Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – September 2016

Thursday September 1, 2016

China

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; posted a statement on the internet August 30, 2016 "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 in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia before it was surrounded by police, on the run; **UPDATE**: reported to have been arrested)

http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/09/radio-free-asia-christian-rights-lawyer.html

Turkey: Istanbul

Event: Four teens were convicted in Minya, Egypt on February 27, 2016 of contempt of Islam for making a parody video of the Islamic State's beheading videos, sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment; fled the country in April 2016 for Turkey; **UPDATE: flew to Switzerland for asylum, had been living in a safe house for five months**

Alber Ashraf Hanna

Bassem Amgad Hanna

Clinton Magdy Youssef

Molar Atef Edward

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

Nigeria

Rev Emmanuel Haruna (said of recent attacks "Even as I speak to you, Fulani herdsmen take their cattle to farms of our church members and destroy their crops, and security agents have not been able to take measures to stop them," he said. "These herdsmen do whatever that pleases them with Christian communities, and no one cares about such ugly trends in our state. For instance, in Rutu village, 29 of our church members were killed and their houses destroyed. Also, at Angwan Dariya village, six of our church members were killed and others displaced, while their houses too, were destroyed. In Adanba village, seven worship buildings were destroyed, and our church members were scattered. In Ogeni village, one worship building was destroyed and our church members there displaced. The attackers looted houses of food items, money, and other valuables before setting fire on the houses of Christian residents there [in Indeshi]. Many Christian communities were attacked for no justifiable reason. In Agwan Dariya village, six of our members were killed...The situation is very unfortunate and bad – we need our brethren out there to pray for Christian communities in Nasarawa state and for possible action by the government to put an end to these senseless attacks on churches. So also, if there are individuals who are blessed with the means, they too should assist these suffering Christian brethren. We shall be very grateful to see that these Christian brethren are assisted")

Solomon Musa (**UPDATE**: reported to have said "The same people suspected of carrying out this genocide, that has nothing to do with grass for cows, are the ones being given the government's approval to sit on annexed land within communities that are completely agrarian")

http://morningstarnews.org/2016/09/60-year-old-christian-killed-as-violence-ruins-homes-churches-churches-in-nasarawa-state-nigeria/
http://morningstarnews.org/2016/09/herdsmen-in-nigeria-kill-pastor-others-as-policy-to-settle-cattlemen-decried/

Friday September 2, 2016

China: Jiuzhaigou, Sichuan

Zhang Daichun (received a document from the provincial government ordering his house church to cease meeting)

http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/09/church-penalized-for-holding-services.html

Pakistan: Warsak Dam, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa

Samuel Masih (aged 55, father of five, brother of Mushtaq Masih, Christian ghetto security guard, shot dead in a terror attack after opening the gate to the ghetto)

Mushtaq Masih (brother of Samuel Masih)

Ata-ur-Rehman Saman (**UPDATE**: commented on twin terror attacks - one against a Christian ghetto - that resulted in 13 killed and over 50 wounded, added that the quick police response that prevented any deaths of ghetto residents "for sure will send a clear message to the forces against the state that operate in our country . The terrorists could have caused more damage if security forces had not intervened in time")

Joel Amir Bobby (expressed "clear condemnation of the terrorist attack against the Christian colony [ghetto]. It really means that terrorists strike Christians, who are already living in fear and in precarious conditions. We ask that the colony be immediately placed protection and in particular the churches")

Rojar Randhawa (**UPDATE**: said the government must offer "protection against fanatics. The authorities must protect everyone, Christians and Muslims, the violence perpetrated by these sectarian criminals")

Rt Rev Sarfarz Humphrey Peters (**UPDATE**: condemned the “brutal act of terrorism against the Christian community”)

Fr Yunis Riaz (said “People are afraid, we are mourning Samuel’s death. About 30 Christian families live in the colony…They are simple people, most of them work as cleaners in public offices. They are people with a strong faith: we will overcome this...The Taliban indiscriminately hit civilian and military targets, schools and families: they want to destroy peace and have visibility, threatening institutions. We will remain united in protecting social and religious peace. As Christians, we will do our part, praying and working peacefully, building peace in our daily lives every day”)

Frederich Azeem Ghauri (lawmaker; **UPDATE**: said “I personally visited the area and the army have cordoned off it and search is going on. The terrorists had water and food with them, which shows that they had planned a massacre on a large scale, but God has been kind to save the community. One suicide bomber entered an under-construction house and blew himself up. Luckily there was no-one there, so everyone remained safe”)

http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Peshawar-attack-on-a-Christian-colony.-Condemnation-of-politicians-and-activists-38471.html
https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/09/4613961/

Haiti: Port-au-Prince

Sr Isabel Sola Matas RJM (Spanish citizen, shot dead while leaving a bank)

http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/09/05/pope-prays-for-spanish-nun-murdered-in-haiti/

United States – Arizona: Scottsdale

Lisa Gregory (high school parent, complained of the desecration of a statue of Mary the mother of Jesus "It's beyond offensive. There's nothing worse than to desecrate an image of [Mary]...It's probably high school hijinx, but [the vandal] needs to understand that it was bigotry and intolerance. He probably doesn't realize that")

Mike Williams (high school parent, complained of a Jesus character on the football field, "He was dancing with the devil and mocking what we as Christians consider holy and sacred...Kids are young and dumb and make mistakes, but if you can't pray in a public school, you shouldn't be able to mock [Jesus] in a public school")

http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/pranks-against-a-catholic-high-school-crossed-the-line-parents-say-37769/

Saturday September 3, 2016

Pakistan

Iqbal Masih (brother of Shahzad Masih, threatened along with other Christians by four armed Muslims on motorcycles for testifying in court concerning his brother and sister-in-law's November 4, 2014 murder “They started abusing us and said get ready to die. We had warned you: not to follow the lynching case, but you have not paid heed. We were terrified, but fortunately at that moment a passerby spotted the assailants, due to which the men fled on their motorcycles”)

http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/christian-couple-lynching-elder-brother-of-the-victim-harassed-and-coerced-not-to-pursue-the-case/

Sunday September 4, 2016

India: Mumbai

Dolphy D' Souza (**UPDATE**: said of the desecration of a cross on the day of the canonization of Mother Teresa "The timing of this incident is worrisome...We feel it is a mischievous attempt to provoke the community")

Fr Nigel Barrett (**UPDATE**: said of the cross desecration "They [police] have assured us that they will do a full inquiry and investigation on this sensitive issue")

Anthony D'Souza (said of the cross desecration "God only knows who did this and what they wanted to get out of breaking it. Nobody saw it happening otherwise they would have caught them")

John D'Souza (said people did not understand the motive for the cross desecration, added "There are no tensions here. We live peacefully")

http://www.ucanews.com/news/cross-desecrated-on-day-of-mother-teresas-canonization/77050

Iran: Rajaeeshahr prison

Ali Asadi (convert, reported to have been executed in the previous week, asked his fellow prisoners to love each other, said he was not afraid of his pending death but added that the county's leaders should be afraid of God's judgement against them)

http://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-man-warns-iranian-regime-to-fear-gods-judgment-before-his-execution-169153/

Nigeria: Ketu area, Lagos state

Emmanuel Emeka (pharmacist, attacked by youths after allegedly writing a blasphemous word on a magazine, rescued from a lynching by police, detained)

http://punchng.com/hausa-youths-attack-lagos-chemist-blasphemy/

Monday September 5, 2016

Sudan: Madani, Al Jazirah state

Rev Samuel Suliman (Christian school headmaster, arrested along with 12 teachers by the NISS secret police on charges of supporting rebels, all released on bail after 8 hours' detention, school property seized)

http://morningstarnews.org/2016/09/authorities-arrest-christian-leader-in-al-jazirah-state-sudan-in-school-takeover/

