

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – July 2016

**Friday July 1, 2016**



### **Bangladesh: Dhaka**

Bishop Gervas Rozario (denounced a terror attack that killed 20 hostages, said: "God shall not tolerate this massacre. Now it's up to the country's Muslims. They must stand up to save their religion...May God grant eternal peace to the departed souls. The Christian martyrs of the massacre shall be remembered in a very special way")

Fr Luca Monti (brother of Simona Monti, said in [Santa Lucia di Serino, near Naples, Italy](#) "It was deeply moving to me to hear my father say, 'I have given God one son as a priest, and one daughter as a martyr'")

Simona Monti (aged 33, sister of Fr Luca Monti, **killed** along with her unborn baby in an ISIL terror attack on a bakery)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Bishop-of-Rajshahi,-Muslims-should-stand-up-to-barbarous-act-in-Dhaka-37936.html>

<http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1470791438.html>



### **Lebanon: Beirut**

Fr Paul Karam (**UPDATE:** spoke on the ongoing refugee crisis and the increase of violence in the country "This is what you get if no one checks who the refugees are. Extremists become more active, not only here, but also in Istanbul, Paris, Belgium...We should not generalize, because not all refugees are criminals. Many work and only ask to live in dignity. But the degrading condition at the [refugee] facilities, the hardships and the sense of abandonment favor fundamentalist ideologies")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Caritas-Lebanon-coping-with-refugees-amid-acceptance-and-fundamentalism-37924.html>



### **Kenya: Nairobi**

Willie Kimani (missionary employee, abducted along with his client and his taxi driver after leaving court on [June 23, 2016](#); **UPDATE: bodies found**)

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



### **Venezuela: Merida**

Bishop Baltazar Enrique Porras Cardozo (condemned an attack by a gang on five seminarians in which they were beaten, stripped naked, and forced to run through the streets)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/60361-AMERICA\\_VENEZUELA\\_Mgr\\_Baltazar\\_Porras\\_Attack\\_on\\_students\\_and\\_seminarians\\_This\\_violence\\_disqualifies\\_the\\_government#.V3npg8KV8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60361-AMERICA_VENEZUELA_Mgr_Baltazar_Porras_Attack_on_students_and_seminarians_This_violence_disqualifies_the_government#.V3npg8KV8fg)

**Saturday July 2, 2016**



### **China: Guizhou province**

Mou (**UPDATE:** reported that the local government announced that Christians who gather to worship would be denied welfare or old-age insurance payments)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/08/government-terminates-welfare-for.html>



### **India: Panchkula, Haryana state**

Pastor Vicky (reported to have been denied permission to hold a conference, evening prayer service interrupted by 100 Hindu radicals with sticks, several worshippers including women and children required medical treatment)

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

**Sunday July 3, 2016**



**Iraq: al-Karada, Bagdad**

Fareed Behnam (aged 34, **killed in a car bombing** along with 323 others)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/09/4619310/>



**Kenya; near the Somali border**

Pastor John Njaramba Kiruga (husband of Freshia Wanjiru, father of Ian Kiruga and Lenny Kamau, reported to have been **shot dead** along with five others by an al-Shabaab terrorist attack on a bus, had been returning from facilitating a peacemaking seminar for Christians and Muslims)

Freshia Wanjiru (widow of Pastor John Njaramba Kiruga)

Lenny Kamau (aged 9, son of Pastor John Njaramba Kiruga)

Ian Kiruga (aged 17, son of Pastor John Njaramba Kiruga)

Pastor Brad Bergfalk (said “Pastor John was a faithful servant who loved God and desired for others to experience that love. I was privileged to be the ordained Covenant pastor to lay my hands on him and pray. I hope his life of faith inspires a new generation of Kenyans to live into the calling God has for them”)

<http://covenantcompanion.com/2016/07/03/kenyan-church-moderator-led-peacemaking-seminar-prior-to-death/>



**Syria: Aleppo**

Archbishop Jean-Clément Jeanbart (**UPDATE:** told of a rocket attack that hit a parochial school but the children escaped injury in their shelter, wrote "The next day, when a great crowd had gathered for Sunday Mass, I was at a loss for words, but I called on the faithful to

join me in a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord, Who, once again, had seen fit to protect us. It was a good occasion to remind Christians that they are not alone and that our Good Shepherd is always there, very close to us, and that He never leave us orphaned or without help for even a single instant...In reviewing the course of events of the past five years of this pitiless war, we cannot fail to see his salutary actions among us. This terrible and infernal war, would have utterly destroyed us or driven us to despair and madness, had it not been for his tender care...As I am writing this, deafened by the explosions of intense bombing raids, I raise my eyes on high, to ask God to shorten the duration of this long trial, which, for five years, has not stopped hurting his people...May our friends who wish us well accompany us with their prayers, may they be at our sides to defend our cause, strengthen our resistance and help us stay put")

<http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1468804420.html>



**Egypt: Mallawi, Minya province**

**Father and son disappeared, apparent abduction victims, no ransom demanded**

Emand Megalla (father of John)

John (son of Emand Megalla)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1678&A=24374>



**Algeria: Wilaya de Bouira**

Samir Chamek (aged 33, convert, father of two, theater actor, sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment and fined US\$900 for his Facebook links, said "I had just been tried without knowing it. The judge of the court, in agreement with the attorney general, condemned me in my absence to five years in prison and to pay a fine of 100,000 Algerian dinars, accusing me of having infringed Islam and the person of the prophet.")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/01/christian-in-algeria-sentenced-to-prison-for-cartoon-on-facebook/>

**Monday July 4, 2016**



### **Russia**

Igor Yanshin (attorney, sent an online petition to the Kremlin with 37,000 signatures to protest 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](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2195)



### **Egypt: Sohag**

Lucia Murad (aged 14, daughter of a priest, attacked in front of a church by an armed assailant who later confessed to attempted murder, hospitalized)

### **Egypt: Tanta, Gharbia province**

Dr Magdy Ghobrial Attia (aged 33, pharmacist, **beheaded**)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1677&A=24304>

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1678&A=24380>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/07/copt-stabbed-to-death-in-egypt-less-than-week-after-islamic-state-kills-priest/>

**Tuesday July 5, 2016**



### **Egypt: Cairo**

Sr Athanasia (aged 54, **shot dead** on her way to St George Monastery)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2016/07/06/nun-was-killed-in-crossfire-of-personal-feud-egypts-interior-ministry/>

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1678&A=24371>

**Wednesday July 6, 2016**



**Nigeria: Kabene-Surubu village in Kauru local government area, Kaduna state**

Jacob Wakili (said “The village was attacked by Fulani herdsmen. They destroyed the ECWA worship building and abducted the pastor of the church, the Rev Yusufu Magaga, and left many others injured”)

Rev Yusufu Magaga (abducted by Muslim Fulani herdsmen)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/09/herdsmen-in-nigeria-kill-pastor-others-as-policy-to-settle-cattlemen-decried/>

**Thursday July 7, 2016**



**China: Cele county, Xinjiang province**

Pastor Zhong Shuguang (husband of Lü Yingli; **UPDATE**: evaded detention by the police because he was travelling during their raid on his home, the raid occurred after he posted an online message that Christians had no religious freedom)

Lü Yingli (wife of Pastor Zhong Shuguang, detained by police during a raid on their home)

