

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – May 2017

Monday May 1, 2017



Pakistan: Khanewal

Shakil Masih (hospital janitor, publicly beaten by the armed bodyguard of a commissioner who objected to the hygiene at the hospital)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/jahanian-dc-khanewal-scornfully-abuses-christian-janitor/>

Tuesday May 2, 2017



India: Attipattu village, Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu state

Pastor John Muller (husband, expectant father, threatened, said “They said, ‘Don’t stay here – get out of this area, or we will see your end’. Recently, some villagers belonging to Vanniyar, a caste-based Hindu sect, came to Christ. The same caste group opposes conversions in the village because they treat Christianity as a religion of lower castes. They don’t want anyone from Vanniyar to convert to Christianity”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/05/church-building-pastors-home-burned-tamil-nadu-state-india-sources-say/>



Pakistan: Khurram Pura neighborhood, Khanewal

Shahzad Francis (complained of government inaction regarding desecration of a Christian cemetery that was now occupied by drug users)

Cecil Paul (said the cemetery problem developed after a wall collapsed and a gate was stolen and not replaced)

Daniel Sardar (said that locals began to throw their trash in the Christian cemetery after the gate was stolen)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/khanewal-christians-annoyed-by-local-authorities-inaction-and-neglectfulness/>



Kazakhstan: Astana

Teymur Sultan ogly Akhmedov (aged 60, husband, father of three sons, retired bus driver, arrested on **January 18, 2017** for sharing his religious beliefs with KNB secret police informants, held in pre-trial detention, denied cancer treatment, reportedly has been beaten in prison, can barely walk; **UPDATE:** sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment followed by 3 years' prohibition on preaching, said he will appeal)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2277



Ethiopia: Addis Ababa

Three Protestants had been convicted in **Gulema Iyesus** on **October 28, 2014** and sentenced to 9 years' imprisonment for an arson attack on an Orthodox church; acquitted on **January 13, 2017**, were still awaiting acquittal of the order to pay the church compensation; **UPDATE: acquitted of civil responsibility to pay for the church damages**

Belete Tilahun

Dawit Jemberu

Tibebu Mekuria (husband, kiosk owner)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/05/ethiopians-dont-have-to-pay-for-church-they-didnt-destroy/>

Wednesday May 3, 2017



China: Dongguan, Guangdong province

Pastor Li Peng (husband of Huang Xiaorui, **UPDATE**: church service raided by police, beaten when he tried to record the raid with his cell phone, detained along with 30 congregants)

Huang Xiaorui (wife of Pastor Li Peng, detained, released, said "They didn't let me see my husband. I insisted that I was there for a justification. I wanted justice. I waited at the police station all morning, to no avail. The other brothers and sisters were released in different orders and each of them were questioned for a very long time. I myself was interrogated for more than an hour. The oldest believer they detained is a grandmother, more than 80 years old. There were also children")

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/05/over-30-christians-including-american.html>



India: Kalina, Mumbai

Fr Donald Rogrigues (reported on the illegal demolition of a Cross by the municipal government)

India: Dubkia village, Shamshabad, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Ramesh (church service in a school reported to have been interrupted by Hindu radicals, police ordered him to stop such activities, home invaded and wife attacked resulting in her hand being broken)

[http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mumbai-Christians-hold-silent-protest-over-demolished-cross-\(Photo\)-40630.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mumbai-Christians-hold-silent-protest-over-demolished-cross-(Photo)-40630.html)

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



Pakistan: Rawalpindi

Zafar Bhatti (aged 45, unemployed due to health reasons, illiterate, arrested on blasphemy charges on **July 23, 2012** for allegedly sending 3 blasphemous text messages to extremist Islamic cleric Molvi Abrar Ahmed; **UPDATE**: convicted, sentenced to life imprisonment)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue28101.html>

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/travesty-of-justice-blasphemy-accused-christian-sentenced-to-lifelong-incarceration/>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/62216->

[ASIA_PAKISTAN_Pakistani_Christian_condemned_to_jail_for_blasphemy#.WQyKTfkrKM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/62216-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Pakistani_Christian_condemned_to_jail_for_blasphemy#.WQyKTfkrKM8)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6431>

Thursday May 4, 2017



China: Guangzhou, Guangdong province

Pastor Ma Ke (**UPDATE**: received notice of his church's eviction, called the landlord to find police had brought pressure to force the eviction, along with other parishioners was denied online renewal of his residency permit, wanted notice issued for him)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/05/church-evicted-christians-barred-from.html>



India: Jharkhand state

Auxiliary Bishop Telesphore Billung (criticized the Hindu nationalist BJP party for advocating a new forced conversion law "The party has used the media to carry false news of conversion from Hinduism and reconversion to Hinduism to prepare the ground for an anti-conversion law")

Bishop Vincent Barwa (said the BJP proposal is a "game to divert the attention of people from real issues")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/hindu-party-pushes-anti-conversion-law-in-indian-state/79124>



Pakistan: Salik Town, Faisalabad

Pastor Shahid Masih (attempted to file a police report after parishioners were threatened with dire consequences on [April 9, 2017](#) if they engaged in a religious procession, some parishioners were beaten, police arrived two hours too late; **UPDATE**: tensions have continued to grow after a Christian girl eloped with a Muslim boy, Christians have been told to convert or leave)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/convert-or-leave-human-rights-and-minorities-affairs-department-succors-unnerved-christians/>



Palestine: Jerusalem

Sr Maria Ramsis (assaulted along with her driver over a land dispute regarding her monastery)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1892&A=30611>



