

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – October 2016

Saturday October 1, 2016



Kazakhstan: Karaganda

Natalya Konopleva (cited for selling a religious newspaper from her shop)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2281

Sunday October 2, 2016



India: Padappai, Tamil Nadu state

Dhanasekharan (aged 34, **stabbed to death** after being lured out of church with a cell phone call)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Christian-politician-stabbed-to-death-in-India-Christians-injured-Bibles-destroyed-during-attack-on-Gideons-International-stall>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/60895->

[ASIA_INDIA_A_Christian_politician_killed_in_Tamil_Nadu#.V_z-hsKQI5s](#)

Monday October 3, 2016



Egypt: Cairo

Archbishop Mouneer Anis (aged 66; **UPDATE:** in speaking before a conference of Anglican Church leaders said that they should be “ready to sacrifice their lives for the sake of Christ”, warned of an “ideological slavery [where] some Western churches and organizations use their wealth and influence to push their own agendas...We need to be aware of this, and resist all kinds of slavery, whether financial or ideological”)

Bishop Emeritus Bill Andrew Musk (read a history of Christianity in North Africa that cited the divisions in the church, said “The Arab invasions eventually overwhelmed the Church, but the seeds of its demise were sown long before”)

Egypt: Manfalout, Assiut

Four Christians were abducted for ransom

Emad Lamei (brother of Rami Lamei)

Rami Lamei (brother of Emad Lamei)

Marzouq Ashamallah (father of Amir, relative of Emad and Rami Lamei)

Amir (aged 9, son of Marzouq Ashamallah)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/60908->

[AFRICA EGYPT Four Copts including a child kidnapped in the province of Assiut#.V_z94sKQI5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60908-)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4681291/>

Tuesday October 4, 2016



Armenia: Vanadzor

Pastor Rafael Grigorian (severely beaten in his church for refusing to become involved in politics and an election, hospitalized, said "If our society, our citizens live according to the Gospel, such thing will not happen. When the hole in a society is not filled with Christian values, it gets filled with the evil")

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue27825.html>



Egypt: Manfalout, Assiut

Four Christians were abducted for ransom on [October 3, 2016](#); **UPDATE: all were freed after a ransom of US\$16,892 was paid**

Emad Lamei (brother of Rami Lamei)

Rami Lamei (brother of Emad Lamei)

Marzouq Ashamalla (father of Amir, relative of Emad and Rami Lamei)

Amir (aged 9, son of Marzouq Ashamalla)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Four-Egyptian-Christians-kidnapped-but-safely-returned-after-ransom-demand-met>



Russia: Arkhangelsk

Ivan Denisov (fined US\$8 for organizing a religious event for young people without their parents' written consent where negative views of the Orthodox Church were expressed)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2306



Mexico: San Juan de los Platanos, Michoacan state

Four young evangelists were found dead on a roadside, had most likely been abducted by organized crime, had been tortured

Wilivaldo H (papaya farmer, **shot dead**)

Adan V (U.S. resident, **shot dead**)

Jesus L (hog breeder, **shot dead**)

Jesus Alejandro A (day laborer, **shot dead**)

Fr Luis Segura Barragan (reported on the murder of Wilivaldo H, Adan V, Jesus L, and Jesus Alejandro A)

<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2016/10/05/4-members-catholic-evangelist-group-murdered-in-mexico-authorities-say/>

<http://www.lavozdemichoacan.com.mx/seguridad/eran-evangelizadores-los-4-ejecutados-en-apatzingan/> - with translation

Wednesday October 5, 2016



Jordan

Wael Suleiman (director of Caritas Jordan; **UPDATE:** said of the 2 million refugees in his country "Jordan is open to all, we are aware of carrying out an important humanitarian mission, and we want to continue. In recent times 200 thousand Syrian refugees have been regularized as legal workers. But now refugees and immigrants represent 40 percent of the population. The national debt has grown exponentially in recent years. Many Jordanians are now poorer than many immigrants. If the international community does not take note of the explosive situation and does not intervene to support this effort carried out by the entire Country, there will come a time when even here all doors to enter the Country will be closed and those who had fled from hunger and war will have to be repatriated")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/60902-ASIA_JORDAN_Jordan_is_the_Country_with_the_highest_number_of_refugees_Caritas_Jordan_unsustainable_and_dangerous_situation#.V_z-HsKQI5s



Argentina: Tucuman

Fr Juan Heraldo Viroche (**found dead** in his home, a preliminary report stated cause of death as suicide, parishioners and collaborators stated their disbelief and point to multiple death threats he had received from drug criminals due to his work with addiction)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/60910-AMERICA_ARGENTINA_A_priest_committed_to_combating_drug_trafficking_found_dead#.V_z9f8KQI5s

Thursday October 6, 2016



China: northern Hebei province

Fr Joseph Ge Xiangbing (aged 41, **died from a sudden illness**, parishioners believe the illness had been due to physical strains of ministry including lack of proper meals)

China: northwestern Shaanxi province

Fr Joseph Song Kexun (aged 44, hospitalized after a cerebral hemorrhage, parishioners believe the illness had been due to physical strains of ministry including lack of proper meals)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/untimely-deaths-of-three-priests-worries-chinese-catholics/77363>



Kyrgyzstan: Kemin

Marat Niyazaliev (husband, father, Russian citizen, house church leader, church closed in [spring 2015](#); arrested on a charge of indecent assault of an 8 year old girl on [December 8, 2015](#), released; church closing ruled illegal on [March 3, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: jailed after the indecent assault charge was changed to attempted rape, the exonerating statements from the girl's mother and other witnesses have disappeared from the police record - prompting fears of witness tampering by the police, stated he believes the charges are meant to pressure him into returning to Russia)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Kyrgyzstan-church-leader-in-custody-as-authorities-take-apparent-revenge-for-churchs-court-victory>



Kenya: Mandera

John Ndegwa (quarry worker, **killed**)

Duncan Ndegwa (quarry worker, **killed**)

Evans Araka (fiance of Rebecca, father of five, credit manager for Islamic Relief, **killed**)

Lewis Mwalimu (Islamic Relief employee, **killed**)

David Chege (barber, **killed**)

David Muchoki Munene (aged 40, husband of Eunice Wangari, son of Nancy Muthoni, brother of Billie Mbugi and Paul Maina, construction materials truck driver, **killed**)

Eunice Wangari (wife of David Muchoki Munene)

Nancy Muthoni (mother of David Muchoki Munene, had asked her son to move home, said "My heart is torn apart after losing my first born son. I have not slept or eaten since I found out that he is dead")

Billie Mbugi (brother of David Muchoki Munene, said "My mother was in shock on hearing the news... Wangari [David's wife] has gone to the Chiromo Mortuary in Nairobi to identify the body")

Paul Maina (brother of David Muchoki Munene)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4665242/>
<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4694021/>
<http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/m/article/2000218904/he-was-jovial-with-lots-of-friends-before-al-shabaab-killed-him>



Syria: Aleppo

Archbishop Antoine Audo SJ (**UPDATE:** said "For weeks we are again in a situation of general terror, even though we try to keep public institutions such as universities open. The neighborhoods controlled by the rebels are hit by sophisticated weapons, which spread death, although the rebels have no planes. Among the Christians alone, in the past two weeks, there have been over twenty deaths. But Western media does not talk about what happens to us. For all of us who are here, all the global media system appears maneuvered by geopolitical interests that manipulate information. Everything becomes an excuse for propaganda. And the role and operations implemented by countries such as Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia continue to be hidden")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/60922-ASIA SYRIA The children of Aleppo call for peace The Chaldean Bishop Western information manipulated#.V_z86MKQI5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60922-ASIA_SYRIA_The_children_of_Aleppo_call_for_peace_The_Chaldean_Bishop_Western_information_manipulated#.V_z86MKQI5s)