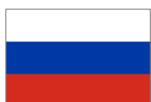
<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/07/persecution-surges-as-xinjiang.html>



**Pakistan: Farooqabad**

Sonia (aged 16, daughter of Naseer Masih, granddaughter of Inayar Masih, raped while returning from church)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5990>



**Russia**

**President Putin signed an anti-missionary law**

Bishop Sergei Ryakhovsky (appealed to President Putin on [June 23, 2016](#) to not sign the new anti-terrorism law which would criminalize unregistered missionary activity and which has been passed by the Duma; **UPDATE**: wrote “The obligation on every believer to have a special permit to spread his or her beliefs, as well as hand out religious literature and material outside of places of worship and used structures is not only absurd and offensive, but also creates the basis for mass persecution of believers for violating these provisions. Soviet history shows us how many people of different faiths have been persecuted for spreading the Word of God. This law brings us back to a shameful past”)

Sergey Rakhuba (Mission Eurasia, wrote “[It’s] the most draconian anti-religion bill to be proposed in Russia since Nikita Khrushchev promised to eliminate Christianity in the Soviet Union. For years we have watched as huge changes take place in Russia under the increasingly dictatorial rule of President Putin and his administration. Freedom of religion represents a threat to the current political agenda in Russia. Today, few — if any — foreign Christian mission groups have an official presence in Russia, having been pushed out by anti-evangelical regulations”)

Oleg Goncharov (wrote "It is impossible for believers to comply with the requirements not to express their religious beliefs and to be silent even in their own homes as required by the legislation...")

#### **Russia: Pereslavl-Zalessky**

Abbot Daniel Sokolov (aged 42, **killed** in his cell in Holy Trinity-Danilov Monastery, suspect is a 36 year old novice)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/abbot-of-holy-trinity-danilov-monastery-killed-in-pereslavl-zalessky/>  
<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/07/4555259/>



#### **Sudan: North Khartoum**

Gisma Saeed (Christian school principal, arrested and removed from her school on [June 2, 2016](#), government agents then installed a new principal, released, school land is likely targeted for transfer to a Muslim business; **UPDATE**: arrested along with 13 others while trying to prevent seizure of the school)

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



#### **Nigeria: Sabon Gida village, near Keffi, Nasarawa state**

Pastor Hamza Alkali (aged 66, father of four, attacked by a Fulani Muslim herdsman. part of his left hand cut off, wrestled the knife away from his attacker, hospitalized, remainder of his hand and wrist amputated, said “Every Christian that is passing through persecution should stand firm, as God will not abandon such a person. Our persecutors should know that one day they will stand before God to account for what they done here on earth. So what they should do is to come closer to God. They should repent and leave the evil ways they are following”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/07/baptist-pastor-loses-hand-to-muslim-fulani-herdsman-in-nasarawa-state-nigeria/>

**Friday July 8, 2016**



**China: Cele county, Xinjiang province**

Lü Yingli (wife of Pastor Zhong Shuguang, detained by police during a raid on their home;  
**UPDATE:** released)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/07/persecution-surges-as-xinjiang.html>



**India: between Baligunda and Malapanga, Kandhamal district, Odisha state**

**Three Christians and three others were killed by police who claimed they were attacking Maoists rebels**

Sajan K George (**UPDATE:** said “This is not an isolated case. Dalits and Tribals are being killed all the time. Our people are not Maoist. They are struggling to survive and lead a life of dignity despite veiled threats and the climate of insecurity present in the district...[this is a sinister warning for Christians”)

Fr Madan Singh (said of the government promise of financial compensation to families of the deceased “Compensation might satisfy the families, but it is not enough. Measures to protect Christians are needed. The latest event comes as a shock to Adivasi [aboriginals] and Dalits [untouchables]”)

Fr Ajaya Kumar Singh (**UPDATE:** said "It is a well-planned strategy to create terror among poor villages")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Kandhamal:-Christians-mistakenly-killed-as-Maoists-38009.html>



<http://www.ucanews.com/news/christians-among-those-mistaken-for-maoists-killed-in-india/76546>

**Saturday July 9, 2016**



**Bangladesh: Kajura village, Jessore district**

Maya Karmokar (aged 45, nurse, doused with gasoline and set afire while sleeping in her home, hospitalized, released after one day due to lack of funds)

Salomon Das (relative of Maya Karmokar, said that she had no enemies who would want to attack her)

Fr Ananda Gopal Biswas (said "I heard of the attack and I strongly condemn it. I express my closeness to my parishioner")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bangladesh,-Catholic-woman-doused-with-gasoline-and-set-on-fire-38012.html>



**Nigeria: Abuja**

Pastor Eunice Mojisola Olawale (aged 41, wife of Pastor Olawale Elisha, mother of seven including Jessica Olawale, **hacked to death** while street preaching, witnesses said that as she was killed her last words were "Blood of Jesus! Blood of Jesus! Blood of Jesus!")

Jessica Olawale (daughter of Pastors Eunice Olawale and Olawale Elisha, said of her mother's murder "She is innocent; she didn't do anybody any harm. She uses just her megaphone and Bible, just preaching. They just killed her like a chicken and left her there")

Pastor Olawale Elisha (widower of Pastor Eunice Olawale, identified his wife's body, said "My wife always goes out early in the morning for 'Morning Cry.' There was a particular day she went out and she told me that there is a mosque at the back where they commented about what she said. So I just cautioned her. This morning, she went around 5 a.m. and I was still in bed because we did vigil which she participated in for a while because of the Morning Cry she planned to undertake";

later said "My desire is that our persecutors get to know God – our desire is to see God arresting them one by one to confess Jesus Christ. You know when Jesus Christ saves their souls, Satan and hell will lose. If we desire that those who persecute us should die, then we are increasing the population of hell. The Bible says there is rejoicing in heaven when a sinner repents. Our persecutors were also created in God's image. It is because

we are weak that we think people that are doing evil are stronger. But if we are committed, God knows how to handle our persecutors and increase people coming to His kingdom”)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-mother-7-hacked-to-death-nigeria-preaching-severed-head-left-on-bible-166357/>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/07/deep-love-indescribable-pain-for-family-of-slain-evangelist-in-nigeria/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/07/4550690/>



### **United States - Kansas**

Brian Bergkamp (aged 24, seminarian, rescued a woman from drowning in the Arkansas River but was then pulled under, **possibly drowned**)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/wichita-seminarian-missing-after-rescuing-woman-in-arkansas-river-74552/>

**Sunday July 10, 2016**



### **China: Foshan, Guangdong province**

#### **Thirty Christians were detained, four held more than one day**

Jiang Jianping (church leader, detained, mother collapsed and hospitalized)

Tan Xiuhong (British attorney, detained on **September 21, 2015** with five others; **UPDATE:** detained)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/07/30-christians-held-by-police-in.html>



### **Pakistan: Lahore**

James Nadeem (brother of Najma and Samreen, accused of sending a blasphemous poem via social media)

Najma (sister of Samreen and James Nadeem, arrested and tortured by police in an attempt to force the surrender of her brother)

Samreen (sister of Najma and James Nadeem, arrested along with her 18-month old baby and tortured by police in an attempt to force the surrender of her brother)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/60429->

[ASIA PAKISTAN Blasphemy via WhatsApp Christian arrested risk of collective punishment#.V4W1bcKV85s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60429-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Blasphemy_via_WhatsApp_Christian_arrested_risk_of_collective_punishment#.V4W1bcKV85s)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5991>



