

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – November 2016

**Tuesday November 1, 2016**



### **Pakistan: Karachi**

Shalokh Irfan (magazine manager, son of David Irfan, family threatened over his publishing activities that 'propagate Christianity')

Jacqueline Sultan (attorney, called for police protection for Shalokh Irfan and his family)

Chaudhary Azra (attorney, called for police protection for Shalokh Irfan and his family)

Sumaira Gill (attorney, called for police protection for Shalokh Irfan and his family)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6182>



### **Egypt: Beni Suef**

Vena Ashraf (reported to have been abducted, **murdered**, jewelry taken)

### **Egypt: near Samalout, Minya province**

Viola Samir (aged 7, described how eight Christians in her class were prevented from attending Christian instruction by their teacher, one was beaten for not learning the Quran by heart, father later said "When my daughter told the teacher that the extra texts were not part of the Arabic curriculum, she was severely punished by her teacher. The Christian religious studies teacher complained to the headmaster, but he took no disciplinary action against the Muslim teacher. In the end, the teacher allowed the Christian children to leave the class to join their Christian studies class")

### **Egypt: Samalout, Minya province**

Abanob Milad (aged 11, father said "Once, the teacher, Mohamed, caned Abanob on the back of his hands, afterwards forcing him to stand with his face to the board and both arms up in the air for the entire length of the lesson. My son had failed to repeat the Quranic text by heart when prompted")

**Egypt: Delga village, near the city of Dayr Mawas, Minya province**

Kyrellos Shafiq (aged 9, reported to have been given a zero for his homework, father said "The teacher made the other students pin down my son as he gave him the bastinado, caning him on his bare feet. It seems only Christians are given this punishment. They're 12 out of 42 in my son's class")

**Egypt: Abu-Teig, Assiut province**

Maccar Aziz (aged 10, told by a Muslim friend that the teacher had told the Muslim students to ostracize the Christian students on religious grounds)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1763&A=27925>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/11/4703212/>



**Cyprus: Nicosia**

Archbishop Chrysostomos II (**UPDATE**: stated that he wants to create Christians schools to teach children Orthodox values, now under attack by an LGBT group which stated that his statement is a violation of the criminal code and that he should be prosecuted)

<http://in-cyprus.com/lgbti-group-call-for-legal-action-against-archbishop/>



**United Kingdom: Telford, West Mercia**

Rev Keith Osmund-Smith (reported go have been fired as a police chaplain after he released police information regarding police failure to apprehend members of a Muslim rape gang)

<https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/emergency-services/2016/11/01/west-mercias-police-chaplain-suspended-after-comments-on-child-sex-exploitation/>

**Wednesday November 2, 2016**



**India: Telangana**

Pastor G Suvarna Raju (church demolished, said “Many of our believers are day laborers and can hardly meet their daily needs. Yet, with their meager earnings, they sacrificially provided for the church construction, including offering their own free labor to build the church. Today, all of our years of work and labor were brought down to the dust. We are not sure if we can build it again”)

Mrs Shamala (said “There were around 10 of us inside the church having a prayer meeting. Our fellow believers pulled us out, but then we were manhandled by the male policemen when we refused to get out of the way of the bulldozer”)

Mrs Dayamani (aged 40, right ankle fractured by police during the church demolition)

Sunitha (aged 28, fainted during the church demolition, hospitalized)

<http://www.persecution.org/2016/11/19/demolition-of-church-in-telangana-leaves-christian-community-with-little-hope/>



### **Kazakhstan: Karaganda**

Natalya Konopleva (cited for selling a religious newspaper from her shop on [October 1, 2016](#);  
**UPDATE:** fined US\$316)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2281](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2281)



### **Lebanon**

Kristina (aged 28, wife, mother of an 18 month old daughter, Syrian refugee, told of stories reported from her friends in Aleppo “But you know what’s surprising? The church is still full, displaced people take their place. Especially Muslims are coming to the church now...That absolutely did not happen before the war. Still the Muslims are afraid – especially when entering and leaving the building – but they are there. The children have opened the church’s doors, then the women followed, and finally the men...Many Muslims were genuinely surprised when they met Christian women in our churches willing to serve them. Their image was that all Christian women spend most of their days dancing in night clubs and drinking alcohol! Meeting each other was a shock, both for them and for us...For the first time in history, Muslims are coming to us. The only thing we have to do is tell them the good news, they are waiting for it. They realize that, when living in a Christian environment, the [Gospel] will be shared. They may even see it as a sign of weakness if it isn’t...Many are re-thinking the faith they grew up in and have dropped their hostility towards Christians”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/11/4705949/>



### **United States – Mississippi: Greenville**

Rev Carilyn F Hudson (church heavily damaged in an arson attack with political overtones, said "Our hearts are broken, but we are not angry. We are saddened, but we do know that all things work together for good to those that love the Lord")

<http://www.clarionledger.com/story/news/2016/11/02/vote-trump-painted-burned-black-church-ms/93161132/>

**Thursday November 3, 2016**



### **Turkmenistan Boldumsaz district**

Vepa Bahromovich Matyakubov (aged 19, brother of Dovran Matyakubov, conscientious objector, forcibly taken to a military conscription office, released)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2318](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2318)



### **United States - Rhode Island: Providence**

Dr Anthony Esolen (professor at Providence College, under pressure to resign after publishing two articles on the existence of “the Totalitarian Diversity Cult” at the college, has been charged with making 'racist, xenophobic, misogynist, homophobic, and religiously chauvinist statements')

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/providence-college-rebukes-professor-after-students-protest-his-lack-o>

**Friday November 4, 2016**



### **Indonesia: Jakarta**

Basuki Tjahaja Purnama aka Ahok (governor, reported on [October 12, 2016](#) to have been accused of blasphemy after he stated that the Quran should not be used for political purposes, apologized, forgiven by some Muslims; **UPDATE**: object of a demonstration by 150,000 Muslims with banners reading "Arrest Asok for insulting Islam" and "Kill Asok")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/jakartas-christian-governor-under-blasphemy-attack-again/77550>



### **Pakistan: Lahore**

Monica (aged 12, abducted and forced into an Islamic marriage on [August 11, 2016](#); father threatened with harassment charges by police after he challenged the legality of the marriage certificate on [August 15, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: father reported to have died following a telephone conversation with her abductor, had said – likely under coercion – that she did not want to return to her family)

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



### **Switzerland**

Pirmin Muller (filed a petition to prevent the removal of crosses in public spaces: “Our state should be religiously neutral. But public space is not the same as the state: it can and should be the mirror of our history which is steeped in Christianity, our identity and our culture, our traditions and our values”)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/25000-swiss-citizens-sign-petition-asking-not-to-remove-crucifixes-from-public-places/>



### **United Kingdom: Branford**

Nissar Hussain (convert from Islam, husband of Kubra, as of [October 2, 2015](#) has fled his home after more attacks and police inaction; attacked by two masked men when he left his home on [November 17, 2015](#), beaten with the shaft of a pickaxe, suffered fractures in his left kneecap and left hand, underwent surgery to insert pins in the fractured bones; **UPDATE**: warned by police of an imminent threat to his life, moved to a safe house,

allowed to return to his home with a large police escort to remove personal items, said "My family and I have suffered greatly we have been under the cosh for so many years and the persecution has now reached epic levels. We simply have found the threat to our lives an untenable situation and in recent months in discussion with the British Pakistani Christian Association we have decided to move to a place of safety. Despite the hatred we have received we hold no animosity towards Muslims quite conversely we continue to have Muslim friends and pray for those who persecute us hoping one day they will recognize the commonality we share through our humanity")

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/uk-convert-from-islam-to-christianity-forced-to-flee-his-home-after-police-warn-of-serious-threats-t>