Central African Republic: Kaga Bandoro

Pastor Enza Vincent (refugee camp resident, said "Life for Christians in ex-Seleka-controlled parts of the country is uncertain, and filled with fear and pressure. Quite a few Christians do not yet live in camps like this. They can stay in their own houses. But you keep your head down and live your life in silence, hoping not to cause trouble for yourself or other Christians")

Pastor Paul (refugee camp resident, said "I used to be a teacher at a local Bible college. On 12 October [2016] we had our morning break at nine. That's when we saw ex-Seleka fighters rush onto school premises. We dropped everything and ran to safety. They came in two groups, one chased us away and the other, on motorcycles, looted everything. They stole our things and destroyed my house, where we had the library and the accounts...But I'm not discouraged. Why would I build this church [a thatched hut in the camp] if I was discouraged? I encourage students to continue studying. In the Bible it says that God sifts His people in dark times. I teach my students when we come together in this church to continue the school year, and that they have to endure. They must stay true to their faith. And, yes, they must be forgiving. God's word does not teach us to pray that God kills our enemies but that He will change their hearts")

Aline (widow, refugee camp resident, said "We ran and ran and finally arrived in this camp. But when we fled we didn't have time to grab clothes for our children. After some hours my husband told me the shooting had calmed down and that we should go home and get their clothes. We found ex-Seleka fighters in our house. My husband went in first and they grabbed him...I saw them slaughter him. He could not fight back because four of them were sitting on top of him. I am worried. I don't know how to feed my children")

Yvette (refugee camp resident, said "On 12 October last year [2016] my old lame mother was killed in our house. When the shooting began, I took the little children and ran to safety in the woods. When I came back I found her beaten to death. I don't understand how you can possibly kill an old lame woman. How can you just beat her until she dies?")

Central African Republic: Ndele

Nathan (Open Doors relief worker, described conditions in areas controlled by ex-Seleka fighters "A local radio station, funded by the EU and handed to the Ndele community, blocks Christian radio programs despite the fact that most of the staff are Christian. When we last visited we found that only the Muslims were getting paid...Muslims have prevented

Christians from trading at the local market. Christians cannot even get land to start income-generating activities. In the hope of alleviating their economic strife, I know of at least 49 Christians who have converted to Islam over the past few years")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/05/car-simple-survival-rule-in-idp-camp-if-you-walk-out-you-might-be-killed/>



United States - Rhode Island: Providence

Dr Anthony Esolen (professor at Providence College, as of [November 3, 2016](#) has been under pressure to resign after publishing two articles on the existence of “the Totalitarian Diversity Cult”[the phrase was his publisher’s, not his] at the college, has been charged with making 'racist, xenophobic, misogynist, homophobic, and religiously chauvinist statements'; **UPDATE:** resigned, took a position at Thomas More College in New Hampshire, said "...to live at a used-to-be-Catholic school no longer committed to the humanities, where all the big decisions are basically secular in their inspiration and their aim, on a campus that is highly politicized and therefore treacherous — no, that’s not for someone of my years. I wrote, 10 years ago, that we had never really lost our identity, and what we had lost we were well on the way to recover. I could not write those words now...And what can you do against slander and detraction? Stand on a stump and shout your innocence to all passersby?"

<http://www.ncregister.com/blog/pjsmith/anthony-esolen-in-his-own-words-why-i-left-providence-college-for-thomas-mo>

Wednesday May 5, 2017



India: Attipattu village, Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu state

Pastor John Muller (husband, expectant father, threatened on [May 2, 2017](#), said “They said, ‘Don’t stay here – get out of this area, or we will see your end’. Recently, some villagers belonging to Vanniyar, a caste-based Hindu sect, came to Christ. The same caste group opposes conversions in the village because they treat Christianity as a religion of lower castes. They don’t want anyone from Vanniyar to convert to Christianity”; **UPDATE:** church and home destroyed in an arson attack, said “We lost everything. My wife is 26 weeks pregnant. We are expecting our first child. We are homeless. A kind believer is letting us rest in his house during nights for now”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/05/church-building-pastors-home-burned-tamil-nadu-state-india-sources-say/>

Friday May 7, 2017



Pakistan

Christian leaders continued to call for prosecution of the killers of Muslim college student Mashal Khan

Fr Shahid P Mairaj (**UPDATE:** said “The government must reject any expediency and do what is good for the nation. We want to honor the sacrifice of Mashal Khan. we demand clear punishment for his assassins. What we ask for is an impartial country that unfortunately is disappearing! For years we have been victims of these extremists. Politicians should go beyond power games and begin to save people’s lives”)

Cecil Shane Chaudhry (**UPDATE:** said “Only the state can stop these elements; civil society is helpless. Law enforcement should take note of this kind of talk: they are an open challenge to the state itself. Looking at social media after this tragedy shows how the level of radicalization has become extremely alarming...If the perpetrators of Mashal Khan’s assassination and of all assassinations perpetrated in the name of religion are not put in jail, they will continue and multiply...Taking justice in one’s own hands is indicative of an absent government, the failure of the civil administration to enforce the law, and the ambiguity of the judicial system. The latter continues to allow such crimes against humanity to go unpunished. Impunity linked to violence in the name of religion must end”)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/pakistani-christians-demand-action-legal-against-murderers-of-mashal-khan/>



United States - District of Columbia

Dr Mark E. Green (aged 52, physician, state legislator, withdrew his nomination for Secretary of the Army after attacks on his Christian views)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/trumps-army-secretary-nom-forced-out-over-christian-view-of-marriage>