Uganda: Nalidi village, Pallisa district

Twenty seven Christians while harvesting rice were attacked for suspicion of converting Muslims to Christianity, twelve hospitalized

John Supete (cut in the back of the head, said "The Muslims attacked us while shouting in Arabic "We are fighting for the cause of Allah")

Kiryamba Mbulambago (said "The Muslims beat us using clubs, sticks and metallic objects, and several of us were injured")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/11/muslims-in-uganda-burn-home-where-boys-threatened-with-violence-took-refuge/>



Sudan: Madani, Al Jazirah state

Rev Samuel Suliman Anglo (Christian school headmaster, arrested on [September 5, 2016](#) 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; **UPDATE**: arrested along with 5 teachers when he objected to the government takeover of the school)

Rev Ismail Zakaria (teacher, arrested when he objected to the government takeover of the school)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/11/christian-school-closed-in-sudan-ordered-to-re-open/>



United Kingdom: Liverpool

Fr Anthony O'Brien (described the burglary and vandalism of the cathedral "Two images in glass, specially made for the cathedral, have been smashed beyond repair and may be impossible to replace. People from throughout the world visit the cathedral and those here this morning have been both shocked and horrified at what has taken place")

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/10/06/thieves-ransack-liverpools-catholic-cathedral/>

Friday October 7, 2016



China: Beijing

Xu Yonghai (church elder; **UPDATE**: church meeting in his home raided by police)

China: northeastern Heilongjiang province

Fr Peter Li Bo (aged 50, **died of a cerebral hemorrhage**, parishioners believe the illness had been due to physical strains of ministry including lack of proper meals)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/10/police-stop-gatherings-of-beijing-house.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/untimely-deaths-of-three-priests-worries-chinese-catholics/77363>



Pakistan: Youhanabad, Lahore, Punjab province

Dozens of Christians remain jailed for the riot and lynching that followed the [March 15, 2015](#) attempted suicide bombings of two churches

Sr Genevieve Ram Lal (national director of the Catholic Women's Organization, said "The locals have many grievances with the justice system. We have been raising the issue of our sons and brothers whenever we meet Christian ministers. I hope the chief minister of Punjab province will listen to our requests. Peace will only return to the attacked Christian neighborhood after the freedom of jailed Christians...Now that the bread-winners are behind bars, the women of affected families have no choice but to seek jobs. The church is helping them by waiving off school fees of the children whose fathers are in jail")

Rev Arshad Ashknaz (**UPDATE:** said "The Christians are not terrorists, 75 percent of those arrested were not even identified in the camera which filmed the lynching incident. The police themselves caught the bomb suspects. It was all just an accident. It's been more than a year and a half and they have been punished enough...Whenever we speak with government officials, they offer to trade the Christian prisoners with those who burnt alive a Christian couple in a brick kiln")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/christians-defend-dozens-charged-in-pakistan-murder-case/77299>



Russia: Kostomuksha, Karelia

A P Ogorodnikov (acquitted of possession of banned religious literature)

Russia: Moscow

Sergei Korepin (detained for handing out New Testaments on a train, charged with illegal missionary activity)

Safarbi Keshokov (detained for handing out New Testaments on a train, charged with illegal missionary activity)

Russia: Sernur

Aleksandr Yakimov (charged on [August 5, 2016](#) with illegal missionary activity for speaking at a village festival in [Mari-Turek](#) about his church, which lacks legal status; **UPDATE:** appeal denied)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2242

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2287

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2306



Turkey: Izmir

Two American missionaries detained as a 'national security risk', denied access to U.S. diplomats, attorneys, and fellow parishioners, told they would be deported

Andrew Brunson (husband of Norine Brunson)

Norine Brunson (wife of Andrew Brunson)

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

Saturday October 8, 2016



China: northern Hebei province

Fr Peter Liu Zhanfang (aged 65, **died from a sudden illness**, parishioners believe the illness had been due to physical strains of ministry including lack of proper meals)

China: Wenzhou

Bishop Peter Shao Zhumin (**UPDATE**: returned from 'vacation' by the government but still under government control)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mgr-Peter-Shao-Zhumin-back-in-Wenzhou-but-under-control-38824.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/untimely-deaths-of-three-priests-worries-chinese-catholics/77363>



India: Kuther village, Bastar district, Chhattisgarh state

A Christian family was beaten by Hindu radicals in their home, hospitalized

Sularam Kashyap (husband of Sudri, son of Sukru Kashyap)

Sudri Kashyap (pregnant wife of Sularam Kashyap)

Sukru Kashyap (aged 60, father of Sularam Kashyap)

<http://www.persecution.org/2016/11/02/christian-family-in-indias-bastar-district-brutally-beaten-by-suspected-hindu-radicals/>



Pakistan

Nabeel Masih (aged 16, arrested on blasphemy charges on [September 18, 2016](#) 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; **UPDATE:** police asked the court for additional time to investigate cybercrime charges against him)

Aneeqa Maria Akhtar (attorney, head of the Christian rights organization The Voice; **UPDATE:** has been representing Nabeel Masih against blasphemy charges, has received death threats)

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/police-intent-to-destroy-christian-tee>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/60933->

[ASIA_PAKISTAN_Threats_to_a_Christian_NGO_that_defends_cases_of_digital_blast_hemy#.V_z8PcKQI5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60933-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Threats_to_a_Christian_NGO_that_defends_cases_of_digital_blast_hemy#.V_z8PcKQI5s)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6109>

Sunday October 9, 2016



Sudan: Madani, Al Jazirah state

Rev Samuel Suliman Anglo (Christian school headmaster, arrested on [September 5, 2016](#) 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; arrested on [October 6, 2016](#) along with 5 teachers when he objected to the government takeover of the school; **UPDATE:** released)

Rev Ismail Zakaria (teacher, arrested on [October 6, 2016](#) when he objected to the government takeover of the school; **UPDATE:** released)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/11/christian-school-closed-in-sudan-ordered-to-re-open/>



Brazil: Nova Iguacu, Baixada Fluminense region, Rio de Janeiro state

Fr Francisco Carlos Barbosa Tenorio (aged 37, **found dead** alongside a highway, had been stabbed)

Bishop Luciano Bergamin (reported on the murder of Fr Francisco Carlos Barbosa Tenorio, said "He was a good pastor and loved by his people. Everything leads us to believe that it was a robbery which ended in murder. Our brother was killed with a stab in his heart. Unfortunately it is another sign of violence that our Baixada lives, stained with so much blood")

Brazil: Rondonopolis

Fr Joao Paulo Noll (aged 35, **murdered** by teen drug addicts after he gave them a ride in his car)

Bishop Juventino Kesting (wrote of the murder of Fr Joao Paulo Noll "We will continue to do what Father J. Paulo did: proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and be his witnesses, to defend life, to bring peace and fraternity. There is need to change this violent unjust world, in a more human dimension, in harmony for a fraternal coexistence")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/60944->

[AMERICA BRAZIL Priest killed along the road near Rio de Janeiro#.V_z718KQI5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60944-AMERICA_BRAZIL_Priest_killed_along_the_road_near_Rio_de_Janeiro#.V_z718KQI5s)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/60962->