**Saturday November 5, 2016**



#### **Syria: Aleppo**

Archbishop Joseph Tobij (wrote concerning the continued fighting "Some civilians wanted to leave, but this was not possible...mortar shells also hit schools. The inhabitants are again terrified. Those who live in Hamadaniye and Halab al Jadida areas have left their homes. The latest attacks have forced thousands of families to flee to safer areas")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/61112-ASIA SYRIA The Maronite Archbishop of Aleppo truce has failed Firing on civilians who wanted to flee the rebel held neighborhoods#.WCE-F8KQw5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/61112-ASIA_SYRIA_The_Maronite_Archbishop_of_Aleppo_truce_has_failed_Firing_on_civilians_who_wanted_to_flee_the_rebel_held_neighborhoods#.WCE-F8KQw5s)



#### **Nigeria: Pulka, Borno state**

Maryam Ali Maiyanga (schoolgirl, abducted on [April 14, 2014](#) in [Chibok, Borno state](#) by Boko Haram gunmen; **UPDATE**: escaped along with her 10 month old son, found by an army unit)

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

**Sunday November 6, 2016**



## **Bangladesh: Gaibandha district**

**Police along with local Muslims attempted to arrest 300 Christian tribal people as part of a land dispute, three were killed and dozens injured, many fled, some fought back with bows and arrows, homes were looted**

Nirmal Rozario (general secretary of the Bangladesh Christian Association: **UPDATE:** said "We saw police attack minority Christians. Since they are tribal, police thought they were weak and struck them hard. We condemn this indecent act and demand an investigation")

Fr Samson Marandy (brother of murder victim Ovidio Marandy; **UPDATE:** said that the people who had their homes looted now have no food, added "After 1962, the government bought 774,000 hectares of land that belonged to the Santal, where they grow sugar cane. The agreement provided that the land would be used only for this type of crop. If another crop was introduced, the land would go back to the original owners. In 2003, the local government suspended sugarcane production and so local Tribals asked for their land...These people have been living in absolute fear since the attacks; they don't have food, can't get medical treatment and don't have an income. We have been in touch with Caritas and the nuns for support. Some of them have also taken shelter in church buildings. But we can't do anything openly because the issue is so political")

Bishop Sebastian Tudu (**UPDATE:** said "I am very concerned by the incident, some people are also missing...Our people live in fear and cannot leave their homes for security reasons...I think that the attack was carried out because the victims are a minority and Christian. I call on the government to ensure the security of our people")

Emmanuel Baskey (father of three, said "We can't walk out of the village to find work. We have no food and no money, so we have been starving since the eviction on Sunday night. We are trying to survive on a few kilograms of rice, oil, lentils and few scraps of clothing. Besides burning my house, the attackers have looted my cows, goats, power tiller and water irrigation pump. I don't know how to recover from the great loss", added that 30 men are missing "We don't know what happened to them. Maybe they were killed or forcibly disappeared. We are ready to die but we won't give up our movement to claim our ancestral land")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Attack-on-Santal-Christians-in-Gaibandha-was-premeditated-39108.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/evicted-tribal-people-face-food-crisis-in-bangladesh/77602>



## **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; released on bail on [October 29, 2016](#);  
**UPDATE:** left the country)

Eldar Gurbanov (aged 48, Azeri citizen, husband, father; released on bail on [October 29, 2016](#);  
**UPDATE:** left the country)

Yusif Farhadov (aged 51, Azeri citizen, husband, father; released on bail on [October 29, 2016](#);  
**UPDATE:** left the country)

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



### **Syria: on the road between Aleppo and Homs**

Bishop Raban Boutros Kassis (shot twice in the shoulder, hospitalized, said "I thank God who protected and kept me alive. I thank God because in this condition and in this experience I can share the cross with so many people that today suffer in Syria, especially in Aleppo. Every day we suffer assaults and bombings, every day people are wounded and die. I am happy to taste the bitterness of the cross, in communion with Christ and with so many innocent people who suffer. We have the certainty that death is not the last word, but that the end is Resurrection")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/61135-ASIA\\_SYRIA\\_Syrian\\_Orthodox\\_Patriarchal\\_Vicar\\_of\\_Aleppo\\_wounded\\_by\\_a\\_gunman\\_I\\_share\\_the\\_cross\\_of\\_those\\_who\\_suffer#.WCP2BsKQw5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/61135-ASIA_SYRIA_Syrian_Orthodox_Patriarchal_Vicar_of_Aleppo_wounded_by_a_gunman_I_share_the_cross_of_those_who_suffer#.WCP2BsKQw5s)

**Monday November 7, 2016**



### **Pakistan: Peshawar**

Rt Rev Sarfarz Humphrey Peters (**UPDATE:** called on the government to work to stop anti-Christian blasphemies from being propagated on social media)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/peshawar-christians-exasperated-over-blasphemous-posts-on-social-media/>

**Tuesday November 8, 2016**





## **Uzbekistan**

Tohar Haydarov (sentenced to 10 years imprisonment in **Gulistan** in **March 2010** on fabricated drug charges, as of **April 17, 2013** has not been allowed to have a Bible; as of **January 5, 2016** has been told that he will not be paroled in 2016, visitor hours have been curtailed since the death of his mother, has complained about salt in his drinking water but has been restricted to 12 kilograms of outside supplies per year; **UPDATE**: released on parole, returned home)

Gleb Serin (brother of Andrey Serin; **UPDATE**: said "Tohar [Haydarov] was amnestied for his good behavior, and because he had already served more than half of his prison term")

Andrey Serin (brother of Gleb Serin, said "Tohar [Haydarov] was released quietly, which came as a surprise to him and us, and no one was there to meet him outside the prison when he was released")

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2232](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2232)



## **Russia: Primorsky, Novorossiysk, Krasnodar region**

S A Gerbusheva (fined US\$16 for distribution of banned religious literature)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2287](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2287)



## **Canada**

Michael Shea (president of the Catholic Alliance for Canada, defended Catholic hospitals from attempts to force them to euthanize patients "Life is sacred and the dignity of the person is important. These organizations neither prolong dying nor hasten death, and that's a pretty fundamental value for them")

## **Canada: London, Ontario**

Bishop Ronald Peter Fabbro CSB (criticized the legal requirement that Christian doctors must refer patients to doctors who will perform euthanasia after one Catholic and four Evangelical doctors came under 'extremely aggressive cross-examination' about their religious beliefs by the College of Physicians and Surgeons, which could revoke their medical licenses)

## **Canada: Vancouver, British Columbia**

Archbishop J Michael Miller (wrote against government pressure to force Catholic hospitals to perform euthanasia)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/in-canada-assisted-suicide-could-also-kill-catholic-healthcare-64033/>

**Wednesday November 9, 2016**



## **Myanmar: Yangon**

Cardinal Charles Maung Bo SDB (aged 68, **UPDATE**: called on the government to return schools to the church that were nationalized in 1965, said "The church is ready to contribute once again")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/cardinal-bo-wants-return-of-nationalized-church-run-schools/77582>



## **Uzbekistan: Termez, Jarkurgan district, Surkhandarya region**

Shokir Rakhmatullayev (jailed for 5 days, fined 15% of one month's salary after police seized religious items in his home)

Dmitri Inyushev (jailed for 5 days, fined 15% of one month's salary after police seized religious items in his home)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2235](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2235)



## **Syria: Aleppo**

Pastor Alim (alias, said "The situation in Aleppo has been unstable for a long time now. Ceasefires only last for a short time. As soon as the people catch breath, the fighting starts again...Many women and children from the other part have come to our area. Our church is able to help a total of 2,000 families, I think half of them are Muslims...We help some of them pay their rent and offer towards their medical needs. Our church has dug a well to provide clean drinking water...The other day, as we finished our meeting on

Friday, a bomb exploded next to the church, killing a young girl and her brother. On Sunday, when we were getting ready for church, bombs exploded around our house. I couldn't send my children to school. We had high expectations of a ceasefire, but they didn't last. People get really depressed, they feel there is no hope... We used to live on the fourth floor, very close to the frontline, the so-called 'red line'. We moved further away to my parents' house. Shortly after, a rocket hit very close to our apartment. One of our relatives died, shrapnel hit our house and broke through the walls... Every day we hear of someone who has died, every day we are surrounded by death. We feel the pain, but for those who died we cannot do anything. We can make a difference for the living, we can help them")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/11/4719070/>



