

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – August 2016

Monday August 1, 2016



Malaysia: Kota Kinabalu, Sabah state

Rev Jerry Dusing (reportedly said after Islamist political parties proposed the adoption of Islamic law "Sharia will not work in Sabah, which is pluralist in nature. We will guard our shores from injustice, unfairness and extremism")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Sabah,-Evangelical-Church-of-Borneo-opposes-introduction-of-sharia-38193.html>



Pakistan: Gujrat, Punjab province

Christians reportedly protested an unrepaired sewer break, said that the sewage was deliberately maneuvered toward their church

Mistry Jallal Javaid

Ehsan Masih Sindhu

Pastor Irfan

Pakistan: Sialkot

Asma (daughter of Gulzar Masih, hearing impaired, abducted, forcibly married and converted to Islam, escaped after 4-5 months and returned to her family, under pressure to return to her abductor)

Gulzar Masih (father of Asma, son-in-law arrested by police in an attempt to force him to return his daughter to her abductor)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/gujrat-sewerage-floods-a-130-year-old-church-as-a-result-of-laxity-of-town-municipal-administration/>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6020>



Syria: Aleppo

Artillery and air bombardment reported to have continued

Stefan Maier (Austrian citizen, Caritas coordinator, said “Pickup trucks constantly drive past the Caritas office, and the loading surfaces in the back are packed with the injured or dead, most of them children”)

Sr Annie Demerjian (said “It is painful to see people without food and water. In them, Jesus is hungry and thirsty. What gives me joy is when I can help them and see the relief and happiness on their faces”)

Joseph (Caritas employee, said “We need from the whole world to stand up with us to stop this war”)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/08/01/bombardment-of-aleppo-is-destroying-hospitals-and-trapping-civilians-aid-agencies-say/>



Russia: Tver

Ebenezer Tuah (Ghanaian citizen, detained on July 31, 2016 for performing baptisms in a sanatorium; **UPDATE**: fined US\$748)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2211



South Africa: Johannesburg

Bishop Abel Gaba (reported to have said after 12 people have been killed in election related violence “We must make sure that our country does not become one of those nations where the murder of candidates before elections is considered normal. Given the sacredness of life, the death of even one candidate during an election must be considered one too many”)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/60543-AFRICA_SOUTH_AFRICA_We_must_not_become_a_country_where_the_killing_of_political_candidates_is_seen_as_a_normal_event#.V5_2JsKV85s



Greece: Thessaloniki

Metropolitan Anthimos Rousas (said that anarchists "destroyed what they could" during an attack on the cathedral during the Divine Liturgy)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/95826.htm>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metropolis_of_Thessaloniki



Austria: Vienna

Susanna Rufi (aged 19, Italian citizen, religious pilgrim, **died of meningitis** while returning from World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/meningitis-death-of-world-youth-day-pilgrim-prompts-health-alert-52288/>



Belgium: Lanaken

Fr Jos Vanderlee (aged 65, stabbed in his hands by an asylum seeker after he refused a demand for money, hospitalized)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/08/01/catholic-priest-stabbed-in-belgium/>



United Kingdom

Aisleen Hubert (aged 23, as of **October 27, 2014** has brought a private prosecution against 3 doctors implicated in illegal gender-selection abortions after Crown prosecutors refused to prosecute; Crown prosecutors announced on **March 13, 2015** that they would take over and then drop the prosecutions as 'not in the public interest'; on **April 13, 2015** has been ordered to pay £25,000 - US\$36,800 - to the Manchester court in costs for bringing the prosecution; **UPDATE:** ordered by the court to pay a total of £47,000 - US\$61,965, could be imprisoned for non-payment, said "There is a huge injustice here. There was clear video evidence that doctors were willing to offer abortion on the grounds of the child being the 'wrong' gender. That is against the law and yet the CPS refused to prosecute, refused to release important video evidence and then squashed my attempt to

fight for justice. Now I have been landed with a huge costs order which I cannot pay...The CPS conceded that there was sufficient evidence for a prosecution. It was reasonable for me to test the law in the courts. Now I'm being punished for doing so...Gender-abortion is a horrible practice. I brought prosecutions because those who should have done so were turning a blind eye...These two doctors were filmed offering gender-abortion. I sought to bring them to justice. Now I am being punished and told to pay a huge sum to them. Where is the justice in that? It is completely immoral...This isn't just about abortion, it's about our justice system. Private prosecution is an important check and balance on state power. It allows private citizens to fight for justice when the state apparatus has failed or turned a blind eye. But these massive costs will make it impossible for people like me in the future")

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/abortion/23-year-old-who-pursued-gender-abortion-justice-faces-crippling-47000-legal-b>



United States – Tennessee: Knoxville

Lois McGinnis (wife of Curtis McGinnis, Christian bookstore owner, newspaper ad not printed because it contained the offensive word 'Christian')

Curtis McGinnis (husband of Lois McGinnis, Christian bookstore owner, obtained an apology and free advertising from the newspaper in compensation)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/tennessee-newspaper-explains-christian-ad-banned-for-being-offensive-167334/>

Tuesday August 2, 2016



China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Five Christians were released from jail after four months, likely in preparation for the upcoming G20 summit

Ji Qingcao (**UPDATE**: released)

Ji Qingcou (**UPDATE**: released)

Ou Jinsi (**UPDATE**: released)

Mei Xueshun (released)

He Lijing (released)

Pastor Wen Xiaowu (**UPDATE**: not released)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/08/wenzhou-releases-5-prisoners-in.html>



Thailand: Bangkok

George Naz (Pakistani refugee, fled Pakistan after receiving false blasphemy accusations, said at a vigil in front of the French embassy "We cannot stay silent we must speak out against these atrocities. When we choose to ignore the plight of others we are only serving to embolden extremists and in the long term we all will suffer")

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/asylum-seekers-sow-seeds-of-hope-through-solidarity-vigil>



Uzbekistan: Tashkent

Pastor Andrei Ten (arrested with three others in a taxi for possession of a religious book)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2221



Nigeria: Gada Biyu, Jema local government area, Kaduna state

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

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

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

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

Joseph (aged 25, brother-in-law of Martha Yohanna, missing after a Muslim Fulani herdsmen attack, **presumed killed**)

Martha Yohanna (sister-in-law of Joseph, described the recent Muslim Fulani herdsmen attacks, fled her village)

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

Rev Nathan Jaweson (swam across the river to escape being killed)

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

Wednesday August 3, 2016



Taiwan: Wanjin, Pingtung county

Fr Anselm Hsu OP (reported on a church vandalism by a mentally ill man "It is lucky that only the clothes of the statue and the spotlight were burnt and no one was harmed. It is a dilemma for us to enhance more security measures when we want the church to reach out to people")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/marian-statue-set-on-fire-in-taiwans-oldest-church/76774>



China: Beijing

Hu Shigen (church elder, disappeared on July 10, 2015; formally arrested in Tianjin on January 8, 2016 on a charge of 'subversion of state power'; **UPDATE** sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/08/new-york-times-china-sentences-hu.html>



Syria

Patriarch Ignatius Ephrem Joseph III Yonan (**UPDATE**: said in Toronto, Canada "The very existence of Eastern Churches, those churches that come from the apostles' time, is at stake, in danger [and] is not going to be assured [by the] hypocritical and Machiavellian agenda of the powerful countries and politicians of the West...Who taught these two young men who slaughtered the priest [in Rouen, France]? Their Iman alienated them as children and as youth, and told them to memorize all the verses of the Quran. If you tell these kids that those verses are literally coming from God, you'll be able to turn that young man into a beast, since they don't have exegesis, and they have to memorize those verses, it won't be easy to prevent them from becoming terrorists or killers")

<https://cruxnow.com/global-church/2016/08/03/syrian-catholic-leader-challenges-claims-islam-non-violent/>



