

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – June 2017

**Thursday June 1, 2017**



### **Vietnam: Ho Chi Minh City**

Peter Pham Minh Hoang (activist and blogger, dual French citizen, told that the government would revoke his citizenship - despite his birth in the country - and expel him)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/outcry-as-vietnam-rescinds-catholic-activists-nationality/79460>



### **Ukraine: Sevastopol, Crimea**

Yevgeny Butsy (ordered by Russian prosecutors on [May 24, 2016](#) to change the church name listed on posted fire evacuation notices to match its registered name, later fined, case dismissed twice by the courts; **UPDATE**: case reopened a second time by prosecutors)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2299](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2299)



### **Venezuela: Maturin**

Bishop Enrique Perez Lavado (said "The situation in the Country is dramatic, there is no food and people have reached the limit of tolerance. The attitude of closure of Nicolas Maduro's government only aggravates the context. The Bishops' Conference and Venezuelan Caritas continue to make proposals to establish an aid channel. Many Caritas from other countries, as well as other NGOs, are willing to help us by bringing medicines and food. However, the Government hampers any kind of intervention. I happened to see miles of people in a row to buy food. Hundreds of people are dying, including many chronically ill children")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/62384->

[AMERICA VENEZUELA Dramatic situation children and sick people die#.WTLA NuvyuM8](#)

**Friday June 2, 2017**



### **Pakistan: Umerkot**

Irfan Masih (aged 30, sanitation worker, **suffocated while in a sewer, died at the hospital after doctors refused to treat him because of the sewage on his body**)

Pervaiz Masih (sanitation worker, cousin of Irfan Masih, said "I was heading to work when I was informed about the incident. I rushed to the scene and saw that some passersby had already pulled out Shaukat Masih from the manhole. I then helped them bring out Yaqoob and Irfan. Irfan was breathing, sometimes choking a bit. I carried him on my shoulder and started running towards the Civil Hospital when a rickshaw pulled over to help me carry him...I kept pleading with the doctor on duty, Yusuf, to begin Irfan's treatment, but he refused, saying he was fasting and that his Roza [fast] would get makroo [invalid] if he touched the filth-covered body of the sanitary worker. Irfan was alive for over half an hour. He was breathing all this while, but the doctors lost precious time by refusing to treat him. They are responsible for his death on the hospital bed")

Nasir Saeed (**UPDATE**: said "A life could have been saved if medical aid had been given in time. This is not the first time that any sewer cleaner has died doing his duty. The government should provide safety kits to their workers but since these menial jobs are reserved for the Christians nobody cares about them")

Michelle Chaudhry (**UPDATE**: said "A society becomes extremely dangerous when it becomes inhumane. An innocent life has been lost because someone refused to carry out his duty, at a deontological and public service level. The doctor violated Hippocrates' oath that obliges him to treat a patient in any circumstance, beyond religion and social class")

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1336977>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/62404->

[ASIA PAKISTAN Doctors deny treatment a Christian worker dies#.WTVgAevyuM8](#)



### **Kazakhstan: Taraz, Zhambyl region**

Oleg Getman (taken from a [May 28, 2017](#) worship service along with 19 men and one woman to the police station to be fingerprinted and photographed; **UPDATE**: fined US\$363)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2285](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2285)



#### **Uzbekistan: Tashkent**

Liliya Sitdikova (mother of Vildan Sitdikov, fined US\$779 for possession of religious literature)

Vildan Sitdikov (son of Liliya Sitdikova, fined US\$779 for possession of religious literature)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2329](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2329)



#### **Iran: Urmia, Western Azerbaijan province**

Anousheh Reza-bakhsh aka Veronika (convert, mother of Soheil Zargarzadeh Sani, arrested on [February 20, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: whereabouts still unknown)

Soheil Zargarzadeh Sani aka Augustine (convert, son of Anousheh Reza-bakhsh, senior psychology university student, arrested on [February 20, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: whereabouts still unknown)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3530>



#### **Cameroon: near Monatele**

Bishop Jean-Marie Benoit Bala (aged 58, disappeared on [May 31, 2017](#), suicide note found in his automobile; **body found in the Sanaga River**)

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

**Sunday June 4, 2017**



**Kazakhstan: Taraz, Zhambyl region**

**Police raided a worship service, took 7 into custody, all were released, told they would be fined**

Aleksei Tishko

Sergei Tyan

Vitaly Relin

Shukhrat Alzhanov (son of Tamara Alzhanova)