[AMERICA BRAZIL The Bishop of Rondonopolis after the murder of the priest We will continue to do what father Joao Paulo did#.WAHGi8KQw5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60962-AMERICA_BRAZIL_The_Bishop_of_Rondonopolis_after_the_murder_of_the_priest_We_will_continue_to_do_what_father_Joao_Paulo_did#.WAHGi8KQw5s)

Monday October 10, 2016



China: Linfen, Shanxi

Pastor Yang Rongli (wife of Wang Xiaoguang, arrested near Taiyuan, Shanxi province for "gathering a mob to disturb public order" after holding a prayer rally on [September 14, 2009](#) following the demolition of a house church, sentenced to seven years' imprisonment on [November 25, 2009](#); **UPDATE**: released, returned home, health affected due to malnutrition, diabetes, kidney stones, and a cardiac issue, in good spirits, prohibited from being interviewed)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/10/megachurch-pastor-released-after.html>



Pakistan

Dr Nazir S Bhatti (**UPDATE**: called on the government to provide police protection to the family of Asia Bibi due to her upcoming hearing with the Supreme Court)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6126>



Iran

Amin Afshar Naderi (aged 26, convert; arrested on [August 26, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: released on a US\$35,000 bail)

Mohamad Dehnay (arrested on [August 26, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: released on a US\$35,000 bail)

Ram-eil Beth Tamraz (son of Pastor Victor Beth Tarmez and Shamiram Isavi; arrested on [August 26, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: released on a US\$35,000 bail)

Amir Sina Dashti (arrested on [August 26, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: still detained)

Hadi Askary (arrested on [August 26, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: still detained)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3168>

Tuesday October 11, 2016



Russia: Kaliningrad

S P Kozin (acquitted)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2306

Wednesday October 12, 2016



Indonesia: Jakarta

Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama aka Ahok (**UPDATE**: reported to have been accused of blasphemy after he stated that the Quran should not be used for political purposes, apologized, forgiven by some Muslims)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Jakarta's-“blasphemous”-Christian-governor-kicks-up-a-storm-38842.html>



Philippines: Davao

Archbishop Emeritus Fernando Capalla (criticized by President Duterte in response for his criticism of the killing of 3,500 suspected drug dealers and users)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/duterte-blasts-bishop-for-criticizing-anti-narcotics-war/77343>



Vietnam: Phuoc Co jail, Vung Tau

Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh (husband of Tran Thi Hong, on [July 31, 2012](#) an appellate court in [Gia Lai](#) upheld his sentence of 11 years for "undermining unity"; **UPDATE**: along with three other Christians has reportedly been fed prison food and water contaminated with ground glass, lead, insecticide, and dead flies)

Tran Thi Hong (wife of Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh; taken by police at 6 AM on [May 13, 2016](#) along with her 18 year old son [leaving her other children unattended], abused for 3 hours which including having chopsticks forced into her mouth, released, her son was released later that day; **UPDATE**: reported on the contaminants in her husband's prison food and water)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/vietnam-religious-prisoners-given-contaminated-food/77325>



India: Kerala state

Fr Varghese Vallikatt (Kerala Catholic Bishops Council deputy secretary general, reported to have reacted to a report that the Islamic State has planned to attack local Christians and that a terror cell had been broken up by the National Investigation Agency "We cannot take the threat lightly. The spread of IS militancy poses a threat to all mankind")

Fr Paul Thelakkat (**UPDATE**: reported to have said that ISIL "is trying to purge Christianity from their ancient lands. This is because they identify Christianity with West. In order to attack the West, they rightly or wrongly attack the Christians, even outside the West")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/islamic-state-threat-to-kerala-christians-worries-leaders/77353>



Russia: Nikolsk, Penza region

Yury Kim (acquitted of possession of banned religious literature)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2287



Central African Republic: Kaga Bandoro

Seleka militants attacked a church compound and a refugee camp

Marcelline Kanga (aged 40, witnessed the attack "We were in the house when suddenly the Seleka arrived and set it on fire. They killed my uncle and stabbed my brother to death right there")

Yongon Samson (aged 48, ran from the Seleka attackers, saw a decapitated body)

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



Kosovo: Prizren

Bishop Teodosije Sibalic (aged 53, **UPDATE**: complained of a government order to halt construction work at a monastery "The construction ban at the Holy Archangels Monastery is a deliberate act of misuse of institutional powers directed against our freedom of worship and normal life of our Church")

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/kosovo-ministry-of-culture-bans-reconstruction-works-at-holy-archangels-monastery-near-prizren/>

Thursday October 13, 2016



Pakistan

Fr Morris Jalal (**UPDATE**: reported to have commented on the placement of Christian journalist Cyril Almeida on the exit control list after he wrote of the Punjab Province Chief Minister's [Governor's] confrontation with the Inter-Services Intelligence Director over the intelligence agency's release of arrested terrorists "Things can get ugly. Almedia only reported what the foreign secretary stated in an earlier report. We stand with media for

rightly checking the pulse of the current situation. Putting a ban on terror groups is not enough, they must be completely stopped from operating in the country. We must regain the trust of international community")

Fr Qaier Feroz (executive secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Commission for Social Communications, reported to have commented on the placement of Christian journalist Cyril Almeida on the exit control list "The government should protect journalists instead of shielding non-state actors. We support freedom of expression and speech, the basic human rights. Action against the journalist exposes a lack of will to fight terror groups")

Pakistan: Islamabad

Aasiya Noreen aka Asia Bibi (aged 51, convicted of blasphemy and sentenced to death in 2009; **UPDATE:** appeal to the Federal Supreme Court put on indefinite hold after one of the three judges on her panel recused himself, 150 Muslim leaders called for her execution regardless of the Court decision)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/pakistan-bans-catholic-reporter-from-travelling-abroad/77347>
<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4678103/>



Nigeria: Banki, Borno state

Boko Haram released 21 schoolgirls it had abducted in Chibok, Borno state on April 14, 2014

Agnes Gafane aka Agnes Gapani?

Asabe Goni

Blessing Abana

Comfort Amos

Comfort Habila

Deborah Andrawus

Deborah Abari aka Deborah Ja'afaru?

Gloria Yaga aka Glory Dama?

Glory Mainta

Helen Musa

Jummai John

Luggwa Sanda

Mary Usman Bulama

Maryama Bashir aka Maryam Basheer?

Mayamu Lawan

Pindah Nuhu

Rahab Ibrahim

Rebecca Mallam

Rebecca Ibrahim

Saratu Emmanuel

Saratu Markus

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

Friday October 14, 2016



Kyrgyzstan

Kanygul Satybaldiyeva (aged 76, mother of Zhyldyz Azayeva, **died of natural causes** on **October 13, 2016**, burial in **Sary-Talaa village, Ala-Buka district** prevented by a Muslim mob, taken to **Oruktu village, Ala-Buka district** and buried, body exhumed by a mob under the watch of NSC secret police)

Zhyldyz Azayeva (daughter of Kanygul Satybaldiyeva, forced to convert to Islam in an unsuccessful attempt to have her mother buried in **Sary-Talaa village, Ala-Buka district**, threatened with stoning, retrieved her body after the first exhumation in **Oruktu village, Ala-Buka district** by a mob)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2226