Zimbabwe: Harare

Rev Evan Mawarire (arrested on [July 12, 2016](#) for inciting public disorder after encouraging people to protest economic deprivations; released on [July 13, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: tried, charge changed to treason at the beginning of the trial, acquitted after his attorneys stated that the change of charge that day deprived him of a fair trial)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Zimbabwean-social-media-campaign-pastor-acquitted-of-treason-charges>

Thursday August 4, 2016



China: Xinyuan county, Xinjiang province

Gao Ming (aged 27, seminary student, detained on a charge of indoctrinating minors with superstitious beliefs while attempting to drive children to a Christian summer camp, held for 15 days)

Zhou Yanhua (detained on a charge of indoctrinating minors with superstitious beliefs while attempting to drive children to a Christian summer camp, held for 10 days, had attempted to free Gao Ming by taking responsibility for the camp)

Xie Xianhua (church elder, said that after the children were taken to a police station and identified their teachers were contacted and threatened with loss of pay and their parents were threatened that they would not be advanced in school)

http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/09/christian-camp-leaders-detained-accused_69.html



Azerbaijjan: on the road between Barda and Yevlakh

Jamila Gurbanova (detained for handing out state-approved religious literature on a bus, released)

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

Friday August 5, 2016



China: Tianjin

Gou Hongguo aka Ge Ping (husband of Fan Lili, father of Shaner, former military officer, businessman, detained on [July 10, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment for 'subversion of state power', sentence suspended, his wife had written a letter to him entitled *With love there is no fear!*)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-activist-sentenced-to-three-years-for-subversion-38232.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/08/wifes-letter-to-imprisoned-husband-with.html>



Pakistan: Karachi

Naqash Yousuf (aged 26, jailed on a murder charge, expressed thanks for the construction of the first Christian chapel in a jail "Some 40 to 50 Christian prisoners now visit the chapel and attend Sunday prayers")

Samina Nawab (chairperson of Angel Patient Care Services, which funded the chapel construction)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/pakistan-jail-opens-chapel-for-christian-prisoners/76891>



Yemen

Fr Tom Uzhunnalil SDB (aged 56, Indian citizen, abducted when armed men attacked a nursing home in Aden on March 4, 2016, killing 16 employees and residents including 4 nuns; **UPDATE**: reported by the Indian government to still be alive)

Bishop Paul Hinder (**UPDATE**: said "no one has ever had direct contact with Fr Tom. We do not have any proof that he really is ok")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Indian-Foreign-Minister:-Fr.-Tom-is-well.-Msgr.-Hinder:-Caution-38233.html>



Iraq: Aishty 2 camp, Erbil, Kurdistan

Three priests were ordained in a refugee camp

Fr Emad

Fr Petros

Fr Roni Salim Momika (said "We left Qaraqosh during this time two years ago [during the ISIL attack]", will continue to serve in the camp)

Archbishop Yohanna Petros Moshe (**UPDATE**: celebrated the ordination)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/new-iraqi-priests-bring-joy-amid-years-of-sadness-displacement-52205>

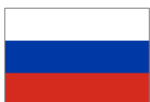


Egypt: Abu Qurqas

Marian (aged 20, daughter of Khalaf, disappeared)

Khalaf (father of Marian, later said of her disappearance "The prosecution asked the police to make investigations about the matter and its circumstances, but it was not investigated since the date of her disappearance")

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



Russia: Mari-Turek

Aleksandr Yakimov (charged with illegal missionary activity for speaking at a village festival about his church, which lacks legal status)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2211



Austria: Vienna

Vakhtang Kipshidze (church spokesman; **UPDATE**: condemned a break-in at the St Nicholas Cathedral by Pokemon Go players, said in [Moscow](#) "The developers of this game

deliberately added a provocative dimension, proposing that absolutely any place could become a site for the game. I hope that the users of the game will have enough discretion to respect the interests of other people, social and religious organizations, and not to encroach upon the private lives of others”)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/players-of-pokemon-go-broke-into-st-nicholas-cathedral-in-vienna/>



United Kingdom

Lord David Alton (human rights advocate; **UPDATE:** wrote "In Parliament I hosted a meeting of the charity, Aid to the Church In Need [ACN]. We heard of how a Christian pastor in a village of Aleppo was told to convert or die. He was forced to watch as his 12-year-old son was tortured: the boy's fingers cut from his hand. Neither the father or son renounced their faith, and both were executed...Despite Resolutions being passed in the House of Commons, the American Congress, the European Parliament and the Australian House of Representatives, the British Government still fails to name these events for the genocide that they are – or to lay a Resolution before the Security Council...In November, ACN is arranging for Westminster Cathedral and Westminster Abbey to be floodlit in red to commemorate the persecuted. If every parish in the country did the same it might at last wake up our political classes to the scale of the suffering")

<http://ctscatholiccompass.org/an-article-of-faith/>

Saturday August 6, 2016



Syria: Aleppo

Sr Anne-Francoise OCD (French national, one of six nuns in her convent, said "When the Syrian army attempts to prevent the opposition and other groups from entering the city, the bombing and shelling is really close to us. Thank God, they haven't hit us yet, but we are constantly hearing the shells pass over our heads...The bombs are falling all around us, but we are not going to leave the people in their suffering. The people here are suffering and dying...By now it is only the poorest of the people who are still left here in Aleppo. So many Christians have left the city during these years of war...The diplomatic solutions have not worked. We simply pray to the Lord that this war may stop. Please take pity on these thousands of lives, torn apart by war. Please don't forget us. We need your prayers and your practical help!")

<http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1470478790.html>

Sunday August 7, 2016



Philippines: Dagupan

Archbishop Socrates Villegas (aged 55, **UPDATE**: criticized the government for the large number of killings of drug dealers by police, wrote “From a generation of drug addicts, shall we become a generation of street murderers? Can the do-it-yourself justice system assure us of a safer and better future?”)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/08/08/philippines-archbishop-strongly-criticises-president-dutertes-violent-crackdown-on-drug-crime/>



Kazakhstan: Kalbatau village, Zharma district, East Kazakhstan region

Yakov Frizen (stopped by police after putting Andrei Berimets, Olga Berimets, and Zoya Tobolina in his automobile following a service in his home, detained, released)

Andrei Berimets (aged 83, detained after leaving the home of Yakov Frizen, released)

Olga Berimets (aged 79, detained after leaving the home of Yakov Frizen, released)

Zoya Tobolina (aged 79, detained after leaving the home of Yakov Frizen, released)

Natalya Kvach (detained after leaving the home of Yakov Frizen, released)

Yevgeny Seleznev (detained, released)

Nina Gurzhueva (detained, released)

Shezhana Bondarenko (detained, released)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2208



Egypt: Heliopolis

Marina Ramsis (aged 21, theater arts student, said "Christians are in real danger")

Egypt: Mari Girgis

Marcus Abel Shahid (aged 37, pharmacist, said "I don't really expect much from a country whose very system is built upon Islamic law. I'm saying this in the light of recent tragedies and killings, like the murder of Sister Athanasia who got killed on the highway")

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



Algeria: Setif

Slimane Bouhafis (aged 49, arrested on blasphemy charges on [July 31, 2016](#), suffers from inflammatory rheumatism; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment)

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

Monday August 8, 2016



India: New Delhi

Fr Joseph Manipadam (said of the government's latest education proposals which would promote Hindu beliefs "Our concerns are several. We believe education should be free from cultural, religious, and political ideologies of governments and leaders")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/indias-new-education-plan-leaves-church-official-reeling/76790>



Pakistan: Quetta, Baluchistan

Christian leaders condemned the terror bombing of a hospital emergency room that killed over 70 and wounded 40

Arthur Victor (attorney, **killed** in the suicide bombing of a hospital emergency room)

Ashiknaz Khokhar

Daud Sharif Sohatra

Bishop FS Bhatti

Dr Julius Salik (former member of parliament and Federal Minister)

Majid Zia

Mushtaq Gill

Dr Nazir S Bhatti

Pervez Iqbal

Raymond Wallace Durrani

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/eminant-christian-leader-julius-salik-denounces-quetta-hospital-blast/>

