

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



China: Shangqiu, Henan

Pastor Zhang Di (arrested on false charges of attacking a village representative and a police station during questioning over his church's refusal to pay an illegal road tax)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/06/henan-officials-destroy-under.html>



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.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)

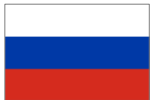
<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/convert-or-leave-human-rights-and-minorities-affairs-department-succors-unnerved-christians/>



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>



Russia: Ulan_Ude, Buryatil Republic

Stanislav Glotov (fined US\$17 for giving a television interview on the pending ban of his church)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2282



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 Kingdom: London

Kirsty Adams (candidate for Parliament, attacked in print by a major newspaper for having prayed for a deaf man who was cured)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Christianophobia-awards-BuzzFeed-Daily-Mirror-Independent-and-Spectator-out-Christian-candidates-as-unfit-to-hold-office-because-they-are-Christians>



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



China: Shangqiu, Henan

Church demolished after parishioners refused to pay an illegal road tax, 40 Christians arrested, 32 released

Lu Yuexia (church vice director, arrested)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/06/henan-officials-destroy-under.html>



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/>



Pakistan

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

Fr Shahid P Miraj (**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/>



Uzbekistan: Nukus, Karakalpakstan autonomous region

Three Christians were sentenced in **late April 2017** to 15 days' imprisonment for praying in a home; **UPDATE: released early**

Marat

Joldas

Salamat

Date: May 5, 2017

Location:

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2288



Belarus: Brest

Heorhi Dmitruk (church sponsored bicycle ride cancelled by the government, the event had been organized to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the translation of the Bible into Belarusian)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2284

Friday May 7, 2017



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://catholicherald.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](#)



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](#)

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/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.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: Xuan Loc Prison, Dong Nai province

Tran Thi Hong (wife of Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh [who has been serving 11 years in prison since 2011 for 'undermining national unity']; **UPDATE**: visited her husband in prison for 45 minutes with their four children, said "I was shocked when my husband said on May 11 that public security officials from Hanoi came to the camp and told him that I had been unfaithful. The officials asked him 'don't you know anything about your wife?' and said 'she is committing adultery with a man. The communist government maliciously lied to separate our family and force my husband to accept his crimes as a condition for his freedom. He did not commit any crime. He is a victim of religious persecution. As a pastor, he only fought for the free religious practice of Christians from ethnic minority groups in the central highlands...I told him that we are God's children and we must trust each other. If you believe their vicious slander, you will fall into their trap. Be brave. People are working hard for you to be freed soon...I gave him food and medicine but the guards took his medicine and will only give it to him at irregular intervals")

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>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/vietnam-officials-smear-jailed-pastors-wife/79363>



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/>



Nigeria: Maiduguri, Borno state

Ambore Gideon Todi (aged 21, college physics student, son of Williams Abba Todi, **killed** in a suicide bombing)

Joseph Kamida Cham (**UPDATE**: said “When Ambore [Gideon Todi]’s friend returned from his trip and could not find him during the student ministry fellowship, that made him to start asking questions. It was later disclosed that Ambore was mistaken for one of the suicide bombers that died...He was [the only male child and] the only child of the family who went beyond secondary school. He was in Physics Department and in his 100 level...It is believed that he was not the only one affected by the bomb blast, as there were others involved and were in their fellowship program. The authorities did not say anything about their demise till after nine days. We knew of his death because he is from my state”)

Williams Abba Todi (father of Ambore Gideon Todi, wrote on Facebook “KILLED BY BOKO HARAM. The management of the University of Maiduguri has today officially informed us of the death of our son AMBORE GIDEON TODI killed in the suicide bombing. Ambore rest in the LORD as you were killed in the Church on active service give us consolation you are on the right hand of GOD”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/07/christian-student-killed-spate-boko-haram-attacks-northeast-nigeria/>

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 Timotheus 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](http://www.fides.org/en/news/62277-)



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/>



Russia: Shumerlya, Chuvash Republic

Avel Lukin (aged 18, conscientious objector, denied permission to perform alternative civilian service by a military conscription office, ordered to serve in the nuclear missile forces, has filed an appeal)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2282

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2297



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



Russia: Uchaly

Sh Gataullin (fined for holding a religious gathering)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2282



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 Alcalá (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)