### **Sudan: North Khartoum**

Gisma Saeed (Christian school principal, arrested and removed from her school on [June 2, 2016](#), government agents then installed a new principal, released, school land is likely targeted for transfer to a Muslim business; arrested on [July 7, 2016](#) along with 13 others while trying to prevent seizure of the school; **UPDATE**: released after paying a US\$50 fine)

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

**Monday July 11, 2016**



### **Iran: Evin Prison, Tehran**

Maryam Naghash-Zargaran aka Nasim (aged 38, forced to return to prison on [June 18, 2016](#) against medical advice; **UPDATE**: reported to have again begun a hunger strike to force prison officials to grant her a medical leave)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=2992>



### **Syria: Aleppo**

Archbishop Antoine Audo SJ (**UPDATE**: said "We are again under bombs. We do not know what is about to happen. Even last night we could not sleep, and this morning an artillery shell also fell in the street of our cathedral, resulting in one death and three injuries. Also

for this reason we have decided not to reopen the Caritas offices, which had been closed for a few days during the Muslim feast for the end of Ramadan...we are all heartbroken by what is happening, on the other side there are many that in this state meet to celebrate the sacraments, pray, share a spirit of hope and mercy. I have just been called by the participants in a spiritual retreat organized on the mountains by the Focolare members. There were two hundred people, with ten priests. From next Thursday we will meet in Tartus with 175 operators and Caritas volunteers from all over Syria, for a few days of formation and meetings. It is a mysterious and wonderful paradox: on one hand there is the desolation of war, and on the other there is the consolation of God")

Bishop George Abu Khazen OFM (**UPDATE**: said "heavy shelling throughout the day...[which] have also affected our pastoral center...there have been no casualties, as was unfortunately the case elsewhere...[the church] has suspended all activities in the summer program, including playtime and recreation for the children...only the church will stay open so that the faithful can come and pray or attend services. Everything else has been stopped for now...Unfortunately here we are not facing a clash between two armies, because the front is elsewhere. This is about attacks against civilians out of sheer vindictiveness, with increasingly sophisticated weapons")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Vicar-of-Aleppo:-Too-much-violence,-we-have-to-suspend-activities.-But-our-churches-will-stay-open-38015.html>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/60421->

[ASIA SYRIA Aleppo still under bombs Bishop Audo we live among the desolation of war and the consolation of God#.V4W-BsKV85s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60421-ASIA_SYRIA_Aleppo_still_under_bombs_Bishop_Audo_we_live_among_the_desolation_of_war_and_the_consolation_of_God#.V4W-BsKV85s)



#### **United Kingdom: London**

Andrea Leadsom (aged 53, Member of Parliament, forced to withdraw from her campaign for Prime Minister after anti-Christian attacks in the media and from Conservative Party members)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Editorial-Barnabas-Fund-calls-for-a-national-conversation-about-anti-Christian-prejudice-and-bullying>

**Tuesday July 12, 2016**



#### **Pakistan: Lahore**

Aqeel Masih (gasoline station attendant, abducted, refused to renounce Christianity and convert to Islam, arms amputated below the shoulders, attempted to file a police report but was relocated by police)

Chaudhary Amon Emmanuel (activist, reported to have led a demonstration against the rape of a 16 year old Christian girl in Farooqaabad)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/lahore-a-christian-youth-arms-lopped-off-after-his-refusal-to-denounce-christianity-and-convert-to-islam/>

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/lahore-christians-rant-and-rave-about-sexual-assault-on-a-14-year-old-christian-girl-in-farooqabad/>



### **Iran: Tehran**

Ebrahim Firouzi (convert, aged 31; **UPDATE**: beaten by prison guards when he refused to be transferred to the courthouse for a hearing without legal preparation)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3001>



### **Zimbabwe: Harare**

Rev Evan Mawarire (arrested for inciting public disorder after encouraging people to protest economic deprivations)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/60427->

[AFRICA ZIMBABWE The leader of the protest movement Baptist pastor Evan Mawarire has been arrested#.V4W2M8KV85s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60427-)



### **France: Calais**

Pastor Fabien Boinet (church heavily damaged by arson, said the attack was a “shock, but I hope that it helps to unite us even more”)

[http://evangelicalfocus.com/cities/1787/Evangelical\\_church\\_burnt\\_in\\_France](http://evangelicalfocus.com/cities/1787/Evangelical_church_burnt_in_France)



## Venezuela

Archbishop Diego Rafael Padron Sanchez (**UPDATE**: reported to have criticized the government for calling for peace while prevented the church from distributing food and medicine “The interests of the government are not the interests of the country...The ungovernability, aside from the brutal repression, the lack of serious and stabilizing responses that would be more than improvisational and provisional, create the widespread perception that the global crisis is getting more acute and is being prolonged with no end in sight”)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/venezuelan-government-blasted-for-blocking-church-aid-36659>

Wednesday July 13, 2016



### Indonesia: Gunung Kidul district, Yogyakarta province

Cahyo Binuko (home invaded by Muslims opposed to his construction of an interfaith shrine to Mary the mother of Jesus on his property)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Islamists-stop-construction-of-shrine-dedicated-to-the-Virgin-Mary-near-Yogyakarta-38065.html>



### India

Fr Ajaya Kumar Singh (**UPDATE**: described the importance of the new film **Voice from the ruins - Kandhamal in search of justice**, which documents the 2008 pogrom against Christians in which nearly 100 were killed, more than 40 raped, 56,000 displaced, and 350 churches and 6,500 homes destroyed)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/First-documentary-on-Kandhamal-martyrs-released-in-Kerala-38030.html>



### Zimbabwe

Rev Evan Mawarire (arrested in Harare on [July 12, 2016](#) for inciting public disorder after encouraging people to protest economic deprivations; **UPDATE**: released)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/60454->

[AFRICA\\_ZIMBABWE\\_Christian\\_leaders\\_We\\_risk\\_social\\_explosion\\_and\\_the\\_collapse\\_of\\_the\\_State#.V4mPRcKV85s](#)



**Belarus: Minsk**

Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz (**UPDATE**: issued a letter that was read from every church in the diocese concerning the refusal of the government to allow Fr Roman Schulz, Fr Lech Bochenek and Fr Jerzy Kotowski to remain in the country, the government reversed itself later that day)

**Belarus: Mogilev**

Fr Roman Schulz OP (Polish citizen; **UPDATE**: allowed to remain in the country for another year)

**Belarus: Ivanets**

Fr Lech Bochenek (Polish citizen, allowed to remain in the country for another year)

**Belarus: Kolodishchi**

Fr Jerzy Kotowski (Polish citizen, allowed to remain in the country for another year)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2237](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2237)

**Thursday July 14, 2016**



**Indonesia: Papua**

Archbishop Nicholas Adi Saputra (criticized the government for arresting hundreds of demonstrators)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/archbishop-condemns-mass-papua-arrests/76588>



### **China: Sichuan provinc**

Zhang Shucui (**UPDATE**: said “Not long ago, I went back to my hometown and asked my parents about [the welfare payment cancellation]. They told me that they still hadn’t received their welfare. [Authorities] only arrested my mother last time, but they canceled the [welfare] of [both of my parents]”)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/08/government-terminates-welfare-for.html>