**Russia: Kaliningrad**

I V Parmon (acquitted of having promoted religious literature)

**Russia: Tver**

Ebenezer Tuah (Ghanaian citizen, detained on [July 31, 2016](#) for performing baptisms in a sanatorium, fined US\$748 on [August 1, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2306](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2306)



**Nigeria: Kaduna state**

Pastor Dauda Samson (reported on the killing of one Christian in Tudun Wada on November 4, 2016, and the killings of three Christians in Angwan Ali, nine in Pasakori village, seven in Ungwan Misisi and one in Angwan Kagoro-Gidan Waya, all on October 27, 2016, added "Two churches were destroyed at Angwan Ali and Sabon Gari villages, while all 22 Christians killed by the herdsmen are members of local church congregations in area villages")

Aku Hosea (reported to have said "We are very disturbed that it is no longer safe to carry out our day-to-day activities, especially congregating to worship in our various churches. Our farms too, have become no-go areas, as Christian farmers get killed on their farms on a daily basis")

**Nigeria: Kafanchan village, Kaduna state**

Grace Daniel (reported to have said "Most Christian villages are now desolate, and Christians are now displaced persons. Many have been killed and their homes destroyed")

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



### **United Kingdom**

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns; **UPDATE:** defended an unnamed Christian couple who have been denied to opportunity to adopt their foster children due to their traditional Christian beliefs, wrote "This couple's viewpoint is lawful and mainstream. The expression of a view that a child needs a mother and a father cannot justify a refusal to even consider a married couple's application to adopt. The separation of this couple from the children at this time is unthinkable....We warned Parliament that the so-called equality developments would damage freedom for Christians to live and speak out their faith – and engage fully with social needs in the nation. This is another in a long line of examples of the results of this ill-thought-through legislation, resulting in the potential heart-breaking separation of young children from the foster parents in whose care they are thriving, and where they feel love and security")

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/adoption/foster-parents-prevented-from-adoption-because-they-believe-a-child-should-hav>

**Thursday November 10, 2016**



### **China: Hunan province**

Pastor Li Jiang (reported to have been detained while on his way to a pastoral conference in Hong Kong, wrote "Sorry I'm unable to make it due to the current situation but will pray for all of you")

Miao Yu (reported to have been detained for six days while on the way to a pastoral conference in Hong Kong)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/11/church-leaders-detained-en-route-to.html>



### **Indonesia: Aceh province**

### **Christians from 11 churches that were demolished in 2015 continue to worship, some in tents in the woods**

Noldi (said many Christians remain fearful of attack “The perpetrators live in the neighborhood and they always watch my church members’ activities”)

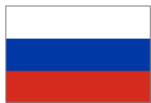
Boru Manik (said “I’m sad that we have to worship in tents in the middle of a palm-oil plantation. But we’re keeping our spirits high”)

Natanael ‘Wahed’ Tumangger (convicted of killing a Muslim in the 2015 clashes despite the only evidence being the color of his clothes and having been denied legal representation, appeal underway, repeatedly beaten in prison, said “There’s nothing to worry about me here. But what about my wife and our four children? How are they going to survive in my absence?”)

### **Indonesia: Pertabas village, Aceh province**

Berutu (said of attempts to rebuild the demolished churches, including her own “The government is afraid of pressures from Muslim clerics and extremists. When they gave instructions to knock down our church, they were no longer our protectors”, added that Christians were under pressure to support Muslims in the election who had persecuted them “Vote wisely for your leaders – our fate for the next five years depends on it”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/11/4721193/>



### **Russia: Sharypovo, Krasnoyarsk region**

Igor Osipenko (fined US\$480 because the sign outside his church did not state its full legal name)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2306](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2306)

**Friday November 11, 2016**



### **China: Nanyang, Henan**

Pastor Kang Jinqun (denied documents to travel to Hong Kong, incorrectly labeled as a Falun Gong member, stated that he fears he will be persecuted as Falun Gong)

### **China: Xinjiang province**

**Police raid a church and close a Bible training class**

Li Rong (sentenced to 15 days' administrative detention)

Liu Peijin (sentenced to 15 days' administrative detention)

Wang Yubiao (sentenced to 15 days' administrative detention [unconfirmed])

Wang Encheng (released [unconfirmed])

Wang Hailong (released [unconfirmed])

David (released)

Gu Li (released)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/11/officials-blacklist-pastor-as-cult.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/11/xinjiang-escalates-pressure-against.html>



### **Pakistan: Gujranwala**

#### **Christians protested the seizure of a Christian cemetery**

Pastor Binyamin Mattu

Izhaq Masih

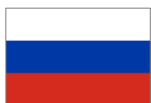
<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/gujranwala-christians-rant-and-rave-over-illegal-seizure-of-graveyard/>



### **Iraq: Gogjali**

Umm Al'aa (aged 40, alias, widow of Mohammed, refused to abort the baby conceived when she was raped by an ISIL fighter, said "He's my son; he's not the son of ISIL", named him Mohammed)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20161110204849.htm>



### **Russia: Kaliningrad**

Ts Kus (foreign citizen, acquitted of having promoted religious literature)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2306](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2306)



## Algeria

Slimane Bouhafs (aged 49, father of Tileli, arrested in [Setif](#) on blasphemy charges on [July 31, 2016](#), suffers from inflammatory rheumatism, sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment on [August 7, 2016](#); sentence reduced on [September 7, 2016](#) to 3 years' imprisonment, fine of US\$900 dropped, appeal still underway; **UPDATE**: reported to have been threatened with assault after prison inmates saw a video of a Muslim preacher calling for non-Muslims to be "punished")

<http://www.persecution.org/2016/11/16/the-christian-silmane-bouhafs-is-threatened-by-fellow-inmates-in-prison/>



## Mexico: Veracruz

Fr Jose Luis Sanchez Ruiz (abducted after criticizing corruption and crime)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/61172-AMERICA\\_MEXICO\\_Kidnapped\\_and\\_tortured\\_the\\_priest\\_who\\_condemned\\_crime\\_and\\_corruption#.WCnU4sKQw5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/61172-AMERICA_MEXICO_Kidnapped_and_tortured_the_priest_who_condemned_crime_and_corruption#.WCnU4sKQw5s)

**Sunday November 13, 2016**



## Indonesia: East Kalimantan

**A church was attacked with Molotov cocktails by an ISIL sympathizer**

Olivia Intan Marbun (aged 2, hospitalized, **died of her injuries**)

Triniti Hutahayan (aged 4, hospitalized in serious condition)

Anita Sinaga (aged 4, hospitalized in serious condition)

Alfaro Sinaga (aged 5, hospitalized in serious condition)

Roina Simanjuntak (aunt of Triniti Hutahayan, later said that her family would rely on God to decide if any revenge would be taken against the attacker, said "I have a big hope that my family members, especially Triniti's mother, can face this hard time. She is still in trauma after seeing what happened to her child")

Rev Sabar Maringan Manullang (said "Some parents brought their children in. But some children refused to come into the church. So they were hurt in the bomb attack...If the pastor had not asked parents to bring their children in, the number of victims would have been higher")

Rev Gomar Gultom (said that all religious leaders needed to spread messages of peace and humanity)

Archbishop Yustinus Harjosusanto (said "Following the bomb attack, all parishes in Samarinda were guarded by security forces during their Sunday afternoon Mass celebrations")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Child-injured-in-Samarinda-church-bomb-attack-has-died-39125.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/bomb-attack-on-protestant-church-in-indonesia-kills-infant/77617>