United States – Illinois: near Chicago

Allen Smith (aged 80, retired pastor, shot dead by another retired pastor in their retirement home during a theological argument)

http://www.charismanews.com/us/59777-pastor-shoots-fellow-minister-dead-in-potential-matthew-10-fulfillment

Tuesday September 6, 2016

Indonesia: Surakarta, Central Java

Fr Adrianus Sulistiyono (Mass with 200 worshippers interrupted by two Muslim extremists who were then removed by police, forced to stop Mass and leave the church after the extremists returned with a larger group)

http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Surakarta,-Islamic-radicals-disrupt-the-celebration-of-Mass-38507.html

Wednesday September 7, 2016

China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Bishop Vincent Zhu Weifang (aged 90, led a July 24, 2015 demonstration against the government demolition of churches along with 26 priests and many laity, a priest called for people to recite the Divine Mercy prayers to support the church in China; **UPDATE:** died of cancer, had been imprisoned from 1955 to 1971 and from 1982 to 1988)

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

India: Delhi

Archbishop Anil Joseph Thomas Couto (**UPDATE**: described three cases of illegal denial of ambulances or hearses for use by low caste people, wrote "On the one hand, we are trumpeting that India is a super power and the world's third largest economy, while on the other, day-to-day incidents of apathy and the lack of basic amenities and health care for the poor continues to contradict the government's tall claims...These incidents remind us that we as a democratic state are lacking even basic amenities and facilities to provide a dignified burial or last rites for the dead, particularly the poor and vulnerable sections of the society")

Fr Savarimuthu Shankar (**UPDATE**: said "The archbishop is speaking for people of all faiths and is pointing out a tough social issue...human rights are violated every step of the way in this country")

http://www.ucanews.com/news/delhi-archbishop-speaks-up-against-hospitals-callous-attitude/77063

Uzbekistan: Tortuvli village, Denau district, Surkhandarya region

Four Christians were detained in a May 14, 2016 NSS secret police raid, detained, released; **UPDATE: each was fined US$314**

Bakhtiyor Odinayev (home raided by NSS secret police on May 14, 2016, Bibles seized; **UPDATE:** fined)

Andrei Serin (**UPDATE:** fined)

Mahmud Hakimjanov (**UPDATE:** fined)

Shamsiddin Begmatov (**UPDATE:** fined)

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

Iran

Event: Five Christians were arrested in Firuzkuh on August 25, 2016 without warrant by MOIS agents while fishing and picnicking with their wives; **UPDATE**: **whereabouts still unknown**

Amin Afshar Naderi (aged 28, convert, 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; arrested)

http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3113

Iraq

Athraa (student, one of nine in her family, refugee, said of her escape from ISIL in 2014: "The first months were a disaster. We lived in many different places. We lived in a wedding hall and a church garden. We ended up in a tent in a sports center. It was a really difficult. In the night I couldn't sleep because I heard the mice running around in my tent. There was not enough water and the food was not that good", family now shares a house with another family, added "I am glad that this happened because it changed my life. After the displacement I was bored, there was nothing to do, so I went to church more often. Soon I got involved with a Bible study group that gathers twice a week. I discovered that every line in the Bible tells us something. But what I like best is when we as a small group celebrate Holy Communion with the priest in the way the people in the time of Jesus did. We have a piece of bread and share that with each other. It is something wonderful. It gives me patience to continue my life, to see things from a bigger perspective...We don't have to spend our time asking ourselves why this happened to us. God doesn't want to hurt us. He is speaking with us and we need to hear Him and trust Him. I learned that it's good to spend these days in prayer. IS took our land and our money, but we still have our lives and we have to live them like God wants us to. When you learn these things, you have to share them. I can help God to reach the people with his message. So I want to assist the people in my community to rediscover the richness of faith and I want to be there for them when they struggle...I did go to church before my displacement, but I wasn't involved as much as I am now. I spent my time differently. I was an impatient person and always wanted to have things my way…I found a peace in my heart, peace in

my life. God has made me a more patient and forgiving person. I know that God is with me and that's the most important thing")

http://www.opendoorsuk.org/news/stories/iraq_160907.php?ref=lnstorylnk

Egypt: Minya

Bishop Makarios (**UPDATE**: said after recent attacks "We are at a breaking point. People can't put up with any more of this")

http://www.aina.org/news/20160907164139.htm

Turkey

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I aka Dimitrios Arhondonis (**UPDATE**: falsely accused by Turkish media of having supported the July 15, 2016 attempted coup)

http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/96833.htm

Algeria

Slimane Bouhafs (aged 49, arrested in Setif on blasphemy charges on July 31, 2016, suffers from inflammatory rheumatism, sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment on August 7, 2016; **UPDATE:** sentence reduced to 3 years' imprisonment, fine of US$900 dropped, appeal still underway)

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

Thursday September 8, 2016

Pakistan: Chak 9, Akhtarabad, Tehsil Renala Khurd, Okara district

Pastor Gulzar (begged police and 'land mafia' to not illegally evict Christian families from their homes and steal their possessions, cross stripped from his church and thrown to the ground)

http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/okara-christians-houses-usurped-by-land-mafia-enjoying-patronage-of-local-police/

Uzbekistan: Zarafshan, Navoi region

Pastor Dmitri Butov (husband of Svetlana Butova, home raided on July 28, 2016, Bibles seized; **UPDATE**: fined US$860)

Svetlana Butova (wife of Pastor Dmitri Butov, home raided on July 28, 2016, Bibles seized; **UPDATE**: fined US$645)

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

Nigeria: Antsongo Akiki, Jatau village, Bornon Kurkur, Bali local government area, Taraba state

Aondoaka Maka (farmer, killed by Fulani herdsmen)

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

Friday September 9, 2016

China: Zhejiang province

Pastor Wen Xiaowu (criminally detained along with his wife and son on April 26, 2016, the detentions were likely in response for their meetings with U.S. Consulate officials in Shanghai; **UPDATE**: released from jail, placed under house arrest for the next six months)

http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/09/pastor-imprisoned-for-contact-with-us.html

Iraq: Ainkawa, Erbil, Kurdistan

Fr Bashar Kthea (aged 42; **UPDATE**: said that many of his parishioners wish to return home, said "I even get phoned by my people abroad, to ask if the liberation of Qaraqosh is starting")

Sr Huda (school administrator, said "Most people can think of nothing else than going back...This school will remain open for those who stay, and now we know how easy it is to build a new one over there")

Emad al-Dalakta (teacher, said "The trust in politicians is gone. They just talk, while the church is helping. The church will have a bigger role after we return. Now it actually already does what the government should be doing")

Marwan Butrus Jiji (attorney, favors more local autonomy, said of the return to peaceful governance "I believe the process will fail if it is not led by the church. Our only hope is the church")

Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan

Christina Khidr Ebada (aged 5, abducted on August 22, 2014 from her mother's lap by ISIL militants in Qaraqosh; **UPDATE**: still missing, a photograph of her appeared on Facebook before the internet was cut from Mosul)

Ayda Ebada (mother of Christina Khidr Ebada, said "Christine is still there [in a nearby location under ISIL control]...Sometimes, I fear that my Christine grows older without me, that I will never see her again", has been concerned about the pending Iraqi military offensive against Mosul, asked for prayers, added "My father stayed in Qaraqosh. He was sick, his health was not good at all. So, when everyone fled, he stayed alone in the house. Later I heard that he died three days after IS entered. He was old and sick and had no water or food. IS buried him")

Baddu Ebada (father of Christina Khader Ebada, blind; **UPDATE**: reported how his sister remained in her home after the 2014 ISIL takeover: "She was 80 years old and didn't want to leave. She refused to flee with us, she wanted to stay in her home in Qaraqosh...It might have been my sister [who was reported by Mosul TV as having died], but I'm not sure. I have no way to contact her")

http://www.aina.org/news/20160907223953.htm
https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/09/4625709/