Kazakhstan: Oskemen, East Kazakhstan region

Three elderly Christians were detained for praying with residents of a hospice

Lyudmila Kerbele

Nadezhda Krasilnikova

Lidiya Kosatova

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2240



Iraq

Fr Yousif Ibrahim (brother of Deacon Ragheed Fahmy Ibrahim; **UPDATE**: said that he advises Christians to leave Iraq, said "The future here is bad. Every time a terror group appears under a different name and sets out to persecute Christians. I'm a monk, like a soldier I don't think about [myself]...My brother Ragheed used to say in the last months before he was killed: 'We have a lot of sins. These sins cannot be washed but by [Jesus's] blood!' I consider him a hero killed for the name of Jesus...I forgave them. Believe me, I can tell you even Ragheed's wife now forgave those who killed her husband. Paul used to persecute Christians, but later he knew Him and believed...Jesus, when on the way to Golgotha, told the women not to weep for him but for themselves. For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry? Persecution is a pride for us")

Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan

Hanaa (wife of Khalid, mother of seven, fled with her children from [Qaraqosh](#) on [August 6, 2014](#), husband and father-in-law disappeared on [August 10, 2014](#); **UPDATE**: refugee, shares a residence with two other families, said of her son in the army "He so wants to go back and see our house in Qaraqosh. In May this year he was shot while fighting IS in nearby Tel Skuf. He's getting married soon...our joy will only be complete if we hear anything about Khalid", cried when she said "I carry Khalid's photo and run here and there, trying to hear anything about him")

Jameel (aged 11, son of Khalid and Hanaa, said he thinks of his father always, cried when his mother spoke about his father)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4679918/>



Saudi Arabia

Irma Edloy Jotojot (aged 35, Philippine citizen, reported to have been raped and **murdered**)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/bishop-calls-for-probe-into-death-of-filipino-migrant-worker/77359>

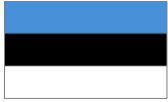


Turkey

David Byle (aged 46, Canadian-U.S. citizen, husband of Ulrike, father of five, detained without charge in [Istanbul](#) on [April 6, 2016](#) for 30 days pending deportation, labelled 'a danger to

public order' by the Interior Ministry; released from detention on [April 15, 2016](#), deportation still pending; **UPDATE**: deportation still pending due to the post-coup arrests of judges and prosecutors)

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



Estonia: Tartu

Archbishop Urmas Viilma (Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church, condemned an art exhibit for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in which a virtual image of Mary may be destroyed with a kick, wrote “The virgin Mary for a huge number of believers is not some historical figure or event, gone into oblivion, but a reality today. The ridicule was an insult to the feelings of believers...Our Lady is not merely a stature [sic] or an idea, but a real saint who resides with God. She is always present with the faithful on Earth and she intercedes on our behalf. She is the ultimate incarnation of woman, sinless and holy, and the Mother of God. As such, she deserves the utmost respect, not to be treated with disrespect...The Protestant Reformation was largely a political and economic movement, in addition to a religious schism. Our Lady was not part of that evil. Her role in our world served to facilitate our salvation. She does not deserve for her Holy name, or her image to be desecrated”)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/10/14/plans-to-desecrate-image-of-virgin-mary-in-estonian-museum-prompt-protest/>



Niger: Arcata

Jeffery Woodke (aged 55, missionary, U.S. citizen, abducted by armed men who forced him to strip to his underwear, guard and housekeeper killed)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/us-missionary-evangelizing-muslim-world-forced-to-strip-then-kidnapped-by-armed-men-in-niger-170912/>



United States – Pennsylvania: Philadelphia

Archbishop Charles J Chaput (quoted a civil rights attorney that the Wikileaks revelations of Hillary Clinton campaign emails showed “some of the worst bigotry by a political machine I have seen...[a] Church has an absolute right to protect itself when under attack

as a faith and Church by civil political forces...Now there is clear proof that this [anti-Catholic] approach is deliberate and will accelerate if these actors have any continuing, let alone louder, say in government...Look where we are now. We have political actors trying to orchestrate a coup [by the laity against bishops] to destroy Catholic values, and they even analogize their takeover to a coup in the Middle East, which amplifies their bigotry and hatred of the Church")

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/for-archbishop-chaput-catholic-spring-group-did-untold-damage-88927/>

Saturday October 15, 2016



India: Jagdalpur, Bastar district, Chhattisgarh state

A Christian family was beaten by Hindu radicals in their home in [Kuther village, Bastar district, Chhattisgarh state](#) and hospitalized on [October 8, 2016](#); **UPDATE: evicted from the hospital by police after they gave testimony about the attack to an aid worker**

Sularam Kashyap (husband of Sudri, son of Sukru Kashyap)

Sudri Kashyap (pregnant wife of Sularam Kashyap)

Sukru Kashyap (aged 60, father of Sularam Kashyap)

<http://www.persecution.org/2016/11/02/christian-family-in-indias-bastar-district-brutally-beaten-by-suspected-hindu-radicals/>



Kyrgyzstan

Kanygul Satybaldiyeva (aged 76, mother of Zhyldyz Azayeva, **died of natural causes** on [October 13, 2016](#), burial in [Sary-Talaa village, Ala-Buka district](#) prevented by a Muslim mob on [October 14, 2016](#), taken to [Oruktu village, Ala-Buka district](#) and buried, body exhumed by a mob under the watch of NSC secret police; **UPDATE: reburied in the [Ala-Buk district's](#) central cemetery as close to the Orthodox section as possible on [October 15, 2016](#)**)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2226



Kosovo: Pristina

Fr Sasa Mitrovic (described the use of a cemetery chapel as a public toilet)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/sad-scenes-at-the-orthodox-christian-cemetery-in-pristina-a-chapel-turned-into-a-public-toilette-many-graves-overrun-by-weeds/>



Nigeria: Godogodo, Kaduna state

Pastor Isaac Balason (aged 34, said “It is now 8:30 PM, and the attack is ongoing. We’re not sure we’ll survive this time. Please be in prayers with us”, the next day said of the Fulani massacre “Thank God we survived, but many others have lost their lives...Three out my 120 members were killed during the first attack, and the rest, including myself, have been displaced. I cannot say whether they all survived this latest attack, as it is difficult at this moment to know the situation they are in”)

Rev Thomas Akut (aged 41, escaped a Fulani massacre with his family, said “We fled into the bushes, and some of us escaped to safer areas. The attackers were in the hundreds and were well armed. Some of them wore army uniforms, while others wore police uniforms. Some of them exchanged gunfire with the few soldiers stationed at the post office in the town, while others burned down houses of Christians...This casualty figure [22 Christians killed] is only those I saw the following morning, but the number of deaths may be higher as many were killed in the bushes too...Our farms have been destroyed. Crops that are now ready for harvest have all been destroyed by the herdsmen. Members of our churches cannot even go to these farms, as anyone who attempts to do so is murdered by the herdsmen. Most of the villages around Godogodo have been destroyed and thousands of Christians displaced...This is a jihad. It is an Islamic holy war against Christians in the southern part of Kaduna state”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/10/more-than-48-christians-killed-in-kaduna-nigeria-massacres/>

Sunday October 16, 2016



Pakistan: Bahadur Pura, Kasur

Sajida (daughter of Rehmat Masih, sexually assaulted, police refused to register a case)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/kasur-vandals-torch-house-of-a-christian-over-property-dispute/>



Uganda: Kobolwa village, Kibuku district

Stephen Muganzi (aged 41, fled his home with his family after threatened by a mob for hiding two young converts from Islam, said “The life of my family is at stake. Where am I going to take them? I have lost everything that was in the house”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/11/muslims-in-uganda-burn-home-where-boys-threatened-with-violence-took-refuge/>