Saturday May 6, 2017



China: Mindong

Bishop Vincent Guo Xijin (aged 59, detained in Fuan on April 6, 2017 for 20 days to 'to study and learn'; **UPDATE**: released)

Fr Zhu Ruci (underground diocesan vicar general, detained, forced to attend a class on religious regulations, released)

Fr Xu Wenmin (underground diocesan chancellor, detained, forced to attend a class on religious regulations, released)

Fr Peng Zhenshen (underground diocesan procurator, detained, forced to attend a class on religious regulations, released)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/three-stubborn-chinese-priests-held-as-bishop-goes-free/79194>



India: Ghodbunder village, 35 miles from Mumbai

Sajan K George (**UPDATE**: reported on the desecration of a statue of Mary the mother of Jesus [Our Lady of Vailankanni])

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mumbai,-two-Christian-religious-symbols-desecrated-in-intimidating-theft-40674.html>



Egypt: el-Arish, Sinai

Nabil Saber Ayoub (aged 50, husband, father of two, barber, fled his home in February 2017 with his family; **UPDATE**: shot dead by ISIL in his shop, had returned two weeks earlier)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/North-Sinai,-a-50-year-old-Christian-executed-by-the-Islamic-State-40672.html>

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/05/08/egyptian-christian-killed-outside-his-barbershop/>

<https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2017/05/08/islamists-shoot-dead-arish-copt-who-returned-home/>

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1894&A=30645>



Nigeria

Grace (daughter of Peter Pogu, sister of Yakubu, abducted in [Chibok](#) by Boko Haram on [April 14, 2014](#); **UPDATE**: freed)

Peter Pogu (father of Grace, celebrated her freedom from Boko Haram)

Yakubu (son of Peter Pogu, brother of Grace)

Maimuna (daughter of Yakubu Nkeki Maina, abducted in [Chibok](#) by Boko Haram on [April 14, 2014](#); **UPDATE**: freed)

Yakubu Nkeki Maina (father of Maimuna; **UPDATE**: celebrated her freedom from Boko Haram)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/05/chibok-parents-relieved-grace-is-out/>



Germany: Frankfurt

Ado Greve (Open Doors spokesman, said of persecution in Germany of refugees who are Christian converts from Islam "The isolated case theory has been disproved. Fifty-six percent [from 750 interviews] spoke about physical attacks and 83 percent of those who we questioned admitted that they were attacked several times...How many affected refugees do we need so we do not treat these as isolated cases anymore? Five hundred? One thousand?")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20170505205121.htm>

Sunday May 7, 2017



Uganda: location undisclosed for security reasons

Pastor Christopher James Kalaja (husband, father of seven, home, barn, and church in [Nakabale village, Kaderuna sub-county](#) destroyed by 9 Muslims on [March 27, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: family relocated due to death threats, have no bedding or food)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/05/muslim-extremists-uganda-threaten-kill-family-pastor/>



Sudan: Khartoum

Demas James (attorney, wrote about the government destruction of the last remaining church building in the area “You can see there is no place for worship left now for the believers to worship”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/05/church-building-demolished-two-christians-arrested-sudan/>



Spain: Alicante

Bishop Jesus Murgui (met with the nuns of the Monastery of the Holy Face after their chapel containing a reputed relic from the passion of Jesus was vandalized by an apparent Satanist)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/satanic-attack-on-relic-of-christ-found-at-spain-monastery-94411/>

Monday May 8, 2017



Syria: Damascus

Patriarch Gregorios III Laham (aged 83; **UPDATE**: resigned from the patriarchate of the Greek Catholic Melkite church)

Archbishop Jean Clement Jeanbart (**UPDATE**: appointed administrator of the Greek Catholic Melkite church)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Gregory-III-Laham:-From-Greek-Melkite-patriarch-to-pilgrim-of-peace-and-love-40677.html>

<http://catholicerald.co.uk/news/2017/05/08/greek-melchite-patriarch-resigns/>



Nigeria: Abuja

Cardinal John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan (**UPDATE**: spoke after 82 girls who had been abducted by Boko Haram in April 2014 were released "We thank God that these girls have re-embraced their families, but I wonder why they had to wait three years for this to happen...In all these years I was among those who insisently asked the government to do everything possible to free the girls. The government replied that it could not negotiate for their release with terrorists, exchanging them with some Boko Haram prisoners. But that is what eventually happened. For their release some Boko Haram leaders were released and an important figure was paid. Why did this not happen before, saving three years of suffering for these girls and their families? Three years of anguish that could be have been avoided. Among them is a girl with an amputated leg...If these girls had been the daughters of some powerful leader would they have lost all this time? We also forget that there are still more than 100 girls whose fate we know nothing about. Some of them probably died during fights, illness or childbirth. At least let families know the fate of these poor girls. I invite everyone to pray for their release")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/62234->

[AFRICA NIGERIA Chibok Girls Why have we waited three years to negotiate their release asks Cardinal Onaiyekan#.WRHY9fnyuM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/62234-)



Venezuela: Coro

Archbishop Emeritus Roberto Luckert Leon (**UPDATE**: commented on government actions "This is what they want to impose here, a dictatorship disguised as democracy. The amount of tear gas that the government is using to silence the protests is scandalous, but they will not be able to stop them, people are tired, for 18 long years the situation worsens every day, and now there is anxiety because there is no food, no security, and of course people do not want this, so they protest, to look for a way out of this crisis")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/62238->

[AMERICA VENEZUELA They want to impose a dictatorship disguised as democracy warns Mgr Lueckert#.WRHWzvnyuM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/62238-)