Tuesday May 16, 2017



Pakistan: Gujranwala

Mukhtar Masih (aged 69, father of Shaima Masih and Anjum Mukhtar, grandfather of Romilla, Nehmeeia, 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

Paul Zidoro (son of Geoffry Zidoro, nephew of Rev Nicolas Guerekoyame-Gbangou, **killed**)

Geoffry Zidoro (father of Paul Zidoro, brother of Rev Nicolas Guerekoyame-Gbangou, **killed**)

Rev Nicolas Guerekoyame-Gbangou (aged 58, husband of Priscilla; **UPDATE**: youngest brother and nephew 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/>

Wednesday May 17, 2017



Kazakhstan: Stepnogorsk, Akmola region

Ruslan Sadvakasov (arrested for handing out religious literature on [January 28, 2017](#); indicted on [April 5, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: case dismissed due to late filing of the indictment)

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

Thursday May 18, 2017



China: Lieshan District, Huaibei, Anhui province

Pastor Chen Shixin (arrested on [April 12, 2017](#) and charged with 'damaging forestry resources';
UPDATE: arrest formalized)

China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Bishop Peter Shao Zhumin (detained)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Wenzhou:-Mgr-Shao-back-in-his-diocese-under-police-escort-41049.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/06/officials-arrest-pastor-detained-on.html>



Kazakhstan: Taraz, Zhambyl region

Pastor Pyotr Panafidin (detained on [April 16, 2017](#), fined US\$730; **UPDATE:** fine reduced to US\$507 on appeal)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2285



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



China: Guiyang, Guizhou province

Pastor Su Tianfu (**UPDATE**: issued an administrative penalty for failure to pay a fine of over 7 million yuan [one million dollars], said “Someone knocked on my door at 7 p.m...It was four officials from the ethnic and religious affairs bureau. I told them it was late, but they said they were working overtime. Nothing could be done about it. Then they delivered an administrative penalty notice to me...By this 7 million yuan total, the government meant the total sum of donations the church received from the very first gathering on April 10, 2009 to the last one on Dec. 9, 2015, when the church was banned. The [officials] confiscated the church’s account book after arresting Zhang Xiuhong. They used that to calculate the donation money we have received”)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/05/guizhou-officials-levy-7-million-yuan.html>



Kazakhstan: Taraz, Zhambyl region

Vitaly Ryzhkov (detained on [April 16, 2017](#), fined US\$365; **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

Vitaly Relin (detained on [April 16, 2017](#), fined US\$365; **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2285



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

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)

India: Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh state

Sixty Christian children and teens were seized by police while travelling to a vacation Bible school camp, adult chaperones were arrested on forced conversion charges

Akash Gundia (aged 15, son of Hartesh Singh Gundia, put in juvenile detention, said "I told the police I am a Christian by birth, and we are going to attend the VBS [Vacation Bible School], but they did not listen to me and took us to the police station. Children as young as 6 also were in police custody, but when their parents came, the police handed them over to the parents. I was produced in court a day later, and from there was sent to a

juvenile detention home...I missed my home so much – I cried every day, and prayed and prayed”)

Ameya Jaal (aged 45, vacation Bible school volunteer, arrested)

Alkesh Ganava (aged 27, vacation Bible school volunteer, arrested)

Pandu Singh Vasuniya (aged 31, vacation Bible school volunteer, arrested)

Nitin Mandod (aged 23, vacation Bible school volunteer, arrested)

Lalu Babore (aged 28, vacation Bible school volunteer, arrested)

Vijay Meda (aged 17, vacation Bible school volunteer, arrested)

Sharmila Damore (vacation Bible school volunteer, arrested)

Savita Buria (vacation Bible school volunteer, arrested)

Pastor Dhum Singh (said “My daughters also were among the children, they were going to the VBS camp” when they were detained)

[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)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/06/christians-taking-children-camp-india-charged-kidnapping-forced-conversion/>



Eritrea: outside Asmara

Tedro Negel (newlywed husband, arrested along with his wife and 47 others at a Hamauti [a celebration one week after the wedding which includes prayer])

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/05/100-christians-detained-10-years-after-eritrea-put-patriarch-under-house-arrest/>



