

Fr Aurelio Gazzera OCD (**UPDATE:** said of recent events "Here in Bozoum there are no problems, I know that there have been more in the north. From what I know the Seleka group which entered the [Ngaoundaye] mission stole a bit of things, especially food, but did not do much damage. Luckily the UN peacekeepers arrived and Seleka left the village...for more than two months there have been strong tensions in our area due to the presence of armed gangs that are reforming again. Hopefully now there is a greater presence of UN soldiers to ensure the security of all")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/60260->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA A missionary Armed gangs are reforming again we hope in the intervention of the Blue Helmets#.V2iTasIUUfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60260-)



Chile: Collipulli, Araucania region

Fr Enrique Catalan (described the destruction of a church by Mapuche rebels, a firefight followed in which a policeman was wounded)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/60264-AMERICA_CHILE_Violence_in_the_Mapuche_region_church_burned_and_attack_on_police#.V2iSc8IUUfg

Saturday June 18, 2016



India: Telangana state

Sajan K George (**UPDATE:** described a church arson "The Pentecostal pastor had just built and inaugurated the building at the beginning of the month and it was reduced to dust by strangers")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Two-Pentecostal-churches-destroyed-in-Telangana-37823.html>



Iran: Tehran

Maryam Naghash-Zargarani aka Nasim (aged 38, began serving four years imprisonment on **July 15, 2013**, apparently has had a heart attack in prison; as of **May 27, 2016** had begun a hunger strike in an attempt to force prison authorities to give her proper medical treatment, has been said to be nearly comatose; has been granted a medical leave, hospitalized on **June 6, 2016**; **UPDATE:** forced to return to prison against medical advice)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=2967>



United States - District of Columbia

Stephanie Goodloe (youth minister, **shot dead** by an ex-boyfriend)

<http://www.charismanews.com/us/57979-youth-minister-tragically-killed-in-d-c-shooting>

Sunday June 19, 2016



Thailand: Bangkok

Shahid Latif (aged 33, husband, brother of Shahbaz Latif, Pakistani refugee, **died of a heart attack**)

Shahbaz Latif (brother of Shahid Latif, Pakistani refugee, said "Shahid was a brave strong man who loved God and trusted in Him. However the difficult life we have had to endure in Thailand took its toll on him. He became thinner and weak due to inability to find regular food to eat. When he had his heart attack his body was just too weak to sustain his life, moreover he seemed to have less vigor and will to live. I pray that God allows his soul to rest")

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/un-id-cards-provide-false-hope-of-safety-17-further-arrestsof-pak-christians-in-2-weeks-has-shattere>



India: Latifabad township, Hyderabad, Telangana state

Christian leaders protested the harassment of Christian women by workers of an 'urban political party' who would invade their homes and then file false police cases against their male relatives

Nazir Masih

Boota Imtiaz

Mahmood Kala

Pervez Bhatti

India: Haveri, Karnataka state

Rev Basavaraj Marudi (church invaded by Hindu extremists, service interrupted, accused of illegal conversions, worshippers were chased out, and a Hindu idol was installed)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Protestant-churches-and-believers-attacked,-one-church-under-reconstruction-37931.html>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5963>



Uzbekistan: Navoi, Navoi region

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

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



Syria: al-Wusta district, Qamishli

Patriarch Ignatius Ephrem II (aged 51; **UPDATE**: targeted by a suicide bomber dressed as a priest during a Pentecost [Eastern calendar] commemoration of the Assyrian genocide, escaped injury when the bomber was stopped by security and set off his bomb, 3 security guards were killed and 5 wounded)

Bishop George Saliba (present when a suicide bomber dressed as a priest attempted to kill Patriarch Ignatius Ephrem II, uninjured, said "Despite the heat, nearly 4,000 of the faithful had walked through the streets to the new memorial carrying crosses and rosaries. At the ceremony hall while a speech was given, a blast was heard outside. The Patriarch calmed the audience and asked for the proceedings to continue. He assured everyone Syriac guards were on top of things")

Gawriye Ado (security guard, wounded)

Riad Habsuno (security guard, wounded)

Marios Malke (security guard, wounded)

Fayez Farman (security guard, wounded)

Siwar Hassan (security guard, wounded)

[http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Qamishli,-Syrian-Orthodox-Patriarch-Ephrem-II-escapes-a-suicide-attack-\(photos\)-37815.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Qamishli,-Syrian-Orthodox-Patriarch-Ephrem-II-escapes-a-suicide-attack-(photos)-37815.html)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/suicide-bomber-targets-assyrian-event-in-syria-3-killed/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/06/4527996/>