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/quetta-a-christian-advocate-perishes-in-civil-hospital-suicide-blast/>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6026>



Turkmenistan: Seydi, eastern Lebap region

Artur Yangibayev (detained on [June 16, 2016](#) for refusing military service, forced to retract his petition for alternative service, released; **UPDATE**: detained on [August 8, 2016](#))

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



Eritrea: Asmara

Patriarch Abune Antonios (disappeared in [2007](#), reportedly detained by the government in a darkened room, health declining, diabetic condition requires medical attention;

UPDATE: reported to have signed a document expressing an apology for his actions and regret for the consequences, observers have expressed concern that coercion or even torture may have been used)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/serious-concern-about-truth-of-reported-confession-of-ousted-patriarch-of-eritrean-orthodox-church/>



Egypt: Beni Suef province

Magdy Issac (young man, abducted by a mob, ransom of US\$5,632 demanded)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1711&A=25765>

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

Tuesday August 9, 2016



Indonesia: Gondangwinangun, Central Java province

Endang Setyorini (church vandalized, statues broken and thrown in a river, said "Our relations with local people from different religious backgrounds have been good. Our parish church is open to anyone who wants to pray here. In fact, we don't hire security personnel to guard our parish church on a daily basis")

Fr Ignatius Sukawalyana (called on parishioners to not jump to conclusions that the perpetrators were Islamic extremists "while the investigation is ongoing")

Fr Peter C Aman OFM (professor of moral theology, said "we don't worship statues and we forgive others")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/vandalized-marian-jesus-statues-perplexes-javanese-catholics/76817>



India: New Delhi

A C Michael (United Christian Forum; **UPDATE:** met with other human rights activists to discuss the failure of government and political parties to oppose the RSS Hindu paramilitary organization, said "I am concerned of the subtle way of terror which is happening in the way of changing the education policy and introducing a uniform civil code. This is more dangerous than the physical violence")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/rights-activists-concerned-over-pro-hindu-ideology/76821>



Turkmenistan

Sanjarbek Saburov (detained on [July 17, 2016](#) for refusing military service; **UPDATE:** convicted, sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment, sentence suspended)

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



Iraq: Ankawa, Kurdistan

Fr Emanuel Adel Kelo (said "If organized migration were possible, then I can say that 90 percent of the inhabitants of this camp would leave")

Raad Bahnam Samaan (husband, father of five including Iva, refugee for 2 years, said "There is always hope, but when? Nobody knows. It might be a year, two years, a day, a couple of days. Three or four years from now if we go home there won't be anything left of our house...The boys are growing up, how can I secure their future?", added that the end of ISIL may not improve his situation with Iraqi Muslims "We'll still be afraid. I will go to Mosul and I will be afraid because they will say, here comes the Christian")

Iva Samaan (aged 25, son of Raad Bahnam Samaan, engaged to be married but cannot obtain housing in the refugee camp to start his family)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20160809163404.htm>



Syria: Aleppo

Fr Ibrahim [Alsabagh OFM?] (**UPDATE:** reported to Vatican Radio "We don't know what's going to happen. We announced to all the priests, since yesterday, and we've also told the people, that we want to fast and pray the next 72 hours so that the will for peace always prevails and so that it wins over the will for war...It's a miracle and divine providence that we bought everything [food, water, etc.] before Aleppo's main street was closed off...the bombardments, which are intensified at night, continue, but there are also missiles falling on the western side of the city, where we're living...in recent days two areas were evacuated and many people have slept and continue to sleep on the streets or in tents...The army for its part wants to retake the parts it lost in recent days, while these military groups are getting ready to advance further toward Hamdaniya and the entire western area of the city...within the city it's more the jihadists than the rebels who are taking the helm of these military groups which are very, very diversified")

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/in-syria-aleppos-catholics-pray-and-fast-for-peace-18610/>

Wednesday August 10, 2016



China: Hangzhou, Zhejiang

Zan Aizong (freelance journalist; **UPDATE:** reported to have said that officials from the Religious Affairs Bureau raided a church, disrupted a service, and prohibited further meetings, the raid appears to be in anticipation of the September G20 summit)

Zhou (reported to have said that many churches will begin to close supplementary activities in mid-August and to fully close prior to the G20 summit)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/08/zhejiang-locks-down-on-churches-in.html>



Vietnam: Muong Khuong district, Lao Cai province

Fr Peter Le Quoc Hung (traveled with six others to investigate persecution, vehicles' tires spiked by masked men)

Tran Thi Tram (a police attack on a prayer meeting at her home was investigated by Fr Peter Le Quoc Hung)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/catholics-in-northern-vietnam-seek-help-to-end-persecution/76842>



India

Christian leaders reacted to Prime Minister Narandhra Modi's speech against 'cow vigilantism'

Samuel Jaykumar (National Council of Churches in India; **UPDATE:** said "It is just to pacify the Dalits and other minorities. Keep in mind that an election is coming next year in Uttar Pradesh", added that Modi did not mention similar attacks on Muslims)

Mary John (**UPDATE:** said Modi's words were "too little, too late...But if they are serious they should act now")

Auxiliary Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas SFX (**UPDATE:** said "We are happy that the prime minister has finally spoken out and that he has spoken very strongly. But Dalit [untouchable] and minority groups would be happier if action could be seen at the ground level")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/modi-urged-to-act-just-not-talk-against-cow-vigilantism/76809>



Uganda: Kedenge, Iki-iki county

Aisha Twanza (aged 25, convert, poisoned with insecticide by family members, hospitalized, later said “I never expected my parents to do such a thing to me, but I thank God for saving me and healing”)

Uganda: Mbarara district

Enoch Shaban (aged 32, convert, **found hanged from a tree**, had received death threats for his conversion)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/09/persecution-in-eastern-uganda-persists-as-christian-convert-is-killed-in-western-area/>



Egypt: Dahab village, Minya province

Elizabeth Ghattas Habib (aged 18, reported to have disappeared under mysterious circumstances)

Egypt: Mersa Matruh, Matrouh province

Pastor Shady Afifi (reported to have been attacked by police while heading to church with sixty parishioners, slapped, prevented from praying)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1703&A=25434>

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1704&A=25437>

Thursday August 11, 2016



Indonesia: Gunung Kidul district, Yogyakarta province

Agnes Dwi Rusjiyati (parish official, said that the Muslim extremists who had opposed the construction of an interfaith shrine to Mary the mother of Jesus have withdrawn their opposition after finding they had created divisions in the Muslim community)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Yogyakarta,-Islamic-extremists-withdraw:-the-Marian-shrine-remains-38281.html>



Pakistan: Lahore, Punjab province

Ngam (aged 17, son of Nabeela Nadeem, fled with his family from [Khanewal](#) in [December 2013](#) after attempts to convert him and his sisters to Islam at school; **UPDATE**: family fled after a teacher said during an 'Islamic science' college class "the universe was created for Muslims, and non-Muslims unfairly benefit from it. So killing Christians, Jews and Hindus is justified", the class was held on Minorities Day, the commemoration of the 1947 religious toleration speech by national founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah)

Nabeela Nadeem (aged 45, wife, mother of three including Ngam)

Monica (aged 12, abducted and forced into an Islamic marriage)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Lahore:-Christian-family-forced-to-flee-because-of-religious-hatred-38441.html>

<http://barnabasfund.org/news/Father-of-Pakistani-girl-kidnapped-and-married-to-Muslim-man-dies>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/36318->

[ASIA PAKISTAN Christian family flees to save their daughters from forced conversion to Islam#.VBJAEMLwsfg](#)



Kazakhstan: Kalbatau village, Zharma district, East Kazakhstan region

Yakov Frizen (stopped by police after putting Andrei Berimets, Olga Berimets, and Zoya Tobolina in his automobile following an [August 7, 2016](#) service in his home, detained, released; **UPDATE**: home raided by police, foreign visitors stopped and questioned)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2208