Tuesday May 9, 2017



Indonesia: Jakarta

Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama aka Ahok (**UPDATE**: sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment on blasphemy charges despite the court ruling there was no evidence of guilt and the prosecutorial recommendation of a suspended sentence, detained, said he will appeal)

Justina Rostiawati (president of the Indonesian Catholic Women Association, said "I am disappointed over the "distorted" conclusion of the judges panel albeit the prosecutor's recommendation seeking two-year long probation for Ahok. The judges' verdict has been massively influenced by the current political situation in Indonesia. If this impression is right, then the conclusion of the judges is potentially dangerous for the development of justice and law in the country")

Koerniatmanto (professor of law, said "The sentence is strange and commonly called 'ultra petita', which means that the verdict is 'heavier' than the prosecutors demanded. For the College of Judges, this verdict is socially 'friendly' for security reasons. Angry crowds will not 'attack' the judges and Ahok will be taken to jail in total security")

Fr Franz Magnis-Suseno SJ (German national, **UPDATE**: commented on the blasphemy conviction and imprisonment of Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama aka Ahok: "This is an unfair sentence, endorsed by judges under strong Islamist pressure. Extremists will try to continue their campaign in view of the 2019 presidential election to beat President Joko Widodo [aka Jokowi]. They will try to highlight that Jokowi is not a true Muslim...For more than a year, a silent coalition between former generals and Islamic militants is developing. An increase in disorder and social chaos could 'force' the military to assume power, with Islamist support. It should be noted that the old generals have never accepted the democratic reform implemented after the fall of dictator Suharto", added that two lessons could be drawn from the trial: "The first is that Islamic extremism has been underestimated by the great Muslim organizations of civil society, Muhammadiyah and Nahdlatul Ulama [NU]. In the last six months, behind the extremist leader Habib Rizieq Shihab young followers of the NU and especially of Muhammadiyah have also enthusiastically gathered, so it is possible that there is already a change in balance in Indonesian Islam. Radicals proclaim themselves as representatives of all Indonesian Islam, beating on Islamic identity and taking a central role on the political scene", the second lesson is "Ahok's words and his presence as a candidate represented a provocation right from the beginning. Indonesia is still not ready for a Christian to become a national leader, especially a Christian of Chinese origin...Christian citizens have offered Ahok peaceful support, in sign of solidarity they accompanied him to the jail, singing the national anthem and launching this message: the baptized do not want to let Indonesia fall into the hands of fanatics and extremists")

Fr Fransiskus Funan SVD (said at the candlelight service held after the imprisonment of Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama aka Ahok "I came here to support Ahok. We know he was jailed because of outside pressure")

Sr Laurentina CDP (said at the candlelight service held after the imprisonment of Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama aka Ahok "We have seen the legal proceedings in Ahok's case and to me it does not make sense. There seems to be political influence behind all this")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Ahok-condemned-to-two-years-for-blasphemy.-Shock-and-consternation-in-Indonesia-40684.html>
<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Ahok-trial:-'Judgement-influenced-by-current-political-climate'-40689.html>
<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/05/09/jakartas-christian-governor-sentenced-to-2-years-in-prison-for-blasphemy/>
http://www.fides.org/en/news/62241-ASIA_INDONESIA_Former_Christian_governor_of_Jakarta_condemned_for_blasphemy_Christians_appeal_to_the_Pancasila#.WRHWQvnyuM8
http://www.fides.org/en/news/62248-ASIA_INDONESIA_A_Jesuit_Islamic_populism_danger_for_Indonesia#.WRMWIvkrKM8
<http://www.ucanews.com/news/jakartas-christian-governor-sentenced-to-jail-for-blasphemy/79172>
<http://www.ucanews.com/news/ahoks-sentence-seen-by-many-as-miscarriage-of-justice/79183>



China: Beijing

Li Heping (husband of Wang Qiaoling, brother of Li Chunfu, civil rights attorney, disappeared on [July 10, 2015](#); convicted in Tianjin of 'subversion of state power' in a secret trial on [April 28, 2017](#), sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment and 4 years' suspended sentence; **UPDATE:** released, arrived home)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/05/two-years-after-he-disappeared.html>



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:** seen in a reportedly new video, appealed for his release from captivity)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/kidnapped-indian-priest-pleads-for-help-in-new-video-55405/>



Russia: Ugut village, Surgut district, Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug

Bishop Konstantin Andreev (reported on a Victory Day celebration in which an Orthodox priest verbally attacked Protestants "The father continued to insist, meaningfully informing the audience that there are many 'different kinds of people in Russia today,' and among them there are those who 'prevented our victory - namely, Pentecostals, Baptists, Jehovah's Witnesses...'", following this a Protestant pastor at the ceremony was detained by police and told that his church was banned, the police later reversed this decision and released him but still demanded he produce documents)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue28117.html>

Wednesday May 10, 2017



Bangladesh: Khagrachhari district, Chittagong Hill Tracts

Pastor Stephen Tripura (church attacked by Muslim settlers, said "They stormed into the church after kicking and smashing in the door. They attempted to rape my sister and niece who live there by tearing off their clothes. After hearing their cries, local Christians rushed over to help and the attackers fled")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/muslims-attack-protestant-church-in-bangladesh-hills/79207>



India: Salempur village, Mau district, Uttar Pradesh state

Six clergy were arrested on inciting religious hatred charges, 250 others at the meeting were not charged

Rev Chandan (arrested)