Mali

Beatrice Stockly (social worker, missionary, Swiss citizen, abducted in [Abaradjou, Timbuktu](#) on [January 8, 2016](#), had received death threats; **UPDATE**: still in captivity, an 8 minute video of her has been posted to social media)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/02/4302081/>



United Kingdom: Carfin Lourdes Grotto, Motherswell, Scotland

Sarmad Ozan (aged 20, Iraqi refugee, spoke to 1,100 young people concerning his family's flight from their Mosul home after the ISIL takeover, and the revocation of his refugee status by the British government)

http://www.catholic.org/news/international/middle_east/story.php?id=69515

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/iraqi.christian.who.fled.isis.faith.is.all.we.have.left/88597.htm>

Monday June 20, 2016



Vietnam: Thien An

Fr Anthony Nguyen Van Duc OSB (**UPDATE:** protested the demolition of a cross at his monastery by government officials)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/benedictines-condemn-desecration-of-cross-in-central-vietnam/76430>



India: Tezpur diocese, Assam state

Fr Sushil John Soren (attacked by a man with a machete, hands seriously injured when he warded off a blow to his neck, hospitalized)

Bishop Michael Toppo (said "we do not know the reasons of the attack" on Fr Sushil John Soren)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/60278->

[ASIA_INDIA_Catholic_priest_victim_of_an_attempted_murder#.V2ylxMKV8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60278-ASIA_INDIA_Catholic_priest_victim_of_an_attempted_murder#.V2ylxMKV8fg)



Egypt

Mina Thabet (arrested in [Dar Al-Salam, outside Cairo](#) on [May 13, 2016](#) 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;
UPDATE: released on US\$1,127 bail, wrote "What really hurts, it is not what I went through, but charges of being part of terrorist groups to which I have always opposed")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/60296-
AFRICA_EGYPT_Coptic_researcher_arrested_on_charges_of_terrorism_released#.V2yh18KV8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60296-
AFRICA_EGYPT_Coptic_researcher_arrested_on_charges_of_terrorism_released#.V2yh18KV8fg)



Canada: Edmonton, Alberta

Albert Felicitas (parochial high school religious teacher, reported to have been 'temporarily' removed from his position after the children of homosexual parents complained of his statements citing church teaching)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/religious-teacher-removed-by-catholic-board-after-telling-students-gays-can>

Tuesday June 21, 2016



Pakistan: Chuniyaan, Kasur district, Punjab province

Nadeem Masih (brick kiln worker, reported to have been beaten by his employer after he protested a payroll shortage, head and face shaved, forced to stand on one foot for five hours in the sun)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/at-the-pinnacle-of-malice-a-brick-kiln-owner-shaves-off-christian-laborer-head-eyebrows-and-mustache/>

Wednesday June 22, 2016



Nigeria: Otukpo, Benue state

Fr John Adeyi (abducted [April 24, 2016](#), held for ransom; **UPDATE:** **found dead**)

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

Thursday June 23, 2016



China: Huaqiu, Guizhou province

Mou (church leader, **UPDATE:** said that the local government ruled that Christian minors will be prohibited from college or from joining the military "This notice was sent to all of the schools in Huaqiu. They intend to cleanse us and ask us to join the [official] Three-Self Church")

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/07/officials-bar-christian-minors-from.html>



Russia

Bishop Sergei Ryakhovsky (appealed to President Putin to not sign the new anti-terrorism law which would criminalize unregistered missionary activity and which has been passed by the Duma)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2195



Syria

Gabriel Mushi Gowriyeh (detained by government security forces on [December 19, 2013](#) in [Qamishli](#); **UPDATE:** reported to have been released)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/60300->

[ASIA SYRIA Militant Christian politician released by the Syrian apparatus after 3 0 months of detention#.V2yi6MKV8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60300-ASIA_SYRIA_Militant_Christian_politician_released_by_the_Syrian_apparatus_after_3_0_months_of_detention#.V2yi6MKV8fg)



Kenya: Nairobi

Willie Kimani (missionary employee, abducted along with his client and his taxi driver after leaving court)

<http://www.charismanews.com/world/58194-3-social-justice-missionaries-kidnapped-and-murdered>



Uganda: Naigobya village, Kiyunga sub-county, Luuka district

Efranse Kadondo (aged 50, widow, **killed in her home** after filing a police complaint when her land was seized to build a mosque)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/06/muslim-villagers-in-eastern-uganda-kill-christian-woman-infant-girl-sources-say/>

Friday June 24, 2016



Iran: Tehran

Four Christians - three Azeris and one Iranian - were detained in a police raid on an engagement party

Bahram Nasibov (Azeri citizen, detained)