Saturday September 10, 2016

Iran: Rasht

Mohammad-Reza Yohan Omidi (convert, sentenced to 80 lashes for drinking communion wine on October 20, 2013; sentence executed on November 2, 2013, has been flogged; arrested on May 13, 2016; **UPDATE**: charged with acting against national security and consumption of communion wine)

Saheb Fadaie (convert, arrested on May 13, 2016; **UPDATE**: charged with acting against national security and consumption of communion wine)

Yasser Mossayebzadeh (convert, arrested on May 13, 2016; **UPDATE**: charged with acting against national security and consumption of communion wine)

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

Russia: Kaluga

Alexander Whitney (U.S. citizen, arrested after leaving a church)

David Kozan (U.S. citizen, arrested after leaving a church)

http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue27763.html
http://www.invictory.com/news/story-63514-%D0%BF%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%AF%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE%D0%B9.html - with translation

Kosovo: Pristina

Bishop Teodosije Sibalic (aged 53; **UPDATE**: condemned the arson attack on the unfinished cathedral, the attack was only the latest of several)

http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/cathedral-of-christ-the-savior-in-pristina-set-on-fire/

Venezuela: Caracas

Cardinal Jorge Urosa Savino (**UPDATE**: said of the country's situation which has included deaths by starvation in a psychiatric hospital in Barquisimeto "There is no food, and there are no medicines, this has become a serious problem but we have to solve it peacefully")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/60724-AMERICA_VENEZUELA_There_is_no_food_or_medicine_people_are_starving_and_tension_increases_in_the_country#.V9di88KV85s

Sunday September 11, 2016

India: Shyampur village, Siddharth Nagar district, Uttar Pradesh state

Sajan K George (**UPDATE**: described an attack on a church packed with worshippers in which Hindu radicals pelted the building with stones, said "No one was hurt, but the fact has created a climate of suspicion and distrust in the district")

India: Veroke village, Punkab province

Balwinder Kaur (aged 55, mentally disabled after a 2015 accidental electrocution, bled to death four hours after being hacked on her legs with an axe for allegedly desecrating the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh sacred text)

Bishop Franco Mulakkal (**UPDATE**: said "God, forgive them for they know not what they do. All the evidence indicates that there is persecution in Punjab")

http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Punjab,-Christian-hacked-to-death:-suspected-of-having-profaned-a-sacred-Sikh-text--38583.html
http://www.fides.org/en/news/60736-ASIA_INDIA_Stones_against_Pentecostal_Christians#.V9jIfsKV85s

Russia: Kaluga

Alexander Whitney (U.S. citizen, arrested on September 10, 2016 after leaving a church; **UPDATE**: fined US$46, effectively told he could not pray while travelling on a tourist visa)

David Kozan (U.S. citizen, arrested on September 10, 2016 after leaving a church; **UPDATE**: fined US$46, effectively told he could not pray while travelling on a tourist visa)

http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue27763.html
http://www.invictory.com/news/story-63514-%D0%BF%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%AF%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE%D0%B9.html - with translation

Austria

Cardinal Christoph Schonborn (**UPDATE**: said in his homily that Europe had "squandered and wasted" its heritage like the prodigal son in the Gospel, added "Will there now be a third attempt at an Islamic conquest of Europe? Many Muslims think so and long for it and say: This Europe is at an end")

Date: September 11, 2016
Location: Vienna
Source: http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/cardinal-schnborn-warns-of-islamic-conquest-of-europe-59849

Monday September 12, 2016

Indonesia: Ilaga, Puncak Jaya district, Papua province

Yuni Yesra Patatang (aged 27, elementary school religion teacher, youth minister, shot dead by suspected local militants)

http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Papua:-Catholic-teacher-shot-dead-38561.html

Egypt: Ezbet Assem village, Minya province

Gamal Sobhy Khalil (clubbed in the head during a traffic altercation between Christians and Muslims, hospitalized with a coma, arrested and handcuffed after he regained consciousness in the ICU)

http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2016/09/16/sectarianism-strikes-again-in-minya-police-arrest-coptic-man-hospitalized-in-icu/

Tuesday September 13, 2016

North Korea

Emily Fuentes (Open Doors USA spokeswoman, said "North Korea has done the most they've done in a long time in [nuclear] testing recently. It is cause for concern, it is cause for speculation on what they might be doing and what their plans might be for war against the world...According to his [Kim Jong Un's] ideology, he's essentially 'god', the Kim dynasty is 'god', and because Christianity is associated with the West, it's a double whammy, a double threat, so Christians are targeted...We've got to keep praying for their safety. That they would be able to stand strong as they are enduring this persecution, that they would continue to be Christ-like")

https://www.mnnonline.org/news/north-korea-something-to-prove/

Thailand

Wilson Chowdhry (criticized a new policy of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Bangkok which reduced the time to appeal a denial of asylum from 90 to 30 days and which would render all verdicts in English without translation, said in London, United Kingdom "Pakistani Christians find themselves in a nadir, they are not wanted by their home nation because their faith makes them ritually impure, the equivalent of a demon. They cannot seek asylum in the west as Christians are not welcome there anymore, and they face definite re-persecution in Buddhist, Hindu and other Muslim nations - if they can even get there. The international community needs to think long and hard on this issue, persecution for Christians across the globe is increasing rapidly. To stem the tide a sanctuary has to be declared for them")

http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/pakistani-christian-asylum-seekers-are-being-targeted-by-the-unhcr-through-disturbing-policy-change

Kazakhstan: Taldykorgan

Lozovoi (detained in Kalbatau on June 16, 2016 while handing out religious literature on the street; **UPDATE**: fined US$444)

Pikalina (aged 67, pensioner, detained in Kalbatau on June 16, 2016 while handing out religious literature on the street; **UPDATE**: fined US$444)

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

Wednesday September 14, 2016

China

Su Tianfu (**UPDATE**: told he will be charged with 'revealing state secrets' for reporting on persecution)

China: Guiyang, Guizhou province

Several detained Christians are still awaiting trial

Zhang Xiuhong (church board chairwoman, detained in late July 2015; formally arrested on September 1, 2015 on 'illegal business operations' charges)

Wang Yao (detained on December 9, 2015, accused of 'divulging state secrets')

Yu Lei (detained on December 9, 2015, accused of 'divulging state secrets')

Pastor Li Guozhi aka Yang Hua (detained on December 9, 2015, accused of 'divulging state secrets')

http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/09/christian-womans-trial-to-take-place.html
http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/10/after-investigation-house-church.html

India: Sitaram Purwa, Sitapur district

Pastor Rameshwar Mishra (aged 41, husband, jailed by police when he refused to cancel an upcoming revival event)

http://morningstarnews.org/2017/01/pastor-india-hiding-police-hindu-extremists-assault/

United States – Maryland: Baltimore

Archbishop William E Lori (condemned anti-religious comments by the chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights that attacked religious liberty as 'hypocrisy' and 'code words for discrimination, intolerance, racism, sexism, homophobia, Islamophobia or any form of intolerance': "These statements painting those who support religious freedom with the broad brush of bigotry are reckless and reveal a profound disregard for the religious foundations of his own work...He makes the shocking suggestion that Catholic,

evangelical, orthodox Jewish, Mormon, and Muslim communities are comparable to fringe segregationists from the civil rights era...Rest assured, if people of faith continue to be marginalized, it is the poor and vulnerable, not the Chairman and his friends, who will suffer")

http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/archbishop-lori-slams-reckless-comments-by-civil-rights-chair-29083/

Thursday September 15, 2016

Pakistan: Samanyala village, near Kasur, Punjab province

A Christian family was attacked in their home while they slept by Muslim neighbors who tied them up and demanded their conversion to Islam under pain of death

Fiaz Masih (aged 54, husband of Mumtaz, father of Waris, Kalsoom, Syma, Shakeela, Beena, Arif, Jamella, and Rukhsana)