Germany: Freiburg

Maria Ladenburger (aged 19, medical student, daughter of Frederika and EU official and attorney Dr Clemens Ladenburger, refugee aid volunteer, sexually assaulted and **murdered** by an underage Afghan refugee)

Frederika and Dr Clemens Ladenburger (parents of Maria, later wrote an eulogy for their daughter "Maria was for 19 years a singular ray of sunshine for our family, and that she will remain. We thank God for this gift, that he made you with us. We are sure that she is safe with him", asked in memoriam for donations to support refugees)

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

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/739723/Fears-migrant-who-murdered-EU-official-s-daughter-killed-again>

Monday October 17, 2016



Vietnam: Nghe An province

Fr Anthony Dang Huu Nam (under threat of arrest for supporting parishioners who lack food, medicine, and money for their children's education following a local environmental disaster)

Bishop Paul Nguyen Thai Hop (refused a People's Committee demand that Fr Anthony Dang Huu Nam be removed "We have our pastoral plans for this year. Fr Nam will serve again in Phu Yen parish")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Fr-Dang-Huu-Nam,-the-voice-of-justice-against-the-environmental-disaster,-receives-threats,-risks-arrest-38880.html>



China: Guiyang, Guizhou province

Wang Yao (detained on [December 9, 2015](#), accused of 'divulging state secrets'; **UPDATE**: trial held, attorneys and family not permitted to attend)

Pastor Li Guozhi aka Yang Hua (husband of Wang Hongwu, detained on [December 9, 2015](#) for 'illegally holding state secrets'; **UPDATE**: has experienced serious health issues in jail including liver pain, threatened with death, family threatened, attorneys plan to sue the prosecutors for torture)

China: Guiyang, Guizhou province

Li Hongmin (criminally detained on [June 6, 2016](#) on 'illegal business operations' charges for printing religious literature; **UPDATE**: trial held)

Pastor Ma Ke (**UPDATE**: denied entry to the trial of Li Hongmin, said "I asked them why they wouldn't let me in, because I'd applied to add my name to the list a long time ago, and they said they didn't know, but they had to go by the list of names they had, and mine wasn't on it. I just waited outside the court instead...The lawyers told me that the material Li Hongmin had printed was all for internal circulation within the church")

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/10/guangdong-house-church-member-goes-to.html>

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/charges-10192016111556.html>



Pakistan: Rawalpindi

Bishop Rufin Anthony (aged 76; **UPDATE**: **died of natural causes**)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/rawalpindi-bishop-of-islamabad-rawalpindi-diocese-hon-rufin-anthony-passes-away-at-the-age-of-76/>



Kyrgyzstan

Kanygul Satybaldiyeva (aged 76, mother of Zhyldyz Azayeva, **died of natural causes** on **October 13, 2016**, burial in **Sary-Talaa village, Ala-Buka district** prevented by a Muslim mob on **October 14, 2016**, taken to **Oruktu village, Ala-Buka district** and buried, body exhumed by a mob under the watch of NSC secret police; reburied in the **Ala-Buk district's** central cemetery as close to the Orthodox section as possible on **October 15, 2016**; **UPDATE**: exhumed a second time by a mob on **October 17, 2016**, whereabouts unknown)

Zhyldyz Azayeva (daughter of Kanygul Satybaldiyeva, forced to convert to Islam on **October 14, 2016** in an unsuccessful attempt to have her mother buried in **Sary-Talaa village, Ala-Buka district** , threatened with stoning; retrieved her body after the first exhumation in **Oruktu village, Ala-Buka district** by a mob on **October 14, 2016**; **UPDATE**: said she did not attempt to stop the second exhumation in **Ala-Buk district** after police called her on **October 17, 2016** because "I was afraid for my life and also did not want to go through the same humiliation", later said "I continue in my faith in Jesus Christ but I am afraid for my own life, for my 19 year old daughter and 80 year old father. I would like to move out of the area, but cannot leave my father behind...I pray that they did not throw away the body somewhere. I hope that we can soon find out where my mother's body is")

Pastor Nurgazy Babanazarov (reported to have said "We just want peace and that we can peacefully practice our faith. I don't know whether the Imams are provoking people. Whoever is organizing this does it for one purpose: to humiliate in the eyes of society Kyrgyz who became Christian")

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2226



Iraq

Archimandrite Emanuel Youkhana (Christian Aid Program in Northern Iraq; **UPDATE**: wrote concerning the Iraqi military operation to drive ISIL from Mosul "Liberating Mosul means the liberation of Nineveh Plains. Intensive coalition air strikes and heavy shelling from Iraqi Army and Peshmerga started since Sunday evening against ISIL positions in the different front lines heading to Mosul. Normally, such intensive bombing is followed by ground troops advance, maybe this morning. Let us pray for the protection of innocent lives and civilians. Let us pray for political stability post-ISIL, which is the main challenge. Let us pray for the protection of the properties and infrastructure")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20161017184132.htm>



Turkey: Istanbul

Ryan D Keating (aged 39, husband, father of four aged 6 through 12, U.S. citizen, doctoral student in Philosophy of Religion at Ankara University, minister for refugees, denied re-

entry to the country, deported, family remained in the country, said "I've always known that it was possible to get kicked out of Turkey for my Christian beliefs, just like it used to happen in Turkey 10 years ago. But there is no indication why, no evidence or justification for this...it was a shock to be taken into custody, and to hear that I was being given a lifetime ban!... If I can't come back into the country my years of work on my dissertation will be wasted")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4689797/>



Russia: Kemerovo

Pastor Andrei Matyuzhov (charged on [September 27, 2016](#) with illegal missionary activity;

UPDATE: fined US\$63)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2306



Nigeria: Kaduna state

Solomon Musa (attorney; **UPDATE:** said at a press conference “Godogodo communities once again came under very fierce, terrifying, brutal, savage and barbarous attack by Fulani herdsmen without provocation of any nature from Saturday 15th October, 2016, to Sunday afternoon. So far, the locals have been able to identify not less than 40 corpses, aside from the several other corpses burnt beyond recognition. The savagery and barbarity of the attack is beyond belief. Yet, governments at the federal and state levels appear quiet and noncommittal. We have been abandoned, deserted and neglected”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/10/more-than-48-christians-killed-in-kaduna-nigeria-massacres/>

<http://thenationonlineng.net/killings-govt-left-us-mercy-killer-herdsmen/>

Tuesday October 18, 2016



China: Fushun, Liaoning province

Fr Fei Jisheng (aged 40, abducted by authorities in [November 2015](#), released; detained on [June 6, 2016](#) for cross-border evangelization; released in [July 2016](#); **UPDATE**: arrested on charges that he stole a money box from a home for the elderly, Christians believe he was arrested for his evangelization work)

Fr Dong Hongchang (reported on the arrest of Fr Fei Jisheng)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/arrest-of-priest-in-china-is-a-state-secret/77493>



Pakistan: Hari Camp, Kotri, Jamshoro district

Christians were reportedly threatened with death by armed men after leaving a candlelight vigil for Asia Bibi

Sooba Bhatti (attorney)

Bishop Younus Gill

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/extremists-hurl-death-threats-at-christians-who-held-candle-light-vigil-for-asia-bibi/>



Spain: Mostoles

Fr Ignacio Torres (said that his church would be unable to pay a possible fine of US\$17,500 for ringing church bells twice a day at 85 decibels, the bells have been rung since medieval times)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/10/18/church-in-spain-may-be-fined-over-noisy-bells/>