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



India: Nagpur, Madhya Pradesh state

Dr John Dayal (**UPDATE**: reported on the [May 21 & 22, 2017](#) state seizure of 71 young teens on their way to a summer Bible camp on the grounds that their families had not legally converted to Christianity, said “The traumatization of these tribal and Dalit children from the villages of western Madhya Pradesh is symptomatic of the paranoia and targeted hate that is currently sweeping across north India. No laws were broken by anyone in this instance, as indeed in incidents of anti-Christian violence in recent weeks. These are Christian children going to a summer camp in Nagpur. The involvement of the police and local civil authorities needs closer study apart from rampant impunity and turning a blind eye to [Hindu nationalist] violence, the law and order institutions have been heavily infiltrated and radicalized under almost 15 years of Bharatiya Janata Party rule in Madhya Pradesh. [The government should give] a categorical assurance, in clear language, that targeting of Christians of all denominations will stop forthwith and district police and administrative heads will be held personally responsible”)

<https://cruxnow.com/global-church/2017/05/30/christian-children-detained-india-state-claims-hindu-law/>



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)

Pakistan: Sargodha district

Akhtar Masih (aged 53, husband of Rubina, father of six, grandfather, farmer, preacher, stabbed outside his home, hospitalized)

Rubina (wife of Akhtar Masih)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6463>
<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6539>

Tuesday May 23, 2017



Philippines: Marawi, Mindanao

Fr Teresito 'Chito' Suganob (abducted by Islamic militants along with 13 parishioners, cathedral burned, 9 other Christians shot dead)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/cardinal-pleads-for-islamist-militants-to-release-philippines-hostages-21603/>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/05/terrorists-linked-islamic-state-abduct-priest-attack-mindanao-philippines/>



Indonesia: Jakarta

Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama aka Ahok (husband of Veronica Tan, sentenced on [May 9, 2017](#) 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; **UPDATE:** withdrew his appeal after the prosecution filed its own appeal of the sentence, issued a statement asking his supporters to stop demonstrating for his release "I know this is not easy for you to accept this reality, let alone me, but I have learned to forgive and accept all this", added that demonstrations would cause "great losses, in the form of traffic congestion and economic losses resulting from the rallies...It's not right to hold rallies against each other over what I'm experiencing now. I'm concerned that many sides will exploit the rallies. There may be clashes with those who take issue with our struggle")

Veronica Tan (wife of Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama aka Ahok, read her husband's statement at a press conference)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/05/jakartas-christian-ex-governor-drops-blasphemy-appeal-sake-people/>



Malaysia

Susanna Liew (aged 61, wife of Raymond Koh Keng Joo, mother of Jonathan Koh; **UPDATE:** issued a statement that read "What my children and I want most of all is the release of my

husband, safe and sound; and for his abductors and their accomplices to be brought to justice...[My husband was] forcibly pulled out of his car against his will [while] other abductors directed traffic and filmed the abduction. The entire abduction took less than 60 seconds and reflected a professional precision and efficiency not usually seen in conventional kidnappings in Malaysia...Despite public speculation and suspicion against the authorities, up to 6 April [2017], I still appealed to Malaysians to give the police space to conduct their investigations. However, this trust in them has been in vain. I was shocked and disappointed when I read the IGP's [Inspector General of Police's] words as quoted [in the local newspaper] Berita Harian. The victim is now being investigated [for alleged preaching to Muslims]? How will this help find him and bring his abductors to justice?")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/05/wife-of-abducted-malaysian-pastor-why-are-police-investigating-him-rather-than-looking-for-him/>



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>

Wednesday May 24, 2017



Vietnam: Xuan Loc Prison, Dong Nai province

Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh (husband of Tran Thi Hong, on July 31, 2012 an appellate court in Gia Lai upheld his sentence of 11 years for "undermining unity"; **UPDATE**: confined to a cramped punishment cell after telling U.S. diplomats about the mistreatment he has suffered)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/jailed-vietnamese-pastor-punished-after-us-visit/79479>



Indonesia: Jakarta

Yohanes Bao Keraf (church security leader, said after two suicide bombings at a bus terminal
“There is a feeling of fear...we are coordinating with police on heightened security
measures”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/05/indonesias-social-and-political-fabric-stretched-as-bombs-hit-jakarta/>



Kazakhstan: Astrakhanka village, Akmola region

Pastor Aleksandr Gorbunov (Bible meeting interrupted by police)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2285