Tamara Alzhanova (mother of Shukhrat Alzhanov)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2285](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2285)



**Ukraine: Kolomiya, Transkarpatya region**

Archpriest Vasily Kobelsky (said “On that day activists and priests of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic [aka Uniate] Church organized a traditional procession to the grave of the streletsy [Russian military corps in the sixteenth to seventeenth centuries] of Sech, not far from our church. A representative of the Ukrainian Security Service approached me and asked me to allow them to come into the church to pray. We gave them permission. But the Uniate priests—and there were thirteen of them—immediately proceeded to the sanctuary to serve their liturgy. We did not expect that...”)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/104086.htm>

**Monday June 5, 2017**



**Egypt: Al Khosous, outside Cairo**

Suzan Ashraf Rawy (aged 22, church employee, abducted on her way to work, ransom demanded)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/06/young-christian-woman-said-kidnapped-outside-cairo-egypt/>



## United States - District of Columbia

Lance Corporal Monifa Sterling USMC (convicted at court martial for refusing an order to remove a displayed Bible verse from her workstation at [Camp Lejune, North Carolina](#) despite the existence of personal messages on other workstations, **UPDATE:** the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear her appeal)

<http://www.charismanews.com/politics/issues/65324-scotus-members-of-the-military-have-no-religious-liberties>

**Tuesday June 6, 2017**



### India: Ranagath, West Bengal

Archbishop Thomas D'Souza (**UPDATE:** condemned the burglary and vandalism of a church in which the tabernacle was profaned, the church was only yards away from the location of the [March 13, 2015](#) gang rape of a 72-year old nun)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Archbishop-of-Calcutta:-saddened-by-vandalism-of-St.-Luke's-Church-40951.html>



### Pakistan: on the road from Hyderabad to Karachi

Tabish Shamoun (aged 24, driver for attorney Jacqueline Sultan [who is now in hiding due to death threats], beaten and threatened at gunpoint by two men who demanded to know the attorney's hiding place)

### Pakistan: Lahore

Bishop Emeritus Andrew Francis (aged 70, survived a [1996](#) assassination attempt in [Lahore](#) by two men; condemned the [July 4, 2012](#) lynching of a mentally ill young Muslim accused of Quran desecration; **UPDATE:** [died of natural causes](#))

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Msgr.-Andrew-Francis,-%E2%80%98spiritual-healer%E2%80%99-has-died-40957.html>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6491>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/pakistan-mourns-as-it-loses-a-good-shepherd/79446>



## Cameroon

Bishop Jean-Marie Benoit Bala (aged 58, disappeared on [May 31, 2017](#), suicide note found in his automobile; **body found in the Sanaga River** near [Monatele](#) on [June 2, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: autopsy showed signs of torture and that death occurred before the body was placed in the river)

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



## United States – Massachusetts: Springfield

Pastor Scott Lively (sued by a homosexual group for allegedly inciting ‘a dozen minor incidents’ of persecution against homosexuals in Uganda over the past decade, he denied the charges, a Federal judge ruled on [August 28, 2013](#) that the trial may proceed; petition for dismissal denied on [December 5, 2014](#) by a three judge panel of the Federal First Circuit Court in [Boston](#); **UPDATE**: suit dismissed, issued a statement which noted the judge’s 4 year delay after an [April 17, 2013](#) U.S. Supreme Court ruling eliminated the statutory basis for the suit)

<https://www.lc.org/newsroom/details/060617-victory-for-american-pastor-falsely-accused-of-crimes-against-humanity>

**Wednesday June 7, 2017**



## China: Shanghai

Bishop Thaddeus Ma Daqin (ordained as bishop on [July 7, 2012](#), then disappeared after stating in his first homily that he would resign from the state-sponsored church; **UPDATE**: still missing despite apparently having rejoined the state-sponsored church)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/shanghais-bishop-ma-still-in-limbo-with-ordination-no-show/79458>



### **Vietnam: Xuan Loc Prison, Dong Nai province**

Tran Thi Hong (wife of Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh; **UPDATE**: spoke after discovering during a family visit that her husband had been confined to a cramped punishment cell after telling U.S. diplomats on [May 25, 2017](#) about the mistreatment he has suffered: "Chinh said on the previous day, prison officials informed him about the meeting [with U.S. diplomats] and asked him not to tell the visitors anything that would make them look bad. Chinh could not obey their order. He told the delegation his experiences of torture, threats and mistreatment that he has endured over six years")