Wednesday October 19, 2016



Pakistan: Farooqabad, Sheikhpura district, Punjab province

Pastor Michael Hussain (son of Robert Hussain, husband, beaten in an attempt to evict his family from their home, hospitalized)

Robert Hussain (father of Pastor Michael Hussain, beaten, hospitalized)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4698717/>



Iran

Pastor Behnam Irani (husband of Kristina Irani, as of [June 8, 2012](#) is still detained in [Karaj](#), is still beaten in prison, is experiencing internal bleeding, has been refused medical care; **UPDATE:** has completed his prison sentence, reported to have been released)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Tehran-frees-Protestant-pastor-sentenced-for-crimes-against-the-state-38906.html>



Ethiopia: Babile

Deborah (aged 18, arrested on [September 20, 2016](#) for distributing a book that gave Christian answers to questions posed in an Islamic book about Christianity, later said "It is an honor to be jailed for God's Kingdom"; **UPDATE:** released on bail, re-arrested hours later, reason unknown)

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



Lebanon: Qaa

Fr Elian Nasrallah (described government actions following the [June 27, 2016](#) terror attacks that have isolated a refugee camp from his town "Before the bombings, we had nearly 350 Syrian children coming to our center every day for classes and activities. It will be hard to convince the kids to come back. But we'll try again. Life has to go on...We're not in a normal situation. What happened was very hard. We need to think about the martyrs and their families")

Fawza Ibrahim Ali (Syrian refugee, said "We're now doing nothing. I get up in my tent, I get cleaned and get dressed, I do my housework, and I sit for the rest of the day. There's nowhere to go...They [the locals] used to come to our tents for tea. Now, we don't get any visitors...I want to return to Raqqa. I know it's impossible. If you saw Raqqa, you wouldn't recognize it anymore. It's over")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20161019052004.htm>



Turkey: Istanbul

Yako Hanna (aged 36, Iraqi refugee, fled [Tel Kaif in Iraq](#) in 2014; **UPDATE**: has been awaiting UN resettlement with family in Australia, said "The first year [as a refugee] was the worst year of my life. My future was unknown. What would I do for work? What would happen when I face a problem here? So many strange thoughts. I cried many times. I had to start not from zero but from under zero")

Basima Kamil (aged 42, wife, mother, Iraqi refugee, teacher, fled [Bagdad in Iraq](#) in December 2012; **UPDATE**: has been awaiting resettlement in Canada, said "I cannot go back to Iraq. Now there are even fewer Christians. And I have daughters, it is more difficult for them")

Turkey: Izmir

Norine Brunson (wife of Andrew Brunson, detained as a 'national security risk' in [Izmir](#) on [October 7, 2016](#), denied access to U.S. diplomats, attorneys, and fellow parishioners, told she would be deported; **UPDATE**: released)

Andrew Brunson (husband of Norine Brunson, detained as a 'national security risk' in [Izmir](#) on [October 7, 2016](#), denied access to U.S. diplomats, attorneys, and fellow parishioners, told he would be deported; **UPDATE**: still held in detention)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20161019160446.htm>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4689797/>

Thursday October 20, 2016



India: Milagres College, Mangalore, Karnataka state

Fr Michael Santhumayor (college administrator, attacked by a student he had warned would have to repeat courses due to skipped classes, hospitalized)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Church-slams-lazy-student-who-assaulted-a-priest-in-Mangalore-38958.html>



Pakistan: Quetta, Baluchistan province

Izhan (aged 9, son of Shakeela Kauser, accused of Quran desecration, arrested, tortured, released the next day after no evidence of desecration was found)

Shakeela Kauser (nurse, mother of three including Izhan, arrested after Izhan was accused of Quran desecration, tortured, released the next day after no evidence of desecration was found)

Fr Renard Lawrence OMI (**UPDATE**: said "We are delighted with this outcome. It is significant. In the province of Baluchistan no one so far has been charged and convicted for blasphemy")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/61066->

[ASIA_PAKISTAN_A_case_of_alleged_blasphemy_solved_thanks_to_political_and_religious_leaders#.WBQFx8KQw5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/61066-ASIA_PAKISTAN_A_case_of_alleged_blasphemy_solved_thanks_to_political_and_religious_leaders#.WBQFx8KQw5s)



Turkey: Izmir

Andrew Brunson (husband of Norine Brunson, detained as a 'national security risk' on [October 7, 2016](#), denied access to U.S. diplomats, attorneys, and fellow parishioners, told he would be deported; **UPDATE**: transferred to another detention center)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4689797/>



Nigeria: Tavhira, Kaura local government area, Kaduna state

Markus Usman (described the murder of a Christian who was dragged into the bush and hacked to death while on his way to church)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/11/fulani-herdsmen-increasingly-militant-in-killing-22-christians-in-kaduna-nigeria/>

Friday October 21, 2016



Turkey: Ankara

Pastor Ihsan Ozbek (Association of Protestant Churches, **UPDATE:** reported to have said "I think the state's interest in us has increased, but not from a positive perspective. If you look at the investigations of foreigners in our churches, you can't find anything illegal. They are not openly accused of anything. Until today we haven't heard of a single solid accusation. But people are denied entry to the country; those here are being deported. This is extremely disturbing...All these arbitrary practices are enabled by the 'state of emergency'")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4689797/>



Congo, Democratic Republic: Katuba, Lubumbashi, Upper Katanga province

Fr Joseph Mulimbi Nguli (aged 52, **shot dead** in his sister's house, appears to have been targeted)

Fr Kalaba (demanded an investigation into the murder of Fr Joseph Mulimbi Nguli)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/61055-AFRICA_DR_CONGO_The_Archdiocese_of_Kisangani_condemns_the_killing_of_Don_Mulimbi#.WBQMV8KQw5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/61055-<u>AFRICA_DR_CONGO_The_Archdiocese_of_Kisangani_condemns_the_killing_of_Don_Mulimbi#.WBQMV8KQw5s</u>)



Cameroon: between Yaounde and Douala

Fr Carlo Girola SX (aged 68, **killed in a railway accident** during torrential rains, 78 others also killed)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/61048-AFRICA_CAMEROON_Even_a_Xaverian_missionary_among_the_79_who_died_in_the_train_crash#.WBQVJsKQw5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/61048-<u>AFRICA_CAMEROON_Even_a_Xaverian_missionary_among_the_79_who_died_in_the_train_crash#.WBQVJsKQw5s</u>)



United States – Kansas: Kansas City

Fr Tom Kearns (aged 82, beaten unconscious outside his church, wallet and automobile stolen, hospitalized, will require surgery to repair his eye socket)

Fr Mark Mertes (reported on the attack against Fr Tom Kearns)

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/82-year-old-priest-attacked-robbed-outside-kansas-city-church>

Saturday October 22, 2016



China: Yunnan

Tu Yan (detained for 'cult activity', released, arrested a month later on the same charge, between 4 and 12 fellow Christians arrested with her, some released)

Su Min (detained for 'cult activity', released, arrested a month later on the same charge)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/03/court-orders-further-investigation-for.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/12/christians-detained-for-cult-activities.html>



Thailand: Bangkok

Ijaz Paras Masih (aged 35, husband of Shahida, father of Joel, Angel, and Smittha, Pakistani asylum applicant, detained on [June 6, 2016](#) for overstaying his visa; **UPDATE:** suffered a stroke while in custody, hospitalized with partial paralysis, later returned to detention)

Shahida (aged 32, Pakistani asylum applicant, wife of Ijaz Paras Masih)

Joel (aged 10, Pakistani asylum applicant, son of Ijaz Paras Masih)

