

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – March 2017

Wednesday March 1, 2017



Indonesia: Jakarta

Archbishop Ignatius Suharyo Hardjoatmodjo (**UPDATE**: reported to have issued a pastoral letter that condemned growing Muslim intolerance, rampant violence, human trafficking, and an unwillingness to work toward the common good)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/jakarta-archbishop-voices-militancy-concerns/78527>



Philippines: Midsalip, Mindanao

Sr Kathleen Melia SSC (aged 70, Irish citizen, beaten, hospitalized)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/irish-nun-attacked-injured-in-the-philippines/78578>



China: Guangzhou, Guangdong province

Li Hongmin (husband of Xu Lei, criminally detained on [June 6, 2016](#) on 'illegal business operations' charges for printing religious literature; **UPDATE**: reported to have been forced in court to increase the assessed value of his confiscated literature, may have another year added to his sentence as a result)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/03/wife-fears-lengthened-prison-sentence.html>



Kazakhstan: Astana

Teymur Sultan ogly Akhmedov (aged 60, husband, father of three sons, arrested on [January 18, 2017](#) for sharing his religious beliefs with KNB secret police informants, held in pre-trial detention, denied cancer treatment; **UPDATE**: motion to terminate his case denied, reportedly has been beaten in prison, can barely walk)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2262



Uganda

Hassan Muwanguzi (convert; arrested in [Kabuna village, Budaka district](#) on [February 26, 2017](#) on abduction and human sacrifice charges after a convert from Islam [Namusisi Budadu Birye] took refuge with him in [2015](#) after her father beat her, said “I brought Namusisi into my house after receiving messages that she was badly beaten, and that she needed support due to her newly founded faith in Christ. But now I am falsely charged and being threatened by many Muslims who want to kill me because of the message that has gone all over that I am kidnapping and sacrificing people’s lives in the name of converting them to Christianity”; **UPDATE**: still in custody despite the appearance of Namusisi Budadu Birye before police on [February 27, 2017](#), expects to be released soon)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/03/evangelist-uganda-arrested-on-false-kidnapping-human-sacrifice-claims-he-says/>



Egypt: el-Arish, Sinai

Fr Mikhail Anton (**UPDATE**: said that bus and taxi drivers have been threatened with death if they help Christians escape from ISIL)

Egypt: Ismailia

Christians continue to flee el-Arish and the Sinai

Issaf Sameh (aged 10, grandson of Saad Hana, described how his grandfather and uncle were killed, also said “They stole from the flat and set fire to it”)

Kirollos (maintenance man, said “In the past we used to try to reassure ourselves, but we started to be terrified since last week, when they began to kill people inside their homes. I don’t know when we can go home, and I can’t be sure if I go back that they won’t return”)

Mary (civil servant, said “I am scared they will rob and burn my home. It represents my work for 30 years and that of my father before me. If it were up to me I would go back because they don’t kill women, but I am afraid for my two sons”)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2017/03/01/jihadis-target-copts-triggering-fears-of-broader-assaults-against-religious-minority/>



Russia: Abinsk district, Krasnodar region

Sergei Suprunenko (fined US\$86 for creating an online church newspaper with public access)

Russia: Ufa, Bashkortostan

Pastor Mikhail Pugachyov (case dismissed due to the statute of limitations)

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



United Kingdom: London

Carol Monaghan (Member of Parliament, wore Lenten ashes on her forehead into Parliament, another Member said "but this is going to be broadcast", the BBC posted on Facebook that her actions may not have been appropriate or legal)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/BBC-mocks-Christian-MP-for-keeping-Lent>

Thursday March 2, 2017



Malaysia

Jonathan Koh (son of Pastor Raymond Koh Keng Joo and Susanna, said that he believes his father was murdered after his [February 13, 2017](#) abduction)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/02/4943875/>



Thailand: Bangkok

Chen Guiqiu (wife of imprisoned human rights attorney Xie Yang, 14 year old daughter detained and released in China, fled China and illegally entered the country on [February 24, 2017](#);

UPDATE: safe house raided by police with the assistance of the Chinese embassy, detained)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/05/abc-news-ap-exclusive-china-lawyers.html>



Kazakhstan: Ualikhanov, North Kazakhstan region

Roman Pugachev (arrested on [January 18, 2017](#) for handing out religious literature in [Novotroitse village](#); **UPDATE:** fined US\$362, banned from religious activity for 3 months)

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

Friday March 3, 2017



Thailand: Bangkok

Chen Guiqiu (wife of imprisoned human rights attorney Xie Yang, 14 year old daughter detained and released in China, fled China and illegally entered the country on [February 24, 2017](#); safe house raided by police with the assistance of the Chinese embassy on [March 2, 2017](#), detained; **UPDATE:** rescued from detention by U.S. embassy personnel due to her 4-year old daughter's status as a U.S. citizen, taken to the airport under pursuit from Chinese diplomats, officials from all three countries argued over the family's fate; arrived in the U.S.)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/05/abc-news-ap-exclusive-china-lawyers.html>



Jordan: al-Um-Kundun

Fr Khalil Jaar (**UPDATE:** commented on the reduction of international aid for Iraqi and Syrian refugees "The situation of Iraqi Christians refugees is critical and dangerous. They have finished their money and they aren't allowed to work. How can they live in human dignity?...At any month we might have to close the school, because we don't have the money to run it. Everything is gratis for the children: transportation, uniforms, school supplies. I hope our good friends can help")

Ra'ed Bahou (regional director of the Pontifical Mission, said "This is now the third year of displacement for the Iraqi Christians. It's very tough. Donations are becoming less, while global attention is waning. That means that more problems will be created for these Iraqis. We are trying our best to help them with health care, education, housing and logistics. But the problem is bigger than us")

Omar Abawi (Caritas Jordan program manager)

Wael Suleiman (director of Caritas Jordan; **UPDATE:** said of the refugees "I am always struck by their desperate words about losing hope and the miserable conditions they live under: frustration, loneliness, isolation, despair and sadness over their forced exodus from their country, families, history, current situation and future...We are here to heal the wounds, lift the morales, help to restore hope, enhance human relationships and reflect the concept of living as one human family")

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/world/situation-iraqi-refugees-jordan-critical-and-dangerous>



Uganda

Hassan Muwanguzi (convert, arrested on abduction and human sacrifice charges in [Kabuna village, Budaka district](#) on [February 26, 2017](#) after a convert from Islam [Namusisi Budadu Birye] took refuge with him in 2015 after her father beat her; still in custody as of [March 1, 2017](#) despite the February 27, 2017 appearance of Namusisi Budadu Birye before police; **UPDATE:** released on bail, received death threats)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/03/sheikh-uganda-incites-muslim-villagers-evangelist-released-bail/>



Egypt: Ismailia

Adel Munir (father of Munir Munir and Dimiana, civil servant, found his name on an ISIL execution list, sprayed with acid by neighbors, fled his home in el-Arish)

Munir Munir (son of Adel Munir, said "The police and army cannot do anything; they cannot even protect themselves. Of course we won't go back to Arish. Go back to die?")

Dimiana (daughter of Adel Munir, said "Our neighbors took our land because we are Christian. They tried to attack me and my sister and when my father came to defend us they sprayed his face with acid")

Sameh Kamel (husband, father of two, fled his home in el-Arish an hour before ISIL gunmen arrived at his home, said "They're knocking on doors, and if they find a Christian, they kill him")

Egypt

Ishaq Ibrahim (**UPDATE:** said "What we are seeing here [in Sinai] is new. There has always been violence against Christians, but it was usually for a 'reason' like land disputes. Now Christians are killed just for being Christians. Militants are sending the government a message, saying they can change part of the country's demographics. This is a dangerous precedent.. .And who knows if it will be replicated in Upper Egypt or elsewhere")

<http://www.charismanews.com/world/63416-christian-families-flee-for-their-lives-as-islamic-neighbors-attack>

Saturday March 4, 2017



China: Xinjiang

Si Guangxiu (mother of Cai Chuangye, arrested for attending a house church, housing application deferred due to her religion)

Cai Chuangye (son of Si Guangxiu, housing application deferred due to his religion)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/03/xinjiang-christians-denied-housing.html>



Mexico: Chilpancingo

Bishop Salvador Rangel Mendoza (condemned the murder of a journalist)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/61860->

[AMERICA MEXICO Mgr Mendoza condemns the killing of a journalist They want to silence the voice of the people#.WL4M3m8rKM8](#)

Sunday March 5, 2017



China: Beijing

Christians were detained for praying for the National People’s Congress and the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, both were deported to their home provinces

Zhou Jinxia (**UPDATE**: said “Today is the opening of a conference between the NPC and the CPPCC, and we wished to pray for our compatriots, the attendees of the conference, and the country itself with the hope that our nation will be blessed with peace and freedom. Sister Shi Xinhong was stopped on the way to the Great Hall. I left her and continued on. I called her later in the day and realized that she had been seized by the police, who questioned Sister Shi about my whereabouts from the other side of the phone. With Sister Shi in their hands, [the police] searched for half an hour and failed to locate me. I proceeded, but the Hall was heavily guarded and there was no way for me to get in. I abandoned the prayer I prepared earlier on the street”)

Shi Xinhong (**UPDATE**)

Chang Shulan (detained, deported to her home province, later sentenced to administrative detention)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/03/2-christians-detained-for-attempting-to.html>
<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/03/2-christians-criminally-detained-for.html>

Rev John Cao San Qiang (husband of Jamie Powell, father of two sons, minister to Myanmar Christians, arrested at the Myanmar border with China and charged with illegal border crossing)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/03/help-free-imprisoned-pastor.html>



Sri Lanka: Negombo

Tussawar Khan (Pakistani asylum seeker, said "We are just trying to survive in destitution and poverty here...The Christian community in Negombo pleads to the western world to highlight the cry of the Christian minorities from Pakistan")