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



### **Iran: Tehran**

Fr Hormoz Aslani Babroudi (condemned the ISIL terror attack on the Iranian parliament which killed 17: "I am saddened by such inhumane acts, mostly accomplished by people who present themselves faithful to God and Islam, and therefore spread a false image of faith and religion")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/62425->

[ASIA IRAN Iranian priest following the massacres in Tehran terrorists will not succeed in frightening our people#.WTIZYevyuM8](#)



### **Greece: Piraeus and Samos**

#### **Bishops defended doctors who have refused to participate in abortions**

Metropolitan Eusebios Pistoris

Metropolitan Seraphim Mentzenopoulos (**UPDATE**)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/104140.htm>



### **United States**

Jaelene Hinkle (aged 24, soccer player, announced that she would not be attending the Friendlies competitions in Norway and Sweden for 'personal reasons', the announcement came after U.S. Soccer announced that players would all wear gay pride jerseys, had previously been criticized by homosexual activists for her Christian views)

#### **United States - District of Columbia**

Russell Vought (nominee for Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, told by U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders during his confirmation hearing that he is 'really not someone who this country is supposed to be about' due to his traditional views on Christian salvation)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/bernie-sanders-trump-appointee-christian-vought-187025/>

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-soccer-player-jaelene-hinkle-withdraws-from-friendlies-as-us-team-is-set-to-wear-gay-pride-jerseys-186852/>

<http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/448393/watch-bernie-sanders-unconstitutionally-impose-religious-test-public-office>

**Thursday June 8, 2017**



#### **China: Shangqiu, Henan**

Pastor Zhang Di (arrested on [May 2, 2017](#) on false charges of attacking a village representative and a police station during questioning; **UPDATE**: officially arrested)

Lu Yuexia (church vice director, arrested following a church demolition on [May 5, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: officially arrested)

Huang Xiangju (arrested following a church demolition on [May 5, 2017](#); officially arrested)

Zhao Wenjing (arrested following a church demolition on [May 5, 2017](#); officially arrested)

Guo Chungai (arrested following a church demolition on [May 5, 2017](#); officially arrested)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/06/5-christians-officially-arrested-after.html>



#### **Pakistan: Islamabad**

Dr Julius Salik (former member of parliament; **UPDATE**: protested the treatment of Muslims in Kashmir and Myanmar [aka Burma])

#### **Pakistan: Rao Khan Wala, Kasur**



Mehwish Shaukat (aged 8, victim of an attempted rape by a Muslim neighbor while her parents and older siblings were at work)

Shaukat Masih (aged about 46, father of Sharoon, Haroon, Mehwish, Samson, and Kajal, brick kiln bonded laborer)

Nasreen Bibi (aged about 45, mother of Sharoon, Haroon, Mehwish, Samson, and Kajal, brick kiln bonded laborer)

Sharoon Shaukat (aged 18, brother of Mehwish Shaukat, brick kiln bonded laborer)

Haroon Shaukat (aged 13, brother of Mehwish Shaukat, brick kiln bonded laborer)

Samson Shaukat (aged 7, brother of Mehwish Shaukat, witnessed the attempted rape of his sister)

Kajal Shaukat (aged 4, sister of Mehwish Shaukat, witnessed the attempted rape of her sister)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6492>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6510>



### **United States - Georgia**

Sarah Harmening (aged 17, **killed in a bus accident** while in route to missionary work in Botswana)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/teenager-heading-to-botswana-mission-trip-killed-in-church-bus-crash-in-georgia-39-injured-187200/>

**Friday June 9, 2017**



### **China: Guiyang, Guizhou province**

Pastor Su Tianfu (**UPDATE**: reported on a court hearing his church called to dispute a US\$1 million fine, church members and attorneys were barred from attending the hearing, said “The religious affairs bureau did not strive to protect our legal rights throughout the process. The hearing process was an avoidance system”)

### **China: Wumeng, Inner Mongolia autonomous region**

Bishop John Liu Shigong (aged 89, **died of liver cancer**, had been sent to a labor camp during the Cultural Revolution)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/chinese-bishop-dies-but-vatican-appointed-successor-not-yet-ordained/79487>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/06/court-sabotages-house-church-hearing.html>