Angel (aged 7, Pakistani asylum applicant, daughter of Ijaz Paras Masih)

Smittha (aged 10 months, Pakistani asylum applicant, child of Ijaz Paras Masih)

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/34-y-o-man-dies-from-neglect-in-thailands-brutal-idc>



Iraq: Erbil

Intisar Match (refugee, spoke on the current offensive "We are so happy, and hopefully we can go back home because we are not comfortable here. We feel stuck here, and there's nothing like being home")

Raeda Paulos (refugee, spoke on the current offensive "We are scared, in case it doesn't go back to normal when they clear the area. Daesh [ISIL] has been there for two years, maybe there are explosives, IEDs or bombs. So we are in a wait-and-see mode right now")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20161021230336.htm>



Israel: Mount Tabor

Auxiliary Bishop Giacinto-Boulos Marcuzzo (**UPDATE**: condemned the vandalism of the Church of the Transfiguration in which the Eucharist and icons were desecrated, a fire was set, and chalices, a statue and offerings were stolen, said "The thieves even stole a bronze statue of Our Lady, which was on the tabernacle. But it is too heavy and they left it almost immediately. Some volunteers found it laying in the garden and put it back in its original place. They took the chalices thinking perhaps that they were precious, and the donation box, which held only a small amount of money although how much, we don't know")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bishop-Marcuzzo's-pain-and-sorrow-for-act-of-vandalism-against-the-Church-of-the-Transfiguration-38963.html>



United Kingdom: Winchester

Margaret Dehqani-Tafti (aged 85, widow of Bishop Hassan Barnaba Dehqani-Tafti, mother of Bahram and three daughters, shot at in **October 1979** while in her bed in **Tehran** by likely by Iranian government agents, injured in her hand; son Bahram shot dead in **May 1980** most likely by Iranian government agents while returning home from the university in **Tehran**; **UPDATE**: **died of natural causes**, buried in Winchester Cathedral alongside her husband, eulogized: "Throughout their life together, Margaret was a constant support to Hassan and as the mother of a martyr, an uncompromising witness to truth. The events of our time remind Christians that the history of their faith is inseparable from the sacrifices and examples that people like the Dehqani-Tafti family set, representing the eternal challenge that believers witness in this fallen world. Their lives have influenced the way we think about faith in God, justice, social engagement and what it means to be the follower of Christ, and stand as testimony to the vast violence that we experience in the present age")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/11/4722465/>

Monday October 24, 2016



Iraq: Erbil

Fr Martin Banni (aged 25, as a seminarian fled [Karamlesh](#) with the Eucharist on [August 7, 2014](#) ahead of the ISIL advance; **UPDATE**: has plans to rebuild schools and hospitals after the defeat of ISIL, said "This is most important because it ensures our people can come back to their homeland and live in peace there once again. The liberation of the region is finally happening and the prospect of going home feels closer now than ever...We want to face our problems and solve them, not to escape from them. A people who have borne all these difficulties can never be broken")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20161021232836.htm>

Tuesday October 25, 2016



Iraq: Erbil

Fr Roni Salim Momika (**UPDATE**: spoke on the liberation of the towns of Bartella and Qaraqosh by the Iraqi army "Yesterday the priests, they entered the church in Bartella and they saw everything was dark, because ISIS burned everything" and "Qaraqosh is liberated. [ISIL] made a big, deep hole [climbed in and] bombed themselves...There are a lot of places destroyed, and ISIS burned our church and ISIS broke all our crosses that were above the churches. It's difficult for us because it's our history. It's a big church in the Middle East, in Qaraqosh")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20161025053710.htm>



Kenya: Mandera

Twelve people were killed in an al-Shabaab terror attack, most if not all were Christians

Veronica Wambui (actor, survived an al-Shabaab terror attack on a guesthouse, injured when an explosion collapsed a wall onto her, shot in the left hand, hospitalized, said "I could see the lights from the torch [flashlight] when they were checking out the room but the collapsed wall had covered me")

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/10/25/12-killed-as-islamist-gunmen-target-christians-in-kenya-shooting/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4694021/>



Colombia: Rionegro

Fr Jose Fortunato Bedoya Franco IMEY (aged 91, **found dead** in a street, a witness said he had been attacked by a man with a syringe in an apparent robbery, still under investigation)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/61054->

[AMERICA COLOMBIA Investigations underway for the death of a 91 year old priest#.WBQJzsKQw5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/61054-AMERICA_COLOMBIA_Investigations_underway_for_the_death_of_a_91_year_old_priest#.WBQJzsKQw5s)

Wednesday October 26, 2016



Pakistan: Kasur

Naeem Nazir (aged 26, applied for a school office assistant position in **March 2010** but was hired as a custodian, filed a religious discrimination lawsuit; **UPDATE**: the court ruled in his favor)

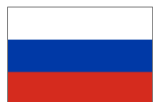
<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/kasur-christian-wins-religious-discrimination-case-against-education-department/>



Iraq: Basra

Nazar Elias Jaji Al Kas Putrus (grocery store owner, **shot dead** because he held a liquor license)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Gunmen-kill-a-Christian-shopkeeper-in-Basra,-the-first-victim-of-Iraq's-anti-alcohol-law-38990.html>



Russia: Ulyanovsk

William Curtis Norton Jr (U.S. citizen, charged with preaching without a work permit, case effectively dismissed)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2306



Germany: Duisburg

A church wedding was reported to have been attacked by a man who fondled a statue of Mary, destroyed wedding decorations and floral arrangements, and shouted "Allahu Akbar" - "God is Greater"

Marcel Lohbeck (aged 35, newlywed husband of Friederike)

Friederike (newlywed wife of Marcel Lohbeck)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3874108/Does-object-marriage-Migrant-screaming-Allahu-Akbar-burts-wedding-German-church-tears-decorations.html>



United States - Georgia

Dr Eric Walsh (public health director, part time minister, job offer with the state Department of Public Health withdrawn on [May 16, 2015](#) after the department investigated the contents of his homilies; **UPDATE:** the state of Georgia has in its defense against his legal suit for religious discrimination demanded all of his homilies and ministerial training documents, reported to have announced that he will fight the request as discriminatory)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/georgia-demands-pastor-surrender-sermons-after-filing-federal-religious-discrimination-claim-171121/>

Thursday October 27, 2016



China: Xinjiang province

Dai (husband of Li, reported to have been arrested with his wife and a visitor, released)

Li (wife of Dai, reported to have been arrested with her husband and a visitor, still in custody along with the visitor)

China: Yulin

Bishop Emeritus Francis Tong Hui (aged 84, jailed in [March 1965](#); released in [January 1980](#); **UPDATE: died of natural causes**)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mgr-Francis-Tong-Hui,-emeritus-bishop-of-Yulin,-dies-38992.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/10/christian-today-china-three-arrested.html>



Myanmar

Archbishop Paul Zingtung Grawng (aged 77, **UPDATE**: spoke on the ongoing conflict in which nearly 1.7 million Christians are at risk "Some of parishes have no villagers left, they are all in the camps for five years. There is no privacy. It creates all sorts of problems. There is a hopelessness. And the children's education is suffering...For a long time, Karuna-Caritas was not allowed into some places, but finally some food was able to be sent. It is the army who is in control of the situation – the army doesn't want peace, and so the fighting goes on. They have used planes to bomb some areas")

<http://www.catholicregister.org/home/international/item/23423-retired-archbishop-says-myanmar-s-kachin-people-live-in-fear>