Rev Angleena Keizer (has assisted Pakistani refugees)

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/at-the-mercy-of-charities-and-churches>



Egypt: Nazlet al-Nakhl village, Minya province

Bishop Makarios (**UPDATE**: complained of security forces preventing Christians from attending Divine Liturgies, said “As the crisis was aggravated today, there was the possibility that security personnel would clash with the people. Bishop Botros Aziz is still banned from accessing the village. Thus I proposed that all worshippers gather at one of the people’s

homes to perform the Liturgy there, so as to prevent strife. We await actions by security to resolve the problem and confirm the sovereignty of government as well as citizenship rights”)

Bishop Botros Aziz (banned from the village by security forces)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2017/03/08/minya-copts-say-they-were-banned-from-prayers-by-security/>

Monday March 6, 2017



China: Guzhen county, Anhui province

Shi Xinhong (detained on [March 5, 2017](#) for praying for the National People’s Congress and the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference in [Beijing](#), deported to her home province; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 8 days' administrative detention)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/03/2-christians-criminally-detained-for.html>



Egypt

Fr Rafik Greich (**UPDATE**: spoke of the help given to the Christians who have fled the Sinai from ISIL “Ordinary Muslims are kind and try to help however they can – they’re often first on the scene, rescuing the injured and taking them to hospitals...You can never do enough against jihadist and terrorist attacks, which come, like any criminal acts, at a time no one can foresee. But while no country can be fully secure, I think there’s will on government side to act decisively against these constant attempts to destabilize Egypt”)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/03/06/catholics-in-egypt-are-sheltering-orthodox-families-fleeing-isis/>



Russia: Beloretsk, Bashkortostan

Pastor Konstantin Petrenko (fined US\$117 on [January 17, 2017](#) for unauthorized religious activities; **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

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



Central African Republic

Fr Frederico Trincherio OCD (reported that about 2000 persons moved into the Bangui Carmelite mission after shots were fired in the neighborhood on [December 6, 2013](#), said "Now we are trying to give these people something to eat. But it will be difficult because we cannot go out to do some shopping"; **UPDATE**: said "All refugees have returned home! After three years and three months, our adventure which began on December 5, 2013 ends here")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/61868-AFRICA_CENTRAL_AFRICA_10_000_displaced_persons_have_returned_home#.WL4H2m8rKM8

Tuesday March 7, 2017



Bangladesh: Chatmohar upazila, Pabna district

Gilbert Costa (aged 65, church security guard, stabbed by several young men while guarding his church, hospitalized in stable condition)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/catholic-church-guard-attacked-over-personal-feud-in-bangladesh-79731/>



Sri Lanka: Negombo

Sylvester John (son of Peter and Naseen John, fled Pakistan on [July 31, 2013](#); asylum application on religious persecution grounds denied on [August 1, 2013](#) despite having been shot five times on January 22, 2012 after refusing the invitation to Islam, uncle killed; appeal to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees denied on [April 24, 2015](#), the UNHCR demanded additional information that could only come from the persecutors)

Naseen John (mother of Sylvester John, Adnan John, Nida John, Nobility Zain John and Hina Milword, fled Pakistan on [July 31, 2013](#))

Perez John (father of Sylvester John, Adnan John, Nida John, Nobility Zain John and Hina Milword, fled Pakistan on [January 3, 2014](#))

Hina Milword (sister of Sylvester John, fled Pakistan on [July 18, 2013](#))

Shahid Keshwan Milword (aged 7, son of Hina Milword, fled Pakistan on [July 18, 2013](#))

Nida John (sister of Sylvester John, fled Pakistan on [July 31, 2013](#))

Adnan John (husband of Tehmina Naz, father of Minaule Adnan John, brother of Sylvester John, fled Pakistan on March 11, 2012; detained [September 11, 2014](#))

Tehmina Naz (wife of Adnan John, mother of Minaule Adnan John, fled Pakistan on [January 3, 2014](#))

Minaule Adnan John (daughter of Adnan John, born in Sri Lanka)

Nobility Zain John (brother of Sylvester John, fled Pakistan on [July 31, 2013](#))

Prince Joseph (uncle of Sylvester John, fled Pakistan on [July 18, 2013](#))

Rev Angleena Keizer (**UPDATE:** said of Sylvester John's asylum request "I have seen the photos and medical reports and x rays of Sylvester [showing his gunshot wounds] and newspaper clipping of the death of the uncle. The family are known to me and been receiving pastoral support from me since last August")

Wilson Chowdhry (Chairman of the British Pakistani Christian Association, said "Paucity of evidence [in asylum applications] is not a surprise to the BPCA. In our opinion when you flee a country seeking refuge the last thing you want to do is go to local police for evidence of your imprisonment and few people video every moment of their lives. Sadly despite increasing evidence of the hatred meted out towards Christians in Pakistan, most western nations ignore their plight. This has meant thousands are stranded in countries such as Thailand, Malaysia and Sri Lanka where visa restrictions are more lax and tourism visas are notably inexpensive. For this victims life has a constant threat of capture and detainment and they are vigorously exploited working for almost nothing just to get some food on their table")

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/family-of-asylum-seekers-desperately-needs-our-help>



Yemen

Fr Tom Uzhunnalil SDB (aged 57, Indian citizen, abducted when armed men attacked a nursing home in [Aden](#) on [March 4, 2016](#), killing 16 employees and residents including 4 nuns; **UPDATE:** still in captivity)

<https://cruxnow.com/global-church/2017/03/07/indian-catholics-still-pray-release-salesian-kidnapped-yemen/>



Egypt

Christians reported on the persecution by ISIL in the Sinai

S E (fled al-Arish, said "To date, at least three towns are completely emptied of their Copt inhabitants: Rafah, near the border with the Gaza Strip, Cheikh Zowayed and al-Arish. Unfortunately, the state only heard our cries of pain when it was already too late")

Imad Gad (Member of Parliament, **UPDATE:** said "The government has not reacted quickly and effectively in the face of this catastrophe. Why have they allowed terror to go so long unpunished?")

Kamal Zakher (**UPDATE:** said "The Copts in al-Arish are the responsibility of the Egyptian state, not of the Church. Ensuring their protection is a duty and a right clearly expressed in the Constitution")

Soliman Chafik (said "The Egyptian army leads a fierce and all-out war against terrorism in Sinai, as far as it has been dubbed 'the province of the Islamic State' in July 2011. A conflict that caused 1,034 deaths among soldiers and dozens of Bedouin casualties. Despite everything, when terrorists are attacked their response is to automatically target Copts")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/North-Sinai,-the-stories-of-the-Copts-fleeing-ISIS:-Egypt-intervened-too-late-40123.html>



Venezuela: Ciudad Bolivar

Archbishop Ulises Antonio Gutierrez Reyes O. de M. (said "I recently met a gentleman who was looking for food in the garbage, and chatting with him he told me he works, but his salary does not allow him to feed his children...I think this government is administering the resources and wealth of the country in a very bad manner")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/61880-AMERICA_VENEZUELA_People_rummaging_in_the_garbage_looking_for_food_increases_highlights_Mgr_Gutierrez#.WMAVtm8rKM8

Wednesday March 8, 2017



Egypt: Luxor

Rezeiky Adly Girgis (brother of Hanan Adly Girgis, said of her [January 26, 2017](#) abduction in [Esna](#) “There was no disagreement between us, she was very happy. She was engaged to a man she’d chosen to be with. They had planned to go and buy jewelry together the following day; and she had just bought new clothes for her cousin’s wedding on Sunday”; **UPDATE:** reported that he had been informed by the police that the national security services had issued his sister a new ID card which stated that her religion was Islam, family protested her abduction outside the national security service headquarters and was then attacked by officers, said ““They broke the leg of my 23-year-old brother and wounded my older brother, Amir, who’s 28, [they] dragged my mother and beat my three aunts”)

Amir Girgis (aged 28, brother of Hanan Adly Girgis, reported to have been beaten)

Shahin (relative of Hanan Adly Girgis, reported to have been beaten)

Ayman (relative of Hanan Adly Girgis, reported to have been beaten)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/02/4929839/>



Canada: Toronto

Bishops condemned the government's announcement to advance abortions in other countries

Bishop Douglas Crosby (wrote “Such a policy is a reprehensible example of Western cultural imperialism and an attempt to impose misplaced but so-called Canadian ‘values’ on other nations and people...It exploits women when they are most in need of care and support and tragically subverts true prenatal health care”)

Cardinal Thomas Collins (**UPDATE:** wrote “It is praiseworthy to offer international aid, it is arrogant for powerful, wealthy nations to dictate what priorities developing countries should embrace...Money spent on promoting abortion and contraception could be spent on vaccinating millions of women and girls against malaria or other diseases”)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/03/13/trudeaus-overseas-abortion-policy-a-reprehensible-example-of-imperialism-says-bishop/>

Thursday March 9, 2017



Kazakhstan: Satpayev, Karaganda region

Fariza Iskakova (indicted on [February 17, 2017](#) for distributing religious literature; **UPDATE:** fined US\$669)

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



Iraq: western Mosul

Mariyam Petrayus (aged about 50, blind, reported to have fled ISIL after living under their control for over two years, described an attempt by an ISIL member to convert her to Islam "He told me 'why don't you convert to Islam? Why are you Christian?' I told him that everyone is on their religion, and nobody leaves their religion... 'I do not want to become one like you,' I told him. He asked 'why? What is wrong with me?' I told him 'you don't say your prayers, you kill humans, you earn haram [sinful] earning, and you harass people.' He said, 'me?' I said 'yes,' He said no. I said yes, 'I swear to God.'", was not harmed for her outspokenness)