Rev Mangaleswar Prasad (arrested, said "When we gathered for the prayer, right-wing Hindu activists objected but we ignored them. There was no provocation, as alleged, from our side and we were there only to offer peaceful prayers. Police took us into custody, ignoring our pleas. The FIR [first information report] was filed without any evidence")

Rev Ram Hari (arrested)

Rev Nand Lall (home raided, arrested)

Rev Ranjeet Prasad (arrested)

Rev Bala Lakhandar (arrested)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-clergymen-arrested-in-Uttar-Pradesh,-time-in-prison-was-a-%E2%80%98God-given-gift%E2%80%99-40812.html>

Thursday May 11, 2017



Philippines: Gango

Bishop Carlo Morales (husband of Maria Teofifina Morales, arrested with others at a police checkpoint while travelling with an alleged member of a rebel group)

Maria Teofifina Morales (wife of Bishop Carlo Morales, arrested)

Sadome Dalid (driver, arrested)

Bishop Antonio Ablon (condemned the arrest of Bishop Carlo Morales, called for his release)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/philippine-independent-church-condemns-arrest-of-bishop/79202>



Vietnam: Vinh diocese

Fr Anthony Dang Huu Nam (**UPDATE**: under attack by government media for supporting fishermen impoverished by an environmental disaster)

Fr John Baptist Nguyen Dinh Thuc ([July 1, 2012 Mass in Yen Khe village, Con Cuong district, Nghe An province](#) attacked by a mob likely sent by provincial authorities, physically hit, 20 parishioners and 2 nuns beaten; **UPDATE**: under attack by government media for supporting fishermen impoverished by an environmental disaster)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Catholic-media-launch-appeal-for-Vietnamese-priests-defamed-by-the-government--40719.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/vietnamese-priests-targeted-by-govt-smear-campaign/79177>



Burundi: Bujumbura

Fr Adolphe Ntahondereye (abducted on the Concorde Bridge over the Ruzizi River on [April 9, 2017](#); released on [April 26, 2017](#), hospitalized in ill health; **UPDATE**: **died**)

Archbishop Evariste Ngoyagoye (object of a [May 31, 2015](#) assassination attempt while in a religious procession; **UPDATE**: said "the priest [Fr Adolphe Ntahondereye], who had not left his hospital bed where he had been admitted after his release, died as a result of ill-treatment that had been inflicted on him")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/62267->

[AFRICA BURUNDI A priest died in April because of the ill treatment suffered#. WRXJv krKM8](#)



Sudan: Khartoum

Abdulmonem Abdumawla Issa Abdumawla (convert, held in jail as of [May 24, 2016](#); convicted in [Khartoum](#) on [January 29, 2017](#), sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment; still in captivity as of [February 26, 2017](#) despite his conviction as an accomplice of the now-pardoned Petr Jasek; **UPDATE**: released in a presidential pardon)

Rev Hassan Abdelrahim Tawor (husband, arrested in [Omdurman](#) on [December 18, 2015](#) by the NISS secret police; convicted in [Khartoum](#) on [January 29, 2017](#), sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment; still in captivity as of [February 26, 2017](#) despite his conviction as an accomplice of the now-pardoned Petr Jasek; **UPDATE**: released in a presidential pardon)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/05/eu-envoy-calls-on-sudan-to-release-two-convicted-of-aiding-czech-spy/>

Friday May 12, 2017



North Korea

Kim Chung-Seong (missionary, defector, said in [Washington DC, U.S.](#) that Christianity has continued to grow in his country despite persecution)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue28120.html>



China: Xiamen, Fujian province

Pastor Zhang (described the recent closing of a neighboring church “Since the government can’t accuse the church of collaborating with the U.S., the officers now use Korea as an excuse. Since religions are founded in different countries, the people are unavoidably ‘collaborating with foreign powers’ when they choose a religious belief. Jesus himself was a foreigner. This logic is ridiculous. Our government has armed itself to the teeth in order to control people’s minds”)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/05/fujian-church-banned-after-accusation.html>



Pakistan

Jacqueline Sultan (attorney; **UPDATE:** has received death threats)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/christian-lawyer-raising-voice-against-forced-conversions-receives-death-threats/>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6446>



Iraq

Three archbishops signed a request for international protection for the minorities of the Nineveh Plain after the expulsion of ISIL

Metropolitan Daoud Matti Sharaf

Archbishop Timothius Mousa Shamani

Archbishop Yohanna Petros Moshe

<http://www.aina.org/news/20170515172959.htm>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/62277->

[ASIA IRAQ Three Syriac Bishops ask for international protection for Christians in the Nineveh Plain But the Chaldean Patriarchate dissociates itself#.WRp-K_krKM8](#)



Kenya: El Wak, North East province

Dalama Otieno (quarry worker, **shot dead** by al-Shabaab militants, a second unidentified worker was also killed)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/05/christian-killed-islamic-extremist-attack-northeastern-kenya/>



United States – Kentucky: Lexington

Blaine Adamson (print shop owner, declined to print T-shirts which promoted a gay pride event in 2012, ordered to attend diversity training by a county human rights commission; order reversed by a circuit court; **UPDATE**: court decision upheld by the state Court of Appeals in his favor)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/free-speech-protects-printer-from-promoting-gay-pride-fest-ky-court-rules-71867/>

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/victory-court-affirms-christians-right-to-refuse-in-good-faith-to-make-lgbt>

Saturday May 13, 2017



Iraq

Patriarch Louis Raphael I Sako (**UPDATE**: issued a statement that his church did not agree with the request made the previous day for international protection for the minorities of the Nineveh Plain after the expulsion of ISIL)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20170515172959.htm>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/62277->