#### **Uganda: Bufuja village, Butaleja district**

Malik Higenyi (aged 30, convert from Islam, husband, father of two, beaten after publicly acknowledging his conversion, right hand broken, head injured, said "The attackers hit me with a blunt object, and I fell down and did not know what happened from there. I just found myself at Bufuja health center")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/11/former-muslim-sheikh-in-eastern-uganda-attacked-for-embracing-christianity/>



#### **Nigeria: Demsa, Adamawa state**

##### **A church organized a service to pray for divine intervention from Muslim attacks**

Stephen Babbada (called for peace and dialog)

Robinson Parsom (evangelist, said "The farmers and herdsmen must live in peace with one another, this barbaric act must be stopped. For the past 20 years I have never witnessed such wanton destruction of lives and properties")

Rev Vinkho Myambabagi (called on Christians to shun hatred and show love, and hold onto God as they cope with the economic recession and their agricultural activities)

#### **Nigeria: Kitakum, Kaduna state**

##### **Muslim herdsmen attack 5 villages, kill at least 45**

Samuel Adamu (said "They laid siege to the village before they started shooting sporadically and throwing explosives at our homes. They were armed with guns, knives, machetes and



explosives. They slaughtered, butchered women, children and old people who could not escape”)

<http://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/north-east/215262-herdsmen-attack-adamawa-community-seeks-divine-intervention.html>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/11/4735147/>



### **Mexico: Veracruz**

Fr Jose Luis Sanchez Ruiz (abducted on **November 11, 2016** after criticizing corruption and crime; **UPDATE**: released, had been tortured)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/61172->

[AMERICA MEXICO Kidnapped and tortured the priest who condemned crime and corruption#.WCnU4sKQw5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/61172-AMERICA_MEXICO_Kidnapped_and_tortured_the_priest_who_condemned_crime_and_corruption#.WCnU4sKQw5s)

**Monday November 14, 2016**



### **Philippines**

Archbishop Socrates Villegas (**UPDATE**: said "Persecution is not limited to violence. Bashing in social media where truth is made to appear as a lie and a lie appears to be true is another form of persecution. Whenever we talk to call for respect of human life and dignity, we are tagged as an enemy and become targets of trolls")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/philippine-church-faces-religious-persecution/77614>



### **Kazakhstan: Oskemen, East Kazakhstan region**

**Three elderly Christians were detained on **October 14, 2016** for praying with residents of a hospice, **UPDATE**: each fined US\$225**

Lyudmila Kerbele

Nadezhda Krasilnikova

Lidiya Kosatova

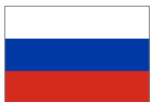
[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2240](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2240)



**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; released on [October 9, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: appeals court revoked the order to close the school, said “The court has ordered that the school continue to function with the current administration without interference from the commissioner. Things are normal, thank God”)

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



**Russia: Kemerovo**

Pastor Irina Tishchenko (detained on [August 23, 2016](#) for a religious meeting in a private home; fined on [September 14, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2306](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2306)

**Tuesday November 15, 2016**



**China: Shaanxi province**

Gao Zhisheng (aged 52, husband of Geng He, Christian human rights attorney; **UPDATE**: reported to have disappeared after agents from Beijing arrived at his home and destroyed a copy of his new book, *Year 2017, Stand Up China*, which had been sent him from friends overseas)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/11/epoch-times-chinese-rights-lawyer-gao.html>



### **Ethiopia: Babile**

Several Christians were arrested for distributing a book that gave Christian answers to questions posed in an Islamic book about Christianity; **UPDATE:** four teenaged girls who had distributed the books were sentenced to one month's imprisonment on a charge of inciting religious violence, their pretrial incarceration was not counted as time served, transferred to a prison for common criminals

Eden (aged 15, arrested along with her mother on [September 20, 2016](#), 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”; **UPDATE:** sentenced)

Gifti (aged 14, arrested on [September 23, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** sentenced)

Mihiret (aged 14, arrested on [September 23, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** sentenced)

Deborah (aged 18, arrested on [September 20, 2016](#), later said “It is an honor to be jailed for God’s Kingdom”; released on bail on [October 19, 2016](#), re-arrested hours later; **UPDATE:** sentenced)

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



### **Egypt: Minya**

Fr Bemwa Gaber (explosive device reported to have been planted at his church, diffused by police, said hundreds in the church could have been wounded, again called on officials to allow construction of a security wall around the church)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1773&A=28294>



### **Russia**

Donald J Ossevaarde (U.S. citizen, husband of Ruth, convicted on [August 14, 2016](#) on illegal missionary charges after hosting prayer meetings and Bible study in his home, fined US\$700; appeal denied [September 30, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** second appeal denied)

### **Russia: Kaliningrad**

S A Furman (acquitted)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2306](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2306)

Wednesday November 16, 2016



### Indonesia: Jakarta

Basuki Tjahaja Purnama aka Ahok (governor, reported on [October 12, 2016](#) to have been accused of blasphemy after he stated that the Quran should not be used for political purposes, apologized, forgiven by some Muslims; object of a [November 4, 2016](#) demonstration by 150,000 Muslims with banners reading "Arrest Asok for insulting Islam" and "Kill Asok" **UPDATE:** named as a suspect in a police blasphemy investigation despite the fact that a professor of communications has admitted to altering a recording of his original speech to incriminate him, prohibited from leaving the country, if convicted he could be sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Jakarta,-Christian-governor-Ahok-to-go-on-trial-for-blasphemy-39149.html>



### China: Guizhou province

Pastor Li Guozhi aka Yang Hua (husband of Wang Hongwu, detained on [December 9, 2015](#) for 'illegally holding state secrets'; as of [October 19, 2016](#) has experienced serious health issues in jail including liver pain, threatened with death, family threatened, attorneys plan to sue the prosecutors for torture; **UPDATE:** reported to have written a letter to his wife in which he stated that he was cured of his scabies infection, told her to not worry)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/11/dont-worry-imprisoned-pastor-writes-in.html>



### Kazakhstan: Lisakovsk, Kostanai region

Mikhail Amanov (fined 35 MFIs for allowing a child to attend a religious service when one parent objected)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2324](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2324)



## **Iraq: Mosul**

Ismail Matti (aged 14, son of Jandar Nasi, unable to flee during the [August 2014 ISIL takeover](#) due to his mother's illness, forced to convert to Islam, whipped when he did not attend mosque; **UPDATE**: reported to have been freed)

Jandar Nasi (mother of Ismail Matti, chronic migraine sufferer, unable to flee during the [August 2014 ISIL takeover](#); forced to convert to Islam; **UPDATE**: reported to have been freed)

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



## **Turkey**

Tuma Celik (documented the history of attempts by the government to seize the oldest Assyrian monastery, said "When we take into account all of these demands we see that the Turkish state is trying to harass Assyrians. The lands that are the subject of the lawsuits have no economic value. But Assyrians often visit there because the monastery is sacred to them. The Turkish state attacks this sacred site to abuse Assyrians and indirectly convey this message: 'You will either live as I want you to live or you will leave these lands.' The state does so because Assyrians have been taking steps to return to their ancestral lands in Turkey since the 2000s...In 2013, President Erdogan, who was prime minister at the time, promised in televised comments that he would return the lands that were unjustly seized from the monastery. Ever since, 12 parcels of land have been given back to the monastery but 18 are still in the hands of those who have seized them")

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/9326/turkey-syriac-monastery>



## **Nigeria: Kaduna state**

Rev Zachariah Gado (said regarding the [November 13, 2016 attacks](#) "We have come to the unfortunate conclusion that the announced intention of the Kaduna state government - to re-create existing cattle grazing reserves in Southern Kaduna - serves as a major motivation for the renewed ethno-religious violence and cleansing currently being visited on southern Kaduna communities...Since the violent aftermath of the 2011 Presidential election, there have been increasing indications of the existence of a desperate, well-funded, organized and executed campaign not only to make life unbearable for the entire southern Kaduna territory through threats, intimidation and psychological warfare, but also to occupy the land through what can only be described as ethno-religious cleansing by Fulani herdsmen militia")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/11/4735147/>