Syria: Aleppo

Bishop George Abu Khazen OFM (**UPDATE**: unable to return to his church "because the road has been closed" due to combat, which has only "partially reopened in some directions", added "the situation is critical, and people are afraid...[Christians and Muslims] are praying unceasingly for peace")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Vicar-of-Aleppo-fears-a-pitched-battle,-Christians-and-Muslims-pray-for-peace-38287.html>



Germany: Frankfurt

Pastor Mahin Mousapour (aged 57, convert, former Iranian citizen, reportedly has been threatened with a knife, said of Christian persecution in a nearby refugee camp "I love Muslims. But many Muslim refugees say that all Christians are unclean. During the period of Ramadan, it was particularly disastrous. The victims are afraid of revenge or of losing their asylum status if they complain. It can not be that someone seeks shelter with us because of his faith and we then don't protect him here")

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/698748/Christians-hide-bibles-in-German-migrant-camps-amid-death-threats-from-Muslim-extremists>



Nigeria: Lagos

Kehinde Adewunmi (aged 50, convert, husband filed for divorce because she had converted)

<http://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/more-news/208454-man-accuses-wife-converting-islam-seeks-divorce.html>

Friday August 12, 2016



China

Wang Hongwu (wife of imprisoned Pastor Li Guozhi aka Yang Hua; **UPDATE**: refused a summons to appear at a police station)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/08/wife-of-imprisoned-pastor-constantly.html>



Iran: Isfahan

Eleven Christians [one unidentified] were arrested in a raid on a house church

Amin Ahanin

Arash Qodsi

Edmund Khachaturian

Fatemeh Amini

Hamed Sepidkar

Maryam Zonubi

Mohammad Alyasi

Mohammad Malek Khatai

Mohsen Khoobyari

Samaneh Shahbazi-Far

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/iran-eleven-christians-arrested-while-attending-a-mass-at-a-house-church/>



Egypt: Mostorod

Fr Abdul Massieh Bassit (said that Christians are currently suffering more than they did under the previous regime)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1705&A=25516>

Saturday August 13, 2016



Pakistan: Sahiwal

Javed Sahotra (attorney, husband of Mary Javed; **UPDATE**: threatened with death by a politician for his defense of a young Christian man who had eloped with a Muslim woman)

Zain Amar (family threatened by a politician after he had eloped with a Muslim woman)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/sahiwal-christian-attorney-facilitating-a-christian-respondent-threatened-by-a-politician/>



Tanzania: Kidimuni

Pastor Damson Maonesho (aged 53, husband, father of nine, home destroyed in an arson attack by Muslims, said “My wife had visited a close neighbor. Usually in the afternoon the baby is asleep. I think one of the targets was the small baby”, has taken refuge in an 882 square foot shelter, said “Sleeping on the cemented floor, which is very cold at night, made our 9-month-old child catch pneumonia. We are appealing for friends to settle us in a rented house, which will require about \$500 dollars, because I have a large family”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/10/burning-of-pastors-house-in-zanzibar-tanzania-leaves-family-of-11-homeless/>



Egypt: Cairo

Magda Tharwat (Egyptian Union for Human Rights [EUHR] member, participated in a demonstration at the High Court over the inability to get licenses to build churches "Why should there be a law on constructing churches and not on mosques? Restrictions on churches include its definition as a fenced place of worship, upon which governors have the authority to license with the obscure involvement of the National Security apparatus...We demand citizens' equality")

<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2016/08/13/533608/>

Sunday August 14, 2016



India: Mumbai

Archbishop Emeritus Raphael Cheenath SVD (aged 82; deplored the [October 3, 2013](#) sentencing of seven Christians to life imprisonment for the 2008 assassination of Hindu nationalist leader Laxamananda Saraswati despite a lack of evidence and Maoist claims of responsibility, the assassination led to a pogrom in which over 100 Christians were killed; **UPDATE: died of natural causes**, had been living outside his diocese due to death threats)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Msgr.-Raphael-Cheenath,-Archbishop-emeritus-of-Orissa's-martyrs,-has-died-38306.html>



Egypt: Beni Suef province

Magdy Issac (young man, abducted on [August 8, 2016](#) by a mob, ransom of US\$5,632 demanded; **UPDATE**: **murdered** after his family was unable to pay the ransom, body thrown in the Nile)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1711&A=25765>

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



Russia: Oryol

Donald J Ossevaarde (U.S. citizen, convicted on illegal missionary charges after hosting prayer meetings and Bible study in his home, fined US\$700, case under appeal)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue27712.html>



Sudan: Khartoum

Two pastors held in jail for months have been brought into court and charged with espionage, complicity to execute a criminal agreement, waging war against the state, calling for opposition of the public authority by violence or criminal force, and inciting hatred between classes

Rev Hassan Abdelrahim Tawor (arrested in [Omdurman](#) on [December 18, 2015](#) by the NISS secret police; **UPDATE**: charged in court)

Rev Kowa Shamal (arrested in [Khartoum Bahry](#) on [December 18, 2015](#) by the NISS secret police; released on [January 16, 2016](#); arrested by the NISS secret police without charge on [May 24, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: charged in court)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/08/4587909/>



Cameroon: Kolofata

Gazawa Alhadji (father of three, **killed** in a Boko Haram attack, had likely been targeted for his defense of his village in a Boko Haram attack six months earlier)

<https://barnabasmfund.org/news/Kidnapped-Christian-remains-held-in-Cameroon-and-Boko-Haram-takes-revenge>



Nigeria: Golkofa village, Jema'a local government area, Kaduna state

Seven Christians were killed by Fulani Muslims

Thomas Maimasara (aged 40, cousin of Sunday Saleh, **killed**)

Sabo Boyi (aged 25, cousin of Sunday Saleh, **killed**)

Bobo Okocha (aged 18, **killed**)

Monday Hamza (aged 24, **killed**)

Waje Rubutu (aged 17, **killed**)

Linus (aged 20, **killed**)

Julius (aged 19, **killed**)

Sunday Saleh (cousin of Thomas Maimasara and Sabo Boyi, described the attack “The Christians were killed in their homes. Some of the victims were shot while others were cut with machetes”)

Rev Dr Sunday Ibrahim (said “These attacks on Christian communities are senseless and uncalled for. Why carry out attacks on communities without provocation? The Nigerian government needs to stop these killings by these Muslim herdsmen”)

Rt Rev Timothy Yahaya (**UPDATE**: said “The attacks by the herdsmen on Christian communities are not only condemnable but must be stopped by the Nigerian government. We are tired of these bloody attacks on Christians, not only in Kaduna state, but also in other parts of the country”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/08/seven-christians-killed-in-north-central-nigeria-by-muslim-fulani-cattle-herders/>



United States – Kentucky: Bowling Green

David Buckley (aged 40, stabbed in the neck in church by his son, hospitalized)

Brent Duvall (said "I was praying at the altar when I heard a commotion. I thought it was someone going into cardiac arrest or a seizure. I found out it wasn't that. It's a lost and fallen world we live in. It shouldn't surprise us")

Alicia Bell (said "It's scary, but in today's society this can happen anywhere...I'm praying for anybody that was hurt")

http://www.bgdailynews.com/news/bg-man-accused-of-stabbing-father-during-church-service/article_694b0970-6241-11e6-a8a3-6ba470e5a362.html

Monday August 15, 2016



Pakistan: Lahore

Monica (aged 12, abducted and forced into an Islamic marriage on [August 11, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** father threatened with harassment charges by police after he challenged the legality of the marriage certificate)

Pakistan: Marriamabad, Sheikhpura district

Christians were arrested and tortured during a Christian festival

Kailash Masih

Touseef Masih

Kashsash Masih

Irfan Masih

Nabeel Masih

Babar Masih

Nasir Masih

Nadeem Masih

Inderyas Masih

Jan Masih

Janbaz Masih

Tooti

Pakistan: Mian Channu

Christians have pled for the government to fix drainage problems at a cemetery

Chaudhary Payara

Shehzad Francis

Siyal Paul

Khalid Patras

Javaid Qaisar

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Father-of-Pakistani-girl-kidnapped-and-married-to-Muslim-man-dies>