### **Vietnam**

Su (alias, described the imprisonment of at least 108 tribal pastors since 2001, many have finished their sentences but have not been released)

<http://www.christianaid.org/News/2016/mir20160714.aspx>



### **Thailand: Bangkok**

Noshad Young (aged 52, husband, father of three, Pakistani refugee, has been held in immigration detention for over two months along with his son, requires hospitalization due to a heart condition and digestive problems, unable to eat)

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/deteriorating-health-of-detained-pak-christian-asylum-seeker-in-bangkok-creates-international-concer>



### **India: Karnataka state**

Sajan K George (**UPDATE**: condemned another arson attack on a church)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/60457-ASIA\\_INDIA\\_Tempted\\_burning\\_of\\_a\\_Christian\\_church#.V4mSd8KV85s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60457-ASIA_INDIA_Tempted_burning_of_a_Christian_church#.V4mSd8KV85s)



### **Pakistan: Lahore**



James Nadeem (husband, brother of Najma and Samreen, accused on [July 10, 2016](#) of sending a blasphemous poem via social media; **UPDATE**: arrested, case likely triggered by his marriage to a Muslim woman who converted to Christianity, the pastor who baptized his wife has fled into hiding)

Amir James (brother of the pastor who baptized the Muslim wife of James Nadeem, arrested)

Michelle Chaudhry (President of the Cecil & Irish Chaudhry Foundation; **UPDATE**: has petitioned the Lahore High Court after a subway project has threatened 27 protected cultural sites including 4 historic churches)

### **Pakistan: Hyderabad**

Yaqoob Masih (aged 56, sanitation worker, accused of blasphemy, beaten by his accuser, hospitalized, accuser arrested, police found no evidence to support the blasphemy charge)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Lahore:-Christian-foundation-against-the-new-metro-line-going-through-church-land-38044.html>

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/sarai-alamgir-fracas-absconded-christian-incriminated-as-blasphemer-arrested-from-lahore/>

<http://www.persecution.org/2016/07/19/christian-sanitary-worker-beaten-and-accused-of-blasphemy-against-islam-in-hyderabad-pakistan/>



### **Lebanon: Beqaa Valley**

Samir (aged about 50, alias, husband of Sabine, Syrian refugee, converted to Islam under threat from ISIL, fled Raqqa after discovered to have continued to secretly practice Christianity at home, sought refuge in Aleppo and then Beirut but continued to receive death threats from ISIL, now in hiding)

Sabine (aged about 50, alias, wife of Samir, Syrian refugee, converted to Islam...)

<http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1468462348.html>

**Friday July 15, 2016**



### **China: Shangqiu, Zhecheng county, Henan province**

Fang Guojian (said that RAB [Religious Affairs Bureau] officials ordered their church to close and to remove church signs, said “We are still gathering. We wrote a petition. After [the

officials] saw it, they were afraid. In the letter, we wrote that we would go to Beijing, go to Beijing and appeal. Now, they are afraid, and they do not dare to provoke us”)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/08/house-church-rejects-orders-to-stop.html>



### **Turkey: Malatya**

Pastor Tim Stone (church windows broken by assailants who took advantage of anarchy during a military coup)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/07/4558489/>



### **Nigeria: Baki Iku, Niger State**

Fr Luka Sylvester Gopep (described an attack on a church "Sometime around 2pm, some Muslim youths in their hundreds left their mosque after their Friday Jumat prayer and rushed to the church premises, climbed the wall and destroyed everything in the church: the windows, the altar, musical instruments, the chapel. The security man in the church premises was beaten to pulp. Some women who were holding a prayer meeting were chased away. The seminarian who is resident in the premises was also beaten up and chased away")

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2016/07/irate-youths-destroy-catholic-church-property-attack-worshippers/>

**Saturday July 16, 2016**



### **Iraq: Bagdad**

Auxiliary Bishop Shlemon Warduni (**UPDATE**: reported to have denounced countries that aid ISIL, said "Our people are suffering too much. Nobody loves them, nobody takes care of them...The children, the young people, they have no future. They finish studying and they have no job. Always, we cry, all over the world, for those children.")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20160716181401.htm>

**Sunday July 17, 2016**



**India: Chhattisgarh state**

**A Christian home was ransacked by a mob of more than 50 Hindu extremists**

Umesh Patel (student, son of Sudhama Patel, beaten, hospitalized in serious condition)

Sudhama Patel (father of Umesh Patel, beaten, hospitalized in serious condition)

Kiran Vishwakarma (family friend, beaten, hospitalized in serious condition)

Tomson Thomas (described the attack on the Patel family)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/coe/4194126/4537901/4560671>



**Uzbekistan: Navoi City**

Sergei Alekseyev (home [in or near Navoi City](#) raided by anti-terrorism police without warrant on [May 29, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: administrative case opened)

Saidat Abdurakhimova (administrative case opened)

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



**Turkmenistan**

Sanjarbek Saburov (detained for refusing military service)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2220](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2220)



**Egypt: Tahna al-Gabal, Minya province**

Fam Khalaf (aged 27, **stabbed to death** in a mob attack on the homes of two priests, was a visiting cousin of Fr Boutrous)

Nagib Hanna (father of Fr Metaous, stabbed)

Fr Metaous (son of Nagib Hanna, elementary school aged son threatened with death, father stabbed)

Malak Aziz (brother of Fr Boutrous, stabbed)

Fr Boutrous (brother of Malak Aziz)

Azza Jouma (stabbed in the face)

Bishop Makarios (**UPDATE:** condemned the attack that killed Fam Khalaf, days earlier had called Egyptian society "diseased" with discrimination)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/07/one-dead-several-injured-in-islamist-attacks-on-copts-in-egypt/>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20160718200222.htm>

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2016/07/15/coptic-bishop-egypt-diseased-with-discrimination/>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/60467->

[AFRICA EGYPT Quarrel among boys degenerates in a sectarian clash a Copt killed in the village of Akoris#.V42c1MKV85s](#)

**Monday July 18, 2016**



### **India: Mumbai**

Rita Dsa (along with 5,000 Christians protested a development plan that will remove protections for churches and cemeteries "We are very concerned that most of our churches in the city are not shown correctly. For example, Mahim Church, which is more than 400 years old, isn't marked correctly. Hundreds of churches and graveyards are either wrongly listed or excluded")

Dolphy D'Souza (**UPDATE:** said "We fail to understand how they could miss out such religious landmarks. We demand the authorities rectify this")

Anand Castelino (said that since authorities had already removed some 'illegal' crosses, "tomorrow they will demolish our churches saying they are also illegal")

### **India: Tumakuru**

#### **Thousands of Christians of all denominations march and fast to protest a church attack**

Samuel B Pujari (said "The attack is not just an attack on the church. But it is a conspiracy to disturb communal harmony in the district. Christians have been living in the district for the last 200 years. They have served people at times the region was hit by plague")

<http://www.christiantoday.co.in/article/christians.rally.to.denounce.church.attack.in.tumakuru.karnataka/17939.htm>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/mumbai-catholics-protest-churches-missing-from-city-plan/76633>



### **Pakistan: Lahore**

Sobia Nadeem (graduate student in physics, reported to have been abducted, forcibly married and converted to Islam, escaped, court recognized the invalidity of her marriage, her abductor attempted to abduct her again from the courthouse but failed, family now threatened with 'dire consequences' if she is not returned to him)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/constrained-conversion-abducted-christian-girl-flees-after-forcibly-given-into-marriage-with-the-abductor/>