### **Spain: Pamplona**

Polonia Catellanos (Christian Lawyers Association, reported on [November 23, 2015](#) to have said that the association would bring legal action against the Pamplona city council that allowed an art exhibit in a municipal building in which 240 stolen consecrated hosts were used to spell the Spanish word for 'Pederasty', had already brought suit against the artist; **UPDATE:** objected to a judge's dismissal of the association's suit against the artist after the judge falsely ruled '...nowhere in the exhibit was it indicated that the hosts with which he had spelled out the word 'pederasty' were consecrated hosts...', said that judge made an effort to "rule out deliberate harmful intent" and that an appeal would be filed)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/stealing-hosts-for-anti-catholic-art-not-illegal-spanish-judge-says-18013/>

**Thursday November 17, 2016**



### **Azerbaijan: Goranboy**

Jaarey Suleymanova (fined US\$1,166 for her Bible discussions)

Gulnaz Israfilova (fined US\$1,166 for her Bible discussions)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2247](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2247)



### **Nigeria: Lo-Birin village, Plateau state**

#### **Muslims attacked a village just 30 minutes after it was visited by UK Member of Parliament Baroness Caroline Cox and U.S. Bishop Stewart Ruch III**

Evangelist Hassan John (witnessed the attack, said "God protected our team and we had escaped the ambush set for us. No one was hurt. Just for those that came after us on the same village road. Am still in touch with the pastors in the village but so far there are no fatalities")

Gyang Boyi (witnessed the attack, said "Barely thirty minutes after your team left, armed men came into the valley, the only way out of the village, and started shooting at people driving through. Many shot at were youths driving back from a wedding. They must have thought it was your team")

[http://www.christiantoday.com/article/christian\\_peer\\_and\\_us\\_bishop\\_narrowly\\_escape\\_ambush\\_by\\_islamist\\_gunmen\\_in\\_nigeria/101087.htm](http://www.christiantoday.com/article/christian_peer_and_us_bishop_narrowly_escape_ambush_by_islamist_gunmen_in_nigeria/101087.htm)

**Friday November 18, 2016**



### **China: Urumqi, Xinjiang**

Zhang Haitao (husband of Li Aijie, human rights attorney, detained on [June 26, 2015](#);

**UPDATE:** charged with 'inciting subversion of state power', later sentenced to 19 years' imprisonment and fined US\$18,000)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/10/christian-woman-beat-by-family-for.html><http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/10/christian-woman-beat-by-family-for.html>



### **Pakistan**

Fr Morris Jalal (**UPDATE:** reported to have commented after the government closed all Christian cable television stations and arrested at least six employees "What is the future of church media in Pakistan? It is a very difficult time for us. We were just trying to reach our own community who are generally ignored by other TV channels...As citizens, Christians have the right to practice their religion, but if they block you, it means not all citizens are equal. When someone bans the expression of faith, which is a fundamental right, there is persecution")

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/pakistan-bans-all-11-christian-tv-stations-arrests-cable-operators-in-crackdown-171582/>



### **Iraq**

Archbishop Bashar Matti Warda CSSR (**UPDATE:** said of the aftermath of the defeat of ISIL "Going back I think is certain: people will go back but they need some time. When? This 'when' is not a time, it's a status: when Mosul is liberated, when Mosul is secure, when the government starts moving towards reconstructing and trying to really make these places [on the Nineveh Plain] secure. Of course some people will stay in Duhok and Erbil because they have made their life and started small businesses, but if concrete signs are

given people will definitely return. We expect this to happen but I would say hopefully by the summer of 2017 we will be seeing people on the ground working, cleaning and trying to open institutions again”)

<http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1479437816.html>



### **Sudan: Khartoum**

Pastor Koat Akot (detained by the NISS secret police for preaching and founding three churches, ordered to report to the police every day for three weeks)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/01/sudan-deports-south-sudanese-pastor-for-evangelistic-activities-sources-say/>



### **Congo, Democratic Republic: Kiwanja-Ishasha road, Rutshuru, North Kivu**

Godefroid Paluku (deacon, hospital apprentice, abducted)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/61227-AFRICA DR CONGO Popular mobilization allows the release of a kidnapped deacon#.WDZUM8KQw5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/61227-<u>AFRICA DR CONGO Popular mobilization allows the release of a kidnapped deacon#.WDZUM8KQw5s</u>)



### **Nigeria**

#### **Boko Haram control of rural areas has reportedly put 75,000 children at risk of death by hunger**

Bishop William Naga (said “Christians in Borno State are traumatized, displaced and truly they have lost hope. In the Gwoza area there is no single church standing. In the eastern part of Gwoza, Christians were a majority. And even inside Gwoza town, and in its surroundings, there were many Christians. Now there are no Christians left in that area...The Borno governor did his best when the Christians had to flee their places in 2014 and 2015. But when the care of the camps was handed over to other organizations, the discrimination started. They will give food to the displaced, but if you are a Christian they will not give you food. They will even openly tell you that the relief is not for Christians. There is open discrimination...Only the bigger towns are fully under the control of the Nigerian army. The outskirts of these towns and villages in Borno state are not safe. Boko Haram is still in control of big parts of the state. We cannot go back there



now. And we fear to live together with our former Muslim neighbors. We don't know if we can trust them")

John Gwamma (Christian refugee camp chairman, said "We have started informal, purely Christian camps because Christians were being segregated in the formal camps. They had not been given food, nor allowed to go to church. There is a term called 'arne', meaning you are pagan, you are not a Muslim. And as long as you are not a Muslim, they don't like you to stay together with them")

Mary Charles (refugee, said "We had to flee Boko Haram because they didn't allow us to go to our farm. We had no drinking water and we didn't have anything to eat. But I take courage from the Bible. It is written that there is a time when we will suffer, but that the suffering will end by the grace of God. We have to endure. I thank God for this food aid and I thank the people who brought it. We now have food that we can give to our children. We didn't have anything to give them")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/11/4733785/>

**Saturday November 19, 2016**



### **Congo, Democratic Republic**

Godefroid Paluku (deacon, hospital apprentice, abducted on the [Kiwanja-Ishasha road, Rutshuru, North Kivu](#) on [November 18, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: released after the residents of Nyamilima blocked roads and shut down commercial activity in protest of his abduction)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/61227-AFRICA\\_DR\\_CONGO\\_Popular\\_mobilization\\_allows\\_the\\_release\\_of\\_a\\_kidnapped\\_deacon#.WDZUM8KQw5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/61227-<u>AFRICA_DR_CONGO_Popular_mobilization_allows_the_release_of_a_kidnapped_deacon#.WDZUM8KQw5s</u>)



### **Nigeria: Makalama, Chibok local government area**

Pastor Filibus Madu (said of a Boko Haram attack "they came to Makalama suddenly on Saturday night and started shooting. They burned down houses, but God saved the lives of the people...some of the villagers had already harvested their crops and stored them, but the crops were burned by the insurgents. Prayer is keeping us in Chibok, otherwise we would not be existing by now")

Rev Daniel Mbaya (**UPDATE**: said “our District Church Council Secretary covering the area just updated me. It is devastating! Eighty percent of the houses in the village were burnt. Though there was no loss of lives, three persons sustained bullet injuries”)

<http://www.persecution.org/2016/11/21/boko-haram-continues-persecution-in-chibok-area/>

**Sunday November 20, 2016**



**Egypt: Cairo**

Magdy Maken (aged 53, father of Malak, fish vendor, arrested by police after a collision between his horse drawn cart and a police cruiser, **beaten to death** while in custody)

Malak (aged 30, son of Magdy Maken, said “My father responded to the policeman’s insults by saying ‘and you too’ and that was it! People told me that then it was as if the police were playing football with my father’s body. They beat him in a barbaric way and dragged his body across the asphalt” added that when he inspected the body he saw “bruises, and one of his testes smashed...It was a horrible scene. I can’t describe”)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2016/11/19/egyptian-fish-vendor-latest-victim-of-alleged-police-abuses/>