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/marriamabad-police-goes-on-the-attack-against-christians-on-the-pretext-of-security-provisions/>

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/mian-channu-primordial-graveyard-of-christians-rendered-squalid-by-dint-of-governments-neglect/>



Syria: Aleppo

Samir Samaan (reported to have said “Today we have started receiving aid for Muslim families from the 1070 district who fled severe fighting. We try to give away essential things, hot meals and medicines. We help as much as possible with accommodation and medical care”)

Fr Ziad Hilal SJ (**UPDATE:** reported to have said on the current conditions "...the city it's divided between two sides. Between the opposition and the government, then people couldn't move from one side to the other side. And a lot of people couldn't go from here to there, from there to here, to get to their jobs – and so they lost their jobs, they lost their houses...I met a Catholic family where three children are working in a restaurant, one is 7 or 8 years old, the other one is 10 years old and the third one, he is 14 years old. Their father has died, we don't know how, and their mother is also working. And the boss of the restaurant told me – you see these three children are working and I couldn't tell them no it is summer now because they are helping their mother. I was choked”)

<http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1471220542.html>

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/syrian-aleppos-christians-open-aid-center-for-muslims-fleeing-war-zone/>



Congo, Democratic Republic: Oicha, North Kivu province

Christians have reportedly been killed by the Ugandan Islamist group ADF-NALU, thousands have fled the area

Pastor Jean (said “We do not understand why this is happening to us. The rebels just take people into the bush to kill them or kidnap them. They attack one place for a while and cause people to run away. Then they strike the places people run to”)

Pastor Awuzo (husband, father of seven, has fled his home twice in recent weeks, said “When it is [tense], we are forced to leave, and when things get calm we return. That's how we live now. We are always alert, always ready to leave at a moment's notice”)

Pastor Kiveroi (said “The attackers in November [2015] arrived in their numbers at about 3pm. They killed more than 20 people and burnt down over 50 houses. Before leaving at about 5am, they looted the hospital, pharmacies and shops and set fire to the market and to

homes close to the market...We used to have 350 members in church. After the rebels attacked us, we returned for services the very next Sunday. But there were just 10 of us”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/08/4588161/>



Argentina: Santa Fe

Archbishop Jose Maria Arancedo (said after a church desecration in which a tabernacle was stolen “This calls us to increase our love for Jesus in the Eucharist, to strengthen our hearts joined to him, to strengthen our faith in the Lord, because these are times of the persecution of the Church, and like the first Christians we need to be strengthened and encouraged to walk with resolve on the path of faith”)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/eucharist-desecrated-missionaries-of-charity-assaulted-in-argentina-63151/>

Tuesday August 16, 2016



Bangladesh: Pirgacha

Fr Eugene Eduard Homrich CSC (aged 88, U.S. citizen, Bangladeshi resident since 1955, left the country due to health concerns and death threats from Islamic radicals)

Fr Simon Hacha (said of Fr Eugene Eduard Homrich "He founded more than 30 primary and secondary schools, where thousands of children received a quality education. He respected and nurtured the culture of the Garo people. He himself was a Garo, having learnt the language and published a book of hymns and prayers in it")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bangladesh-says-goodbye-to-Fr-Homrich,-a-missionary-of-the-Garo-people-38322.html>



Nigeria: Jalingo, Taraba state

Bishop Charles Hammawa (reported to have said of the Fulani atrocities against Christians “It appears to be a strategy to deliberately populate areas with Muslims and, by the sheer weight of superior numbers, influence political decision-making in the region”)

Nigeria: Wawar Kaza village, Kankara local government area, Katsina state

Habiba Isiyaku (aged 14, daughter of Isiyaku Tanko, abducted while returning home from school, forcibly converted to Islam and forcibly converted to a palace employee of the local emir, police refused to release her and returned her to the palace)

Isiyaku Tanko (father of Habiba Isiyaku, said "My little girl was abducted...on her way from school. After my investigations, I discovered that Jamilu Lawal, who lives in our community, was responsible for my daughter's disappearance...The Emir further informed me that he had received the sum of N50,000 [US\$156] as dowry from Jamilu Lawal for my daughter and that he would give her in marriage in accordance with Islamic rites and injunctions...He accused me of defaming him at the police station and I was intimidated and coerced to sign an apology drafted on my behalf by palace officials")

Rev Nelson Onyekachukwu (said "We told the Emirate Council that the girl is 14 years old. She is supposed to be in school and not given in marriage. We are not pleased and we demand justice. You cannot give any [child] in marriage without the consent of her parents")

Rev Dr Musa Asake (**UPDATE:** said "It is an unfortunate situation. This has been going on in the north. In fact, our Christian girls are abducted but nothing is done about it. It is so sad that, while we are praying to live in peace, the other side is not showing a sign of peace. I don't know where it is in the religion that teaches that they can take someone's daughter, convert her from Christianity to Islam and marry her off...I also want to make it very clear: if it were Christians doing this to Muslim girls, Nigerians would have been burnt to ashes. So, to me, it is a total disrespect and a complete disobedience of the law of the land and the law of God")

Mark Lipdo (**UPDATE:** said that every legal means to obtain her release would be pursued)

Danjuma Byang (said "Nobody has forgotten the hot debates...in the Constituent Assembly...which drafted the 1979 Constitution about the place of Sharia in it...Christian members kicked against the full implementation of full Sharia because non-Muslims would fall victim of this law. Muslim leaders have always argued that it's meant for Muslims only. But Christians have always refused to buy the argument because in practice, non-Muslims have often been dragged before Sharia law")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/08/seven-christians-killed-in-north-central-nigeria-by-muslim-fulani-cattle-herders/>

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



Mexico: Cuernavaca, Morelos state

Bishop Ramon Castro Castro (on July 22, 2013 decried the mounting violence by criminal gangs and their threats to kill clergy; **UPDATE:** reported to have become the subject of a criminal investigation for interfering in politics after he supported organizations that want to reform the state and after hosting a massive rally against same sex marriage, said "If I go to prison, no problem: from there I'll do the work of evangelization")

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/this-mexican-bishop-is-willing-to-evangelize-from-jail-if-necessary-35389/>

Wednesday August 17, 2016



Vietnam

Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh (husband of Tran Thi Hong; **UPDATE:** has suffered from high blood pressure and sinusitis, allowed a visit in prison with his wife who later said "He was too weak to walk and officers had to help him into the meeting room...I give him medicine but officers dispense it irregularly")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/prisoners-of-conscience-on-hunger-strike-in-vietnam/76982>

Thursday August 18, 2016



China: Zhejiang province

Pastor Ma Ke (criticized a new ban on religious activity in hospitals "They are interfering with people's religious beliefs, which is against the constitution...because Chinese citizens should have the freedom to choose their religion, or to have no religion. I think it's perfectly normal...people depend psychologically on their religious beliefs to a certain extent. If they are dying, for example, they know that they have nothing to fear. Religion empowers people...to be more optimistic and accepting of their treatment program. It helps them face up to times of illness, and also to face up to their own mortality")

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/08/radio-free-asia-chinas-zhejiang-bans.html>



Thailand: Bangkok

Pastor Yousaf (husband of Son, Pakistani refugee, reported to have been detained with his wife and two sisters, son not detained)

Son (wife of Pastor Yousaf, Pakistani refugee, reported to have been detained, son not detained)

Ruth Masih (reported on the detention of Pastor Yousaf, Son, and his sisters)

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



India: Lakshmipuram

Evan Mamang Kipgen (aged 26, attacked by a gang of five men)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/5-member-gang-attacks-evangelist-from-Manipur/articleshow/53762661.cms>