### **Kazakhstan: Sergeevka, Akmola region**

Aleksandr Belan (reported to have been fined by police - not a court - after a raid on a congregation, but a court later annulled the fine)

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



### **Egypt: Al-Madamoud, Luxor province**

Safwat Samaan Yasaa (**UPDATE:** described the arson attack on a church that almost killed the iconographer who was restoring icons “I wonder if this was just an accident, or if this was a planned arson, but the results will be in the hands of the firefighters and the police. I am concerned they will come to yet another all too convenient ruling [of accidental cause]”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/07/one-dead-several-injured-in-islamist-attacks-on-copts-in-egypt/>



### **Nigeria: Bokokos local government area, Plateau state**

Sir Lazarus Agai (traditional ruler of the Ron/Kulere tribe, **killed** while returning home from his farm, also killed were his son, driver, and police escort)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/07/4559223/>

<http://www.persecution.org/2016/07/21/fulani-herdsmen-kill-royal-monarch-and-four-others-in-nigeria/>

**Tuesday July 19, 2016**



### **Pakistan: Gujrat**

Sajid Masih (son of Mehar Masih, employer refused to pay him, reported to have been arrested when he protested, held by police for 3 days, forced to affix his thumbprints to unknown documents)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/gujrat-christian-wage-worker-handed-over-to-police-over-demand-for-lawful-wages/>

**Wednesday July 20, 2016**



### **Pakistan**

Isaac Samson (son of Younus Saidq, hospital accountant, abducted [near Orangi Town](#) on [February 29, 2012](#) while travelling to work in a minivan by Pasto speaking assailants; **UPDATE**: reported to be still missing)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/karachi-police-dawdling-fails-to-recover-abducted-christian-youth-despite-four-years-on/>



### **Syria: Aleppo**

Fr Ibrahim Alsabagh OFM (aged 44, **UPDATE**: said “Within four hours, 250 rockets fell on the inhabitants of western Aleppo...Close the borders through which the weapons, food and fighters are being supplied. To 95 per cent, the supplies are arriving from Turkey and

they arrive with backup. We are not talking about individuals, but of entire organized forces operating with logistics...Anyone who shoots rockets at residential houses, churches, schools and hospitals is not a 'moderate rebel'!")

<http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1468975987.html>



### **Turkey: Istanbul**

Canon Ian Sherwood (said that anti-Christian intolerance is increasing in the country)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20160719214406.htm>



### **Russia**

Vakhtang Kipshidze (church spokesman, reported to have said "Unfortunately today [in Russia] there is a movement that shows interest in the pagan past, and some organizations are trying to reincarnate this quasi-religion...Baptism, for us, was a historic choice and an irrevocable fact. Attempts to revise it, even citing pagan apologetic arguments, are based on an invention of the pagan representation of reality" added that to reverse this historic choice "is a step towards self-destruction")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Orthodox-Church-warns-that-youth-neo-paganism-is-a-challenge-for-the-future-38089.html>



### **Nigeria**

Rev Augustine Akpen Leva (described recent attacks by Fulani herders "This is another jihad like the one waged by Boko Haram in the north-east of the country. The attackers carry sophisticated weapons, sometimes they even used chemical weapons on our communities. They just come, often overnight when people are sleeping. They attack defenseless people and go away. They clearly have an agenda: to wipe out Christian presence and take over the land. Lots of people have been killed and it is difficult to get an accurate death toll of the attacks. Sometimes they kill 20, another day they may kill 50. In recent weeks, more than 100 were killed in Logo and Ukum Local Government Areas...The government has failed us. There's no protection at all. The few security forces, which are often present, ran away before the attack")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/07/4559223/>

**Thursday July 21, 2016**



**India: Gadra village, Rewa district, Madhya Pradesh state**

**Two Christians were abducted by Hindu radicals, taken into a forest, beaten, tied to a tree and left for hours, untied by police who arrested them on forced conversion charges**

Rev Ramlal Kori

Nanda Lal

Rev Ram Yesh (said of the arrest Rev Ramlal Kori and Nandalal "Police held them all day [22 July] on the pretext of providing them protection, but then in the evening sent them to prison")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Madhya-Pradesh:-abducted-and-beaten,-two-Christians-are-arrested-by-police-for-forced-conversions-38141.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/attacked-christians-jailed-in-central-india/76669>



**Iraq: Bagdad**

George Shamoun (church elder, husband, father of two sons and a daughter, abducted)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/09/4619310/>

**Friday July 22, 2016**



**India**

Cardinal Baselios Cleemis Thottunkal (**UPDATE:** wrote "It has become the order of the day that the Dalits ['those who are trampled upon', untouchables]...are persecuted in various parts of the country in the name of meat consumption and protection of cattle")

**India: Jattarbeda village, Kondagaon district, Chhattisgarh state**



Sangeeta Siri (aged 14, daughter of Maner Sori, **raped and murdered** in retribution for the conversion of her parents 1 years ago)

Maner Sori (convert, father of Sangeeta Siri)

Pastor A K Netam (described the murder of the 14 year old daughter of Maner Sori)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-girl-allegedly-raped-then-murdered-for-being-christian/76678>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/bishops-condemn-increasing-attacks-on-indias-dalits/76681>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/08/4574211/>



### **Nepal: Kathmandu**

Chinimaya Blown (reported to have been arrested on human trafficking and illegal conversion charges after she brought street orphans to her orphanage)

### **Nepal: Bharatpur**

Pratik Sunar (reported to have been arrested along with his wife for operating a children's home and for distributing Bibles, the only Bible found was his personal copy, wife released)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/nepalese-christian-jailed-over-religious-conversion/76652>



### **Iran**

Pastor Amin Khaki (beaten and arrested on **March 5, 2014** during a picnic in **Shush**; conviction upheld as of **March 1, 2016**, must report within 15 days to serve his remaining 13 months in prison, including unserved time from a previous conviction; **UPDATE**: reported to have been released)

<http://www.bosnewslife.com/37091-iran-detains-azeri-iranian-evangelicals>



### **Egypt: Saft el-Khirs**

**Eight Christian homes were attacked, eight Muslim attackers were detained, eight Christians were detained so that a 'reconciliation meeting' could be arranged**

Mahrous Ishak (said "On Thursday 21 July, we received threats of an attack the next day. We told the police and national security, but they showed no interest saying 'If an attack happens, call us then and we'll come quickly'. On Friday, during the Muslim prayers the

loudspeakers suddenly fell eerily silent. Later, crowds filed out of mosques. One cleric was clearly seen directing groups of people in different ways towards Christian homes...When we asked why they [police] were detaining victims as well as perpetrators, they told us it was a matter of 'state security' and that's how things are done. One young man, Michael Ibrahim, went to the police station to complain about the attack. He was instead detained and no report was filed. He was told 'Since you are here, you might as well stay here!')