### **India: Gujarat state**

Fr Cedric Prakash SJ (**UPDATE**: reported to have protested the use of a public school textbook which labelled Jesus 'a demon': "The fact that Jesus is denigrated in school books says a lot about those in charge of shaping the minds, character and future of children. This also reflects the mind-set of those who govern us, those in power who with their acolytes appear bent on destroying what is deemed sacrosanct in the Constitution of India...there are fewer scruples in denigrating and even exterminating minorities, Dalits and Tribals...[this is a] brutal plan to promote fascist ideologies", he demanded removal of the books and "that the perpetrators be prosecuted according to the law and that the government apologize to the Christian community")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Gujarat-textbook-describe-Jesus-as-a-%E2%80%9Cdemon%E2%80%9D-40977.html>



### **Egypt: Alexandria**

Fr Henri Boulad, SJ (aged 85, director of the Jesuit Cultural Center; **UPDATE**: said "One can say that 'Arabs' are naturally violent. But the same could be said of the Barbarians who conquered Europe in the past. These invaders have been progressively 'civilized' by the Christian faith to become what they are now. In my opinion, the religious element plays an essential role in shaping a society. The fact that Christian 'Arabs' are different than Muslim Arabs is a proof of the strong connection between religion and society...All attempts to reform Islam by liberal open-minded Muslims have tragically failed so far and I doubt that a 'reformed Islam' will still remain 'Islam'. Here are six unsuccessful attempts to reform Islam in the last two centuries [listed them in the article]...On such ethical issues [with secular societies], and others, the Church should ally with Muslims to fight against whatever demeans and degrades the human being. This is fertile ground for understanding between the two religions. It can also pave the way for us to denounce anything which is morally unacceptable in Islamic teaching")

<http://www.ncregister.com/blog/edward-pentin/jesuit-scholar-seeking-to-defend-islam-at-all-costs-is-betraying-the-truth>



### **Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan**

Christina Khidr Ebada (aged 5, abducted on [August 22, 2014](#) from her mother's lap by ISIL militants in [Qaraqosh](#); a Christian woman named Rana in a [September 2014](#) phone conversation after her capture by ISIL said that she had cared for Christina, said Christina was later given to a Muslim family to be raised as a Muslim; still missing as of [September 9, 2016](#), a photograph of her appeared on Facebook before the internet was cut from [Mosul](#); **UPDATE**: recovered in good health by Iraqi government forces during fighting in the Mosul area, returned to her parents, had lost the ability to speak Assyrian, has been "overwhelmed" by the welcome received at the refugee camp where her parents live)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/06/abducted-christina-finally-reunited-parents/>



### **Mexico: Tijuana**

Fr Juan Antonio Zambrano Garcia (stabbed twice, hospitalized)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/62450-AMERICA\\_MEXICO\\_Violence\\_increases\\_against\\_priests#.WUFFY-vyuM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/62450-AMERICA_MEXICO_Violence_increases_against_priests#.WUFFY-vyuM8)

**Sunday June 11, 2017**



### **Tajikistan**

Andrei Chumachenko (home raided during a worship service by NSC secret police, said "Lieutenant Khojayev threatened me that they will demolish my house. Other officers also threatened our believers with criminal prosecution")

### **Tajikistan: Dushanbe**

Pastor Pyotr Plett (church raided by NSC secret police, later said the authorities "left us alone after the incident")

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2291](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2291)  
[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2298](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2298)



## Iran: Teheran

Amin Afshar Naderi (aged 29, convert, detained by police after the [December 26, 2014](#) raid on the [Tehran](#) home of Pastor Victor Beth Tarmez; released from jail on bond on [February 10, 2015](#), banned from Christian activities until his trial begins; arrested without warrant by MOIS agents while fishing and picnicking with his wife in [Firuzkuh](#) on [August 26, 2016](#), beaten when he asked to see the arrest warrant; still incarcerated in [Evin prison, Tehran](#) without trial as of [February 7, 2017](#), had threatened to begin a hunger strike; stopped his hunger strike on [February 14, 2017](#) after receiving promise of medical care and legal action; **UPDATE:** sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment)

Hadi Askary (arrested without warrant by MOIS agents while fishing and picnicking with his wife in [Firuzkuh](#) on [August 26, 2016](#); still incarcerated in [Evin prison, Tehran](#) without trial as of [February 7, 2017](#), had threatened to begin a hunger strike; stopped his hunger strike on [February 14, 2017](#) after receiving promise of medical care and legal action; **UPDATE:** sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment)