Egypt

Magdy Zekry Abdel Malak (aged 40, building contractor, **killed**, stabbed in the neck)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/07/four-copts-killed-aggressive-campaign-history-modern-egypt/>

Thursday May 25, 2017



Kazakhstan: Astrakhanka village, Akmola region

Pastor Aleksandr Gorbunov (Bible meeting interrupted by police on [May 24, 2017](#); **UPDATE:**
fined US\$728)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2285



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>



Russia: Oryol

Dennis Christensen (husband of Irina Christensen, Danish citizen, arrested for 'continuing the activities of a banned extremist organization', ordered held for 2 months pending trial)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2282

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**)

Adel Habib (husband of Hanaa Youssef, father of Mina and Marco, construction worker, attacked by Islamists, **shot dead**)

Mohsen Morkous (aged 60, dual U.S. citizen, Chicago area resident, religious pilgrim, **shot dead**, two sons and a grandson also shot and presumed dead)

Mina Habib (aged 10, son of Hanaa Youssef and Adel Habib, brother of Marco, witnessed his father's murder, said of seeing the pilgrim buses "We saw dead people, just dumped on the ground. They asked my father for identification then told him to recite the Muslim profession of faith. He refused, said he was Christian. They shot him and everyone else with us in the car. They saw us in the back of the truck. They made us get down and a man wearing camouflage like the army pointed his gun at us, but another one in all black told him to let us go. Every time they shot someone they would yell God is great")

Marco Habib (aged 14, son of Hanaa Youssef and Adel Habib, brother of Mina, witnessed his father's murder, said "They had Egyptian accents like us and they were all masked except for two of them...They looked like us and did not have beards", now spends his time reading the Bible at a monastery)

Hanaa Youssef (widow of Adel Habib, mother of Mina and Marco)

Julia Ibrahim (child, survived the attack, said “We refused to become Muslims, so they shoot us!”)

Jehan Anwar (survived the terror attack on the religious pilgrims, hospitalized, said that the male pilgrims were shot and then the women's jewelry was taken)

Miled Salama (attorney, said “I lost my voice while shouting on the phone for the police to come to the scene of the shooting [of the pilgrims]...I arrived well before the police after my family informed me that they had been shot...The security forces are neglecting us”)

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”)

Fr Boulos al-Samuely (later commented on the terror attack outside his monastery “I never imagined that this would happen to us, that I would see this day. Why do they do this to

people, some of them children, going on an excursion?...We would chose Christ, if we were made to choose between him and death. But the right to life is a gift from God. It is only He who can decide to reclaim it, not just anybody. That is why people must know that Christianity loves life. I am a monk, which means I am not captured by life and its pleasures. However my feelings for my family do not die, because a monk without feelings is dead. This is why we all called to reassure our families we are alright. We did this, even though we are monks. Can you imagine how those whose children went on this trip, and died and who will not return again must feel? Christians must know that Christianity orders us to be always ready to go to heaven. But this readiness does not mean we don't want life")

<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>

<https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2017/05/29/the-st-samuel-monastery-death-on-the-road-to-a-life-giving-monastery/>

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/survivor-julia-ibrahim-speaks-on-coptic-bus-attack/>

<https://international.la-croix.com/news/soft-egyptian-security-policies-put-christians-under-threat/5284>

<https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2017/06/03/soft-egyptian-security-policies-put-christians-under-threat/>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20170602121818.htm>

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1914&A=31046>

<http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN19B185?sp=true>

<https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2017/06/21/do-copts-have-a-future-in-egypt/>



Central African Republic: Alindao

Pastor Ange-Apoleon Ngakolada (aged 36, husband, father of eight, reported to have been **killed**)

Rev Aiah Foday-Khabenje (General Secretary of the Association of Evangelicals in Africa, said “Saddened and shocked at the news of this targeted fatal attack on religious leaders, who have demonstrated courage and brought hope to their people in CAR. Pray for God’s grace and comfort for the family. I cannot understand how a small group of people, in the tiny nation, bent on evil, continue to defy the collective will of the rest of the world for peace, represented by the United Nations. Surely, the UN ought to be a force for good and needs to stand up against the seeming triumph of evil forces around the world”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/05/church-leader-among-dead-central-african-republic/>