Turkmenistan: Dashoguz

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 in [Ashgabad](#) on [June 30, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** convicted of assaulting a police officer in June 2014 and sentenced to one year's imprisonment in a labor camp)

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



Syria: Damascus

Patriarch Gregorios III Laham (aged 82; **UPDATE:** said that it is impossible to confirm or deny an Amnesty International report that asserts 18,000 people have died in government prisons since 2011, added that the situation is critical in Aleppo and in Madaya where "The area is under Daesh [ISIL] siege and government and aid is not getting through because the terrorists mingle among the population and use civilians as human shields as they successfully did in Palmyra and Homs in the past")

Bishop Mario Zenari (apostolic nuncio [Vatican ambassador]; **UPDATE:** said "One always hopes to see an end to violence, but all one sees instead is the war intensify...The suffering of children are those who strike our attention the most. Even the pope in his appeal in the Angelus of 7 August mentioned the unarmed civilian population,

particularly children who are among the most innocent victims. Since the beginning of the war, 14,000 children and minors they have died in the conflict...We continue to make appeals for peace, for an end to violence, but they go unanswered, powerless, falling on too many deaf ears”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Patriarch-Laham:-the-dead-in-Syrian-prisons,-new-front-in-information-war-38337.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Nuncio-in-Damascus,-children's-eyes-are-the-mirror-of-the-atrocities-committed-in-Syria-38348.html>

Friday August 19, 2016



Thailand: Bangkok

Kathriya Louis (aged 20, Pakistani refugee, said “Our Muslim neighbors [in Pakistan] did not like us because they knew we were Christians. Whenever we prayed or played Christian music they would come to our house and shout at us. My brothers were always caught up in arguments and fights and were harassed and bullied daily...My family is still deeply traumatized by the attack. I cry when I remember the day of the attack, none of us will ever forget it. We felt in fear of our lives and needed to flee quickly. We came to Thailand because it is easy to get here, visa is cheap and easy to get while flights are inexpensive. Also, most other countries do not accept Pakistanis. And my pastor told us to go to Thailand because others had escaped there. We were told that the UN would help us...I am really worried. We are all scared that the [Thai] soldiers and police will come in larger numbers to take us all away. We all know how badly detainees are treated in the immigration detention center, and none of us want to go there. My family and I are planning what to do in an emergency, we are also thinking of spending time outdoors in tourist areas to prevent being caught at home again. Please ask people to pray for us”)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/life-is-unbearable-as-an-asylum-seekers-in-thailand-pakistani-christian-asylum-seeker-entreats-all-to-pray-for-her/>



Pakistan: Khushal Town, Faisalabad

Christian villagers were attacked by a mob after one had a traffic accident with a Muslim, told to turn the Christian driver over to them or the village would be burned and the women raped, police have taken no action

Adnan Masih (aged 24, accidentally ran over the foot of a Muslim with his motor scooter, escaped after a fistfight, the Muslim victim led five others in an attack on his village but were driven off, later returned with more than 30 men and terrorized the village)

Emmanuel Masih (aged 60, father of Shamsheer Jaan and Nadir Shaan, beaten along with his family by a Muslim mob in an attempt to find where Adnan Masih lived)

Laveeza Bibi (aged 58, wife of Emmanuel Masih, beaten)

Shamsheer Jaan (aged 28, son of Emmanuel Masih, brother of Nadir Shaan, beaten, hospitalized)

Nadir Shaan (aged 24, son of Emmanuel Masih, brother of Shamsheer Jaan, beaten)

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/christian-community-targeted-by-muslims-after-vehicle-accident-family-seeks-justice-for-the-brutalit>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6055>



Uzbekistan: Tashkent

Pastor Andrei Ten (arrested with three others in a taxi on [August 2, 2016](#) for possession of a religious book; **UPDATE**: fined US\$4,363)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2221



United States – Colorado: Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs

Major Steve Lewis (Air Force officer, reported to have voluntarily removed a Bible from his desk after an atheist group demanded he be "aggressively punished" for having it, case under review by his superiors)

<http://www.charismanews.com/opinion/american-dispatch/59370-atheists-demand-aggressive-punishment-for-air-force-major-who-dared-to-open-his-bible>

Saturday August 20, 2016



India: Kodungallur, Thrissur district, Kerala province

Rev Roy Shepherd (church attacked most likely by RSS paramilitary members, said his parishioners were now afraid)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/New-attacks-against-Christians-in-southern-India-38362.html>



Iraq: Ankawa, Erbil, Kurdistan

Fr Daniel Alkhory (**UPDATE**: described efforts to educate children in the refugee camps "We want our youth to stay here [in Iraq]. We want them to feel powerful...They feel like they are a molecule ... a grain of sand...When they go to their tents, they don't know what's going on except that their mother's grieving and their father's shouting. The Christian community is really angry about what the Muslims did to them...I don't think we have any problem with the children. The trouble is on the other side [i.e. with Muslims under ISIL influence]")

Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan

Archbishop Nicodemus Daoud Sharaf (**UPDATE**: said of the result of the ISIL takeover "For the first time in the history of Christianity, there are no Christians praying in Mosul. Even under the Mongol hordes and Hulagu Khan [in the 13th century] it wasn't so bad")

<http://www.economist.com/news/middle-east-and-africa/21705366-archbishop-laments-his-flocks-flight-under-gun>

<http://www.stripes.com/news/iraqi-church-hopes-to-heal-trauma-of-displaced-children-1.424751>



Belgium: Machelen

Miho Irak (aged 77, Turkish citizen, Belgian resident for 22 years, father of eight including Nezahat Irak, **died of natural causes**, denied assistance to be buried in Turkey by the Turkish government after it was discovered he was a Christian)

Nezahat Irak (daughter of Miho Irak, described the refusal of the Turkish government to assist her father's burial)

<https://pjmedia.com/blog/turkey-even-dead-christians-cannot-escape-islamic-persecution/>

Sunday August 21, 2016



China

Wang Hongwu (wife of imprisoned Pastor Li Guozhi aka Yang Hua; has been under constant police surveillance after refusing an [August 12, 2016](#) summons to appear at a police station; **UPDATE**: a foreign visitor was prevented from visiting her)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/08/wife-of-imprisoned-pastor-constantly.html>



India: Chaitama village, Korba district, Chhattisgarh state

Pappu Sadhu (described a Hindu attack on a prayer meeting, 200 Hindu radicals later erected a concrete wall around their uncompleted church, said they were accused of illegal conversions and threatened with dire consequences if they did not stop their prayer meetings)

Samuel Das (said the mob "wanted us to demolish the building after we finished more than half of the construction. We took up the matter from local police station, district officials and to the state Chief Minister. But no one came to our help...The situation in this area is so bad that if you want to be a Christian, you will have to prepare to be martyred. The Hindu activists have a free hand to do anything they want to do as the police and the administration back them")

Arun Pannalal (president of Chhattisgarh Christian Forum, **UPDATE**: said that so far this year there had been at least 20 attacks on Christians in the state)

R D Lall (National Christian Forum, said the attacks were part of a "a well-orchestrated move" to force Christians from the state)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/hindu-extremists-stop-construction-of-church-building/76944>



Nigeria: Golfoka village

Pastor Luka Ubangari (**shot dead** by Muslim Fulani gunmen while returning home from an evangelistic meeting)

Nigeria: Ningon village, Sanga local government area, Kaduna state

Benjamin Auta (aged 35, **killed** by Muslim Fulani herdsmen)

Nigeria: Talata-Mafara, Zamfara state

Bishop John Danbinta (described an assault on a Christian college student by fellow Muslim students that escalated into a riot that spilled off campus “When I heard this from my pastor and one of my members, I immediately called some security officials because the radicals went on rampage in town. They went to ECWA Church, Living Church, and Anglican Church. They vandalized the Anglican Church pastorium, destroying electronics and other property. I heard they also burnt down the home of the rescue volunteer Muslim man [who assisted the attacked Christian student to the hospital], trapping and killing eight persons inside who, sadly, happened to be Muslims also. Things would have been worse but for the intervention of security agencies...We really need help! Our fellow Christians elsewhere should mobilize resources and support the Church in Zamfara. Things are difficult for us here”)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Church-leader-in-Nigeria-ambushed-and-murdered-in-another-suspected-Fulani-herdsmen-attack>