Mumtaz (aged 50)

Waris (aged 31)

Kalsoom (aged 27)

Syma (aged 24)

Shakeela (aged 22)

Beena (aged 21)

Arif (aged 20, abducted with his sister Jamella and taken to a mansion, tortured, overheard his sister's screams while she was raped multiple times, told he could stop the rapes if he converted to Islam, refused, escaped)

Jamella (aged 17, abducted with her brother Arif and taken to a mansion, tortured, raped multiple times, whereabouts unknown)

Rukhsana (aged 14)

http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/brick-kiln-slave-family-beaten-and-dauhter-kidnapped-for-not-converting-to-Islam

Sweden

Rev Johanna Andersson (resigned from the Church of Sweden after founding with two other priests an internet initiative called 'My Cross' in which Swedes took selfies with a cross to show solidarity with persecuted Christians, wrote "Church leadership has for several weeks been running a campaign against us who started the group 'My Cross'. In this campaign, I have been discredited, called 'questionable', 'unclean', 'agitator', 'un-Christian' and attributed xenophobic hidden agendas")

Sweden: Lund University, Scania province

Dr Ann Heberlein (lecturer of Theology, wrote after the attacks on Rev Johanna Andersson "The leadership of the Church of Sweden no longer wants to lead a Christian community; they want to lead a general ethical association for humanistic values of the most vulgar kind")

https://barnabasfund.org/news/Swedish-church-leaders-oppose-support-for-persecuted-Christians

Cuba

Rev Mario Felix Lleonart Barroso (husband of Yoaxis Marcheco Suarez, brother of Mirka Pena, arrested in Taguayabon, Villa Clara province on March 20, 2016 just hours before the arrival of U.S. President Barack Obama, denied food and water, had been stabbed with a pin on public transport earlier in the week, later developed jaundice and a distended stomach; **UPDATE**: emigrated to the United States with his family after receiving credible death threats, said three weeks later that 1,400 churches are being threatened with closure, added "It's one thing to close down a church and to evict its members. That's bad enough, but then there's the problem of destroying or even burning things inside the building, not to mention, the threat of physical violence that comes with the territory of being a Christian in Cuba...The reason the government sometimes tries to silence the Church or to close down church buildings is because it is worried about how many people are turning away from the state and looking to God [and the Church] for answers and for hope")

http://www.persecution.org/2016/09/15/persecution-next-door-icc-talks-with-cuban-pastor-ousted-from-his-homeland/

United States – Illinois: Champaign

David Hall (aged 42, information technologist with the Federal Social Security Administration, reported to have been suspended without pay after refusing to watch a LGBTQ 'diversity and inclusivity' video, said that other employees shared his opinion but feared reprisal)

https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/christian-could-lose-his-job-after-refusing-to-watch-lgbt-video

Friday September 16, 2016

India: New Delhi

Fr A X J Bosco SJ (Dalit ['untouchable'] activist, spoke during a rally near the parliament building concerning government neglect of Dalits "If the BJP is trying to destroy us, the entire country will be destroyed")

Fr Z Devasagayaraj (secretary for Scheduled Class/Backward Class and tribal affairs; **UPDATE**: said "We welcome any movement which speaks for the Dalits and their welfare")

India: Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra state

A pastor and a husband and wife were abducted, threatened, abused, and beaten after they handed out religious literature

Pastor Prashant Bhatnagar (urinated upon)

Sachin Shenge (husband of Manisha Shenge)

Manisha Shenge (wife of Sachin Shenge)

Pastor Jackson George (witnessed the abduction of Pastor Prashant Bhatnagar, said he was bleeding from the nose and ear after his beating and that he had been threatened with being shot and set afire)

https://barnabasfund.org/news/Christian-man-in-India-abducted-and-severely-beaten-for-distributing-Christian-literature
http://www.fides.org/en/news/60802-ASIA_INDIA_A_Pastor_and_a_Christian_couple_attacked_by_Hindu_extremists#.V-NMKMKQI5s
http://www.ucanews.com/news/dalits-christians-and-communists-march-on-dehli/77168

Pakistan: Chajwal village, Samundri district, near Faisalabad, Punjab province

Seven Christians beaten and tortured, five were hospitalized after Christians attempted to dissuade Muslims from attacking another Muslim, police refused to register a case

Razaq Masih (had attempted to protect a Muslim from attack, said “They had a grudge against him because of a relationship he had a year ago with a young woman, who was also Muslim. The Christians intervened and said that if the relationship had ended, then why should he be beaten? Within no time, about 30 men arrived, yelling that we will teach

these ‘chuhras’ ['dirty', 'filthy', a derogatory term for Christians] a lesson for raising their heads”)

Shahbaz Masih (aged 25, son of Parveen Bibi, brother of Zahid, laborer, beaten, hospitalized)

Zahid Masih (aged 23, son of Parveen Bibi, brother of Shahbaz, laborer, beaten, hospitalized)

Hanif Masih

Arif Masih (aged 55, laborer, beaten while returning home from a wedding, hospitalized, said “I could not even understand why they were beating me”)

Rabat Masih

Sharifan Bibi (home invaded, beaten, clothes torn, dragged into the street)

Parveen Bibi (mother of Shahbaz and Zahid Masih, beaten, said “My sons are laborers and they had just returned from their work. I [pleaded with the attackers] and tried to save my sons, after which they beat me with clubs and attacked us with bricks”, hospitalized)

http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/faisalabad-christians-subjected-to-brutal-torture-on-account-of-their-faith/

Iran: Tehran

Maryam Naghash-Zargaran aka Nasim (aged 35, released from prison on medical leave on August 28, 2016; **UPDATE**: hospitalized, reported to have been ordered to return to prison by the prosecutor's office, is currently physically unable to comply)

http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3119

Syria: Gozarto and Hassakeh

Bishop Maurice Amsih (denounced Kurdish abuses including forcing Assyrian schools to adopt Kurdish curricula and putting Assyrian soldiers in the front ahead of others)

Syria: Aleppo

Fr Ibrahim Alsabagh OFM (aged 44; **UPDATE**: said "we were awakened by a rocket that fell near here [which] hit the Syrian Catholic bishop's residence...Neither the bishop nor his vicar were present at the time, this prevented casualties or injuries. The damages to the building remain", added that the cathedral had "been targeted by rockets and mortar fire for a while" by rebel forces)

http://www.aina.org/news/20160916175558.htm

http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Aleppo-pastor-says-rocket-hit-Syrian-Catholic-bishop-residence,-expresses-fears-for-truce-(photos)-38603.html

Ethiopia: Bokulu Boma

Habiba Ibrahim (aged 34, convert, mother of three aged 3, 6, and 8, imprisoned and beaten by her husband after he discovered her conversion, rescued by neighbors, hospitalized, released after 3 days, went into hiding with her children)

http://morningstarnews.org/2016/09/muslim-in-ethiopia-attacks-wife-for-leaving-islam/

Central African Republic: Kaga Bandoro

Changement Constantin (aged 43, husband, father of three, shot dead by Seleka militants during a robbery)

Firmain Feidang (aged 29, husband, father of three, shot dead by Seleka militants outside the UN peacekeeping office)

https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4673468/

Saturday September 17, 2016

Pakistan: Fazalia Colony [ghetto], Lahore

Two Christians have been prevented from having construction work done on their home despite having proper permits

Rehana Kausar Bibi (widow, mother of Rashid)

Rashid (son of Rehana Kausar Bibi)

http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/lahore-political-activists-blatantly-impede-construction-of-christians-house/

Iran: Tehran

Maryam Naghash-Zargaran aka Nasim (aged 37, hospitalized, reported on September 16, 2016 to have been ordered to return to prison by the prosecutor's office, is currently physically unable to comply; **UPDATE**: sent back to prison, needed medical treatment terminated)

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

Iraq: Dohuk

Fr Jamil Gorgis (said "Almost all Christian refugees who come to my Church to pray would favor to live in a Christian region or province under international protection")