Algeria: Jijel prison

Slimane Bouhafis (aged 50, arrested in [Setif](#) on blasphemy charges on [July 31, 2016](#), suffers from inflammatory rheumatism, sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment on [August 7, 2016](#); sentence reduced on [September 7, 2016](#) to 3 years' imprisonment, fine of US\$900 dropped; **UPDATE**: reported to have been transferred to another prison where there are fewer Christians, family fearful for his safety)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/05/fears-imprisoned-algerian-christian-ramadan-begins/>

Saturday May 27, 2017



Thailand: Bangkok

Ijaz Paras Masih (aged 36, husband of Shahida, father of Joel, Angel, and Smittha, Pakistani asylum applicant, detained on [June 6, 2016](#) for overstaying his visa; suffered a stroke while in custody on [October 22, 2016](#), hospitalized with partial paralysis, later returned to detention; **UPDATE**: [died in custody after undergoing mandatory physical exercise](#))

Shahida (aged 33, Pakistani asylum applicant, widow of Ijaz Paras Masih)

Joel (aged 11, Pakistani asylum applicant, son of Ijaz Paras Masih)

Angel (aged 8, Pakistani asylum applicant, daughter of Ijaz Paras Masih)

Smittha (aged 18 months, Pakistani asylum applicant, child of Ijaz Paras Masih)

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



India: Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh state

Sharmila Damore (vacation Bible school volunteer, arrested on [May 21, 2017](#) on forced conversion charges; **UPDATE:** granted bail)

Savita Buria (vacation Bible school volunteer, arrested on [May 21, 2017](#) on forced conversion charges; **UPDATE:** granted bail)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/06/christians-taking-children-camp-india-charged-kidnapping-forced-conversion/>



Eritrea: Asmara

Patriarch Abune Antonios (disappeared in [2007](#), reportedly detained by the government in a darkened room, health declining, diabetic condition requires medical attention; **UPDATE:** has passed 10 years' in house arrest)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/05/100-christians-detained-10-years-after-eritrea-put-patriarch-under-house-arrest/>

Sunday May 28, 2017



Pakistan: Sargodha district

Akhtar Masih (aged 53, husband of Rubina, father of six, grandfather, farmer, preacher, stabbed outside his home on [May 22, 2017](#), hospitalized; **UPDATE:** died)

Rubina (widow of Akhtar Masih)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6539>



Kazakhstan: Taraz, Zhambyl region

Police raided a worship service, took 20 men and one woman to the police station to be fingerprinted and photographed, all were released

Pyotr Demchenko

Viktor Fot

Aleksandr Fot

Stanislav Denisov

Aleksandr Strignatsky

Konstantin Nurtazin

Vladimir Klochan (visitor)

Oleg Getman

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2285



Belarus: Gomel

Fr Slawomir Laskowski (Polish citizen, voluntarily left the country after his application for citizenship was rejected)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2284

Monday May 29, 2017



Kyrgyzstan: Bishkek

Bishop Daniil Kuznetsov (invited to a hearing to discuss proposed legislation which would impose complete censorship of all religious literature, increase the required number of adult members for legal registration of a church to 500, and require state approval for travel abroad for religious education, issued no statement in response, another critic said that past criticism of such legislation was used to make the law more repressive)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2283



Kazakhstan: various locations

Police summoned Christians who had been detained in Taraz, Zhambyl region on May 29, 2017 to their local polices stations and imposed fines of US\$365 each

Pyotr Demchenko (UPDATE: appealed)

Viktor Fot (**UPDATE**: appealed)

Aleksandr Fot (**UPDATE**)

Stanislav Denisov (**UPDATE**)

Aleksandr Strignatsky (**UPDATE**)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2285



Belarus: Vitebsk

Fr Vyacheslav Barok (said "The Constitution guarantees us our religious rights but the state constantly interferes in the Church's affairs. The [government] Plenipotentiary decides who will serve and where...Unless the Plenipotentiary's Office is reformed the situation will continue. You won't find such an institution anywhere in the world, even in Russia")

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2284



Italy: Milan

Fr Andrea (church vandalized with graffiti that read 'Free abortion [also for Mary]', posted a reply on Facebook)

<https://churchpop.com/2017/06/04/a-priest-find-pro-abortion-graffiti-on-his-church-and-reaction-is-going-viral/>

<https://www.facebook.com/980520388653889/photos/a.1410217955684128.1073741828.980520388653889/1425157647523492/?type=3&theater>