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

<http://www.persecution.org/2016/08/24/mass-riots-follow-attack-on-christian-college-student-beaten-near-death-in-alleged-blasphemy/>



United States – Massachusetts: Quincy

Mother Olga (described the armed robbery perpetrated against a nun from her community, said of the perpetrators “I was immediately concerned to make sure that they would get the help and that they will get the resources that they need because my heart goes after them”)

<http://boston.cbslocal.com/2016/08/22/quincy-nun-rosary-beads-robbed-vanessa-crystal-young/>

Monday August 22, 2016



Pakistan: Chak 475/GB, Samundari

Frayad Masih (home invaded by four armed men, entire family tortured)

Rubina Bibi (aged 45, suffered a fracture during the home invasion)

Pakistan: Karachi

Fr Saleh Diego (condemned an attack by the MQM political party's members on media offices – and which was ordered from the party headquarters in London UK - that led to one death

and numerous injuries "A common Pakistan cannot tolerate hate speech against the country, let alone its armed forces. We were expecting an ugly situation in the city but thanks be to God that normalcy was restored quickly. There is no justification for ransacking vehicles and news offices")

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/samundari-armed-assailants-inflict-excruciating-torment-upon-an-exiguous-christian-family/>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/catholic-church-condemns-attacks-on-media-in-karachi/76925>



United Kingdom: Galashiels, Scotland

Angus Buchan (evangelist, South African citizen, speaking engagement cancelled due to objections raised against his defense of traditional Christian morality)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue27710.html>

Tuesday August 23, 2016



China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Bishop Peter Shao Zhumin (underground bishop, reported on [August 4, 2015](#) to have condemned the cross demolition campaign; **UPDATE**: detained by police just prior to the death of Bishop Vincent Zhu Weifang in an attempt to prevent his succession, reportedly taken to Northwest China)

Fr Paul Jiang Sunian (secretary to Bishop Vincent Zhu Weifang, diocesan chancellor, detained by police just prior to the death of Bishop Zhu, reportedly taken to Yunnan province)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Coadjutor-bishop-of-Wenzhou,-Msgr.-Peter-Shao-Zhumin,-sized-by-police-38523.html>



Pakistan: Lahore

Archbishop Sebastian Francis Shah OFM (**UPDATE**: reported to have personally delivered items including motorized rickshaws to families affected by the [March 27, 2016](#) amusement park terror bombing, said "With this small gesture, we want to show that the

Catholic Church is close to the victims in this difficult period. We also express our gratitude to the federal and provincial governments, to civil society organizations, the Department of Health, that are continuing to help those still in hospital")

Pakistan: Shreejan Wala Dhera

Zeeshan Masih (teenager, **body found hanging from a tree**, feet were touching the ground, body showed signs of a struggle and sexual assault, police ruled his death was not suspicious)

Sarfraz Masih (aged 45, father of Zeeshan Masih, spoke on the "unbearable pain" of the murder of his son "I was only few yards away from the place of occurrence, but I was informed more than two hours later... We are poor and Christian, so that is why the police are brazenly denying facts – and to save the culprits")

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/faisalabad-christian-teenager-murdered-after-being-sodomized>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/60614->

[ASIA PAKISTAN The initiatives of Caritas Do not forget the victims of the Passover massacre#.V7-2B8KV85t](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60614-ASIA_PAKISTAN_The_initiatives_of_Caritas_Do_not_forget_the_victims_of_the_Passover_massacre#.V7-2B8KV85t)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4673248/>



India: Coimbatore

Bishop Thomas Aquinas OSB (falsely accused in media reports of having been arrested in a criminal investigation of a former priest)

Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas SFX (**UPDATE**: said "Unfortunately, false news [of the arrest of Bishop Thomas Aquinas and three priests] was published by some newspapers and periodicals. According to the Diocese of Coimbatore the news is false, malafide and defamatory")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/media-reports-on-murder-investigation-upsets-indian-church-officials/76921>

Wednesday August 24, 2016



Philippines: Indanan, Sulu province

Bishop Martin Jumoad (**UPDATE:** said "My heart bleeds upon learning of the beheading of the 18-year old boy. The government must stop and destroy this group. The Abu Sayyaf is a terrorist group and it is not for dialogue. They must be destroyed")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/mindanao-bishop-backs-order-to-crush-abu-sayyaf/76950>



China: Zhengzhou, Henan

Zhao (church leader, ordered by the local government to close her church, said “If we don’t move they said they will throw away our materials, seats, and quite a lot of our other things.”)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/10/henan-house-church-continues-meeting.html>



Syria: Damascus

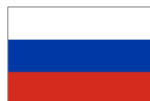
Three patriarchs signed an appeal to end economic sanctions against the country "Since the beginning of the crisis in Syria in 2011, the impact of the economic and financial sanctions increased on the daily lives of Syrian citizens...the ban on international banking transactions with Syria puts the people in a financial difficulty. It impoverishes the citizens and threatens them in their daily bread and deprives them of their human dignity"

Patriarch Gregorios III Laham

Patriarch Ignatius Ephrem II

Patriarch Youhanna X aka Youhanna Yazigi

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Syrian-patriarchs-call-for-a-lifting-of-sanctions-because-they-only-affect-the-population-38386.html>



Russia: Samara

Drake Oldham (missionary, U.S. citizen, jailed and deported on visa technicalities along with five others)

http://news.hjnews.com/allaccess/cache-valley-father-reacts-to-missionary-s-deportation-from-russia/article_0e7ac88b-a239-5940-92a7-264eca81c299.html



Nigeria: Andaha town, Nasarawa state

Barki Baikoh (aged 60, farmer, **hacked to death** on his farm by Muslim Fulani herdsmen after receiving threats, managed to injure one attacker which resulted in the attacker's hospitalization and arrest)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/09/60-year-old-christian-killed-as-violence-ruins-homes-churches-churches-in-nasarawa-state-nigeria/>

Thursday August 25, 2016



Nigeria: Ndiagu, Attakwu, Akegbe-Ugwu in Nkanu-West local government area, Enugu state

Lazarus Nwafor (seminarian, **beheaded** by Fulani herdsmen)

Ogbodo Nwarum (wife, pregnant, **stomach slit open** by Fulani herdsmen)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4672538/>



United States – Mississippi: Durant

Sr Margaret Held SSSF (nurse practitioner, **murdered** in her home during a robbery)

Sr Paula Merrill SCN (nurse practitioner, **murdered** in her home during a robbery)

Fr Greg Plata (said "Both were really down to earth. There was no phony spirituality. They were the real McCoy. They had a deep love of scripture")

Sr Susan Gatz SCN (asked that all “pray in gratitude for the precious lives of Sisters Paula and Margaret...they served the poor so well. Because we are gospel women, please also pray for the perpetrators”)

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2016/08/25/two-catholic-nuns-found-murdered-in-mississippi-home.html>

<https://scnfamily.org/pray-for-sisters-killed-in-mississippi/>



Mexico: Mexico City

Fr Hugo Valdemar (Archdiocesan spokesman, reported to have said “There hasn’t been a confrontation so strong between the government and the Church since the anticlerical laws of [President] Plutarco Elias Calles were promulgated and since General Lazaro Cardenas introduced socialist education...In launching his initiative to legalize marriages between people of the same sex, President Pena Nieto betrayed the Church, because he had promised that the agenda of Pope Francis would be his own. So his initiative has been received by us like a terrible stab in the back”)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/mexican-standoff-bishops-draw-line-in-sand-over-presidents-gay-marriage-pus>