Iraq: Alqosh

Aniseh Marqus (wife of Jamil for 57 years, refugee from [Batma](#), fled from ISIL in [2015](#), reported to have said "They bombed the church in our neighborhood and destroyed everything around it. My home was nearby so naturally it was destroyed too. I wish I could return home, but I have no home left really")

Jamil (husband of Aniseh Marqus for 57 years)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20170309013132.htm>

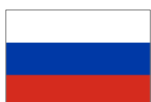
<http://www.aina.org/news/20170309180011.htm>



Kenya

John Muriuki (quarry worker, shot in the right hand and left forearm during an al-Shabaab terror attack in [Madera county](#) on [July 14, 2015](#); **UPDATE:** has been unable to work at his old trade, wife has had to take employment)

<http://www.persecution.org/2017/03/08/a-christian-laborers-long-road-to-recovery-in-kenya/>



Russia: Sterlitamak, Republic of Bashkortostan

V I Sergeyeva (fined an unknown amount for handing out the Gideons' New Testament)

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



United States - Kentucky

Kim Davis (aged 51, Rowan county clerk, jailed on [September 3, 2015](#) for contempt of court for refusing to issue same sex marriage licenses, court denied her request to remove her pro forma signature from the licenses, still being held despite the fact her office has complied with the law by issuing licenses, appeal underway; released on [September 8, 2015](#); a suit against her by the American Civil Liberties Union was declared moot on [April 19, 2016](#) after the state legislature passed legislation granting her the accommodation she sought; **UPDATE:** a Federal judge denied the American Civil Liberties Union claim that she pay their court costs totaling \$231,000 because their suit against her did not prevail)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/aclu-loses-charge-kim-davis-legal-fees-miller-v-177151/>

Friday March 10, 2017



South Sudan: Ezo

Fr Jacinto Nangi (reported to have been told when he attempted to stop attacks on refugees from the tribal conflict “we’re going to nail you on that tree like Jesus”)

South Sudan

Bishop Eduardo Kussala (reported from [Kampala, Uganda](#) that 7 of his 22 parishes around Yambio have become refuges for tens of thousands of people fleeing tribal killings, said “The world is busy with itself”)

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2017/03/10/south-sudan-refugees-flee-famine-genocide-melinda-henneberger-column/98955148/>



Sudan

Rev Mubarak Hamad (**UPDATE**: reported to have been ordered by the government to not discuss the demolition of churches or the imprisonment of two pastors)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue27992.html>

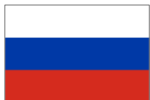


Egypt: Qena

Marina (daughter of Nashat Labib, disappeared on her way to a private lesson)

Nashat Labib (father of Marina, begged police to find his daughter)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1859&A=30052>



Russia: Uritsky district, Oryol region

Aleksandr Bychkov (fined US\$78 for illegal missionary activity)

Aleksandr Khrumugin (fined US\$78 for illegal missionary activity)

Andrei Novikov (fined US\$78 for illegal missionary activity)

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



Argentina: Quilmes

Bishop Jose Carlos Tissera (denounced an arson attack on the cathedral by two masked men at the end of Mass, worshippers were uninjured, said: "The fire was quickly extinguished by firefighters. Thank God, the fire did cause major damage inside, but the discomfort and confusion created by the smoke lasted a little...Although it is still early to draw conclusions, together with Father Marcelo, we believe that this incident may be related to others that occurred last Wednesday, March 8, against the Metropolitan Cathedral of Buenos Aires and on Friday 10 in front of the Cathedral of La Plata. We condemn similar events that have taken place in recent days, whether or not related to what happened recently in Florencio Varela")

Fr Marcelo Eyheramendy (filed a police report)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/61917->

[AMERICA ARGENTINA Denunciation of the Bishop of Quilmes after attempting to set fire to a church#.WMiVsW8rKM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/61917-AMERICA_ARGENTINA_Denunciation_of_the_Bishop_of_Quilmes_after_attempting_to_set_fire_to_a_church#.WMiVsW8rKM8)



United States – California: Escondido

Catherine Kennedy (Bible study teacher, mother of Alicia de la Rosa, sister of Deborah Ware, **shot dead** while driving home from a prayer meeting)

Fr Fernando Ramirez (was too upset to be able to comment on the death of Catherine Kennedy)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/beloved-bible-study-teacher-shot-in-head-on-way-home-from-prayer-meeting-177263/>

Saturday March 11, 2017



Uzbekistan: Yashnobod district, Tashkent

Konstantin Binkovsky (husband of Susanna Binkovsky, home raided without warrant for a pre-holiday 'security inspection', Christian literature including family Bible seized, taken to the police station for questioning, released)

Susanna Binkovsky (wife of Konstantin Binkovsky, followed her husband to the police station, questioned by police)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2268



Nigeria: Ugba village, Benue state

Governor Samuel Ortom (spoke about another Fulani Muslim attack “My people are killed, displaced, vulnerable and above all, rendered homeless in their fatherland”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/03/one-year-agatu-massacre-christians-continue-killed-benue-nigeria/>

Sunday March 12, 2017



Egypt: Ezbet Nakhla

Bishop Pfnotious (asked to find a place for people to pray after they were prevented from gathering)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1854&A=29961>

Monday March 13, 2017



Indonesia: Jakarta

Basuki Tjahaja Purnama aka Ahok (provincial Governor, named as a suspect in a police blasphemy investigation on [November 16, 2016](#) 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; **UPDATE**: mosques have begun to deny Islamic funerals to his Muslim supporters)

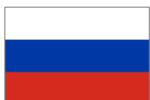
<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Muslim-supporters-of-Christian-governor-denied-funeral-40179.html>



Uganda: Tirinyi, Kibuku district

Hassan Muwanguzi (convert, abandoned by his family, beaten, and fired from his teaching position for converting to Christianity; arrested on abduction and human sacrifice charges on [February 26, 2017](#) after a convert from Islam [Namusisi Budadu Birye] took refuge with him in [2015](#) after her father beat her; released on bail on [March 3, 2017](#), received death threats; **UPDATE**: charges dismissed after the complainant twice failed to appear in court)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/03/court-drops-charges-kidnapping-human-sacrifice-evangelist-uganda/>



Russia: Asino district, Tomsk region

V I Nasonova (fined US\$78 for illegal missionary activity)

V N Lukina (fined US\$78 for illegal missionary activity)

Russia: Sterlitamak, Republic of Bashkortostan

V I Polkovnikova (fined an unknown amount for handing out the Gideons' New Testament)

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



United States - Hawaii

Deacon Walter Yoshimitsu (reported to have said said “The [state] Senate’s approval of assisted suicide ignores the tremendous strides we have made as a community to promote the value of hospice and palliative care to care for those with terminal illnesses and to ensure everyone has access to quality end of life care...Those in favor of assisted suicide have framed this as an issue about individual autonomy and freedom of choice, when in fact it is nothing more than a veiled attempt to make it legal for physicians to murder their patients with impunity”)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/despite-warnings-assisted-suicide-bill-advances-in-hawaii-98707/>

Tuesday March 14, 2017



Indonesia: Samarinda, East Kalimantan province

Alfaro Sinaga (aged 5, son of Hotdiman and Novita, hospitalized in serious condition on following a [November 13, 2016](#) church attack with Molotov cocktails by an ISIL sympathizer; **UPDATE:** reported to have undergone 17 operations, no longer cries after surgery, has become ashamed of his appearance)

Novita (aged 40, mother of Alfaro Sinaga, said “I always try to encourage him by saying it is important to regain his health and will pray with him before the operation. Seeing him happy is my source of strength and joy as well”)

Hotdiman (father of Alfaro Sinaga, has been looking for employment closer to home)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/5071305/>



China: Guzhen county, Anhui province

Shi Xinhong (detained on [March 5, 2017](#) for praying for the National People's Congress and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in [Beijing](#), deported to her home province; sentenced to 8 days' administrative detention on [March 6, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** upon the end of her detention was criminally detained)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/03/2-christians-criminally-detained-for.html>



Russia: Abinsk district, Krasnodar region

Vladimir Klimenko (fined US\$78 for illegal missionary activity on the internet)

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



Congo, Democratic Republic: Kananga

Bishop Emmanuel Bernard Kasanda Mulenga (reported to have appealed to UN troops to rescue 25 seminarians who were hiding in the jungle following the February 18, 2017 attack on their seminary by a militia, the seminarians were rescued)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/61920-AFRICA DR CONGO The UN evacuates 25 seminarians of the Seminary of Kananga assaulted in February#.WMiTyG8rKM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/61920-AFRICA_DR_CONGO_The_UN_evacuates_25_seminarians_of_the_Seminary_of_Kananga_assaulted_in_February#.WMiTyG8rKM8)



United States – California: Salinas

Pastor Herbert Valero (aged 68, father of six, **stabbed to death** outside his home by a parishioner while praying with him)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/pastor-father-of-6-fatally-stabbed-by-church-member-while-praying-for-assailant-177794/>

Wednesday March 15, 2017



China: Qingdao

Pastor Seong-do Ohn (aged 66, South Korean citizen, detained at the airport with his wife, had been aiding North Korean refugees, wife released after a few days)

China: Qinhuangdao

Pastor Byeong-gi Lee (aged 42, South Korean citizen, detained at his hotel with his wife, had been aiding North Korean refugees, wife released after a few days)

<http://www.persecution.org/2017/03/23/committee-calls-for-the-release-of-south-korean-pastors-detained-in-china/>



India: Chhattigarh state

Arun Pannalal (**UPDATE:** reported to have said "Christians in Chhattigarh are being discriminated in every aspect of their life particularly in rural areas where their level of vulnerability is higher. Whether it is education, social welfare, or the PDS [Public Distribution System], Christians have been systematically chipped out for their Christian beliefs...There has been shift in the traditional way of incidents of harassment of Christians to an institutional discrimination")