Date: September 17, 2016
Location:
Source: http://www.aina.org/news/20160916210745.htm

Sunday September 18, 2016

India: Sitaram Purwa, Sitapur district

Pastor Rameshwar Mishra (aged 41, husband, jailed by police on September 14, 2016 when he refused to cancel an upcoming revival event; **UPDATE**: attacked at the revival by 15-20 Hindu extremists, police joined in the beating, eardrum ruptured, arrested, threatened with further beatings until he prayed to Hindu deities, refused)

http://morningstarnews.org/2017/01/pastor-india-hiding-police-hindu-extremists-assault/

Pakistan: Dina Nath village, Kasur district, Punjab province

Nabeel Masih (aged 16, arrested on blasphemy charges after accused of posting a photo of the Kabaa in Mecca on his Facebook page near a photo of a pig, family fled their home)

Imran Masih (aged 24, cousin of Nabeel Masih, said his cousin was illiterate and did not know that the photo was disrespectful)

Pastor Samuel Masih (said “many of the Christians have left the area due to fear of security”)

http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/BlogRetrieve.aspx?PostID=734428
https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/09/4638977/

Uganda

Fatuma Baluka (aged 21, convert, beaten unconscious by her husband for attending church, hospitalized)

http://morningstarnews.org/2016/09/woman-in-uganda-beaten-unconscious-for-attending-church-service/

Mexico: Poza Rica, Veracruz state

Fr Alejo Nabor Jimenez Juarez (abducted)

Fr Jose Alfredo Suarez de la Cruz (abducted)

http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/two-priests-murdered-in-mexico-60205/
http://www.fides.org/en/news/60788-AMERICA_MEXICO_Two_priests_kidnapped_and_killed_in_Veracruz_state#.V-IU3MKQI5s

Monday September 19, 2016

Malaysia

Christians were reported to have complained when the movie *Ben Hur* was released with all scenes of Jesus deleted, the local distributor said it "is required to oblige local legal requirements and guidelines for the movie to be released locally in the market"

Jasmine Sia (said "I felt cheated. The novel from which this movie is adapted is *Ben-Hur: A Tale of Christ*. It means Jesus is central to the plot. It was censored so much the storyline made

no sense! How did Judah's mother and sister get cured from leprosy? They just appeared at the end of the movie healed. That's why it made no sense. The original story was that when Jesus died, they got healed")

Farshid Rezaee (said "I chose to watch that movie precisely because of its strong Christian message. The movie made no sense without those scenes. Is there an obligation to screen a movie like this knowing you have to remove crucial scenes? Had I known about those changes, I would not have paid any money for it")

http://www.christianexaminer.com/article/malaysian-authorities-say-they-did-not-remove-christ-from-latest-ben-hur-film/51068.htm

Germany: Berlin

Gabriele Kuby (convert, pro-life activist, author of ***The Global Sexual Revolution: Destruction of Freedom in the Name of Freedom***, has sued the theater and director of a play that depicted her as a zombie that should be killed)

https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/in-germany-gabriele-kuby-fights-for-democratic-freedom-of-free-speech

Mexico: Janamuato

Fr Jose Alfredo Lopez Guillen (abducted from his rectory, automobile stolen)

Cardinal Alberto Suarez Inda (**UPDATE**: offered prayers for the release of Fr Jose Alfredo Lopez Guillen)

Mexico: Papantla, Veracruz state

Fr Alejo Nabor Jimenez Juarez (abducted in Poza Rica, Veracruz state on September 18. 2016; **UPDATE**: found dead)

Fr Jose Alfredo Suarez de la Cruz (abducted in Poza Rica, Veracruz state on September 18. 2016; **UPDATE**: found dead)

Bishop Jose Trinidad Zapata Ortiz (said following the murder of the two priests "We are dismayed by this news and we pray for their eternal rest. Once more we see that violence and insecurity have taken root in our society")

http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/two-priests-murdered-in-mexico-60205/
http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/another-catholic-priest-has-been-kidnapped-in-mexico-48996/

http://www.fides.org/en/news/60788-AMERICA_MEXICO_Two_priests_kidnapped_and_killed_in_Veracruz_state#.V-IU3MKQI5s

Tuesday September 20, 2016

Pakistan: Kasur

Razzak Masih (aged 48, father of Rukhsana, Sumera, Fayaz, Samina, and Haroon, reported to have been held in slave labor for the last 5 years along with his family after charged extortionary interest on a loan of US$572 that he took out for his daughter's wedding, forced to leave his municipal job and benefits for a brick kiln, was not able to read the contract due to illiteracy, said "Everyday I have been threatened and laughed at, my family too. We have been taking a lot of abuse from the brick kiln owners who tell us we are worthless and keep telling us how much we owe and how the amount keeps growing...They kept offering to buy one of my daughters to reduce the loan, but I declined their offer. I have been very worried that something might happen to the girls and have prayed for a way out for so long, it has now been five years...It is hard being a father but the pressure they put on me was unbearable, sometimes I just wanted to take my own life. But I knew that if I did God would not forgive me and I would never get to see my children in the peace of heaven. This earth is harsh but I will not give up the blessing of heaven to escape the pain", rescued)

Sumera (aged 18, daughter of Razzak Masih, reported to have been forced to work as slave labor at a brick kiln, rescued)

Kanwal Amar (reported to have rescued of the family of Razzak Masih, said "For as long as we could muster the strength everyone praised God through worship songs, eventually we all fell asleep, as our travel to the city safe house was many hours away. When the family got to the home they were welcomed by an existing family who we helped escape a blasphemy allegation, together we shared a time of praise and worship. We thanked God for bringing us through a very dangerous situation to a place of sanctuary it had been a terrifying moment for all of us - but God was our strength and shield")

Mehwish Bhatti (reported to have rescued the family of Razzak Masih)

http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/christian-slave-family-emancipated

Ethiopia: Babile

Several Christians were arrested for distributing a book that gave Christian answers to questions posed in an Islamic book about Christianity, another Christian who then questioned the legality of the Islamic book was ordered to make regular appearances to the police

Bekele (arrested)

Deborah (aged 18, arrested, later said "It is an honor to be jailed for God's Kingdom")

Eden (aged 15, arrested along with her mother, beaten, mother released the next day, later said "This is an honor for us. We should expect persecution. We are not afraid. We are singing and praying here in prison")

https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4672884/

Russia: Nezlobnaya village, Stavropol region

Yevgeny Vernik (committee member, described a police raid on his Kingdom Hall "When I asked to show me a copy of the [search] order, he rudely demanded that I leave the building")

Pavel Puzyrev (committee chair, charged with 'Production or mass distribution of extremist materials', said that security video confirms the police planted 'extremist' literature in the Kingdom Hall and his home)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2228

Argentina: La Plata

Archbishop Hector Aguer (**UPDATE**: reported to be under criminal investigation by the Secretary for Human Rights for having written that "carnal copulation outside of marriage" has been "transformed into something trivial, common, unsubstantial")

https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/argentine-bishop-not-afraid-to-call-out-sexual-deviance-as-fornication

United States – Pennsylvania: Philadelphia

Pastor Rob Cook (husband of Stephanie Cook, father of Christian Cook, struck in the back of the head with a nail gun during a robbery, hospitalized and released, later said "I want you all to know we serve a God of forgiveness. Because He is our example, we forgive others when they wrong us, even if they don't ask for it. This includes the man who attempted to rob us. He is not beyond salvation. Jesus can change him, just like he changed me. We forgive him and we have no ill will toward him. However, there are consequences to sin and this man is finding that out now [after his arrest]")

Christian Cook (son of Pastor Rob and Stephanie Cook, witnessed the assault on his father)