Friday August 26, 2016



India: Gonda district, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Sunny Tyagi (convert, beaten by 10 Hindus who invaded a private home to stop the service he was leading, other worshippers were threatened)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/60624-ASIA_INDIA_Protestant_Pastor_beaten_by_Hindu_militants#.V8JIs8KV85s



Pakistan

Sardar Mushtaq Gill (attorney; **UPDATE:** reported to have fled the country with his family due to death threats)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6054>



Iran: Firuzkuh

Five Christians were arrested without warrant by MOIS agents while fishing and picnicking with their wives, whereabouts unknown

Amin Afshar Naderi (aged 28, convert, **UPDATE**: arrested, beaten when he asked to see the arrest warrant)

Amir Sina Dashti (arrested)

Hadi Askary (arrested)

Mohamad Dehnay (arrested)

Ram-iel Beth Tamraz (son of Pastor Victor Beth Tamraz and Shamiram Isavi; **UPDATE**: arrested)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/08/iran-suspected-of-forcing-confessions-to-obtain-evidence-against-house-church-leader/>

Saturday August 27, 2016



Pakistan: Bahmaniwala, Kasur district

Ashraf Masih (blew his vehicle's horn at a woman to avoid a collision with her in traffic, in retaliation was accused by her of sexual harassment, attempted robbery and attempted abduction of her son, mother and brother forced by police to sign blank sheets of paper, urged to surrender to police)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/vandals-threaten-to-torch-christians-houses-in-bahmaniwala-over-fallacious-charges-against-a-local-christian/>



Turkey: Istanbul

Pastor Patrick Jensen (U.S. citizen, church property in [Gaziantep](#) sealed by police on [August 28, 2014](#), detained, fined US\$1,350 for working without a permit, ordered to be deported on [September 14, 2014](#), appeal filed on [September 26, 2014](#); deportation order overturned in [November 2014](#); **UPDATE**: denied re-entry to the country at the airport, no reason given)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4680155/>

Sunday August 28, 2016



Indonesia: Medan, North Sumatra

Fr Albertus S Pandiangan OFM Cap (aged 60, attacked by a 17 year old jihadist just after proclaiming the Gospel during Mass, the jihadist was slightly injured when his improvised explosive device failed to fully detonate, slightly injured on the left arm when the jihadist then used a knife and an axe to attack him, the attacker was restrained by parishioners and detained)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/A-17-year-old-inspired-by-attack-on-Fr.-Jacques-tries-to-murder-priest-38420.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/priest-hurt-in-failed-suicide-bomb-attack-on-indonesian-church/76962>



Iran: Evin prison, Tehran

Maryam Naghash-Zargaran aka Nasim (aged 37; **UPDATE**: released from prison on medical leave)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3109>

Monday August 29, 2016



China

Wang Hongwu (wife of imprisoned Pastor Li Guozhi aka Yang Hua; has been under constant police surveillance after refusing a [August 12, 2016](#) summons to appear at a police station; a foreign visitor was prevented from visiting her on [August 21, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: reported to have said “They keep watch at the door to my home for 24 hours. At night, they all sleep in the car”)

Pastor Su Tianfu (**UPDATE**: reported on [August 29, 2016](#) that he has been under constant police surveillance since [December 9, 2015](#), has been required to use police vehicles for shopping and other activities)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/08/wife-of-imprisoned-pastor-constantly.html>



India: Kerala state

Fr Jimmy Pochakkatt (said after a state minister accused the RSS paramilitary organization of stockpiling weapons in Hindu temples "We neither support nor oppose the minister's statement. We have always reiterated that religions and places of worship should never become breeding grounds for hate and violence. If a place of worship, be it a church, mosque or temple, becomes the supporting ground for violence against anyone, the state should intervene and stop such activities. That is our stand"

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/communist-minster-accuses-hindu-group-of-misusing-temples/77008>



Pakistan: Lahore, Punjab province

Rojar Randhawa (Caritas manager, said during a press conference concerning government discrimination and police brutality against the blind "We condemn the violence against this vulnerable group who are already too sensitive")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/pakistani-blind-people-threaten-to-go-on-hunger-strike/76984>

Tuesday August 30, 2016



China: Hohhot, Inner Mongolia

Zhang Kai (civil rights attorney; disappeared in [Wenzhou, Zhejiang province](#) on [August 25, 2015](#); appeared on Chinese television on [February 26, 2016](#) where he confessed; reported on [March 23, 2016](#) to have been released from the 'black jail', had returned to his home; **UPDATE:** posted a statement on the internet "With a Christian faith and a free conscience, I am officially stating that the interview with a number of media...over the trial of Zhou Shifeng was against my own will...My elderly parents were living in fear and worry during the six months of detention. [I was] powerless to resist the pressure imposed by a strong regime...I am willing to confess to God for weakness and fear in my heart and spirit and I ask the forgiveness of other family members of 709" [709 is the

name of the group of dissidents and Christians, derived from the number detained in mid-2015], the statement was quickly removed, fled his parents' home before it was surrounded by police, on the run)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Zhang-Kai's-criticism-of-jailed-activists-was-“forced-out-of-fear”-38451.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/08/authorities-hunt-for-human-rights.html>



Pakistan

Gulzar Masih (father of Asma, son-in-law arrested by police in [Sialkot](#) on or before [August 1, 2016](#) in an attempt to force him to return his daughter to her abductor; **UPDATE:** reported to have been shot, hospitalized in critical condition)

Pakistan: Khushal Town, Faisalabad

Robin Daniel (National Minority Alliance, **UPDATE:** negotiated a resolution to the riots triggered when Adnan Masih ran over the foot of a Muslim with his motor scooter, said "This is the first time in the history of the city that 60 Muslims apologize in public for their violent acts and promise not to offend verbally Christians living peacefully. I thank all the Christian leaders who supported us on this path of reconciliation")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Muslims-ask-forgiveness-for-attack-on-Christians-in-Faisalabad-38449.html>

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/unknown-assailants-gun-down-father-of-a-christian-girl-forcibly-converted-after-abduction/>



Turkmenistan: Seydi, eastern Lebap region

Artur Yangibayev (detained on [June 16, 2016](#) for refusing military service, forced to retract his petition for alternative service, released; detained on [August 8, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** convicted, sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment, sentence suspended)

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



Egypt

Imad Gad (Member of Parliament and political analyst; **UPDATE**: reported to have written a series of articles which called for a full separation of religion and state as necessary for democracy)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2016/08/30/egyptian-coptic-mp-imad-gadl-separating-religion-and-state-a-condition-for-democracy/>



Kosovo: Musutiste, Suva Reka municipality

Dalibor Jevtic (government minister, travelled with 150 pilgrims who were prevented from accessing 12th century church ruins by rioting Albanian nationalists)

Branimir Stojanovic (Deputy Prime Minister, travelled with 150 pilgrims who were prevented from accessing 12th century church ruins by rioting Albanian nationalists, said “Displaced Serbs will be persistent in coming back to their homes and rebuilding their destroyed properties, as well as 11 Orthodox churches which they went to before 1999”)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/96569.htm>

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/obstruction-of-the-celebration-of-the-dormition-feast-is-a-violation-of-fundamental-human-and-religious-rights/>

August 2016, date unknown



Russia: St Petersburg

Sergei Zhuravlyov (arrested while preaching in **early August 2016**, accused of illegal missionary activity)

<https://themoscowtimes.com/news/russia-charges-ukrainian-religious-leader-under-controversial-anti-terror-law-55148>



Germany: Freiburg

Yvonne T (aged 31, **stabbed to death** in student housing by an atheist fellow student enraged by her refusal to support same sex marriage)

<http://www.persecution.org/2017/02/02/atheist-sentenced-to-life-for-murder-of-christian-housemate-in-germany/>



United Kingdom: Dartford

Sarah Kuteh (nurse, fired after sharing her faith with patients)

<http://christiannews.net/2016/12/12/u-k-nurse-sues-after-being-fired-for-speaking-about-her-faith-with-patients/>

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