[ASIA IRAQ Three Syriac Bishops ask for international protection for Christians in the Nineveh Plain But the Chaldean Patriarchate dissociates itself#.WRp-K_krKM8](#)

Sunday May 14, 2017



Pakistan

Salim Masih (aged 35, husband of Salma, father of Anum, Naveed, and Nabeel, home invaded on [April 21, 2017](#) by a former employer's henchmen, beaten, abducted, ransom of US\$382 demanded, police took no action; **UPDATE**: released after the ransom was paid, had been beaten and tortured, taken to a safe house and reunited with his family)

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/kidnapped-and-tortured-ex-slave-set-free-after-payment-of-ransom>



Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan

Raghd Al-Aswad (wife of Adwer Al-Aswad, refugee from Mosul, reportedly will have to leave their apartment and return to the refugee camp to live in a shipping container "We call it the cemetery. It looks like dead bodies stacked side by side with a giant hospital sheet on top of them")

Adwer Al-Aswad (husband of Raghd Al-Aswad, refugee from Mosul, reportedly said he cannot honor his Muslim former neighbors who look forward to his return "We don't have any more trust. This wasn't the first time. The next time we might die")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20170514153146.htm>



Ukraine: Zaporizhia

Metropolitan Luka Kovalenko (wrote concerning pending legislation that would allow churches to be seized and turned over to a competing denomination "Using their methods of pressure on the Church, they propose to adopt new legislation aimed at destroying the prayer life of our Mother Church, the established Church-administrative structure for centuries")

Ukraine: Odessa

Metropolitan Agafangel Savvin (said in a homily that he prayed that the legislature would reject pending legislation that would allow churches to be seized and turned over to a competing denomination as "anti-people, ungodly laws, aimed at the destruction of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church on the territory of Ukraine...We always pray for our God-protected country, and for the authorities and we desire that God would enlighten them. Through crisis and catastrophe the Lord calls all to repent and change...Therefore, we need to strengthen our prayer...that the Lord would give us patience and courage, for he is always with us")

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/103474.htm>



Central African Republic: Bangassou

Cardinal Dieudonne Nzapalainga (**UPDATE**: convinced anti-Balaka rebels to leave a city where they had perpetrated violence for weeks)

Bishop Juan Jose Aguirre Munos (**UPDATE**: shot at by anti-Balaka rebels while standing with other Christians in defense of a mosque containing 1,000 Muslims, unhurt but the man next to him was killed)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/62289-AFRICA_CENTRAL_AFRICA_Cardinal_Nzapalainga_and_Bishop_Aguirre_mediate_with_the_rebels_in_Bangassou#.WRvQ8esrKM8

Monday May 15, 2017



Ukraine: Volhynia

Metropolitan Nathanael (wrote concerning pending legislation that would allow churches to be seized and turned over to a competing denomination "It is hard to believe, but today, in the democratic Ukrainian society, which declares its desire to embody European values and freedoms, a new persecution is unfolding, against the Ukrainian Orthodox Church...I appeal to all the faithful of Volynia, who value peace and do not desire new conflicts in the state, to stand against hatred with prayer, love, and faith... We, who are the 'light of the world,' must first of all convey to the public the truth that the Church is not a political institution, but the Body of Christ. Today, the future of Orthodoxy is in our hands...The clergy and laity are trying to get the people's representatives to hear the opinion of the religious part of society and to prevent the legalization of discrimination on religious grounds in Ukraine")

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/103495.htm>

<http://volyn.church.ua/2017/05/15/zvernennya-jepiskopa-volinskogo-i-luckogo-nafanajila-u-zvyazku-zi-sproboyu-prijnyattya-anticerkovnix-zakoniv-u-verxovnij-radi/> - with translation



Mexico: Mexico City

Fr Jose Miguel Angel Machorro Alcala (aged 55, stabbed three times in the neck and torso while finishing Mass at the cathedral altar, hospitalized in serious condition)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/62284->

[AMERICA MEXICO Priest stabbed in the cathedral immediately after Mass#.WRvQQusrKM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/62284-AMERICA_MEXICO_Priest_stabbed_in_the_cathedral_immediately_after_Mass#.WRvQQusrKM8)

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/priest-stabbed-during-mass-at-mexico-city-cathedral>

Tuesday May 16, 2017



Pakistan: Gujranwala

Mukhtar Masih (aged 69, father of Shaima Masih and Anjum Mukhtar, grandfather of Romilla, Nehmeia, and Shaima, arrested in [Lambanwali village near Gujranwala](#) on blasphemy charges on [January 28, 2017](#) after a note was found at a mosque, beaten; **UPDATE:** released on bail)

Pakistan: Islamabad

Prof Anjum James Paul (appeared before the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority [PEMRA] on [April 3, 2017](#) with documentation concerning the television drama 'Baji Irshad' depiction of Christians "There is desecration of religious symbol as there are vulgar dialogues wearing holy Cross. There is racial discrimination as well because there are nick names like Kala Joseph [black Joseph], Peeno, Meedan, Chitti etc...Only Christians in the drama have been presented as non-serious, inferior, beggars, thieves, greedy, without etiquettes, superstitious, scandalizing their daughters, disrespecting parents, disrespecting husband, disrespecting mother...and love affairs but Muslims have been presented very decent and well-mannered. Only Christians have been presented doing menial jobs...Only Christians have been presented uneducated as they wrongly speak Urdu and English language. But it is strange that when they speak with any Muslim then no wrong pronunciation. The biased writer has deliberately ignored the true picture of Christians who have been torch bearers in education, health. defense and many other fields", the PEMRA officials showed little interest in his presentation; **UPDATE:** said that PEMRA ruled in favor of the TV show except to require a pro forma apology prior to the airing of each episode, has plans to appeal to the Supreme Court)