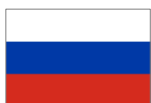
**Monday November 21, 2016**



**Egypt: Delga, Minya province**

Fr Ayoub Youssef (aged 43; **UPDATE**: denounced the attack on an elderly Copt in which he was stripped naked and beaten on a public street after prosecutors cleared his son of impropriety with a Muslim woman)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1778&A=28443>



**Russia: Nolinsk, Kirov region**

A N Shustov (fined US\$1,563 for distribution of banned religious literature)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2287](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2287)

**Tuesday November 22, 2016**



**China: Changsha, Hunan province**

Jiang Tianyong (human rights attorney, abducted by police)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/11/tortured-attorney-kidnapped.html>



**India**

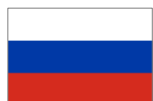
**Event: Church leaders criticized a proposed national education policy**

Archbishop Anil Joseph Thomas Couto (**UPDATE:** said "The government is trying to impose an anti-people policy on the whole country. If the draft is finalized it will disturb the secular and peaceful fabric of the country")

Fr Joseph Manipadam (**UPDATE:** said that the proposal would reinforce the caste system by imposing student fees and segregation based on performance, added "This will naturally push poor students into caste-based jobs...The government gradually wants to control and centralize the education sector by inviting investment from private bodies")

Samuel Jaykumar (**UPDATE:** said the proposal would advance the "communalization and commercialization" of education)

<http://www.ucanindia.in/news/christians-oppose-indias-draft-education-policy/33496/daily>



**Russia: Urupsky, Karachai-Cherkessiya region**

Svetlana Isayeva (fined US\$16 for possession of banned religious literature)

Svetlana Kordiyaka (fined US\$16 for possession of banned religious literature)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2287](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2287)



### **France: Marseilles**

Archbishop Georges Pontier (wrote to President Hollande concerning a proposed law that would criminalize pro-life internet sites “This bill calls into question the foundations of our freedoms and especially the freedom of expression...Above all, it would constitute, despite what its promoters say, a serious precedent for limiting freedom of expression on the Internet. A limitation all the more serious as it affects questions of freedom of conscience. This seems to me to be a very serious attack on the principles of democracy...”)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/pro-death-storm-looms-over-france-as-gvmt-gears-up-to-criminalize-pro-life>



### **Colombia: Ciudad Cordoba neighborhood, Cali**

Fernando Padilla (aged 35, **shot dead** in church during Mass)

Archbishop Dario de Jesus Monsalve Mejia (**UPDATE:** presided at the Mass in which Fernando Padilla was killed, later wrote "Taking advantage of the gathering in churches to kill a parishioner and create terror among the faithful, goes beyond any rational consideration...Unfortunately not even the fear of God stops the absolute disregard for human life that has roots in the soul of vast sectors of our Colombian society")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/61248-AMERICA\\_COLOMBIA\\_Murder\\_in\\_a\\_church\\_in\\_Cali\\_in\\_front\\_of\\_the\\_Archbishop\\_who\\_was\\_celebrating\\_Mass#.WD11esKQw5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/61248-AMERICA_COLOMBIA_Murder_in_a_church_in_Cali_in_front_of_the_Archbishop_who_was_celebrating_Mass#.WD11esKQw5s)



### **United States – Illinois: Arlington Heights**

Pastor Calvin Lindstrom (wrote after a pro-life memorial at his school was twice defaced "Christian Liberty is troubled that someone would deface a sign promoting life for the unborn. We pray for those who are responsible and for their repentance and salvation in Jesus Christ. We are certainly not going to stop promoting a message of life")

Chris Iverson (school advisor, said “The students are saddened that people would do this, since all they’re trying to do is speak the truth. We want to respond in kindness. We don’t want to render evil for evil. This is a school where small children go. This is really an attack on pro-life...on free speech...on Christianity. It’s kind of an attack on the whole community”)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/illinois-pro-life-student-groups-abortion-memorial-vandalized-twice-in-thre>

Wednesday November 23, 2016



## Iraq

Fr Samir Yousif Al-Khoury (**UPDATE:** wrote "...For our part, we are living in great expectation, waiting to discover how the battles against the Islamic State [ISIL] will end. The Iraqi troops are advancing and are now close to the city of Mosul. The Nineveh Plain is almost entirely liberated, but unfortunately the churches are largely burned and many houses were destroyed...How so many people were killed, decapitated. How in every neighborhood a house was converted by the militiamen into a prison where the women were sex slaves of the militiamen. Several mass graves have been discovered, and in one of these the bodies of about 200 people were found. Among them were women and children. Only the Lord knows what else the ISIL jihadists did in the city of Mosul...")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Pastor-of-Amadiya:-Mosul's-Christian-refugees,-torn-between-emergency-aid-and-the-longing-to-return-home-39222.html>



## Belarus: Vitebsk

Fr Klemens Werth SJ (Russian citizen, denied government permission to practice his ministry)  
Bishop Oleg Butkevich (request to allow Fr Klemens Werth to minister in the country denied, no reason given)

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



## Nigeria

**Muslim herdsmen attack four villages around Gidan Waya town, Jema'a local government area, Kaduna state and kill at least 12 Christians**

### Nigeria: Pasakori village

Ayuba Gwafan (village head, **killed**)

## **Nigeria: Hayin Gaza village**

James Adamu (killed)

## **Nigeria: Sakiyo village**

Gayus (killed)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/11/ethnic-religious-cleansing-cited-as-herdsmen-kill-more-christians-in-nigeria/>



## **Burkina Faso**

Dr Ken Elliot (aged 82, husband of Jocelyn Elliot, Australian citizen, missionary, abducted by al-Qaeda linked militants in Ouagadougou on January 15, 2016; **UPDATE**: still in captivity, has been declared a citizen of Burkina Faso)

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/25/kidnapped-australian-surgeon-ken-elliott-declared-burkina-faso-citizen>



## **United States - New Mexico: Albuquerque**

### **Arsonists destroy a pro-life pregnancy center**

Dominique Davis (center director, said "Authorities notified us around midnight that there was a break-in and fire in our facility, leading fire Marshalls to call the FBI, who confirmed this was an act of arson...The first fire was started inside the Holy Innocents chapel, which destroyed the chapel. The second fire was located in the foyer where our literature and signs were displayed. The extent of the damages has still not been confirmed, although the facility has suffered great damage and currently has no power. Due to the damages and the current investigation, Project Defending Life will be shut down until further notice")

Fr Stephen Imbaratto (said "Project Defending Life and the Holy Innocents Chapel always [have] been about mercy and healing...Those who love life will continue to be a light in this world. We must continue to pray and fast that darkness such as this does not prevail. Life always overcomes death because Jesus came into the world to bring light into the darkness and to conquer death through eternal life")

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/breaking-arsonist-sets-fire-to-new-mexico-pro-life-pregnancy-center>

Thursday November 24, 2016



### **Pakistan**

Fr Qaier Feroz (**UPDATE**: criticized the new Prevention of Electronic Crimes Bill "The internet is an important tool to proclaim the word of God and faith formation in the Islamic republic. Many priests use Facebook to share their activities in restive regions. Restricted internet means restriction on evangelization. The bill is ambiguous and could be misused. We support the ban on immoral sites and content against religious belief but there should be no restriction on information related to democracy or development")

Jasber Ashiq (director of Catholic TV Pakistan, said after the government shut down all Christian cable television stations "Now we stream our programs live on Facebook and recorded programs are posted on YouTube. But we had to look for alternate sites when the government imposed a three-year ban on YouTube [which was lifted in January]")

Bishop Joseph Arshad (head of the Commission for Social Communications, said that internet activity must proceed with caution "We have to be careful not to hurt the other community [i.e. Muslims]")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/internet-restrictions-a-further-blow-to-church-mission-in-pakistan/77686>