Stephanie Cook (wife of Pastor Rob Cook, shot her husband's attacker in the leg)

http://www.assistnews.net/index.php/component/k2/item/2203-pastor-s-wife-fires-22-caliber-bullet-at-suspect-in-a-spiritual-war-zone
http://www.mommypage.com/2016/09/pastors-wife-shoots-armed-intruder-to-protect-12-year-old-son-after-concert/

Wednesday September 21, 2016

China

Kevin Garratt (husband of Juila Garratt, Canadian missionary in Dandong, Liaoning province, detained on spy charges on August 4, 2014 after Canada complained about Chinese internet hackers; **UPDATE**: reported to have been released, left for Canada)

http://www.christiantoday.com/article/evangelicals.celebrate.release.of.detained.christian.missionary.kevin.garrett/95978.htm

Syria: Hassake

Archbishop Jacques Behnan Hindo (**UPDATE**: reported to have narrowly missed death when Kurdish militia fired into his residence, said "At that moment, the area was presided over by Kurdish militias, and there were no other armed persons nearby...Whenever the Kurdish militia enter in action to reaffirm its military hegemony over the city, the epicenter of their raids and acts of force is always the area of the six churches, where most of the Christians live. In many cases they expelled the Christians from their homes under the threat of Kalashnikovs. And where they enter, they loot everything")

http://www.aina.org/news/20160921175532.htm

Canada: Edmonton, Alberta

Pastor Brian Coldwell (church operated schools threatened with closure by the provincial government, had previously said "...I wouldn't put anything past this government. This is about ideology for them. They won't be satisfied until they have gay-straight alliances and the rainbow ideology in every Christian school")

https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/alberta-gvmt-investigates-christian-schools-refusing-to-add-gay-clubs

Thursday September 22, 2016

China: Ma Qiao Shan Columbarium, Yongjia county

Fr Paul Jiang Sunian (secretary to Bishop Vincent Zhu Weifang, diocesan chancellor, detained by police in Wenzhou, Zhejiang province on August 23, 2016 just prior to the death of Bishop Zhu, reportedly taken to Yunnan province; **UPDATE**: detained again and "taken on a tour" to Xining province after leading a "belated" September 22, 2016 prayer service of 16 priests in memory of Bishop Zhu)

China: Taizhou

Bishop Anthony Xu Jiwei (aged 81, reported to be very ill)

http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Wenzhou-underground-priests-pay-homage-to-the-late-(official)-bishop-38655.html

Pakistan

PEMRA, the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority, has ordered all 11 Christian cable television stations to cease operations

Dr Nazir S Bhatti (**UPDATE**: said "Most of these 11 Christian Channels have not enough funds but they are working with missionary spirit to spread Word of Lord among poor Christian worshipers that's why they are depending on Internet and Cable sectors while Muslim Channels are marketing with big budgets")

Fr Mushtaq Anjum MI (said "The proclamation of the Good News is considered illegal. For some years now, with great efforts, Christian communities have organized television networks, cable or web, to talk to Christians and to speak of the Christian faith. Christians have no place in public television channels. We want to understand why they are called illegal. This is another discriminatory law that affects non-Muslims...We demand the intervention of Christian Federal Minister Kamran Michael because this is a real attack on the freedom to practice one's religion. It is also an attack on the vision of the founder of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinah, who imagined a free society and not an Islamic country. Instead, in doing so, it continues to treat members of religious minorities as second-class citizens...stop these acts of intimidation and cancel such prohibition")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/60938-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Eleven_Christian_TV_channels_declared_illegal_attack_on_religious_freedom#.V_z7wsKQI5s
http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6120

Fouzia Bibi (aged 30, daughter of Bashira Bibi, forced into an Islamic marriage with one of her mother's employers)

Bashira Bibi (aged 50, mother of Nasreen Bibi, Fouzia Bibi, Sumaira Bibi, Sofia Bibi, Sonia Bibi, Paris Masih, Iqra Bibi, under pressure by her employers to convert to Islam along with her family, left their employ, beaten by her former employer after he met her while she worked cleaning utensils at a Muslim wedding, the former employer attempted to kill her with an axe but was prevented by other guests, hospitalized)

http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6116

Pakistan: Peshawar

Christians commemorated the third anniversary of the Peshawar church suicide bombing

Arif Aqeel (aged 47, husband of Jane, father of two sons, injured in the bombing, left leg amputated, left paralyzed and mute with vocal code damage, sons also injured; **UPDATE**: uses a wheelchair to attend church services, monthly medicine costs equal his monthly pension)

Jane (wife of Arif Aqeel, said "I had to leave my job to take care of him as he is bedridden. Both government and churches supported us in the early days but now we have to decide between food and medicines. An NGO is paying for the school fee of my youngest son but we need regular support")

Rt Rev Sarfarz Humphrey Peters (**UPDATE**: said "Four Christians are still visiting hospitals for their treatment. The government must fulfil its promise to establish an endowment fund for the people affected by the church bombing")

Fr John William (said "[The Christian community] lives in constant danger. We cannot say that the situation has improved for minorities since the government launched the National Action Plan to fight the militants")

http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Peshawar:-three-years-after-the-Protestant-church-massacre,-some-still-struggle-to-survive-38692.html

Ethiopia: Babile

Bekele (arrested for involvement in the distribution of a book that gave Christian answers to questions posed in an Islamic book about Christianity on September 20, 2016; **UPDATE**: released)

https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4672884/

Uganda

Fatuma Baluka (aged 21, convert, beaten unconscious by her husband for attending church on September 18, 2016, hospitalized, **UPDATE**: released, fled from her home)

http://morningstarnews.org/2016/09/woman-in-uganda-beaten-unconscious-for-attending-church-service/

Friday September 23, 2016

Indonesia: Makassar, South Sulawesi

Rev Daur Sanpe Rurun (denied the claims of radical Muslim demonstrators that his church lacked proper building permits)

http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Islamic-radicals-in-Makassar-tell-Protestant-church-it-does-not-have-the-right-to-a-building-permit-38666.html

Vietnam: Hanoi

Nguyen Huu Vinh (aged 60, former police officer, arrested in May 2014 on 'abuses of freedom and democracy' and 'violating State interests' charges; sentenced in Hanoi to 5 years' imprisonment on March 24, 2016; **UPDATE**: conviction upheld on appeal by the Supreme Court)

http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hanoi,-Catholic-blogger-Nguyen-Huu-Vinh-back-in-prison-38658.html

India: Sitaram Purwa, Sitapur district

Pastor Rameshwar Mishra (aged 41, husband, jailed by police on September 14, 2016 when he refused to cancel an upcoming revival event; attacked at the September 18, 2016 revival by 15-20 Hindu extremists, police joined in the beating, eardrum ruptured, arrested, threatened with further beatings until he prayed to Hindu deities, refused; **UPDATE**: released with serious internal injuries, never charged)

http://morningstarnews.org/2017/01/pastor-india-hiding-police-hindu-extremists-assault/

Ethiopia: Babile

Several Christians were arrested for distributing a book that gave Christian answers to questions posed in an Islamic book about Christianity

Gifti (aged 14, arrested)

Mihiret (aged 14, arrested)

https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4672884/

Russia: Suzanovo, Orenburg province

Pastor Alexander Demkin (acquitted on illegal picketing charges, charges were brought after he erected a temporary playground on church property)

https://barnabasfund.org/news/Russian-pastor-declared-innocent-of-picketing-charge-as-concerns-remain-over-the-impact-of-new-anti-terror-laws-on-Christians

Nigeria

Doctors Without Borders reported "We are in a catastrophe. There are huge mortality rates. In parts of north-east Nigeria, the under-5 mortality rate is quite low because all the young children have already died"

Rev Samuel Dali (**UPDATE**: spoke regarding the results of Boko Haram activities in the Lake Chad basin "Unfortunately, the relief materials are not always reaching the right persons. Some officials keep them for themselves, leaving the IDPs in hunger")