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/69-year-old-mukhtar-masih-given-bail-from-blasphemy-charges>

<https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/pemras-verdict-over-baji-irshad-petition-is-heavily-biased-says-pmta/>



Central African Republic: Alindao

Rev Nicolas Guerekoyame-Gbangou (aged 58, husband of Priscilla; **UPDATE:** youngest son and grandson reportedly killed over the weekend in the continuing violence)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/05/more-tragedy-for-cars-peacekeeping-cleric-as-son-and-grandson-killed-in-latest-violence/>



Nigeria

Daniel Kadzai (Christian Association of Nigeria youth official, **UPDATE:** released a statement concerning the elimination of Christian classes from schools “The worse form of social injustice, terrorism and religious bias is to deny Christian children their right to practice their religion despite the role of Christian Religious Studies in helping to shape the moral character and integrity of our children as future leaders...Perhaps, it is in furtherance to its Islamic agenda that the APC government appointed the likes of Prof. Ishaq Oluyede, a known Islamist, who has never hidden his bias and prejudice against Christians, to head a most relevant educational institution like the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board, JAMB...Since 1999 no Christian has been appointed minister of FCT, it is not by error it is a religious agenda”)

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2017/05/buharis-running-nigeria-muslim-organization-can/>

Thursday May 18, 2017



Iraq

Christian clergy have been coordinating the rebuilding of Christian homes destroyed by ISIL

Fr Salar Boudagh (aged 35, said “We have begun rebuilding work in Telleskof and Bakofa, because the damage to the houses is not too serious, unlike in Badnaya, where 80% of the houses have been destroyed...Before the arrival of ISIL there were 1,450 families living in Telleskof, 110 in Bakofa, 950 in Badnaya, over 700 in Telkef and 875 in Karamless. For these families the first precondition for returning to their villages is security. Our area, the eastern part of the Niniveh plains, is patrolled by a Christian security force, the

Zeravani, who can give us a 100% guarantee of security. They are an official militia who are paid a salary by Kurdistan...[The second condition is the financial resources. The almost 13,000 houses that now need rebuilding, following the ravages of ISIL, have been divided according to the] coefficient of damage...It costs 7000 dollars to refurbish a home that has been lightly damaged. To repair a house that has been burned out costs 25,000 , to rebuild a house that has been totally destroyed costs 65,000 dollars")

Iraq: Baghdeda

Fr Georges Jahola (**UPDATE**: said "After the liberation of the town, between 11 November and 3 December 2016, we spent 15 working days photographing 6,000 houses in Baghdeda. We divided them up and mapped them sector by sector, assessing the degree of damage in each case. There are houses that have been very badly damaged or even destroyed, which need completely rebuilding, houses that have been burned or struck by missiles, which can still be rebuilt. And then there are houses that have been only partially damaged and can be repaired without much difficulty. We began work with a team of 20 volunteer engineers. Today I have 40 of them helping me and almost 2000 able-bodied workers ready to start work. We are optimistic about it. The reconnection of the electricity supply is slowly being extended throughout the town")

<http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1495068102.html>

Friday May 19, 2017



Germany

Rimon Youssef (aged 29, **died from his injuries** suffered in the [April 9, 2017](#) church bombing in Tanta, Egypt)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1907&A=30896>



Mexico: Mexico City

Fr Jose Miguel Angel Machorro Alcala (aged 55, stabbed three times in the neck and torso while finishing Mass on [May 15, 2017](#) at the [Mexico City](#) cathedral altar, hospitalized in serious condition; **UPDATE**: has suffered a stroke, paralyzed on his right side, neurological condition is deteriorating)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/62309->

[AMERICA MEXICO The priest attacked in the Cathedral is still in serious condition#.WSRCPOvyuM8](#)

Saturday May 20, 2017



India: Salempur village, Mau district, Uttar Pradesh state

Six clergy were arrested on [May 10, 2017](#) on inciting religious hatred charges, 250 others at the meeting were not charged; **UPDATE: released on bail of US\$310 each**

Rev Chandan (arrested on [May 10, 2017](#); **UPDATE: released**)

Rev Mangaleswar Prasad (arrested on [May 10, 2017](#); **UPDATE: released**, said “It is true that we were harassed but God turned it to our advantage and, despite hurdles, we bore witness to Christ among the inmates. It seems that before we reached the jail the message was spread among the prisoners that Christians converting Hindus were coming. For the first three days, the inmates treated us with contempt but later came to listen to us about Jesus Christ...by our cool and composed attitude, even after the abuses”)

Rev Ram Hari (arrested on [May 10, 2017](#); **UPDATE: released**)

Rev Nand Lall (home raided on [May 10, 2017](#), arrested; **UPDATE: released**)

Rev Ranjeet Prasad (arrested on [May 10, 2017](#); **UPDATE: released**)

Rev Bala Lakhandar (arrested on [May 10, 2017](#); **UPDATE: released**, said “Hindu activists and the police abused us at the police station and their supporters did the same in the jail...We had trouble in the jail, some even pulled our hair, took away our bed roll, verbally abused us for being Christian, and forced us to sleep on the floor. But at the same time, God gave us opportunity to speak about Jesus to them...I believe it was a God-given gift”)