Tuesday May 30, 2017



Indonesia

Christians fear the success of the Philippine military offensive against Islamic militants will force the militants into their country

Indonesia: Manado, Sulawesi

Fr Steven Lalu (said "The close proximity to the Philippines has raised anxiety...We asked people to look out for people who are not known entering the community. The church always coordinates with security")

Indonesia: Pineleng, Sulawesi

Boy Pangemanan (parish council member, said "Do not let these groups come and harm us. Terrorist are the enemy of all people from all religious backgrounds")

Indonesia: Minahasa, Sulawesi

Rev Emmy Situmorang Milos (said "We always work with security officers to check on new and suspicious looking people")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/indonesian-christians-fear-philippine-violence-spillover/79368>



Bangladesh: Badda district, Dhaka

Dominic Roy (father of an 8 year old girl who was raped by two Muslim security guards)

Nirmal Rozario (general secretary of the Bangladesh Christian Association; **UPDATE**: said "We can't believe how two 'grandfatherly' men could commit such a crime against a child. We are offering support to the family and are in touch with government officials and law enforcers, to ensure justice in this case")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/two-held-in-bangladesh-for-raping-8-year-old-catholic-girl/79489>



Kazakhstan: various locations

Police summoned Christians who had been detained in Taraz, Zhambyl region on May 29, 2017 to their local polices stations and imposed fines of US\$365 each

Konstantin Nurtazin (**UPDATE**)

Vladimir Klochan (**UPDATE**)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2285



United Kingdom: London

Prime Minister Theresa May (attacked in print by a major newspaper for visiting a church which has held traditional Christian beliefs)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Christianophobia-awards-BuzzFeed-Daily-Mirror-Independent-and-Spectator-out-Christian-candidates-as-unfit-to-hold-office-because-they-are-Christians>



United States - District of Columbia

Mary Hassan (attorney, wrote of new Illinois Department of Children and Family Services policies that will require Christian social workers who adhere to traditional teachings on gender to be fired)

<http://thefederalist.com/2017/05/30/illinois-purges-social-workers-foster-families-dont-facilitate-transgenderism/>

Wednesday May 31, 2017



China: Changsha, Hunan province

Jiang Tianyong (human rights attorney, abducted by police on [November 22, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** charged with 'subversion of state power')

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/06/christian-human-rights-lawyer-pinned.html>



Kyrgyzstan: Bishkek

Galina Kolodzinskaia (**UPDATE:** said of the proposed legislation which would impose complete censorship of all religious literature, increase the required number of adult members for legal registration of a church to 500, and require state approval for travel abroad for religious education "If there is no unified voice from civil society and religious communities, the amendments might move through parliament quickly. Sadly, religious communities are fragmented and are unlikely to work together on this. But it's quite possible they will be postponed until after the presidential elections now scheduled for 15 October [2017]. If that is the case, all will depend on what attitude the new president will take, as religious policy is in the hands of the president")

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2283



Kenya: Fafi

Elly Oloo Ojiema (elementary school teacher, **shot dead** at his school in front of his students by Al Shabaab militants)

Joseph Kamau (elementary school teacher, abducted by Al Shabaab militants along with a Muslim teacher who attempted to protect him)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/06/christian-teacher-killed-another-abducted-along-muslim-northeastern-kenya/>



Cameroon

Bishop Jean-Marie Benoit Bala (aged 58, disappeared, suicide note found in his automobile)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/06/07/signs-of-torture-found-on-body-of-bishop-who-allegedly-committed-suicide/>

May 2017, date unknown



Pakistan: Quetta, Balochistan

Lee Zingyang aka Li Xinheng (aged 24, Chinese citizen, Mandarin teacher, possible underground missionary, abducted by ISIL, **killed** either by ISIL or in a government air strike)

Meng Lisi aka Lu Ling Lina (aged 26, Chinese citizen, Mandarin teacher, possible underground missionary, abducted by ISIL, **killed** either by ISIL or in a government air strike)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/isis-kills-2-chinese-missionaries-pakistan-187716/>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6501>

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/china-looks-for-answers-over-killing-of-nationals-in-pakistan/story-rS8kRezXvXEKQ5EBILTOuJ.html>

Today's Martyrs

2490 Black Rock Turnpike #455

Fairfield CT 06825-2400

<http://todaysmartyrs.org/events/>

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