India: Uttarakhand state

Pramod Das (Bethesda Charitable Endeavors, said after the government shut down the U.S. Christian charity Compassion International "We will have to completely stop the program now - it will affect the development of the children", had been assisting 258 children in slums and leper colonies)

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

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/christian-charity-for-children-shuts-operations-in-india/78654>



Russia: Sharypovo, Krasnoyarsk region

Pastor Aleksandr Mikhailov (fined US\$466 because the sign outside his church did not state its full legal name)

Russia: Sterlitamak, Republic of Bashkortostan

R R Mannanova (fined an unknown amount for handing out the Gideons' New Testament)

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



Nigeria

Rev Dr Musa Asake (**UPDATE:** wrote that the government had pressured churches to not carry out a Day of Mourning for murdered Christians: “CAN [Christian Association of Nigeria] wishes to inform all Christians, both at home and abroad, that based on credible reports of concern, it has decided to suspend the Christian Day of Mourning formerly scheduled to take place globally on Sunday 19th March, 2017,” Asake said in the statement. “We took cognizance of the preparations that various Christian groups have made to participate in the program, which was designed, in all honesty and sincerity, to mourn the death of thousands of Christians murdered by religious insurgents”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/03/nigeria-orders-christian-leaders-cancel-mourning-prayer-day-killed-christians/>



France: Dunkirk

Sara (Iranian citizen, refugee camp resident, reported to have said she fears “Maybe violence, maybe [I’ll be] killed”, has been spat upon)

Ramin (convert from Zoroastrianism, Iranian citizen, refugee camp resident, , reported to have said “The people in the camp know I’m Christian. Sometimes people have thrown small stones at my cabin, but for me it’s no problem, I’m at peace”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/03/accounts-surface-of-persecution-of-christians-in-dunkirk-migrants-camp/>



Argentina: Moreno

Fr Eduardo Farrell (reported to have been transferred to another parish due to death threats from drug traffickers)

Bishop Fernando Carlos Maletti (ordered the transfer of Fr Eduardo Farrell)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/61924->

[AMERICA ARGENTINA The threats of drug traffickers force the transfer of a priest#.WMnjbm8rKM9](#)

Thursday March 16, 2017



China: Xiangyang, Hunan

Tu Yan (detained for 'cult activity' on [October 22, 2016](#), released, arrested a month later on the same charge, between 4 and 12 fellow Christians arrested with her, some released;

UPDATE: still in custody, has denied involvement with the 'Three Classes of Servants' alleged cult which her attorney says has not been officially identified by the government as a cult)

Su Min (detained for 'cult activity' on [October 22, 2016](#), released, arrested a month later on the same charge; **UPDATE:** still in custody)

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

China: Jilin

Chang Shulan (detained on [March 5, 2017](#) in [Beijing](#), deported to her home province, later sentenced to administrative detention; **UPDATE:** upon the end of her detention was criminally detained)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/03/2-christians-criminally-detained-for.html>



Sudan: Omdurman

Three teachers at a Christian school were arrested and then released on bail

Daud Musa (**UPDATE**)

Yahya Elias

Younan

Rev Yahya Abdelrahim Nalu (**UPDATE:** said of the arrests “There is a big collusion between the police, the attorney and the Ministry of Guidance and Religious Endowment. Police are illegally aiding the company [Education Vision], despite the fact that it has no legal documents of ownership”)

[Date: March 16, 2017](#)

Location:

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2017/03/christian-teachers-sudan-arrested-take-school/>



Turkey

Andrew Brunson (husband of Norine Brunson, detained in Izmir as a 'national security risk' on [October 7, 2016](#), denied access to U.S. diplomats, attorneys, and fellow parishioners, told he would be deported; ordered held on [December 9, 2016](#) on 'terrorism' allegations from a 'secret informant', attorney denied access to the allegations; **UPDATE**: reportedly government officials have stated that his trial may be 'sped up' and implicitly linked his case to the U.S. refusal to extradite Sufi cleric Fethullah Gulen)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/03/turkish-prime-minister-we-could-accelerate-us-pastors-trial/>



Russia: Sterlitamak, Republic of Bashkortostan

A G Vakhitova (fined an unknown amount for handing out the Gideons' New Testament)

F R Muratov (fined an unknown amount for handing out the Gideons' New Testament)

R A Akhmetyanova (fined an unknown amount for handing out the Gideons' New Testament)

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



Nigeria

Bishop William Naga (**UPDATE**: reported to have said "The governor did his best when the Christians had to flee 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 refugees, but if you are a Christian they will not give you food. They will openly tell you that the relief is not for Christians")

John Gwamma (chairman of an informal Christian refugee camp; **UPDATE**: reported to have said: "We have started informal, purely Christian camps because Christians were being segregated in the formal camps. They had not been given food, or allowed to go to church. There is a term called 'arne', meaning pagan. Meaning, you are pagan and not a Muslim, and as long as you are not a Muslim, we don't like you to stay together with us")

Mary Charles (refugee; **UPDATE:** reported to have 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. 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"

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/christians.denied.vital.aid.as.famine.sweeps.sub.saharan.africa/105748.htm>



United Kingdom: Margate, Kent

Fr Len Kofler (founder of the Institute of St Anselm, announced that the Institute would be moving to Rome due to the government's revocation of its license to bring in foreign students, the revocation came when 10% of its applicants had been rejected for reason such as a Catholic priest not having a wife or a nun with a vow of poverty not having a bank account, said "All our priests and religious are sent to train and go back to their own countries after their studies. I think it's a total misunderstanding and religious illiteracy from the Home Office. At the age of 82, I am no longer able to work in a situation where my hands are bound due to the Home Office's inability to function. To work in that mess is not my desire any longer")

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/03/16/catholic-institute-leaves-britain-after-years-of-mental-torture-over-visa-applications/>

Friday March 17, 2017



Thailand: Bangkok

Chen Guiqiu (wife of imprisoned human rights attorney Xie Yang, 14 year old daughter detained and released in China, fled China and illegally entered the country on [February 24, 2017](#); safe house raided by police with the assistance of the Chinese embassy on [March 2, 2017](#), detained; rescued from detention by U.S. embassy personnel on [March 3, 2017](#) due to her 4-year old daughter's status as a U.S. citizen, taken to the airport under pursuit from Chinese diplomats, officials from all three countries argued over the family's fate; **UPDATE:** arrived in the U.S.)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/05/abc-news-ap-exclusive-china-lawyers.html>



India: Begusarai, Bihar state

Pastor Ajay Kumar (husband, father of a 3 year old daughter, beaten by a Bajrang Dal [the RSS paramilitary youth wing] mob, kicked in the face, ear, and abdomen, arrested on offending religious sensibilities charges, released, suffered pain from internal injuries including his ear)

Assaryav (Bible college student, beaten by a Bajrang Dal [the RSS paramilitary youth wing] mob, arrested on offending religious sensibilities charges, released)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/03/police-compliant-hindu-extremist-attacks-bihar-state-india/>



Pakistan: Islamabad

Christian and other religious leaders met with national security officials to express their concerns

Senator Kamran Michael (**UPDATE**)

Bishop Abraham Daniel (said "We have expressed our concerns regarding the misuse of blasphemy laws, security and other issues to the national security advisor and hope for better results. Blasphemy laws condemn Christians and other religious minorities to live under the permanent threat of death. We seek not to abolish the law but to stop its misuse. Not only minorities but Muslims have also suffered due to the misuse of this law and many innocent people have been killed")

Joel Aamir Sohotra (former member of the Punjab state parliament; **UPDATE**: said "Theological seminaries and madrasas in particular are obligated to equip students for meaningful pastoral practice and leadership of their communities amid growing diversity. We must not forget the importance of interfaith understanding in the curriculum of our schools")

Pakistan: Faisalabad

Hyacinth Peter (criticized the local government for publishing an advertisement for employment of sanitation workers that specified that only Christians, Hindus, and Shia Muslims need apply, the government then apologized for having added Shias to the list)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/minorities-tell-pakistans-top-security-chief-their-concerns/78724>
<http://www.ucanews.com/news/christians-selected-for-degrading-jobs-in-pakistan/78708>



Russia: Kumertau, Republic of Bashkortostan

Vitaly Ryazanov (fined US\$83 on [February 2, 2017](#) for announcing the next date for Sunday worship; **UPDATE**: appeal successful)

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



Nigeria: Jol village, Riyom local government area, Plateau state

Nehemiah David (aged 14, stoned by Fulani herdsmen along with other secondary school students, injured)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/08/herdsmen-plateau-state-nigeria-quietly-seizing-christians-property-pastors-say/>



Mexico: Saltillo, Coahulia

Fr Robert Coogan Francis (U.S. citizen, prison chaplain, halfway house operator, beaten by police during a nighttime raid without warrant, halfway house assistant detained and released)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/61955-AMERICA_MEXICO_Diocese_denounces_Another_priest_attacked_by_an_armed_group#.WNE8d28rKM8

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/03/21/us-priests-home-raided-by-police-on-st-patricks-day-in-mexico/>

Sunday March 19, 2017



Australia: Melbourne

Fr Tomy Mathew Kalathoor (aged 48, Indian citizen, stabbed by a mentally ill man at the beginning of Mass, said by telephone "By all means I will continue [to serve]")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/stabbed-indian-priest-vows-to-continue-in-australia/78733>



Pakistan: Sheikhpura, Punjab province

Noman Munir Masih (aged 20, son of Khalida Bibi, sanitation worker, sole financial supporter for his family, refused an order to clean an outhouse, citing it was his day of rest, threatened with ‘dire consequences’)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/03/young-christian-shot-dead-streets-sheikhpura-pakistan/>