Nigeria: Yola, Adamawa state

Fr Maurice Kweirang (said "This crisis is a result of a deliberate act of mismanagement by officials. Food and other non-food items destined for IDPs have been diverted. They are selling them in open market in Maiduguri and elsewhere")

https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/09/4643894/

Brazil: Vargem Grande, Itacarambi municipality, Minas Gerais state

Nilton Santos Seixas (missionary, attacked by gunmen along with several native people, escaped, forced to move along with his family)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/60870-AMERICA_BRAZIL_CIMI_denounces_violence_against_the_Indigenous_in_Minas_Gerais_a_missionary_threatened#.V_z_K8KQI5s

United States - Washington, DC

Ron Crews (Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty executive director; **UPDATE**: announced that the Veterans Administration would no longer prohibit Christian caroling or religious displays at Christmas)

http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/religious-christmas-carols-to-be-allowed-in-veterans-hospitals-76122/

Saturday September 24, 2016

Pakistan: Pattoki village, Punjab province

Bashiran Bibi (aged 58, domestic worker, asked to clean the home of a prominent Muslim, when she inspected the house she found it was too large to clean by herself and offered to return another day with two more workers, beaten into unconsciousness when he demanded the house be cleaned at that moment and told her that her refusal was an insult to Muslims, the attacker's wife attempted to stop the attack, forced to walk home with a badly fractured shoulder, unable to work for two months, has been demanding her attacker's prosecution)

http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/58-year-old-woman-beaten-and-kicked-to-unconscious-state-for-refusing-to-clean-muslim-home

Italy

Marina Nalesso (television anchor, under attack for wearing a crucifix or religious medals while broadcasting)

http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/tv-presenter-crucified-for-wearing-crucifix-atheism-turns-into-militant-form/

Mexico: Puruandiro, Michoacan state

Fr Jose Alfredo Lopez Guillen (abducted from his rectory in Janamuato, Michoacan state on September 19, 2016, automobile stolen; **UPDATE**: body found, had been shot dead days earlier)

http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-37469016

Sunday September 25, 2016

China: Taizhou, Zhejiang province

Bishop Anthony Xu Jiwei (aged 81; **UPDATE**: died of natural causes, had been sentenced in 1960 to 5 years' imprisonment followed by 20 years' forced labor, had once said "The period of imprisonment has strengthened my faith. During that period of great trial, I prayed every day...I realized that God loves me deeply and it is with me every day")

http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Taizhou-bishop-dies,-he-had-been-recognised-by-the-pope-and-Beijing-38682.html

Greece: Mantineia

Metropolitan Alexandros Papadopoulos (aged 80, has received a summons to appear in court regarding his statements against same sex marriage)

http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/97368.htm
https://orthodoxwiki.org/Alexander_(Papadopoulos)_of_Mantineia

Monday September 26, 2016

Pakistan: Nabi Pura, Sheikhupura district

Falak Sher Masih (beaten by police while travelling to his sister's house, left thumb fractured, held until he paid US$48 to the police despite his poverty)

http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/sheikhupura-policeman-bashes-christian-man-in-brazen-exhibit-of-barbarian-cruelty/

Nigeria

Fr Emmanuel Dim (seminary rector, abducted, US$8,000 ransom demanded)

Fr Chukwuemeka (university chaplain, shot in the head during the abduction of Fr Emmanuel Dim, hospitalized)

Fr Hyginus Aghaulor (reported on the abduction of Fr Emmanuel Dim, said "The Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria has decided and directed that ransom should not be paid for the kidnap of any of its priests and anybody that is demanding for ransom for the release of any priest kidnapped is wasting time. If anybody or group goes ahead to pay ransom for the release of any priest, the person or the group is on his own...One begins to wonder if Catholic priest have become [an] endangered species...While innocent people are left unprotected, we have seen barrage of military wares and personnel protecting the

pipelines in Niger Delta, as if oil is more important than people's life. Why should people be killed without provocation in their own traditional lands?")

Nigeria: Godogodo, Kaduna state

A Fulani Muslim herdsmen two-day long attack on a village ended

Ajiya Hamza (aged 20, killed)

Monday Hamza (aged 18, killed)

Musa Gwari (aged 45, killed)

Joseph Nok (aged 46, father of Baba Joseph Nok, killed)

Luka Ali (aged 22, killed)

Ishaku Ali (aged 26, killed)

Ikechukwu James (aged 30, killed)

Daniel Silas (aged 30, killed)

Baba Joseph Nok (aged 20, adult child of Joseph Nok, wounded, hospitalized)

Menshack Waziri (aged 22, wounded, hospitalized)

Gideon Peter (aged 29, wounded, hospitalized)

Solomon John (aged 41, wounded, hospitalized)

Blessed Musa (aged 35, wounded, hospitalized)

Inuwa Tanet (aged 32, wounded, hospitalized)

Abba Samuel (aged 30, wounded, hospitalized)

Uba Monday (aged 28, wounded, hospitalized)

Samuel Musa (aged 60, church elder, said after the attack "We have lost so much to the attacks by the herdsmen")

Ishaya Danladi Mallam (aged 46, church elder, said “We covet your prayers and those of other brethren. We are facing very threatening, tough times”)

http://www.christiantoday.com/article/priests.are.an.endangered.species.in.nigeria.one.kidnapped.two.shot/96749.htm
http://morningstarnews.org/2016/10/more-than-48-christians-killed-in-kaduna-nigeria-massacres/

Tuesday September 27, 2016

Pakistan: Karachi

Michael Javed (former Member of the Singh Provincial Assembly; **UPDATE**: died from cardiac arrest following a stroke)

http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/karachi-former-christian-mpa-michael-javaid-dies-of-a-heart-attack/
http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6104

Iraq: Kasnazan, Erbil, Kurdistan

Br Raseed (survived a collision of his taxi with a U.S. armored vehicle outside Bagdad in 2003 or 2004 in which the driver and another monk were killed, hospitalized in a coma; fled his monastery in Qaraqosh during the ISIL takeover in August 2014; **UPDATE**: has led religious services in his refugee camp in the absence of priests, said of his vocation "But I don't have to be anything supernatural. I just have to be here with the people in the church because God needs me to be here...It is all about Jesus. Jesus is the core, He is the Rock we build on. And whatever might happen, our Rock will never disappear. He will always be here")

https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/09/4648120/

Egypt

Dr Naguib Gibrael (attorney for the Coptic Church, head of the Egyptian Federation for Human Rights; **UPDATE**: has brought a lawsuit against Salafist preacher Yasser Al Borhamy on a charge of contempt of Christianity for having said that Christian women do not belong to a respectful religion and therefore can be used for sexual pleasure without respect or love)

http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1739&A=26960

Nigeria: Dogon Fili village

An attack on at least two villages by Fulani Muslim herdsmen ended after three days

John Audu (shot dead)

Tahiru Audu (shot dead)

Jonathan Yakubu (shot dead)

Hasholy Tari (aged 35, killed)

Iliya Maiga (aged 70, husband of Alisabatu Iliya, father of Istifanus Iliya, killed)

Alisabatu Iliya (wife of Iliya Maiga, mother of Istifanus Iliya, died from gunshot wounds)

Istifanus Iliya (aged 50, son of Iliya Maiga and Alisabatu Iliya, killed)

Williams Anche (aged 51, killed)

Enoch James (aged 23, killed with a machete)

Jonathan Akos (aged 49, killed)

Gabriel Adamu (aged 30, killed)

Daniel Amos (aged 60, community leader, said "These Fulani herdsmen attacked us for three days and killed nine of my people, all of them married Christians who died leaving behind children. In all, 12 houses were burned by the herdsmen. These Muslim herdsmen destroyed all our crops on our farms. Survivors among my people have been displaced, and some of them may never again return to this village...This is the first of this type of attack on my people, and I know that there has never been any problem between my people and these herdsmen," Amos said. "If there was any such problem, I would definitely have looked for ways to resolve them amicably. Unfortunately, these herdsmen never told us what the problem is. As Christians, we'll never want to have problems with others")