Michael Ibrahim (detained)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/07/4566308/>



**United States – California: Los Angeles**

Gigi Kurz (Loyola Marymount University employee, reported to have been accused of a hate crime after defending traditional Christian morality, suspended, reinstated after 2 weeks)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/catholic-university-employee-vindicated-after-being-accused-of-lgbt-hate-cr>

**Saturday July 23, 2016**



**Thailand: Bangkok**

Noshad Young (aged 52, husband of Victoria, father of three, Pakistani refugee, reported on [July 14, 2016](#) to have been held in immigration detention for over two months along with his son, requires hospitalization due to a heart condition and digestive problems, unable to eat; **UPDATE:** reportedly has received medical care after an international outcry and intervention by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, still incarcerated, has begun eating)

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/Dying-asylum-seeker-receives-treatment-after-international-pressure>



**Mexico: San Juan Chamula**

Bishop Felipe Arizmendi Esquivel (condemned the assassination of a mayor and five others)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/60503->

[AMERICA MEXICO Weapons are the weakness of reason Bishop Arizmendi refers to the assassination of the local mayor#.V5hDHMKV85s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60503-AMERICA_MEXICO_Weapons_are_the_weakness_of_reason_Bishop_Arizmendi_refers_to_the_assassination_of_the_local_mayor#.V5hDHMKV85s)

**Sunday July 24, 2016**



**Iran: Rasht**

Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani (aged 37, husband of Fatema Pasindedih Nadarkhani, father of Daniel and Yoel, arrested on [May 13, 2016](#); released on [May 14, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: arrested on national security and Zionism charges, released but given one week to produce a US\$33,000 bail or face re-arrest)

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



**Azerbaijan: Baku**

Gulgaz Novruzova (detained for speaking about the Bible in a public park, questioned as to why she did not read the Quran, released)

Rakhila Shukurova (detained for speaking about the Bible in a public park, questioned as to why she did not read the Quran, released)

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



**Nigeria: Lagos**

Pastor Bojamo (abducted)

Pastor Segun Adegbiyi (confirmed the abduction of Pastor Bojamo)

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2016/07/rccg-pastor-kidnapped/>  
<http://punchng.com/gunmen-abduct-rccg-pastor-sunday-service/>



**Uganda: Bubulanga village, Kibuku district**

Pastor Robert Bakulubanywa (aged 38, husband, father of four aged 3, 6, 8, and 10, **killed** by local Muslims after refusing to sell land for a mosque and after converting Muslims to Christ)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/07/pastor-in-eastern-uganda-killed-for-evangelizing-muslims-refusing-to-sell-land/>



**Mexico: Cordoba**

Bishop Eduardo Porfirio Patino Leal (**UPDATE:** said "It is clear that the numbers of killings, kidnapping and torture continue to rise. A void has been created in action to guarantee the safety of all citizens. It would appear that those who commit such crimes feel free to do so")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/60509-AMERICA\\_MEXICO\\_All\\_this\\_violence\\_reveals\\_a\\_void\\_in\\_citizens\\_security\\_says\\_Bishop\\_Patino\\_Leal#.V5hAScKV85s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60509-AMERICA_MEXICO_All_this_violence_reveals_a_void_in_citizens_security_says_Bishop_Patino_Leal#.V5hAScKV85s)

**Monday July 25, 2016**



**Indonesia: Sukabumi district, West Java province**

Fr Agustinus Ulahayanan (criticized the government for closing an Ahmadiyya mosque "The closure of the mosque violates the Ahmadi's right to worship [and] shows a crisis in the values of tolerance and plurality")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/church-official-criticizes-forced-closure-of-ahmadi-mosque/76700>



**China**

Li Guisheng (attorney; **UPDATE:** reported to have said "I cannot understand why they have done this... Worshipping God has nothing to do with the G20 summit" after the government announced that churches would be banned from meeting during the upcoming summit in September 2016)

<http://www.persecution.org/2016/07/25/the-g20-summit-wont-be-safe-in-china-unless-churches-are-silenced-authorities-say/>



### **India: Bihar state**

Br Francis Thattaparambil SJ (sacramental winery operator, reported to have said he is "expecting officials to come and close the winery any time now" after the state government banned the use of wine during Mass)

Fr Devasia Mattathilany (reported to have said that the church will appeal to the government to amend the law to allow the use of wine at Mass)

Gabriel John (reported to have said that the laity would oppose the state ban of wine at Mass)

### **India**

Philip Christy ( All India Christian Minority Front president, reported to have called for Christians in all 29 states to demonstrate on October 1, 2016 against the continuing attacks on churches, said "Some communal forces attached to the [BJP] party are creating an atmosphere of fear among Christians by attacking them and their places of worship")

Samuel Jaykumar (National Council of Churches in India; **UPDATE:** reported to have said "There are incidents of violence against Christians happening all over. Just because it is not happening at a prominent place or not being reported in the media does not mean it is not taking place")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/christians-plan-mass-movement-to-protest-persecution-in-india/76644>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-bihar-state-bans-sacramental-wine/76660>



### **Iraq: Bagdad**

Patriarch Louis Raphael I Sako (**UPDATE:** related his recent work with founding a Standing Committee for Dialog between the Chaldean Catholic Church and leaders of Shiite religious centers "With friendly frankness I told the Shiites that there can be no future unless the language of religious preaching is updated. I outlined briefly for them the experience of Christians : in the long run, without this updating people start to lose interest in religion. Preaching and dialogue must be concrete, it must take into

consideration the present moment in time and real difficulties: before strictly academic and theological questions, we can begin to discuss social issues, including those of justice and recognition of human rights. These are the fields in which we must begin to search for shared solutions”)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/60511->

[ASIA IRAQ Chaldean Patriarch proposes to Iranian and Iraqi Shiites the creation of a Standing Committee for Dialogue#.V5weGsKV85u](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60511-ASIA_IRAQ_Chaldean_Patriarch_proposes_to_Iranian_and_Iraqi_Shiites_the_creation_of_a_Standing_Committee_for_Dialogue#.V5weGsKV85u)

**Tuesday July 26, 2016**



**China: Qingshuihe, Huocheng county, Ili region, Xinjiang province**

Pastor Lou Yuanqi (**UPDATE**: family reported to be confined to their home by police)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/07/persecution-surges-as-xinjiang.html>



**Pakistan: Ghotki**

Sardar Mushtaq Gill (attorney; **UPDATE**: objected to the arrest of a mentally ill Hindu turned Muslim on blasphemy charges and the subsequent demonstration that blocked the National Highway and damaged public property "The agitation is too much because the alleged accused belongs to religious Hindu minority. Blasphemy law is a fire which burns the many innocents”)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6010>



**France: Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, near Rouen, Normandy**

**A priest, three nuns, and two parishioners were taken hostage by two ISIL members during Mass, one nun hospitalized in critical condition**

Fr Jacques Hamel (aged 85, **beheaded**, had tried to kick away his attackers and told them “Go away, Satan”)

Sr Danielle (escaped during the beheading of Fr Jacques Hamel, said “In the church everyone was shouting: ‘stop you don’t know what you’re doing.’ But they didn’t stop. They

forced him [Fr Hamel] to get down on his knees, he tried to defend himself and then the horror started”)

Guy Coponet (aged 87, husband of Jeanine Coponet, forced to video the beheading of Fr Jacques Hamel, stabbed in the arm, back, and throat, survived by pretending to be dead, later said “I had to film my friend Father Jacques’s murder! I can’t get over it. They even checked the quality of the image and that I wasn’t trembling too much...I was convinced I would die, but...I was calm. The emergency medic who treated me told me ‘you had divine protection because the knife attacks missed your vital organs. But it really wasn’t far away – it’s like a miracle”)