Kenya: Kisumu

George Omondi (aged 47, father of five, church guard, **shot dead** in a robbery attempt)

Fr George Kraakman (Dutch citizen, awakened by the shooting of George Omondi, found his body)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/61959->

[AFRICA KENYA The guardian of Nyalenda parish in Kisumu killed in a robbery
#.WNE7gG8rKM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/61959-#WNE7gG8rKM8)



Nigeria: Oshugu village, Nasarawa state

Ittah (described a Fulani Muslim attack “The attack on our village occurred this morning while we were in the church. Our village head and one other person died, and many were injured. The sad thing is that these Fulanis have been attacking our communities, and no one is doing anything about it”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/03/200-people-killed-christian-areas-nasarawa-nigeria-year-group-says/>

Monday March 20, 2017



China

Pastor Li Guozhi aka Yang Hua (husband of Wang Hongwu, detained on [December 9, 2015](#) for 'illegally holding state secrets'; sentenced in [Guiyang, Guizhou province on January 5, 2017](#) to two and a half years imprisonment; **UPDATE**: attorney reported that he had to be carried by prison guards to their meeting, leg ulcerated, has been in great pain)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/03/china-change-jailed-living-stone-house.html>



Pakistan

Prof Anjum James Paul (**UPDATE**: criticized the government for creating census forms which left off the Sikh religious category and used the derogatory term 'Isaai' for Christians)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Pakistan-census-ignores-Sikhs,-refers-to-Christians-disparagingly-40241.html>

Pakistan: Sheikhpura, Punjab province

Noman Munir Masih (aged 20, son of Khalida Bibi, sanitation worker, sole financial supporter for his family, refused an order to clean an outhouse on [March 19, 2017](#), citing it was his day of rest, threatened with 'dire consequences'; **UPDATE**: **shot dead**)

Khalida Bibi (widow, mother of Noman Munir Masih)

Riaz Masih Bhatti (sanitation workers' union president, said "The sanitation department comprises mostly Christian staff, while Muslims are hired for other departments. There have been frequent incidents of prejudice against Christian sanitary workers, but Noman's murder in a brazen attack in broad daylight has sent a wave of shock and panic in the entire community...Some elders of the Chaddar clan visited Noman's house two days ago and sought reconciliation, but we told them that we will not stop pursuing the case until the murderers are arrested and brought to justice. We may be weak, but we will not let them get away with murder. Today it was Noman, tomorrow it may be some other poor Christian, so we will have to remain steadfast in order to secure our community")

Napolean Qayyum (rights activist, **UPDATE**: said "It's no hidden secret that Muslims want to keep Christians in this degrading occupation. Several job advertisements from government departments for posts of sweepers clearly state that the candidates must be non-Muslim; some even specify that they must be Christians...Many Muslims find it hard to accept refusal by a 'lowly' Christian. This is not the first time a Christian sanitary worker has been killed or subjected to violence for refusing to comply with unjust demands of persons from the Muslim majority. The situation won't change for the better for Christian street sweepers and sanitation workers until the state realizes its responsibility toward all citizens regardless of their faith, caste and creed")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/03/young-christian-shot-dead-streets-sheikhpura-pakistan/>

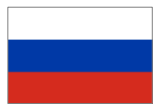


Ethiopia: Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region

Biruk (alias, son of Tutu, beaten in [January 2017](#) for refusing the invitation to Islam; **UPDATE:** home destroyed in an arson attack)

Tutu (alias, widow, mother of Biruk, husband's remains disinterred by Muslims in [2015](#) and left on a roadside; **UPDATE:** home destroyed in an arson attack)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/04/ethiopian-state-considers-restricting-christian-activity-church-buildings/>



Russia: Essentuki, Stavropol region

Ivan Manakov (fined US\$87 for illegal distribution of religious literature)

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



Guatemala: Guatemala City

Mother Inez (told by the government that it would be seizing the orphanage her nuns had operated for over 20 years, has been fighting the decision, over 400 children face possible eviction)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/102631.htm>

Tuesday March 21, 2017



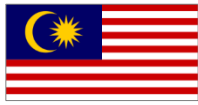
Indonesia: Bogor, West Java

Three churches were ordered closed by the government after Islamic intimidation

Rev Abdi Saragih (church closed, said "We are struggling for our right to worship")

Alex A Makawangkel (parish council chairman, church closed)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/indonesian-district-bans-three-churches-from-worshipping/78713>



Malaysia

Over 100,000 Burmese Christians have fled from Myanmar and are now refugees, many seek immigration to the U.S.

Tin (aged 38, said "America is really our fatherland in terms of religion. They sent their missionaries to our country and taught us to be Christians. And now we had to escape. All we want is to be safe")

Sang (aged 29, teacher, former theology student, said "We are not terrorists, we are Christians. We will never be a problem in the United States. We will get educations, we will work hard. We only seek safety")

<http://christiantimes.com/article/thousands-of-christians-flee-to-malaysia-to-escape-persecution-in-myanmar/71784.htm>



Pakistan

Fr James Channan OP (director of the Dominican Peace Center; **UPDATE:** along with Iman Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad has been awarded an interfaith harmony prize)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/pakistani-priest-and-imam-awarded-for-their-pursuit-of-inter-religious-harmony/>



Iraq

Rev Andrew White (**UPDATE:** reported to have said in a television interview "The time has come where it is over, no Christians will be left. Some stay Christians should stay to maintain the historical presence, but it has become very difficult. The future for the community is very limited. The Christians coming out of Iraq and ISIL areas in the Middle East all say the same thing, there is no way they are ever going back. They have had enough...If there is anything I can tell Americans it is that your fellow brothers and sisters are suffering, they are desperate for help")

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/03/21/christianity-in-iraq-is-finished-says-canon-andrew-white-vicar-baghdad.html>



Russia: Krasnokamensk district, Zabaikalsk region

Mikhail Ishenin (fined US\$83 on [February 1, 2017](#) for illegal missionary activity; **UPDATE:** appeal successful)

Russia: Ulan-Ude, Buryat Republic

Marat Zhambulov (apparent Evangelical Christian Youth Movement member, fined an unknown amount, details unknown)

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



Ukraine: near Donetsk

Igor Kozlovsky (religious scholar, has been held hostage for a year by a pro-Russian militia)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue28013.html>



Colombia: : Istmina-Tado, Choco province

Bishop Julio Hernando Garcia Pelaez (said "It is impossible to live here...Violence in Upper Baudo does not stop. The communities along the Baudo and San Juan rivers are living a serious humanitarian crisis, and many have begun to flee...The people here were peaceful, but in recent years, due to the war, anxiety, mistrust and deaths affecting the civilian population, especially women and children, people have stopped being peaceful")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/61963->

[AMERICA COLOMBIA It is impossible to live here says Mgr Garcia on the violence in Upper Baudo#.WNKDRW8rKM8](#)

Wednesday March 22, 2017



China

The government has begun to install television cameras in all churches to 'maintain social order'

Fr Francis (underground priest, said that all churches have received notices and that "Bishop Peter Shao Zhumin, an underground bishop who is not recognized by the government, felt helpless to resist the demand. As for the faithful, some feel angry but some are ignorant, not knowing or caring about the issue")

Joseph (said "Officials installed cameras inside the church hall before the funeral of late Bishop Zhu Weifang in September 2016. But we removed them. Then they installed cameras outside the church")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/beijing-using-cctv-in-churches-to-spy-on-christians/78721>



India: Goa

Fr Eremito Rebelo (protested the governor's choice of the Hindu nationalist BJP party to form the new state government despite the Congress party receiving more seats, said it violated the Constitution and legal precedent)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/protest-in-go-a-as-hindu-party-forms-government/78726>



Russia: Stavropol

A.D. Posokhov (fined US\$81 in [Pyatigorsk, Stavropol region](#) on [December 14, 2016](#) for possession of banned religious literature; **UPDATE**: appeal successful, conviction overturned)

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



United Kingdom: London

Terror attack on Westminster Bridge and Parliament kills five and injures dozens

Kurt Cochran (U.S. citizen, husband of Melissa Payne Cochran, father of Melissa, recording studio owner, **killed**)

Melissa Payne Cochran (U.S. citizen, wife of Kurt Cochran, mother of Melissa, recording studio owner, injured)

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/23/world/europe/london-attack-victims-westminster-parliament.html?_r=0

Thursday March 23, 2017



Philippines: Manila

Fr Jerome Secillano (**UPDATE:** said of upcoming Holy Week security threats "There are always threats, but Filipinos are not deterred from doing their spiritual activities. It has always been like that", added that during such times people are "more inclined to pray for security from God")

Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Soncuaco Pabillo (**UPDATE:** said "Let the police do their work while we continue to lead the people in their faith")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/filipinos-told-to-be-vigilant-during-holy-week/78735>



China: Xining, Qinghai province

Pastor Li Mutian (ordered by the Religious Affairs Bureau and the DSPS to 'suspend all gatherings' of his church, refused)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/05/authorities-lock-pastor-in-own-house-to.html>



Nepal: Makwanpur district

Christians have opened a new cemetery and tell why

Bishop Narayan Sharma (**UPDATE:** said "Because Christians have no other way to put their dead bodies, they bury the dead person on their own private land. And in such cases, nearby neighbors and the community, they come up, and the next day they want the buried dead body to be taken out and put somewhere else...Though the government recognized the Christian community in Nepal and our Constitution gives equal rights to all religious communities in Nepal, still we struggle with [the issue of] the graveyard,"

adds Sharma. “We don’t know, after our death, where we will be taken for burial, where our bodies will be laid. We are still negotiating with the government, but so far there is no clue [as to what the government has done], no solution”)