Yakubu Sabo (aged 26, said "Alisabatu Iliya was shot on both legs and hands, and all limbs were broken. She died from bleeding from the bullet wounds. John Audu and Tahiru Audu were shot and killed by the herdsmen. Jonathan Yakubu too was shot, and he died, while Enoch James was cut on his head with a machete resulting in his bleeding to death")

Associate Pastor Audu Ibrahim Mai'angwa (aged 32, said "The following morning, which was a Monday, the herdsmen returned at about 11 AM to carry out another attack on our village, killing four more of our people. The four murdered are members of my church")

Pastor Markus Danladi Akwa (aged 55, said "I urge our Christian brethren to not despair, but to have hope that they shall overcome these trials. We must forgive these herdsmen for persecuting us and pray that God convicts them so that they come to know Jesus Christ...I want to plead with our government to put an end to these senseless attacks on Christians. The government should also urgently assist these Christian villagers, as many are now starving as all their crops were destroyed and houses burned down")

Nigeria: Antang / Denji village

Bayo Ambi (aged 30, killed)

Indika Sarki (aged 15, killed)

Danjuma Ladan (aged 47, described the murder of Bayo Ambi and Indika Sarki "Both are members of our church, ECWA Church-Denji. Most of our people who survived the attack have all left this village")

http://morningstarnews.org/2016/10/dangerous-area-in-kaduna-nigeria-a-virtual-ghost-town-13-more-deaths-discovered/

Mexico: Mexico City

Fr Hugo Valdemar Romero (Archdiocesan spokesman; **UPDATE**: slammed a state prosecutor's allegations that the three most recent murders of priests were due to their own questionable behaviors "In these cases it has become clear that state governments that cannot handle the drug cartels are criminalizing the victims, depicting some as drunks and another as a pedophile, making it look like the crimes were not related to drug cartels but because of some immoral conduct. To physical death they are adding moral assassination, slandering the priests and holding them up to ridicule, and that has caused deep indignation in the Church...the least we expect is a public apology")

http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/09/27/catholic-church-in-mexico-alleges-smear-campaign-against-three-murdered-priests/

Wednesday September 28, 2016

Australia: Potts Point, Sydney, New South Wales

Nasrin Abek (aged 35, convert, Iranian immigrant, stabbed to death by her husband after he discovered her conversion)

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3815124/Hairdresser-35-stabbed-death-Iranian-husband-Potts-Point-apartment-angry-converted-CHRISTIANITY.html

Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan

Ghazan (aged 47, father of three aged 9 through 21, refugee, reported to have said "Back in my own town on the Nineveh Plain, I used to have a successful transport company. We had a good life until ISIL came and forced us out. I heard that ISIL stole all our cars and are using them in Mosul right now...I have lost everything, but I thank God that my family is still with me", currently works in a bakery, said "Although I don't earn much here and I

have to work much longer hours than I did in my last job, I can at least pay rent so my family doesn't have to live in a camp")

Suaad (widow, tailor, refugee from Mosul, currently manages a sewing factory, reported to have said "I haven't been able to return since. I feel heavy inside, not knowing what has happened to my town...The priest asked me to be in charge of the factory so I took the job. I would have done it for nothing if necessary, but I am happy that I get paid and I can share it with my family...It's what I like most about the job, that I can share with those in a worse position then me. Sometimes a displaced person asks me to make a dress. I don't charge them. How could I?")

https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/09/4650638/

Lebanon

Jonas (aged early 50's, framer, Syrian refugee, showed a picture on Google Earth, said "This was my farm. It is very big. These buildings here were huge. I had about 2,000 olive trees here too. They're now all gone. ISIL destroyed everything – the house, the buildings, they cut down all the trees. I lost everything there...I was at the farm with the caretaker. I told them I didn't want them to take my cattle. They started shooting and then my caretaker fell dead on the ground. I was hit in my leg three times. They took all my cows and I heard they sold them in Turkey. Turkey is playing a dirty game in Syria...We're living in a small apartment now and I have some work in construction. The first year here I became depressed. But I started to pray more to God and that has helped me. I pray very often but have all these questions about why [attacks by ISIL] happen to Christians...Syria is finished. When the war is over, people will be full of hatred. They don't forget who killed their brother, son or father. They will want to take revenge. I think there is only a future for the Church in Syria when Christians all around the world help. If the Christians really disappear from Syria it will be a disaster for Christianity all around the world. You know, we Christians love our country, we would love to stay, would love to return, but we need the basic conditions to live there")

https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/09/4650638/

Nicaragua: Managua

Pastor Mauricio Fonseca Pereira (president of the Evangelical Alliance of Nicaragua, congregation denied access to pray in a public plaza, government has also imposed new restrictions on visas for foreign missionaries and foreigners travelling to Christian events in the country)

http://www.persecution.org/2016/09/28/nicaraguan-government-shuts-down-evangelical-prayer-vigil/

Argentina: Neuquen

Bishop Virginio Bressanelli (condemned an attack by pro-abortion feminists against his cathedral in which a mural of the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo [who had opposed the Dirty War of the early 1980's] was defaced, said "At certain times of the year there are demonstrations. Unfortunately, in some cases, as in this pro-abortion demonstration, this also happens. This varnish will damage the building and we have to redecorate it in order to erase the writing...It is a sad fact [regarding the mural damage]. I think there are things that are part of the beauty of the town and the heritage of all, so we cannot accept anything like that")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/60869-AMERICA_ARGENTINA_Pro_abortion_protesters_deface_a_mural_the_door_of_the_Cathedral_and_the_Bishopric#.V_z_csKQI5s

Thursday September 29, 2016

India: Shimoga district, Karnataka state

Pastor Daniel (home meeting reportedly stopped by Hindu radicals and police)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/60863-ASIA_INDIA_Hindu_extremists_disrupt_meetings_among_Christians#.V_z_zsKQI5s

Friday September 30, 2016

Nigeria

Fr Emmanuel Dim (seminary rector, abducted on September 26, 2016; **UPDATE**: released)

Fr Francis Chidume (announced the release of Fr Emmanuel Dim)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/60876-AFRICA_NIGERIA_The_Rector_of_the_Major_Seminary_of_Tansi_released#.V_z-8cKQI5s

September 2016, date unknown

India: Chhattigarh state

Bagathram Mandavi (aged 55, father of Raghuram Mandavi, died of natural causes, denied burial until his son converted to Hinduism)

Raghuram Mandavi (son of Bagathram Mandavi, said he would convert to Hinduism to ensure that his father would be buried)

http://www.persecution.org/2017/03/15/chhattisgarhs-christians-face-challenges-on-multiple-fronts/

Sudan

Bishop Andudu Adam Elnail (**UPDATE**: said the government was "not interested in the Christian religion...There is no freedom for us, we cannot build churches. We are treated as second-class citizens")

https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4674457/

Congo, Democratic Republic: North Kivu province

Jean (alias, attacked by Islamic militants while walking home from work “It was around 6pm. There were many of them. Some had guns, others machetes. They pushed me around for a while before someone forced me into the bush. Two of them slashed me with their machetes. After the second blow, I lay still like a corpse. They watched me bleed for what seemed like a very long time and then left, thinking I was dead. They went to a nearby house and set it on fire, before taking off”, walked to a clinic but found it closed,

added “Eventually the military passed by and noticed that I was wounded and in serious need of help, so they brought me here [to the hospital]")

Gracia (alias, church leader, said “I have no choice, it is my town. If I would run, where would I run to? It is something we experience daily, gunshots left and right. It is our daily life...We pray that God will create in our leaders a heart for humanity, a heart of compassion and heart full of mercy, and that He may make them conscious of the evil that is being committed on our territory”)

https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4675537/

Today’s Martyrs

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