Jeanine Coponet (aged 86, wife of Guy Coponet, taken hostage, gun pressed to her neck)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/07/27/normandy-hostages-forced-to-film-murdered-priest/>

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/09/30/mass-goer-forced-to-film-fr-hamels-murder-speaks-of-ordeal/>

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/go-away-satan-french-priest-declared-before-being-killed-by-isis-terrorists/>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/26/murder-of-a-priest-how-the-horror-unfolded-as-two-islamic-state/>



#### **United Kingdom: London**

Fr David Barnes (reported that his church had been vandalized, tables, pews, and candlesticks were overturned, wrote “This is tiresome, but nothing compared with what the church near Rouen has endured. Pray for them”)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/08/02/central-london-church-vandalised/>

**Wednesday July 27, 2016**



#### **India: Gadra village, Rewa district, Madhya Pradesh state**

Two Christians were abducted by Hindu radicals on **July 21, 2016**, taken into a forest, beaten, tied to a tree and left for hours, untied by police who arrested them on forced conversion charges; **UPDATE: released on bail**

Rev Ramlal Kori

Nanda Lal

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/08/4574211/>



### **Pakistan: Mirpur Mathelo**

Fr Abid Habib (**UPDATE**: condemned the shooting of two Hindu youths in revenge for the alleged Quran desecration by a mentally ill Hindu turned Muslim, one died)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/church-leader-condemns-killing-of-hindu-youth-over-blasphemy-furor-in-ghotki/>



### **Iraq: Bagdad**

George Shamoun (church elder, husband, father of two sons and a daughter, abducted on July 21, 2016,; **UPDATE**: released after payment of US\$70,000)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/09/4619310/>



### **Venezuela: Los Teques**

Bishop Emeritus Ramon Ovidio Perez Morales (issued statements on Twitter that warned of attempts by the government to discredit the church)

### **Venezuela: San Cristobal de Venezuela**

Bishop Mario del Valle Moronta Rodríguez (days earlier denounced statements made on a Twitter account that falsely claimed affiliation with the country's Catholic bishops)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/60529-AMERICA\\_VENEZUELA\\_Campaign\\_on\\_several\\_fronts\\_to\\_discredit\\_the\\_Church\\_in\\_Venezuela\\_referendum\\_still\\_delayed#.V5wuicKV85s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60529-AMERICA_VENEZUELA_Campaign_on_several_fronts_to_discredit_the_Church_in_Venezuela_referendum_still_delayed#.V5wuicKV85s)

**Thursday July 28, 2016**





### **China: Lingbao, Henan**

Wei (described how his fellow church members convinced an electrician to not follow a local official's order to cut off power to their church, the order was issued as part of an ongoing land dispute)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/08/christians-save-church-from-demolition.html>



### **Pakistan: Syed Nagar village, near Alipur Chatha, Gujranwala district**

Dr Nazir S Bhatti (**UPDATE**: reported to have called upon the Chief Minister [Governor] of Punjab province to intervene in a theft of church land)

### **Pakistan: Lahore**

Peter Jacob (director of the National Commission for Justice and Peace; **UPDATE**: reported to have complained that the local government still refuses to register Christian and Ahmadiyya marriages)

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1150717/basic-right-ahmadi-christian-marriages-not-registered/>  
<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6014>



### **Uzbekistan: Zarafshan, Navoi region**

Pastor Dmitri Butov (husband of Svetlana Butova, **UPDATE**: home raided on July 28, 2016, Bibles seized)

Svetlana Butova (wife of Pastor Dmitri Butov, **UPDATE**: home raided on July 28, 2016, Bibles seized)

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



### **Iraq**

Bishop Awa Royel (said in [Washington DC, United States](#) "What impresses me and the churches working on the ground is the human aspect of this - that there is no respect for human

life. Two years after [Christians and Yazidis] were first displaced, our communities are still in survival mode. And that's not a good thing")

Fr Behnam Benoka (**UPDATE:** said in [Washington DC, United States](#) "there is still an urgent need for food. Many families have no work and their supplies are running out. Even if someone gets a job in Kurdistan they often won't get paid")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20160803194233.htm>



### **Egypt: Semouha**

Nagy (son of Aiman Ragy, reported to have joined a children's soccer club, persecuted after found to be a Christian, quit)

Aiman Ragy (father of Nagy)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1695&A=25026>



### **United States - Kansas**

Brian Bergkamp (aged 24, seminarian, on July 9, 2016 rescued a woman from drowning in the Arkansas River but was then pulled under; **UPDATE: body found**)

Jimmy Schibi (seminarian, said of Brian Bergkamp "He gave up his life to be a priest, but before he could do that, he gave up his life for another. Probably one of the most selfless individuals that I'd ever met")

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/body-of-missing-wichita-seminarian-found-23396/>

**Friday July 29, 2016**



### **Philippines: Jolo, Sulu province**

Fr Sebastiano D'Ambra PIME (**UPDATE:** issued an appeal "to stop killing Christians in Jolo...A Christian was killed in Jolo a few days ago...a reliable source told me that 20 Christians have been targeted to be killed or kidnapped soon. In the midst of so many good Muslim

leaders and friends of Jolo the Christian community is suffering a form of persecution from those who are guided by bad elements who claim to do it in the name of Islam”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Fr-D'Ambra:-Christian-lives-are-in-danger-in-Jolo-because-jihadists-want-to-kill-them-38174.html>



### **India: East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh state**

Pastor Yohan Maraiah (aged 55, dragged from his home by Maoist guerrillas, beaten and tortured, **throat slit**, body dumped on a road, church set afire)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Andhra-Pradesh,-Maoists-torture-and-kill-a-Protestant-pastor-38194.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/maoists-torture-and-kill-pastor-in-southern-india/76733>



### **Pakistan: Lahore**

Cecil Shane Chaudhry (**UPDATE:** issued a report which described how textbooks are inciting hatred of non-Muslims, said “When I was in Grade 6, I felt proud when reading about my fighter pilot dad in the school book. However his name along with other non-Muslim heroes disappeared by the time I reached in college. For me, this deliberate change set off an alarm bell”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Justice-and-Peace,-textbooks-are-full-of-intolerance-and-hatred-towards-non-Muslims-38179.html>