Eldar Gurbanov (Azeri citizen, detained)

Naser Navar Gol-Tapeh (aged 45, convert, arrested, whereabouts unknown)

Yusif Farhadov (Azeri citizen, detained)

<http://www.bosnewslife.com/37091-iran-detains-azeri-iranian-evangelicals>
<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3045>



Russia

Bishop Konstantin Bendas (**UPDATE**: wrote concerning the new anti-terrorism law which would criminalize unregistered missionary activity and which has been passed by the Duma "We follow the common biblical practice of house churches, in which parishioners not only come to church on Sundays, but gather in each other's flats or houses during the week, when small services may be held, to which may be invited, among others, even people who are not members of the church. By my reckoning, in Moscow alone more than a thousand of these house churches gather every week")

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2195



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](#); re-tried in a second trial on [May 18, 2016](#), convicted, fined US\$1,050; **UPDATE**: appeal rejected, said "alternative service exists now, but not for me")

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2204

Saturday June 25, 2016



Pakistan: Lahore

Samrah Badal (sister of Inayat Masih, mother of five, confronted at her home by several Muslim men after her brother ran off with the sister of one of them, beaten, stripped naked, dragged into the street and raped by four men in the presence of her children)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/60352->

[ASIA_PAKISTAN Muslims seek revenge gang rape of a Christian woman#.V3nrm MKV8fg](#)



Iraq: Bagdad

Duraïd Hikmat Tobiya (presented documentation on ISIL atrocities against Christians and Yazidis in Mosul)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/The-Islamic-State-in-Mosul:-the-slow-genocide-of-Christian-women-and-yazide-37872.html>

Monday June 27, 2016



India

Archbishop Emeritus Henry Sebastian D'Souza (aged 90, **UPDATE: died of natural causes**)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Church-in-India-mourns-the-death-of-Mgr-D'Souza,-spiritual-son-of-Mother-Teresa-37916.html>



Uzbekistan: Fergana

Pastor Latifahon Mamazhanov (brother of Marifzhon Mamazhanov, arrested on [March 12, 2016](#), whereabouts unknown, 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; as of [May 25, 2016](#) has fled the country with his family to avoid further persecution; **UPDATE:** fined US\$886 in effect as a second sentence for the March 12, 2016 arrest)

Uzbekistan: Urgench, Khorezm region

Stanislav Kim (home raided again by police on [May 17, 2016](#), Christian literature seized; questioned at the police station for six hours on [May 18, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** indicted for illegal possession of religious literature, threatened with 3 years' imprisonment if he does not cooperate with police)

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

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2206



Lebanon: Al-Qaa

Archbishop Elias Rahal (aged 76, condemned the two attacks by seven suicide bombers that killed 5 and wounded 29, said "We will remain in this land and we will not budge, even if we offer 100 martyrs everyday. We will not be intimidated by the takfiris or their bombings")

Boulos al-Ahmar (**killed**)

Faysal Aad (**killed**)

George Fares (**killed**)

Joseph Lebbos (**killed**)

Majed Wehbe (**killed**)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Al-Qaa-bids-farewell-to-victims-as-archbishop-urges-declaring-outskirts-a-'military-zone'-37909.html>



Uganda: Budhagali village, Jinja district

Kuluseni Iguru Tenywa (aged 53, convert, former imam, driven from his home by his relatives)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/07/former-imam-in-eastern-uganda-loses-home-family-work-after-turning-to-christ/>

Tuesday June 28, 2016



India: Pune

Sr Marisa O.Carm (school principal, described how her school had been harassed for two months following a demand by a local politician that admission slots be set aside for political favorites)

<http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/pune-mount-carmel-students-nuns-protest-harassment-by-corporator-husband-2880314/>



Pakistan: Faisalabad

Farazana (aged 16, daughter of Ilyas Masih, sister of Serish, abducted and gang raped on [December 3, 2014](#) in [Jaranwala district](#), laughingly told by her attackers that hers' was the fate of 'poor Christian girls', released half naked; two men on motorcycles demanded on [February 10, 2015](#) that her family drop the criminal charges against her attackers, fired repeated shots into her home and took deliberate aim at her 12 year old brother but missed, after exhausting their bullets they spent 20 minutes threatening her with another gang rape and other atrocities, family fled her home and is living with her pastor; **UPDATE:** moved to a safe house, worked as a domestic, reported to have been falsely accused of theft, accusations likely resulted after the discovery of funds donated to help the family relocate)

Serish aged 20, daughter of Ilyas Masih, sister of Serish, abducted and gang raped on...; **UPDATE:** moved to a safe house, worked as a domestic, reported to have been falsely accused of theft, accusations likely resulted after the discovery of funds donated to help the family relocate)