Pakistan

Fouzia Sadiq (aged 32, mother of Muqadas, Saniya, and Sahil, abducted by her employer in Burj Mahalam Chak No.35, Pattoki on [July 23, 2015](#) and forcibly married and converted to Islam; escaped from her abductor with her brother's help on [February 8, 2016](#), in hiding, accused by her abductor of stealing gold, family has been threatened by police with arrest of an innocent family member if she is not returned; recaptured by her abductor when she went to her mother's home on [March 20, 2016](#) to celebrate Palm Sunday; **UPDATE**: escaped from her abductor with the help of the British-Pakistani Christian Association)

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/miracle-divorce-for-pakistani-christian-rape-and-forced-marriage-victim>



Iraq: Karemlash, Hamdaniyah district, outside Mosul

Fr Paul Thabit Mekko (**UPDATE**: returned to his church after ISIL had been driven out "I can't describe my joy. My hopes have been realized. "I always held onto hope that we would return - and today it came true")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20161027174004.htm>



Russia: Tver

Pastor Ivan Kumbrasyev (fined US\$8 for carrying out religious rites and ceremonies in a sanatorium without permission)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2306



Nigeria: Ungwan Misisi, Jema'a local government area, Kaduna state

Muslim herdsmen attack a village and burn it to the ground

John Zogo (aged 85, village head, **shot dead**)

Yakubu Abuja (aged 80, **shot dead**)

Adamu Bulus (aged, 30, **shot dead**)

Majhe Audu (aged 50, **shot dead**)

Karu Amos (aged 42, **shot dead**)

Confidence Kibadu (aged 29, **shot dead**)

Kurma Amos (aged 44, **shot dead**)

Waje Goska Williams (national chairman of the Kaninkon Development Association, identified the victims, wrote “We are under unprovoked and sustained attacks by people who are not known but who are working closely with the local Fulani people that we have lived with for many years. The motive of the attacks is clearly unknown, but we can see that it is a genocidal mission...The professionalism employed by the attackers is such that [they could be] only trained people who have the backing and aid of some people in government and the security forces. We are particularly worried because there seems to be a conspiracy of silence and complacency on the part of the security agencies and the Kaduna state and federal governments on the plight of our people ... The attacks, especially that of 27th October, wherein the village head of Ungwan Misisi and some elders were gruesomely murdered in cold blood by some people who came as soldiers, clearly shows the conspiracy by the security men in wiping out our people...These attacks have gone on for more than one week, and the security men are either not there, or they are aiding and abetting the attackers to annihilate our people and destroy their hard-earned properties”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/11/fulani-herdsmen-increasingly-militant-in-killing-22-christians-in-kaduna-nigeria/>

Friday October 28, 2016



Russia: Urupsky, Karachai-Cherkessiya region

Alyona Kurganova (fined US\$16 for possession of banned religious literature)

Nadezhda Geraskova (fined US\$16 for possession of banned religious literature)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2287

Saturday October 29, 2016



China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Pastor Zhang Chongzhu (abducted by police on [September 8, 2015](#) in [Tongxiang, Jiaxing, Zhejiang province](#); officially charged on [February 5, 2016](#) with 'stealing, spying, buying, or illegally providing state secrets or intelligence to entities outside China'; released on [May 9, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: expelled from two government religious associations, license to preach revoked)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/11/wenzhou-pastor-ousted-from-position.html>



Iran: Tehran

Four Christians - three Azeris and one Iranian - were detained in a [June 24, 2016](#) police raid on an engagement party

Bahram Nasibov (aged 37, Azeri citizen, husband, father; **UPDATE**: released on bail)

Eldar Gurbanov (aged 48, Azeri citizen, husband, father; **UPDATE**: released on bail)

Naser Navar Gol-Tapeh (aged 45, convert; **UPDATE**: released on bail)

Yusif Farhadov (aged 51, Azeri citizen, husband, father; **UPDATE**: released on bail)

<http://www.meconcern.org/2016/11/07/iran-azerbaijan-christians-conditionally-released-from-prison/>

Sunday October 30, 2016



Pakistan: Manawala, Sheikhpura

Police filed a report against a husband and wife two days after a Quran was desecrated on a neighbor's property, video recordings show they were at work during the crime, the neighbors refused to implicate them

Parvaiz Masih (aged 50, husband of Azra Bibi)

Azra Bibi (wife of Parvaiz Masih)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/11/4708039/>

Monday October 31, 2016



India: Kuther village, Bastar district, Chhattisgarh state

Sukru Kashyap (aged 60, husband, father of Sularam Kashyap; beaten by Hindu radicals in his home in [Kuther village, Bastar district, Chhattisgarh state](#) and hospitalized on [October 8, 2016](#); evicted from the [Jagdapur](#) hospital by police on [October 15, 2016](#) after he gave testimony about the attack to an aid worker; **UPDATE: died of his injuries**)

Sularam Kashyap (husband of Sudri, son of Sukru Kashyap; beaten by Hindu radicals in his home in [Kuther village, Bastar district, Chhattisgarh state](#) and hospitalized on [October 8, 2016](#); evicted from the [Jagdapur](#) hospital by police on [October 15, 2016](#) after he gave testimony about the attack to an aid worker; **UPDATE: prevented from burying his father by local Hindus, was able to bury him the next day with police protection**)

<http://www.persecution.org/2016/11/02/christian-family-in-indias-bastar-district-brutally-beaten-by-suspected-hindu-radicals/>



Algeria: a village outside Tizi-Ouzou, Kabylie region

Amar (aged 70, convert, **died of natural causes**, denied a Christian burial)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/11/4710188/>

October 2016, date unknown



China

Tu Yulei (detained by police in [Guiyang, Guizhou province](#) on [December 22, 2015](#) along with his daughter; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 1 year's imprisonment)

Wang Yao (detained in [Guiyang, Guizhou province](#) on [December 9, 2015](#), accused of 'divulging state secrets; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/05/guizhou-officials-levy-7-million-yuan.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; released on [September 23, 2016](#) with serious internal injuries, never charged; **UPDATE**: left the area when police threatened to arrest anyone caught praying with him)

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



Iraq: Qaraqosh

Zarifa Bakoos Daddo (aged 77, widow, housemate of Badriya, said after being freed from ISIL control "One time, a young one, maybe 20 or 21, came and said we should convert. I told

him we had our beliefs and they had theirs, He told me to spit on a picture of the Virgin Mary and a crucifix. I refused but he made me. The whole time I was telling God in my heart that I did not mean any of this, I knew God heard me because he tried to burn the picture and his lighter didn't work...The whole time I prayed for my people, for the town, and also for these ISIL members, that God may open their hearts, My Arabic got better from being around them, so something came out of it, thank God")

Badriya (housemate of Zarifa Bakoos Daddo)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20161116005622.htm>



Palestine: Gaza

Archbishop Alexios (as of [July 28, 2012](#) is demanding that forced conversions to Islam cease; **UPDATE:** “confirmed that the Christians who converted to Islam did so under threats, coercion, compulsion, and force”, demanded in [mid-October 2016](#) that the government investigate forced conversions but received no reply)

<http://raymondibrahim.com/2016/11/01/forced-conversion-christians-gaza/>



United States – California: San Bernardino

Fr James Linton (husband, father of Grace aged 4, Augustine aged 3, and newborn Zoe, arrested for obstructing a business after offering to pray with clients of an abortion clinic)

<http://www.charismanews.com/politics/press-releases/61549-can-you-be-arrested-for-praying-just-because-of-where-you-do-it>

Today's Martyrs

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