Leela Bhakt Pradhan (said “[A few years ago], Shyam Nepali, a new believer who lived in Dolaghat area, died two months after accepting Christ. We buried his body on a private land that was owned by a believer. But after that, all the villagers came and objected to it. So we had to dig up his grave and walk about 3 miles with the body to bury him again on another private land belonging to a believer”)

Joshua Magrati (cemetery secretary, said “The biggest challenge is the road that leads to this cemetery. It’s about two miles from the main road. We have spent about 2.5 million Nepali rupees [US\$24,000], and yet it’s far from being complete. However, we have already buried two bodies here...In Kathmandu, there was a piece of land inside the complex of the Pashupatinath Temple, which allowed Christians to be buried. But they blocked that area for Christian burials [in 2011]. There was another cemetery in Lele area, but political parties incited villagers to object to burials there. So we can no longer use that land”)

Ang Dawa Sherpa (cemetery secretary, said “There is no other Christian cemetery near Kathmandu. There is one in Pokhara, and one in Chitawan. They are far from here”)

Parshuram Sunchuri (cemetery board member, said “We chose this place because of two reasons. One, we wanted a place that was really far from any human habitation, as opposition comes mainly from local communities near a Christian graveyard. Two, the nearer the land to the city, the more expensive it is”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/03/15929/>



Iraq: Karamles

Noeh (aged 12, reported to have returned to his home after more than 2 years as a refugee, found that ISIL arsonists had completed gutted it)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/03/marbles-midst-ashes-iraqi-boy-returns-home-post-isis/>



Egypt: Ismailia

Fr Bolous Halim (**UPDATE**: said that about 310 Christian families had been displaced from the Sinai)

Samir Shukri (refugee from Sinai, said of the government minister for social solidarity that the refugees from ISIL attacks were 'on a trip': "The minister knows nothing about the situation in el-Arish...Some culprits will be arrested, and new bodies will litter the streets. They tell us el-Arish is safe, but then we discover that the stench of death is following us around", which was a reference to the government fabrication of a shootout with ISIL at a checkpoint in which prisoners were executed)

Maher Zeki (monastery volunteer, has been aiding Sinai refugees)

Mina Nasr (refugee from Sinai)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2017/03/23/what-next-for-sinai-displaced-copts/>



Russia: Chernyshevsk district, Zabaikalsk region

T I Sukhanova (fined US\$84 on [January 30, 2017](#) for illegal missionary activity; **UPDATE:** appeal successful)

T V Lipishina (fined US\$83 on [February 2, 2017](#) for illegal missionary activity; **UPDATE:** appeal successful)

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



Nigeria: Maiduguri

Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme (**UPDATE:** said "Most of the donations from the western world do not get directly to the targeted people. Whenever interventions come, they always insist it must go through the government agencies and through this, such interventions go directly into the pockets of some individuals. Most of our politicians are corrupt")

Fr John Bakeni (**UPDATE:** described political tensions, government demolition of church buildings, and church support of refugees)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/61988->

[AFRICA NIGERIA Our politicians are corrupt and often aid does not go to those who need it denounces a Bishop#.WNUITm8rKM8](#)



United States – California: San Fernando

Pastor Rudy Trujillo (attacked and beaten by a former parishioner, hospitalized, underwent surgery)

<http://www.charismanews.com/us/63833-former-congregant-attacks-pastor-leaving-him-bruised-and-bloodied>

Friday March 24, 2017



Indonesia: Kaliabang, Bekasi, West Java

Fr Raymundus Sianipar (asked by police to leave his church after it came under attack by Islamic radicals who demanded its building permit be cancelled, tear gas was fired at the radicals)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/03/24/hundreds-protest-against-new-catholic-church-in-indonesia/>



China

Pastor Li Guozhi aka Yang Hua (husband of Wang Hongwu, detained on [December 9, 2015](#) for ‘illegally holding state secrets’; sentenced in [Guiyang, Guizhou province on January 5, 2017](#) to two and a half years imprisonment; attorney reported that he had to be carried by prison guards to their [March 20, 2017](#) meeting, leg ulcerated, has been in great pain; **UPDATE:** treated as a hospital outpatient)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/03/china-change-jailed-living-stone-house.html>



Uzbekistan: Yakkasaray district, Tashkent

Yelena Potorochina (home raided by police during a discussion of Christianity among five women, books and electronics seized)

Tatyana Bezhenova (Russian citizen, passport seized by police at the home of Yelena Potorochina)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2280



Iran: Evin Prison, Tehran

Maryam Naghash-Zargaran aka Nasim (aged 39, apparently had a heart attack in prison on [September 29, 2013](#); **UPDATE**: health has taken a turn for the worse, medical treatment denied)

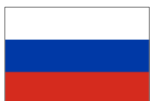
<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3408>



Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan

Stephen Rasche (diocesan aid coordinator , U.S. citizen, said in [London, United Kingdom](#) that the world must see Iraq's remaining 200,000 Christians as “a threatened people on the verge of extinction, the victims of horrific genocide...If we can’t hold this community together over the next six to 12 months, it will all be for nought. [They could be reduced to] a custodian population looking after old church properties”, added that discrimination by the West against Christian immigrants was “absolute fact”, that the UN discrimination against Christian refugees has softened after the new U.S. administration took office, and that the sale of Christian land in Iraq was financed by Iran)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/03/six-weeks-medicine-and-two-months-food-for-displaced-iraqi-christians/>



Russia: Tver

Pastor Sergei Merkulov (case dismissed on [February 27, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: prosecutorial appeal dismissed, case closed)

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



United States – Florida: Orlando

Marshall Polston (suspended from college after he challenged a Muslim's professor's class statement that Christianity was false and a Muslim student's advocacy of Sharia punishment of homosexuals, said “He [the student] stated that a good punishment for gays, adulterers, and thieves was the removal of a certain body part, as determined by

Sharia law. It took a few seconds for me to realize that he actually said that, especially after what this community has faced with the tragic loss of life at Pulse [the gay nightclub where 49 were killed by a jihadist in 2016]”)

<http://www.centralfloridapost.com/2017/03/25/rollins-college-suspends-student-after-he-challenged-radical-muslim-hate-speech/>



Canada: Ottawa

Cardinal Thomas Collins (**UPDATE:** spoke before a Parliamentary committee “It is sad that I and others need to come before you today to urge you to protect these devoted healers from the punishment which they face if they refuse either to administer a lethal injection to their patients or, in effective referral, to arrange for that injection to be administered”)

Bishop Ronald Peter Fabbro CSB (**UPDATE:** said “We strongly encourage you to include in Bill 84 adequate protection for freedom of conscience and freedom of religion. It’s essential”)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/watch-pounding-table-cardinal-tells-ontario-govt-its-bullying-to-force-docs>

Saturday March 25, 2017



Bangladesh: Doripara, Gazipur district

Biren Benjamin Gomes (described a raid by four plainclothes police on a Christian village: "When asked what they were doing, they claimed they were policemen but failed to show IDs", the officers stole US\$63 from one house, then "Women started screaming 'robbers, robbers' and hundreds of neighbors rushed to help. They beat up the intruders before elderly men stopped them", following this 35 riot police attacked the village, 25 were injured, 5 seriously)

Nirmal Rozario (**UPDATE:** said "Police have been arresting Catholics arbitrarily and extorting large sums of money")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/police-accused-of-assaulting-bangladeshi-catholics/78775>



Syria: Damascus

Cardinal Mario Zenari (apostolic nuncio [Vatican ambassador]; **UPDATE**: said “I do not know how to describe these atrocities. I always say, whoever does not believe in hell, just go to [Syria] and it will convey the weight of hell. In Damascus ten days ago we saw on the television, this display, these Kamikaze, seventy dead, forty dead, it is a bloodbath... You should notice more of this suffering of the civilians, especially women and children. It is time to notice and not just read about this but realize it means to do something”, added that over 1,000 volunteer aid workers have been killed since fighting began six years ago: “there are also many beautiful examples of altruism”)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue28038.html>

Sunday March 26, 2017



Mexico: El Nayar, Jesus Maria del Nayar prelature, Nayarit state

Fr Felipe Carrillo Altamirano (**killed** during an apparent robbery)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/62008-AMERICA_MEXICO_Another_priest_killed_because_of_crime#.WNpt1W8rKM8

Monday March 27, 2017



China: Guangzhou, Guangdong province

Li Hongmin (husband of Xu Lei, criminally detained on [June 6, 2016](#) on 'illegal business operations' charges for printing religious literature; **UPDATE**: convicted, sentenced to 10 months' imprisonment and fined US\$1,4510, will be released with time served)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/03/christian-handed-10-month-sentence-for.html>



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; escaped from her abductor on [October 27, 2016](#) with the help of the British-Pakistani Christian Association; **UPDATE**: freed from her abductor in a divorce proceeding)

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



Uzbekistan: Yashnobod district, Tashkent

Konstantin Binkovsky (husband of Susanna Binkovsky, home raided without warrant for a pre-holiday 'security inspection' on [March 11, 2017](#), Christian literature including family Bible seized, taken to the police station for questioning, released; **UPDATE**: questioned again at his home after the first raid became known on the internet)

Susanna Binkovsky (wife of Konstantin Binkovsky, followed her husband to the police station on [March 11, 2017](#), questioned by police; **UPDATE**: questioned again)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2268



Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan

The leaders of one Orthodox and two Catholic churches signed an agreement to join together to support the rebuilding of the Christian presence in the country in the form of 12,000 new homes

Archbishop Timotheus Mousa Shamani (**UPDATE**: said "Today we are truly a united Church - Syriac Orthodox, Chaldean and Syriac Catholic - united in the work of rebuilding these houses on the Nineveh Plains and in restoring hope to the hearts of the inhabitants of these villages and inviting those who have left them to return...We would like to thank Aid to the Church in Need, which has helped us so much in the past, by providing help and food. Now this charity is playing a crucial role in the rebuilding of our houses")