Kavian Fallah Mohammadi (convert, detained by police after the [December 26, 2014](#) raid on the home of Pastor Victor Beth Tarmez, released from jail on bond on approximately [February 17, 2015](#), banned from Christian activities until his trial begin; **UPDATE:** sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment)

Pastor Victor Beth Tarmez (husband of Shamiram Isavi, father of Ram-eil, bodily searched during a [December 26, 2014](#) police raid on his [Tehran](#) home, arrested; released from jail on bond on [March 1, 2015](#), banned from Christian activities until his trial begins, suffered health problems while in prison; **UPDATE:** sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment)

Ram-eil Beth Tamraz (son of Pastor Victor Beth Tarmez and Shamiram Isavi, bodily searched during the [December 26, 2014](#) police raid on his home in [Tehran](#); arrested without warrant by MOIS agents while fishing and picnicking with his wife in [Firuzkuh](#) on [August 26, 2016](#); released on [October 10, 2016](#) on a US\$35,000 bail; **UPDATE:** awaiting trial)

Shamiram Isavi (wife of Pastor Victor Beth Tarmez, mother of Ram-eil, bodily searched during the [December 26, 2014](#) police raid on her home in [Tehran](#); **UPDATE:** awaiting trial)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/07/lengthy-sentences-for-iranian-pastor-and-two-converts/>

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3593>



## Ireland: Horeswood, County Wexford

Bishop Denis Brennan (said “There is a lot of concern in church circles these days about the future. This is understandable given the volume of criticism and negativity directed at the

church over recent times...In these Pentecost days we need to cast off our fears too, we are not the first generation of Christians to worry and wonder about the future. In every age people have written the obituary of the church and our age is no exception")

### **Ireland: Drogheda**

Bishop Leo O'Reilly (reported to have spoken of "hostility to the church that is now a settled part of our society's culture. People from abroad are often astonished at the antipathy to the church displayed in our country...It is not physical persecution but it is no less real for that. It is more subtle. It takes the form of gradual exclusion of church people or activities from the public space. There is denigration of religious beliefs, practices and institutions on radio, television and on social and other media. There is often a focus on bad news about the church to the almost total exclusion of any good news")

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/06/12/irish-church-facing-persecution-and-hostility-bishops-warn/>

**Monday June 12, 2017**



### **Papua New Guinea: Rabaul**

Doug Tennent (New Zealand citizen, missionary, attorney, diocesan administrator, expelled from the country)

Archbishop Francesco Panfilo SDB (said "Doug Tennent received a decree of expulsion on the grounds that he was 'involved in sensitive issues concerning land owners'. We know the meaning of these words: they refer to the native peoples in the area of West Pomio, in the territory of our archdiocese. In 2012 a group of land owners in that area stipulated an agreement with a Malay multinational, the Rimbunan Hijau, which grants land for the exploitation of timber and the production of palm oil. But the contract was not sufficiently examined. As the years passed the natives witnessed progressive deforesting and serious environmental devastation. Therefore, rightly concerned, they demanded fairer conditions and guarantees of protection for the area, and asked for my direct involvement in the matter, as Archbishop and a Catholic representative. We examined the question and, thanks also to the competent assistance of Mr. Tennent, we started the process of requesting a re-negotiation of the contract...The land rental agreement is clearly unfair towards the owners of the land, the rent conceded for the land is inadequate and what is more the multinational company for the past two years has been in arrears, coercive means were used to obtain the signatures of the land owners and consent for the area conceded; the local people were not properly informed...The event has caused clamor and indignation in politics and in the media. Our request to the government is to immediately recall Tennent, whose assistance is important for the administration of our

local Church. We hope the Foreign Ministry will intervene and reconsider the decision taken. We wait and hope. We are ready even to go to Court”)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/62462->

[OCEANIA PAPUA NEW GUINEA Lay missionary expelled transversal warning f or the local Church#.WUKXHuvyuM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/62462-OCEANIA_PAPUA_NEW_GUINEA_Lay_missionary_expelled_transversal_warning_f_or_the_local_Church#.WUKXHuvyuM8)



### **China: Jiangmen, Guangdong province**

Ruan Haonan (husband of Luo Caiyan, detained, accused of cult activity)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/06/christians-pressured-into-confessing.html>