Sanjay Kumar Masih (arranged bail for the six clergy, said “The situation in Uttar Pradesh is very alarming for Christians”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-clergymen-arrested-in-Uttar-Pradesh,-time-in-prison-was-a-%E2%80%98God-given-gift%E2%80%99-40812.html>



Mali: Sikasso

Sr Gloria Cecilia Narvaez Argoti (Colombian citizen, abducted in [Koutiala](#) on [February 7, 2017](#); **UPDATE: no new word of her condition or whereabouts**)

Bishop Jean Baptiste Tiama (said of Sr Gloria "We continue to pray and trust in the Master of our lives. We must not give up praying")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/62321->

[AFRICA_MALI_Sister_Glory_kidnapped_one_hundred_days_ago_no_news_yet#.WSR_A0evyuM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/62321-AFRICA_MALI_Sister_Glory_kidnapped_one_hundred_days_ago_no_news_yet#.WSR_A0evyuM8)

Sunday May 21, 2017



India: Keesara village, Godamakunta, near Hyderabad, Telangana state

Archbishop Thumma Bala (**UPDATE:** reported on the desecration of a church by a mob of 100 Hindus only 8 days after it had been consecrated, said his diocese would conduct "reparation service after the police have completed the investigation", the church had been named Our Lady of Fatima and consecrated on the centennial of the reputed apparitions in Portugal)

[http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hyderabad,-Our-Lady-of-Fatima-Church-destroyed-\(Photos-and-Video\)-40803.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hyderabad,-Our-Lady-of-Fatima-Church-destroyed-(Photos-and-Video)-40803.html)



United States – Missouri: Kansas City

Montell Bruce (father, church greeter, shot in the head while attempting to stop a gunman who had entered his church, not seriously injured)

Pastor D'Eric Fields (issued a statement thanking Montell Bruce for his actions)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/greeter-shot-in-head-after-gunman-opens-fire-in-church-184556/>

Monday May 22, 2017



Pakistan: Pakpattan

Shakeela Bibi (daughter of Manna Masih, reported to have been told by a court that she must convert to Islam after her husband converted, has refused to convert and has filed for divorce)

Manna Masih (father of Shakeela Bibi)

Javed Sahotra (husband of Mary Ashma Javed; **UPDATE**: attorney for Shakeela Bibi)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6463>

Tuesday May 23, 2017



Egypt

Fr Makari Yunan (accused of contempt of Islam after he responded to an Islamic scholar who called Christianity corrupt by saying Islam was spread by the sword, may be indicted)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1904&A=30848>

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1904&A=30829>

Thursday May 25, 2017



Egypt: Dar el-Salaam, Cairo

Lydia (aged 15, reported that her hair was forcibly cut while in school by a woman wearing a niqab)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1907&A=30881>

Friday May 26, 2017



Egypt: near St Samuel Monastery, Minya province

Islamist attacked vehicles containing Christian pilgrims and construction workers

Marvy Hany Mourice (aged 4, **shot dead**)

Mourisca Mina Samouel (aged 2, **shot dead**)

Atef Mounir (aged 62, construction worker, uncle of David Gamal, **shot dead**)

David Gamal (nephew of Atef Mounir, identified his uncle's body)

Fr Rafik Greich (**UPDATE**: said "Different sources give contradictory figures for the number of casualties. Some reports say 23, others 25, the latest rumors say 26 dead - 36 according to others. What is certain is that there are also many children among the victims...The terrorists attacked at least three vehicles")

Bishop Makarios (**UPDATE**: said "The terrorists got in the bus and began shooting. The injuries are straight shots in the head, body and the neck...Everyone is trying to identify the dead and wounded. There is no time for anger yet")

Magdy Malek (parliamentarian, said "By the time they killed half of the people, the terrorists saw cars coming in the distance and we think that that is what saved the rest. They did not have time to kill them all. They just shot at them randomly and then fled")

Fr William Sidhom SJ (said "Our interior minister pays homage to the bodies of the victims instead of protecting living citizens from the attacks")

Ossama Tharwat (said "There is no real intention to fight terrorism. As long as it goes on, there will be religious edicts coming from Salafi's radical sheikhs, political parties of a religious matrix, and a religious discourse that foments violence against Christians, and we will witness more and more tragedy every day")

Ayman Ezzat (rickshaw driver, attended the funeral of the seven members of the Farouk family, said "Our lives have turned into hell. I'm a Copt and I curse myself everyday for bringing [President Sisi] to power. He failed us. He sold us")

Imad Khalil (**UPDATE**: said the pilgrimage was "the only fun opportunity for these children and young people who do not have anything")

Michael Fares (journalist said "They killed them before the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan perhaps because it is 'haram' [prohibited] to do so during the fast. But is it lawful to kill on an ordinary day?")

Ishaq Ibrahim (Coptic activist; **UPDATE**: said "This proves that applying the state of emergency doesn't provide safety, and Coptic Christians are still heavily targeted...Security around monasteries and churches is tight, so attackers are thinking of other ways to hit the same target far from secure places")

Naguib Sawiris (media owner; **UPDATE**: said "Forgive me, Lord, but I cannot turn the other cheek and I cannot love my enemies")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Terrorists-kill-dozens-in-an-attack-targeting-Christians-40855.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Egypt-mourns-more-Christian-victims.-Caught-between-anger-and-prayer,-citizens-cry-out-for-security-40858.html>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/05/islamic-extremists-egypt-slaughter-coptic-christians-pilgrimage-monastery/>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/26/world/middleeast/egypt-coptic-christian-attack.html?ref=oembed>
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/gunmen-in-egypt-attack-bus-carrying-coptic-christians-1495796748>

May 2017, date unknown

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