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/gang-raped-sisters-now-fraudulently-accused-of-theft-while-cleaning>

Thursday June 30, 2016



Malaysia

Bishop Emeritus Paul Tan Chee Ing (**UPDATE:** reported to have denounced an Islamic cleric who declared that any non-Muslim who opposed the passage of sharia law could be killed, said the “remarks are ominous. If they are not rejected by the authorities, they pose a threat to national security”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-mufti-of-Pahang,-all-non-Muslims-deserve-death;-for-bishop,-such-a-remark-is-dangerous-37913.html>



Turkmenistan: Ashgabad

Mansur Masharipov (aged 34, arrested in his Dashoguz home on [July 3, 2014](#), beaten in and on the way to prison, threatened with prison gang rape, forced to sign a document in Turkmen [which he does not know], transferred to a drug rehabilitation center where he was injected with an unknown substance that caused headaches, fever, vomiting, and partial paralysis, fled from the rehab center on [July 3, 2014](#), in hiding; **UPDATE**: arrested in a park)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2217



Jordan

Rev Andrew White (aged 52, **UPDATE**: has been suspended from his [London, United Kingdom](#) charity Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East after allegations that he had paid ISIL to release sex slaves)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/vicar-of-baghdad-andrew-white-suspended-from-charity-over-buying-back-sex-slaves-from-isis-165857/>



Egypt: El-Arish, Sinai

Fr Raphael Moussa (aged 46, husband, father of two, **shot dead** after taking his automobile for repairs)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Catholic-Church-spokesman,-Christians-are-seen-as-legitimate-targets-in-Sinai-37926.html>

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/coptic-christian-priest-killed-in-hail-of-bullets-outside-egyptian-church/>



Nigeria: Obi town, Nasarawa state

Rev Zakariya Joseph Kurah (husband, father of seven, **hacked to death** by Fulani herdsmen while he was collecting wood for roofing material)

Moses (church staffer, said of a relative of Rev Zakariya Joseph Kurah “One of them whom I don’t know but was together with the late pastor told us that they were in the bush around 7-7:30 p.m. Two people came out and attacked them. Rev Kurah ran and hid, but they chased him and brutally murdered him with their machetes”)

Rev Silas Thomas (said after the murder of Rev Zakariya Joseph Kurah “He was a pastor with peaceful disposition. He was one of the pastors I worked with while I served as the secretary of ECWA Lafia District Church Council”)

Sam (nephew of Rev Zakariya Joseph Kurah, tweeted after his murder “All I want is justice to be done. Nasarawa State and the Federal Government must find the killers of my uncle...We have become preys that are hunted by marauding beasts in our land. I will keep shouting till justice is done. For how long will we suffer? He has left a very young family; three of his children are currently in the university. No one is saying anything about the clandestine killings by Fulani herdsmen happening almost every day”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/07/muslim-fulani-herdsmen-kill-pastor-in-nasarawa-state-nigeria/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/07/4543482/>

June 2016, date unknown



China: Liaoyang, Liaoning province

Five Christians were arrested for buying and selling “officially forbidden Christian devotional books”

Pastor Li Dongzhe

Piao Shunnan

Zhao Chunxia

Li Yuan

Shi Jinyan

http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/02/christians-sentenced-for-buying-and_26.html



Turkmenistan: Ashgabad

Fr Grigory Bochurov (Russian citizen, visa not renewed, forced to leave the country)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2234



Uganda: Nabidongha village, Nakigo sub-county

Sera Muzamiru (aged 18, convert, beaten by her father in early June, in hiding)

Waiswa Sowedi (aged 30, convert, student, attacked in early June by the father of Sera Muzamiru for his involvement in her conversion, severely injured when a thrown metal object embedded in his forehead, hospitalized, operated on twice after a week, released, in hiding)

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



Egypt: Kom El Louf village, Minya province

Susana Khalaf (aged 11, daughter of Ibrahim Khalaf, home attacked when neighbors considered renovations to be for religious purposes, said "I was terrified. I saw men pour petrol on bundles of wood and throw them on our roof. When it began to fall on us, my father dragged us out")

Ibrahim Khalaf (father of Susana Khalaf, said of pressure to not seek justice for his destroyed home "We are told 'If you don't agree there will be blood. You have daughters who can be kidnapped. The security services won't stay in the village forever to protect you'")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20160802194259.htm>



Nigeria: Ninte, Jema local government area, Kaduna state

Jerry (aged 40, attacked by Muslim Fulani herdsmen with machetes in mid-June 2016, hospitalized)

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

Today's Martyrs

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

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