### **France: Montferrier-sur-Lez**

**An armed man attacked a missionary retirement home, killing a 54 year old caregiver, still at large**

Fr Francois du Penhoat SMA (said "For us Christians, faced with an absurd gesture that can't be explained, there is only prayer")

Fr Olivier Ribadeau Dumas (wrote "Our prayers reach out also to the missionaries attacked in their retirement home in Herault. May God grant his Peace to all")

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/one-dead-in-attack-on-retired-missionaries-home-in-france-25672/>

Friday November 25, 2016



## **Pakistan**

Jacqueline Sultan (attorney; **UPDATE:** commended the Anti-Terrorism Court for convicting and sentencing to death five men for the [November 4, 2014](#) lynching in which Shahzad Masih and Shama Bibi were burnt alive on false Quran desecration accusations)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6194>



## **Egypt: al-Naghameesh village, Sohag province**

### **Muslims attack Christians in a village after false rumors spread of a new church opening, 10 businesses destroyed**

Samir Nashed (said "On Friday following the Muslim prayers, a great deal of fanatic Muslim young men, some of them were carrying gas canisters and rocks while others came armed with automatic rifles, clubs, machetes and knives, they attacked Copts and Coptic-owned houses. The attackers cut off the road so that the fire trucks could not enter the village. They also cut off the water and power supply to the village")

Dr Ihab Tamer (guesthouse burned)

Ishaq Hanna (house and shop looted)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2016/11/26/sohag-copts-attacked-on-rumor-of-opening-church/>  
<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/99474.htm>



## **Nigeria: Mile One village**

### **UPDATE: Muslim herdsmen continue to attack four villages around Gidan Waya town, Jema'a local government area, Kaduna state and kill at least 12 Christians**

Daniel Akai (district head, **killed**)

La'azarus Yakubu (**killed**)

Joel Tanko (**killed**)

Fine Gambo (**killed**)

Jolly Dego (**killed**)

Joshua Aku (described the attack "The house of Mr Daniel Akai was burned by the herdsmen, as was St Paul's Catholic Church, and the offices of the ECWA Gidan Waya District



Church Council [DCC] were also destroyed...Most residents of Gidan Waya believe the herdsmen were brought to the area in a military helicopter and were ferried away soon after perpetuating the atrocities on the Christian communities”)

Grace Daniel (**UPDATE:** said “We in Kafanchan town can even see fire burning houses on the outskirts of Gidan Waya. Please pray along with us. These armed Fulani herdsmen are out to destroy us completely”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/11/ethnic-religious-cleansing-cited-as-herdsmen-kill-more-christians-in-nigeria/>



### **France: Paris**

Cardinal Andre Vingt-Trois (criticized a proposed law that would criminalize pro-life internet sites as an "obsession" that surpasses government action against pro-terrorism web sites and that the objective would seem to be the “promotion of abortion as a normal outcome of pregnancy”)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/pro-death-storm-looms-over-france-as-gvmt-gears-up-to-criminalize-pro-life>



### **United States – California: San Fernando**

Corbishop Athanasios Toma (said of the Bible verses painted on an Assyrian church "When I read the verse [2 Kings 19:35 – ‘That night the angel of the Lord went forth and struck down one hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. Early the next morning, there they were, dead, all those corpses!’, I realized it's really not just graffiti. It's aimed toward a specific nation. It's hatred toward a nation. The meaning of that verse struck me hard. That's someone who knew what they were talking about")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20161203012229.htm>

**Saturday November 26, 2016**



### **Azerbaijan: Aliabad, Zakatala district**

Hamid Shabanov (husband of Hinayat Shabanova; home raided by police during worship service, 26 people detained for 5 hours)

Mehman Agamammadov (detained at the home of Hamid and Hinayat during a worship service)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2247](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2247)

**Sunday November 27, 2016**



**Philippines: Esperanza, Sultan Kudarat province, Mindanao**

Cardinal Orlando Quevedo OMI (denounced the bombing of a church during Mass in which three were injured “at the end of our 5:30 a.m. 1st Sunday of Advent mass is pure terrorism, made worse because of the sacredness of the place, the sacredness of the day, and the sacredness of the event that had just taken place”)

Loren Erazo (injured, hospitalized)

John Reynan Escanilan (injured, hospitalized)

<http://www.mindanews.com/top-stories/2016/11/2-hurt-in-blast-fronting-church-gate-in-esperanza-sultan-kudarat-pure-terrorism-says-cardinal-quevedo/>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/philippine-cardinal-condemns-bomb-attack-on-church/77738>



**China: Zhaoqing, Guangdong province**

Lin Haixin (detained along with his wife, church operated drug treatment centers shut down)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/12/christian-mental-health-advocates-held.html>



**Azerbaijan: Aliabad village**

**Police raid a prayer meeting in a private home, arrest 30 Christians, 26 taken for questioning, 22 released that day, 24 told they would be fined**

Gamid Shabanov (spouse of Ginayat Shabanov, home raided during a [November 27, 2016](#) prayer meeting, arrested)

Ginayat Shabanov (spouse of Gamid Shabanov, home raided during a [November 27, 2016](#) prayer meeting, arrested)

Mehman Agamemedov (arrested during a raid on a [November 27, 2016](#) prayer meeting at the home of Gamid and Ginayat Shabanov)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/12/4771508/>



### **Egypt: Sohag**

Marina Adel (student, abducted, allegedly has been moved to Syria, ransom of US\$5,000 demanded)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1790&A=28757>



### **Russia: Kemerovo**

Pastor Olga Matyuzhova (fined for an unauthorized public sermon)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2306](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2306)

**Monday November 28, 2016**



### **India**

**Churches have reportedly fallen under financial pressure after November 8, 2016 when the government demonetized large denomination banknotes and capped daily and weekly ATM withdrawals in an anti-corruption campaign**

#### **India: Kochi, Kerala state**

Fr Jose Thottakkara (said that his parish weekly collection dropped by 40%, is now US\$44)

#### **India: Changanacherry, Kerala state**

Johnny Thekkakara (church trustee, said that people are hoarding currency "The lack of small denomination notes was the major reason for the drop in the collection")

#### **India: Goa state**

Fr Valeriano Vaz (said that state tax collectors have begun to investigate clergy who have exchanged money to help parishioners "For you and me this may be a Good Samaritan act but officials may raise queries")

**India: Calangute, Goa state**

Fr Cipriano D'Silva (said "A small time hotelier came to us and requested change to pay his staff. We obliged him. We help those in need in whatever way possible...On average, we get 70,000 rupees on Sunday but after the withdrawal we collected only 48,000 [US\$700]")

**India: Bhopal**

Fr Thomas Panackal (said that his parish had collected 1,500 rupees a week [US\$22] but that had been reduced by a third)

**India: Delhi**

Fr Savarimuthu Shankar (**UPDATE:** said of his diocese "So far no parish has reported any remarkable difference")

**India: Sagar, Madhya Pradesh state**

Bishop Anthony Chirayath (**UPDATE:** said "scrapping high denomination notes in the country does not have any serious impact on the running of the diocese and its institutions. Our diocese is in a rural area and people lead very ordinary lives with little money. Our Sunday collection was not affected as nobody would ever offer the scrapped high denomination notes")

**India: Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh state**

Fr Rocky Shah (said that the Sunday following the demonetization was Mission Sunday "People offered high denomination notes which they normally do not do")

**India: Jammu and Kashmir state**

Fr Shaiju Chacko (said "Our collections are a bare minimum and we hardly get any high value currency. Therefore, the move has not affected the church here at all")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/church-coffers-low-as-indian-cash-crunch-continues/77725>



**Azerbaijan: Aliabad village**

Gamid Shabanov (spouse of Ginayat Shabanov, home raided during a [November 27, 2016](#) prayer meeting, arrested; **UPDATE:** released the next day)

Ginayat Shabanov (spouse of Gamid Shabanov, home raided during a [November 27, 2016](#) prayer meeting, arrested; **UPDATE:** released the next day)