Archbishop Yohanna Petros Moshe (**UPDATE:** said "I would like to invite the Christians of the Nineveh Plains to return to their homes and resume living in their villages, in order to bear witness to Christianity. Today we join together to demonstrate that we are united in our wish to accelerate this operation as rapidly as possible, and that it must start as soon as possible")

Bishop Michael Pola Muqadissi (**UPDATE:** said "Today we have given our agreement to the rebuilding of the houses in our ruined villages. This is a brave step forward which gives us great joy and encourages the Christians to remain in their villages and in their own country")

Archbishop Nicodemus Daoud Sharaf (**UPDATE:** said "We are the roots of Christianity. We must remain in our country. We must remain as witnesses to Jesus Christ in this country, in Iraq and especially in the Plains of Nineveh. This task of rebuilding all the houses in those villages where ISIS has destroyed everything is truly an enormous challenge. Thank you in advance to all those who will help us")

Fr Andrzej Halemba (head of the Middle East department of Aid to the Church in Need; **UPDATE:** said "What we have done to support this initiative, we have not done for money. We have done it to ensure that the Christians can remain in Iraq. We are working for God")

<http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1490933423.html>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20170331121555.htm>



Sudan: Omdurman

Twelve staff members of a church school were arrested in an attempt to aid seizure of the school by a Muslim businessman

Rev Idris Karntina (arrested along with 11 other school staff)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/03/police-sudan-arrest-christians-school-prevent-others-leaving/>



Uganda: Nakabale village, Kaderuna sub-county

Pastor Christopher James Kalaja (husband, father of six, home, barn, and church destroyed by 9 Muslims, said "As they were approaching, they were shouting 'Allah Akbar' and immediately started cutting down the trees on my farm, and thereafter pulled down the church building. I then took off for the sake of my life...My outreach to Muslims has led to all these fights that I have been receiving from the Muslims. These people have been hunting for me since the early '80s. And as a result, they even managed to kill my mother

by poisoning, and after the death of my mother, they went ahead and killed my livestock. They are provoking me to leave the area”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/04/muslim-extremists-destroy-pastors-farm-church-building-eastern-uganda/>



Russia: Omsk

Pastor Aleksandr Kutuyavin (acquitted of illegal missionary activity charges)

Russia: Samara

Pastor Oleg Gorobets (fined US\$527 for a church meeting in a private home)

Russia: Tuapse, Krasnodar region

Pastor Anatoly Mukhin (fined US\$88 for illegal missionary activity in his own home)

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



Nigeria: Yola, Adamawa state

Fr Maurice Kweirang (**UPDATE:** reported to have said of the worsening refugee problem: The Church is not able to feed them because we have limited capabilities and we cannot extend our support to all the IDPs outside the camp. We provide food once a week to those living in host communities, and others living on their own. 3856 households are receiving our weekly food distribution, regardless of their religious background. I alerted some humanitarian organizations asking if they could assist. But they said they have moved away from 'emergency support' to 'livelihood' in neighboring Borno State...Our team went out recently to assess the situation. They visited some IDPs who returned back to their communities, but only found that most of them are emaciated and looking unwell. Both adults and children show acute signs of acute malnutrition. We brought some of them to our clinics for medical treatment, but we couldn't keep them. They are living with relations in Yola and in surrounding communities. The church has written to donors for support. But for now we haven't yet received any response", also spoke of Nigerian refugees being expelled from Cameroon: "It's difficult to give an exact figure of those 'returnees'. I only saw the first batch: they are about 10,000. The second batch is yet to be confirmed but it will be higher than 10,000. There are still others – over 60,000 – trapped in northern Cameroon”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/03/ne-nigeria-greatest-crisis-on-the-african-continent-says-un/>



Venezuela

Bishop Mario del Valle Moronta Rodríguez (**UPDATE**: has begun steps to aid refugees fleeing from Venezuela to Colombia)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/62066-AMERICA_COLOMBIA_The_help_of_the_Catholic_Church_to_those_fleeing_from_Venezuela#.WOTzV28rKM8



Colombia

Bishop Victor Manuel Ochoa Cadavid (has begun steps to aid refugees fleeing from Venezuela)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/62066-AMERICA_COLOMBIA_The_help_of_the_Catholic_Church_to_those_fleeing_from_Venezuela#.WOTzV28rKM8

Tuesday March 28, 2017



Vietnam

Khanh (aged 28, convert, husband, father, pressured by his village leaders to abandon his faith, beaten by his brother along with his daughter, he and family have relocated to a pastor's house)

<https://www.opendoorsusa.org/take-action/pray/believer-northern-vietnam-sustains-injuries-refusing-deny-jesus/>



Kazakhstan: Karaganda

Karlygash Zholomanova (indicted in [Satpayev, Karaganda region](#) on [February 17, 2017](#) for distributing religious literature; fined US\$728 on [February 27, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

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



Sudan: Omdurman

Twelve staff members of a church school were arrested on [March 27, 2017](#) in an attempt to aid seizure of the school by a Muslim businessman, **UPDATE: the remaining staff were confined to the school by police**

Rev Yahia Abdelrahim Nalu (**UPDATE: confined in the school by police along with school staff, said "We expect the arrests to continue"**)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/03/police-sudan-arrest-christians-school-prevent-others-leaving/>



Nigeria: Kafanchan, Kaduna state

Archbishop Ignatius Ayau Kaigama (**UPDATE: said "We are particularly saddened by the constant and wanton destruction of lives and properties. Yesterday, it was Southern Kaduna; recently, it was Zaki-Biam in Benue State and the other day, it was Ile-Ife in Oyo State...no one knows which community will be the next victim"**)

Bishop Joseph Bagobiri (**UPDATE: said "The crisis here has persisted because of the way and manner the Federal and State governments, as well as the Security Agents are handling it...It is important to put on record that the insecurity situation we experience as a Diocese in Kafanchan and Southern Kaduna has not stopped despite the presence of Security Agents. Many of us are disappointed to see that our political leaders are taking sides and known to be supporting directly or indirectly the Fulanis themselves and that is why they are fast losing the support and trust of the people"**)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/62016-AFRICA_NIGERIA_The_Bishop_of_Kafanchan_denounces_The_violence_of_the_Fulani_fueled_by_government_complicity#.WNpsT28rKM8
<https://cruxnow.com/global-church/2017/03/28/nigerian-archbishop-calls-government-protect-christians/>



Mexico: Tampico

Fr Oscar Lopez Navarro (aged 40, abducted for ransom)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/03/30/days-after-a-priest-in-mexico-is-shot-dead-another-is-kidnapped/>

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/62034-](http://www.fides.org/en/news/62034-AMERICA_MEXICO_Priest_kidnapped_in_Tamaulipas_has_been_released#.WN5mqG8rKM8)

[AMERICA MEXICO Priest kidnapped in Tamaulipas has been released#.WN5mqG8rKM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/62034-AMERICA_MEXICO_Priest_kidnapped_in_Tamaulipas_has_been_released#.WN5mqG8rKM8)



United States - California

Investigative journalists were indicted on 15 felony counts for having secretly recorded Planned Parenthood officials negotiating the illegal sale of tissue harvested from aborted children, despite the fact that the state never prosecuted animal rights groups and NBC for doing the same with other subjects [and in the NBC case a civil case resulted in their exoneration under the law]

David Daleiden (home in [Orange county](#) and office raided on [April 5, 2016](#), video recordings seized; **UPDATE**)

Sandra Merritt (office raided on [April 5, 2016](#), video recordings seized; **UPDATE**)

United States – Ohio: Columbus

Pastor Joseph H McDowell (aged 80, **killed** in his home)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/breaking-california-charges-david-daleiden-with-15-crimes-for-exposing-pl>

<http://www.dispatch.com/news/20170328/body-found-after-south-side-house-fire>

Wednesday March 29, 2017



India: Agra, Shamshabad, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Mahesh Chand (accused of forced conversions while attending a birthday party, attacked by a mob along with five other Christians, arrested, held until midnight)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Pentecostal-pastor-arrested-in-Tamil-Nadu-for-criticising-compulsory-yoga-in-schools-40350.html>

<http://www.persecution.org/2017/05/03/christians-in-uttar-pradesh-endure-spike-in-persecution-following-bjp-victory/>



Iraq

Sr Habiba Bihnam Toma OP (**UPDATE**: spoke in [Springfield, Illinois, United States](#) of the 2014 ISIL takeover of her town and the aftermath "We heard the sound of gunshots. We were afraid, cried, prayed and moved slowly among the thousands of people crouching to the ground to avoid the bullets and yelling, 'Where are you, O God? Why have you abandoned us?' It was a shock to leave the walls of our convent and see the streets full of cars and people, all doing as we were doing, leaving our [homes] out of fear for our lives. The main road was filled with cars and people walking that we could not continue. We abandoned the road for unused path...Finally, all of the sisters arrived at the convent. [We] numbered 75 living in a building meant to hold 20...All day we visited [the refugees], listened to their suffering, encouraged them to be patient, wait in hope and strength of their faith. Everyone was suffering because ISIS destroyed not only our homes and schools but our churches and monasteries and all the landmarks of our 2,000-year-old Christian culture")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20170403191212.htm>



Russia: Ufa, Bashkortostan Republic

A V Tselykh (fined US\$88 for a church meeting in a private home)

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



United States - Texas

Col Michael Madrid MD (reported to have been subjected to a letter of admonishment by his new superior officer, that letter appears to be an attempt to overturn a 2014 investigation that cleared him of anti-homosexual allegations)

United States – Texas: Concan

Thirteen retreatants were killed in a motor vehicle accident

Howard Bryan Allen (aged 81, **died**)