### **Egypt**

Bishop Armiya Boulous aka Mohammed Hegazy (aged 34, Egypt's 'most famous' convert, arrested before December 5, 2013 in Minya province and charged with "inciting sedition by communicating to a US-based [Coptic] channel unfounded information on Copts persecution in Egypt";

attorney claimed on December 6, 2013 that all charges were fabricated by the national security agency;

ordered detained on December 7, 2013 for 15 days for questioning on suspicion of inciting “chaos and sectarian strife” and of “transmitting a false image of persecution of Egypt's Copts”;

ordered held another 15 days on April 9, 2014 - has not been released since his December 2013 arrest;

as of April 14, 2014 has been attacked in prison in Minya and threatened with death in an attempt to revert him back to Islam;

told his attorney on April 23, 2014 that he had been beaten, tortured, and electrocuted in prison;

attorney on April 28, 2014 has requested from the Interior Ministry in Cairo a medical exam to document torture;

as of May 14, 2014 has begun a hunger strike to protest his unjust arrest, torture, and death threats;

attorney stated on May 23, 2014 that the court has no intention of releasing him;

convicted on June 18, 2014, sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment and US\$70 fine;

released on bail on July 20, 2014, arrested again on July 21, 2014 on 2009 charges of "defaming Islam", charges were filed after he attempted to have his religious affiliation changed on his government ID card;

attorney denied access to him on July 31, 2014 in a Minya province prison;

attorney said on August 8, 2014 "The commissioner of Tora prison treats him badly. He insults and humiliates him for being a Christian convert. He incites people to beat and attack him";

detention renewed on August 18, 2014 for 15 more days, denied clothing and food;

his attorney said on November 6, 2014 "Bishoy told me when I visited him a week ago in Tora prison that he was beaten and tortured by some police officers who insulted his religion";

appeal on his conviction and sentence of five years' imprisonment will be denied if he does not appear in court on November 18, 2014, as of November 12, 2014 prison authorities have not agreed to allow him to attend the hearing;

reported on December 2, 2014 to have been detained temporarily in an execution chamber by prison authorities;

petition to the Egyptian ambassador to the U.S. in support of his release online as of December 18, 2014;

all but one charge dismissed on appeal in Minya on December 28, 2014, sentence reduced to one year, may be released as he has been jailed since before December 5, 2013;

attorney attempted to visit him in prison on January 20, 2015, found that he had been transferred to another prison without notice;

completed his sentence in December 2014, still incarcerated in Tora Prison, South Cairo as of May 27, 2015, has been beaten and dragged on concrete floors almost daily;

has been told on July 20, 2015 that he is to be allowed only one visit per month from his attorney

**UPDATE:** returned to Islam, stated in a video "I want nothing from this video. I have no desires. I will not appear again in media. I will not appear again publicly...I say this out of my complete free will. I am under no pressures from anyone. I am not being held by any agency, nor am I under any pressure of any kind. And that's it", released from prison)

[https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/08/article\\_4575931.html/](https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/08/article_4575931.html/)



### **South Africa**

Bishop Malusi Mpumlwana (reported to have spoken about government corruption and election violence "Has our country descended to these low levels and becoming a mafia State? Let it not be so. God forbid!")

<http://www.ecumenicalnews.com/article/south-african-church-leaders-appeal-for-calm-ahead-of-heated-elections/48836.htm>



### **Poland: Krakow**

Christina Shabo (aged 25, U.S. resident, said that despite the murder of several relatives in Iraq by ISIL she has come to pray that God have mercy on them even though she has not yet forgiven them)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/the-shocking-prayer-of-a-young-iraqi-have-mercy-on-isis-51601/>



### **United States – Texas: Dallas**

Pastor Antonio Armstrong (aged 42, husband of Dawn Armstrong, former professional football player, **shot** while sleeping allegedly by his son, hospitalized, **died**)

Dawn Armstrong (wife of Pastor Antonio Armstrong, daughter of Pastor Kay Shorter, **shot dead** while sleeping allegedly by her son)

Pastor Kay Shorter (mother of Dawn Armstrong)

<http://www.charismanews.com/us/58983-former-nfl-star-turned-pastor-shot-dead-by-his-own-son>

**Saturday July 30, 2016**



**China**

Wang Qiaoling (wife of civil rights attorney Li Heping, who disappeared on [July 10, 2015](#);  
**UPDATE:** spoke in an interview of her love and respect for her husband)

**China: Fujian province**

Bishop Vincent Huang Shoucheng (aged 93, **died of natural causes**, had spent 35 years in prison, labor camps, and house arrest, the government placed restrictions on his wake and funeral)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mindong-Bishop-Mgr-Vincent-Huang-Shoucheng-dies-38183.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/08/south-china-morning-post-conscience.html>

<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/society/article/1996642/conscience-conquers-all-wife-detained-rights-lawyer-li-heping>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/chinese-authorities-interfere-with-bishops-funeral/76731>



**Egypt: Bakos, Alexandria**

Nada Fathy (aged 26, disappeared after dropping her child off at nursery school, cell phone turned off, husband reported that police refuse to investigate her likely abduction)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1716&A=25892>

**Sunday July 31, 2016**



**India: Panipat, Haryana state**

Pastor Jagdish Gill (assaulted during a church service)

**India: Tarapet, Andhra Pradesh state**

Samuel (described the partial demolition of the centuries-old St Peter's Cathedral “Taking the shrine’s history and prominence into consideration, VMC [Vijayawada Municipal Corporation] officials should leave the structure untouched. They carried out the demolition without informing the church authorities or serving a notice”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Catholics-protest-in-Andhra-Pradesh-over-the-demolition-of-St.-Peter's-cathedral-38209.html>

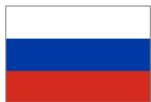
<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/08/4574211/>



### **Iran: Evin Prison, Tehran**

Maryam Naghash-Zargaran aka Nasim (aged 38, as of **July 11, 2016** has again begun a hunger strike to force prison officials to grant her a medical leave; **UPDATE**: ended her hunger strike after prison officials said she would receive better medical attention)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3048>



### **Russia: Tver**

Ebenezer Tuah (Ghanaian citizen, detained for performing baptisms in a sanatorium)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2211](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2211)



### **Algeria: Setif**

Slimane Bouhafs (aged 49, arrested on blasphemy charges, suffers from inflammatory rheumatism)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/08/4582070/>



### **United States – Nebraska: near Brule**

**A family committed to missionary work in Japan died in a traffic accident while travelling for their final training**

Jamison Pals (aged 29, **died**)

Kathryne Pals (aged 29, **died**)

Ezra (aged 3, **died**)

Violet (aged 23 months, **died**)

Calvin (aged 2 months, **died**)

Gordy Engel (father of Kathryne Pals)

Nancy (mother of Kathryne Pals, said "The last time we saw Jamison and Kathryne, we got together and held hands and prayed with them...That was the last time we saw them")

[http://www.omaha.com/news/nebraska/we-do-forgive-you-parents-of-woman-killed-in-i/article\\_76afdde4-5c0f-11e6-be64-1f74c1b9f60d.html](http://www.omaha.com/news/nebraska/we-do-forgive-you-parents-of-woman-killed-in-i/article_76afdde4-5c0f-11e6-be64-1f74c1b9f60d.html)

### July 2016, date unknown



#### Bangladesh

Rosaline Costa (aged 67, human rights activist; **UPDATE**: has fled the country after receiving death threats, a niece and two nephews have fled in the past year under threats to convert to Islam or be killed or forced into marriage)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/08/11/bangladeshi-catholic-editor-flees-country-in-fear-of-her-life/>



#### 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; fined US\$308 on **June 16, 2016**; **UPDATE**: notified of his fine in early July 2016 only after the court decision, unable to determine under what charge he was fined)

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





## **Azerbaijan: Gakh**

Givi Khusishvili (home raided by police during a [March 23, 2016](#) worship service, 56 attendees detained for hours, religious items including Bibles seized; **UPDATE**: fined US\$1,108 between [July 28 and August 1, 2016](#), 25 other attendees of his worship service also fined)

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



## **Egypt: Naj al-Nassara**

Salim Qamhi (farmer, said of the burning of his church "We heard deafening sounds of explosions and crackling as the interior of the church gave way. The fire had eaten up everything -- the wooden sanctuary, the icons, the pews and the books")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20160807162957.htm>

## **Today's Martyrs**

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

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