Mehman Agamemedov (arrested during a raid on a [November 27, 2016](#) prayer meeting at the home of Gamid and Ginayat Shabanov; **UPDATE:** released)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/12/4771508/>



### **Syria: Aleppo**

Fr Ibrahim Alsabagh OFM (aged 44; **UPDATE**: said "We hear the news about the governmental offensive but they are distant voices. What we experience every day are bombs, missiles, explosions in both sectors of the city...We are all waiting to see what will happen in the coming days. Families, west and east, are exhausted; they only want peace in the face of an increasingly difficult life. So we decided to intensify prayers for peace during Advent...A secondary school has just been evacuated in the western sector and last night a missile hit another school. Fortunately, the building was empty and there were no casualties...the movement of people on the streets is minimal. Uncertainty and suffering prevail...Every first Sunday of the month, starting on 4 December, we shall conduct a procession with songs and prayers for peace [as will] every Franciscan home and parish in the world...We continue to pray for peace and also for those who drop bombs on our houses, and churches")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Fr-Ibrahim:-Aleppo-is-powerless-and-fearful,-prayers-for-peace-during-Advent-39261.html>



### **United Kingdom: St Austell, Cornwall**

Victoria Allen (aged 51, teacher, threatened with discipline after she replied to a student who asked for her personal views on same sex marriage, received an apology after she threatened legal action)

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cornwall-38130074>



### **Mexico: Jalisco state**

Cardinal Jose Francisco Robles Ortega (**UPDATE**: announced that churches will no longer collect and read the names of the disappeared at Mass "The people, because of fear, do not want their names to appear")

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/mexican-archdiocese-closes-missing-persons-registry-37595/>

**Tuesday November 29, 2016**



**Philippines: Manila**

Fr Jerome Secillano (said "The church, for practical purposes, will be more than willing to suspend any liturgical activity if there are threats to the safety of churchgoers" following an attempted bomb attack)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/manila-church-services-may-be-suspended-due-to-bomb-threats/77748>



**China: Xianning, Hubei**

Peng Ming (aged 58, convert, U.S. resident, abducted on [May 28, 2004](#) by Chinese agents on the [Myanmar-Thai border](#) while creating safe houses for escapees from China, sent to China; sentenced to life imprisonment on [October 12, 2005](#) for "forming and leading a terrorist organization", has been tortured; as of [May 7, 2013](#) has developed severe heart disease and other illnesses, health is declining, is not allowed visits by family or attorneys; **UPDATE:** collapsed and **died in prison**)

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/dies-11302016124702.html>



**Uzbekistan: Zarafshan, Navoi region**

Dmitri Butov (husband of Svetlana Butov, home raided on [July 28, 2016](#), Bibles seized; fined US\$860 on [September 8, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** appeal upheld, case sent back to the prosecutor, assets still frozen)

Svetlana Butov (wife of Dmitri Butov, home raided on [July 28, 2016](#), Bibles seized; fined US\$645 on [September 8, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** appeal upheld, case sent back to the prosecutor, assets still frozen)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2235](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2235)



## **Iraq: Qaraqosh**

### **Christians reportedly have begun to return to their homes after the expulsion of ISIL**

Wisam Rafou Poli (husband of Zeena, father, teacher, said "It's worse than we expected")

Zeena (wife of Wisam Rafou Poli, said "I cried when we entered the house", daughter cried over her destroyed doll)

Saad Behnam Batous (home filled with chemical fumes, had been a bomb factory)

Kheder Abada (buried life savings of US\$10,000 ruined by rain)

Abu Maryam (home looted, described his feelings as "rage")

Dhia Roufa (fled his home in [Mosul](#) in [2006](#) after militants threatened to abduct his daughter;  
**UPDATE:** said "I am 64 years old. If I were young I could start again, but at this age what can I do? We [Christians] have no future in Iraq")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20161129085621.htm>



## **Congo, Democratic Republic: Bukavu, South Kivu**

Sr Clara Agano Kahambu (aged 40, school headmaster, teacher of psychology, pedagogy and catechesis, **killed** by a man while counseling a student)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/61299->

[AFRICA DR CONGO Sister Clara killed she dedicated her life to improving the conditions of girls#.WETuK8KQw5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/61299-)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/nun-killed-in-democratic-republic-of-congo-48843/>



## **Germany: Leipzig**

Fr Andreas Knapp (aged 58, described widespread intimidation of Christians by Muslim refugees, including abduction of girls for use in sex slavery)

[http://www.deutschlandradiokultur.de/fluechtlinge-in-leipzig-muslime-mobben-christen.1278.de.html?dram:article\\_id=372480](http://www.deutschlandradiokultur.de/fluechtlinge-in-leipzig-muslime-mobben-christen.1278.de.html?dram:article_id=372480) - with translation

**Wednesday November 30, 2016**



### **China: Ili Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture, Xinjiang province**

Ma Huichao (on trial for 'gathering a crowd to disturb public order' for a church meeting, trial currently in adjournment, attorney prohibited from entering a plea of innocent)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/11/lawyer-barred-from-pleading-innocent.html>



### **Uganda: Bufuja village, Butaleja district**

Malik Higenyi (aged 30, convert from Islam, husband, father of two, beaten on [November 13, 2016](#) after publicly acknowledging his conversion, right hand broken, head injured, said “The attackers hit me with a blunt object, and I fell down and did not know what happened from there. I just found myself at Bufuja health center”; **UPDATE**: threatened with death, maize crop destroyed, fled his home)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/11/former-muslim-sheikh-in-eastern-uganda-attacked-for-embracing-christianity/>



### **Egypt**

Maher al-Gohary (convert, father of Dina, reported on [December 17, 2015](#) to have filed suit to change his religion on his national id card from Islam to Christianity, said he and his daughter have suffered persecution for years; **UPDATE**: home invaded in by three men, threatened with death, forced to be photographed with signs that denounced Christianity and announced his return to Islam)

Dina (aged 22, convert, daughter of Maher al-Gohary, home invaded in by three men, threatened with death, father forced to be photographed with signs that denounced Christianity and announced his return to Islam)

### **Egypt: Nozha**

Mina Makram (pharmacist, son of Fr Luke Labib, **killed** in a robbery)

Fr Luke Labib (father of Mina Makram)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1784&A=28640>

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1788&A=28718>

<http://cyprus-mail.com/2016/12/04/persecuted-egyptian-christians-appeal-protection/>





### **Russia: Kemerovo**

Pastor Andrei Matyuzhov (charged on [September 27, 2016](#) with illegal missionary activity; fined US\$63 on [October 17, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: verdict overturned on appeal)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2306](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2306)



### **United States**

**Cable television personalities were attacked in writing for attending a church that does not support same sex marriage**

Chip Gaines (husband of Joanna Gaines)

Joanna Gaines (wife of Chip Gaines)

<http://www.dailywire.com/news/11212/thoughtfascists-buzzfeed-cosmo-attack-gaines-ben-shapiro>

**November 2016, date unknown**



### **Nigeria: Gwoza, Borno state**

Esther (aged 17 in 2015, alias, reported to have been abducted by Boko Haram militants in [October 2015](#), father killed; **UPDATE** rescued by the Nigerian military, returned home, pregnant by her rapists)

### **Nigeria: Kwanti village, Kaduna state**

Hassan Madami (aged 24, son of Madami Agiya and Martha Madami, brother of Suzie Madami and Eli Madami, abducted by Fulani Muslims, ransom paid)

Sabade Musa (aged 35, abducted, ransom paid)

Peter Mai'angwa (aged 21, abducted, ransom paid)

Bala Yohanna (abducted, ransom of US\$275 paid, released)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/12/25770/>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/12/muslim-fulani-kidnappers-ravage-village-kaduna-state-nigeria/>

## **Today's Martyrs**

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

*or write to:*

**2490 Black Rock Turnpike #455  
Fairfield CT 06825-2400**

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