Rhonda Barlow Allen (aged 61, **died**)

Harold Boyd Barber (aged 87, **died**)

Margaret Robinson Barber (aged 82, **died**)

Murray William Barrett (aged 67, **died**)

Mildred Goodlett Rosamond (aged 87, **died**)

Sue Wynn Tysdal (aged 76, **died**)

Dorothy Fern Vulliet (aged 84, **died**)

Martha Holcomb Walker (aged 84, **died**)

Avis Scholl Banks (aged 83, **died**)

Cristie Clare Moore (aged 68, **died**)

Donna Elizabeth Hawkins (aged 69, **died**)

Addie Maurine Schmeltekopf (aged 84, hospitalized, **died**)

Rose Mary Harris (aged 64, hospitalized in critical condition)

<http://www.charismanews.com/politics/issues/63945-air-force-officer-punished-for-his-christian-beliefs>

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue28037.html>

Thursday March 30, 2017



Pakistan: Lahore

Joseph Francis (human rights activist; **UPDATE** said that the 42 Christians still in detention for suspected involvement in the lynching of 2 suspected Muslim terrorists following the [March 15, 2015](#) church bombings in [Youhanabad](#) were offered their freedom by the prosecutor if they embraced Islam)

Irfan Masih (detained suspect in the March 15, 2015 lynching, told the prosecutor he would rather be hanged than embrace Islam)

Wilson Chowdhry (**UPDATE**: speaking from London said "Here is evidence that the Judiciary in Pakistan is not independent and free from bias. The fact that Christian men could be spared a death penalty by simply renouncing their Christian faith and accepting Islam is a clear indication that either extremists have infiltrated the Justice system of Pakistan, or that the nation is full of zealots that will stop at nothing to convert 'kaffir' [infidels]. For a major Pakistani newspaper to cover this story there must be some truth in this revelation. The Express Tribune even went as far as interviewing the prosecutor Mr Syed Anees Shah, who admitted offering the choice, before terminating the call abruptly. This whole fiasco has only served to heighten my concerns for Christians and other minorities in Pakistan, who are clearly in the middle of a cultural genocide, which inexorably will lead to more pain and anguish")

Rev Arshad Ashknaz (**UPDATE**: said "It is really bad to lead people astray. This will give a bad image to the court and the whole legal fraternity. The public prosecutor can be sued for this prejudiced action. We plan to meet him soon. The government should reject this...There is no religious freedom. The whole system supports Christian women who marry their Muslim spouses, but it is a torment for Christian men who do the same. Their families suffer and their houses are burnt")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Jailed-Christians-forced-to-convert-to-Islam,-a-disgrace-on-the-justice-system-says-Pakistani-Church-40341.html>

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/christian-suspects-charged-for-lynching-two-muslims-after-lahore-twin-bomb-attack-offered-freedom-if>



Egypt: Cairo

Mary Jamil (reported to have been sexually harassed by a Muslim on a busy public street, dragged on the street and stabbed in the neck, hospitalized)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1868&A=30182>

<http://raymondibrahim.com/2017/03/30/egypt-muslim-man-sexually-harasses-tries-slaughter-christian-woman/>



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](#); second appeal denied on [November 15, 2016](#); Supreme Court appeal denied on [January 20, 2017](#); Constitutional Court appeal denied on [February 28, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: appeal filed at the European Court of Human Rights)

Russia: Kineshma district, Ivanovo region

Andrei Okhapkin (called into court because no sign existed outside a private home owned by his church that stated its full legal name, judge ruled in his favor, said there was no proof of illegal worship in the house)

Russia: Moscow

Bishop Sergei Ryakhovsky (**UPDATE**: presented a report on the anti-evangelization law at the Council for Interaction with Religious Associations, presented Vladimir Putin assistant Anton Viano with a Bible and the book *Protestants in the Service of Russia*, invited Vaino to visit one of his churches and then said "Now I can be arrested for violating the law of Yarovoy...We are forced to state that by this day we do not know the precedents

when new acts of religious legislation would prevent terrorist acts, but there are already more than 100 facts of its illegal use against law-abiding traditional religious associations and individual believers")

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue28050.html>

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



Belgium: Louvain

Stephane Mercier (professor of philosophy, reported to have been suspended from an officially Catholic university after a campus feminist group condemned his questioning of the 'right to choose [i.e. abortion]', said "The worldly powers that be, and the spiritual powers of darkness, are at war with everything truly Christian. So we're fighting for life and for the Lord's commandments against evil powers")

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/03/30/catholic-university-suspends-lecturer-for-opposing-abortion/>



Mexico

Fr Omar Sotelo Aguilar (director of the Catholic Multimedia Center, received an award for his reporting on attacks on clergy and church workers)

Mexico: Tampico

Fr Oscar Lopez Navarro (aged 40, abducted for ransom; **UPDATE**: released)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/03/30/days-after-a-priest-in-mexico-is-shot-dead-another-is-kidnapped/>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/62034->

[AMERICA_MEXICO_Priest_kidnapped_in_Tamaulipas_has_been_released#.WN5mqG8rKM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/62034-AMERICA_MEXICO_Priest_kidnapped_in_Tamaulipas_has_been_released#.WN5mqG8rKM8)

<http://www.csw.org.uk/2017/04/05/news/3506/article.htm>



United States – Florida: Orlando

Marshall Polston (suspended from college on [March 24, 2017](#) after he challenged a Muslim's professor's class statement that Christianity was false and a Muslim student's advocacy of Sharia punishment of homosexuals; **UPDATE**: reinstated after his professor filed a false

police report alleging violation of her restraining order against him and he proved with credit card receipts and security video that he was in a restaurant with his grandfather in another town at the time)

<http://www.centralfloridapost.com/2017/03/31/polston-reinstated-after-muslim-professors-claims-debunked-by-rollins/>

Friday March 31, 2017



India: Uttar Pradesh state

Rev Mohan (reportedly arrested for speaking out against the use of Hindu terminology in compulsory yoga classes in schools while praising the general benefits of yoga)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Pentecostal-pastor-arrested-in-Tamil-Nadu-for-criticising-compulsory-yoga-in-schools-40350.html>



Congo, Democratic Republic: Luebo, Kasai region

Fr Charles Mukubayi (said “Militiamen sacked and torched the Bishop’s House and offices, offices connected with Catholic schools, homes for novices and premises for formation, they also desecrated St John’s Cathedral. Then they went on to Lunkelu where they sacked the propedeutic seminary...the priests had to flee to the forest for safety. They risk being killed if they come out”)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/62051-AFRICA_RD_CONGO_Fresh_attacks_on_Catholic_church_property_in_Kasai_Pope_Francis_says_pray_for_peace_in_DR_Congo#.WOOWxW8rKM8

March 2017, date unknown



China: Hong Kong

Josiah Chok Kin-ming (former equal opportunities officer, removed from his position in [August 2014](#) after telling fellow church members how to legally resist the homosexual rights movement, denied financial compensation when he refused to apologize for his talk at his church; court ruled in his favor in [2015](#), ordered that the compensation be paid; **UPDATE:** the High Court accepted the appeal of his former employer and ordered a retrial)

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-crime/article/2113277/former-hong-kong-eoc-official-loses-gratuity-fee-retrial>



Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan

Archbishop Nicodemus Daoud Sharaf (**UPDATE:** said "Those people [ISIL supporters in Europe] are the same ones who came here many years ago. And we accepted them. We are the original people in this land. We accepted them, we opened the doors for them, and they push us to be minorities in our land, then refugees in our land. And this will be with you if you don't wake up. If you don't wake up please tell us because we have caravans [house trailers for refugees]. When we go back to our villages, we won't sell those caravans, we'll leave them for you when you become refugees from your [Western] country. Believe me, this will be")

<http://www.ncregister.com/blog/edward-pentin/iraqi-orthodox-bishop-the-west-cares-more-about-frogs-than-us>



Tanzania: Zanzibar

Pastor Yahana Madai (church service disrupted by a 9 year old Muslim girl on [November 10, 2014](#); arrested on [November 11, 2014](#) after the girl's father alleged that he had touched her breast and removed her veil when he stopped her disruptions the previous night, released the next day, case closed a few days later due to lack of evidence; **UPDATE:** charges refiled in [early March 2017](#))

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/04/muslims-zanzibar-tanzania-jail-pastor-child-abuse-allegation-scheme-group-says/>



Nigeria

Rev Samson Olasupo Ayokunle (said in [early March 2017](#) “Recently, a Redeemed Christian Church of God building was burnt down in Dei- Dei, here in Abuja, very early in the morning. What shall we do to these continuous provocations without any visible action by the law enforcement agents?”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/03/nigeria-orders-christian-leaders-cancel-mourning-prayer-day-killed-christians/>



United Kingdom: Nottingham

Andrew Frost (reported to have been charged with harassment of a homosexual couple when street preaching)

Rory Green (reported that the couple had harassed Andrew Frost)

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/mike-overd/another-street-preacher-cleared-of-all-charges>



Argentina: Tucuman

Archbishop Alfredo Zecca (condemned a feminist demonstration in front of the cathedral in the [first week of March 2017](#) in which a woman dressed as Mary the mother of Jesus submitted to a simulated abortion)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/feminist-dressed-as-virgin-mary-pretends-to-abort-jesus-in-front-of-cathedr>



United States – Michigan: East Lansing

Steve Tennes (farmer, husband of Bridget Tennes, banned from a farmer's market due to his Facebook posts in support of traditional marriage and refusal to host same sex weddings on his farm)

Bridget Tennes (wife of Steve Tennes)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/catholic-family-banned-from-farmers-market-for-christian-view-of-marriage>

<https://stream.org/judge-suspends-citys-ban-farmers-marriage-views/>

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