### **India: Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh state**

Ameya Jaal (aged 45, vacation Bible school volunteer, arrested on [May 21, 2017](#) on forced conversion charges; **UPDATE**: denied bail)

Alkesh Ganava (aged 27, vacation Bible school volunteer, arrested on [May 21, 2017](#) on forced conversion charges; **UPDATE**: denied bail)

Pandu Singh Vasuniya (aged 31, vacation Bible school volunteer, arrested on [May 21, 2017](#) on forced conversion charges; **UPDATE**: denied bail)

Nitin Mandod (aged 23, vacation Bible school volunteer, arrested on [May 21, 2017](#) on forced conversion charges; **UPDATE**: denied bail)

Lalu Babore (aged 28, vacation Bible school volunteer, arrested on [May 21, 2017](#) on forced conversion charges; **UPDATE**: denied bail)

Vijay Meda (aged 17, vacation Bible school volunteer, arrested on [May 21, 2017](#) on forced conversion charges; **UPDATE**: denied bail)

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



### **United States**

**The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency detained 199 Iraqi nationals for deportation, including many Christians**

Pastor Jalil Dawood (said "We can't say these people went through genocide and send them back to be victimized again! We hope and pray that the issue gets resolved. America should never deport Christians to Iraq because they will be in trouble in Iraq as over a million left Iraq since 2003, and this will cause great hardship to their loved ones here [also bringing] harm to them physically, mentally, and spiritually if they [are] ever sent back. I understand that some might not have done their paperwork properly or [have] passed their datelines. But deportation is [an] extreme measure toward peaceful people that just want to survive and do well in this society [and] love America as their new home")

Bishop Francis Y Kalabat (wrote "The Church does not oppose justice, all hardened criminals that are a danger to society should be picked up. Many who were picked up are not hardened criminals but for the last decades have been great citizens [sic]. The genocide bill that was just passed by Congress last week to protect Christians goes against this very thing")

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/immigration-arrests-stun-detroits-chaldean-catholics-30294/>

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/christians-cry-out-trump-chaldean-iraq-deport-188067/>

**Tuesday June 13, 2017**



**Philippines: Barangay village, near Marawi, Mindanao**

**Christian construction workers were reported to have escaped from Islamic militants**

Jennifer Velazques (thanked the local Muslim police: "If not for them, we would all be dead by now")

Gerald Docallos (said "We ran about two kilometers. We saw lots of bodies on the street. I didn't look at them because I was running")

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-06-13/marawi-survivors-tell-of-escaping-from-islamic-state-philippines/8614414>

<http://www.benarnews.org/english/news/philippine/marawi-police-06132017153621.html>



**Vietnam: Song Ngoc parish, Quynh Luu district, Nghe An province**

Fr Anthony Nguyen Van Dinh (complained to the government along with 10 other priests of attacks by youth gangs on Christians "We see that the attacks have been carried out in an

orchestrated manner and the police know well what is occurring but are ignoring what is going on")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/catholic-community-in-vietnam-terrorized-by-gangs-of-youth/79519>



### **India: Satna, Madhya Pradesh state**

Sr Bina Joseph (arrested while traveling on a train with four girls, all were held for 12 hours except the legal minor who was held until her parents arrived)

Archbishop Leo Cornelio (**UPDATE:** said he "strongly condemns the harassment of radical elements professing their loyalty and political alliance with the ruling party [BJP]. All this is absolutely wrong and goes against the freedom of every Indian citizen...[Sr Bina Joseph] was traveling on a public transport vehicle, when she became was the victim of harassment, intimidation, and humiliation by the police. The behavior of the agents is to be condemned")

[http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Madhya-Pradesh,-a-sister-arrested-\(and-released\)-for-'forced-conversions'-41015.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Madhya-Pradesh,-a-sister-arrested-(and-released)-for-'forced-conversions'-41015.html)



### **Kazakhstan: Shakhtinsky, Karaganda region**

Sergei Roshchenya (fined 50 MFIs for allowing a child to attend a religious service when one parent objected)

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



### **Iran: Evin Prison, Tehran**

Maryam Naghash-Zargaran aka Nasim (aged 39, has had heart surgery, has continued to endure significant medical problems in prison; **UPDATE:** reported to have been beaten by another inmate within the last week, foot injured; denied medical treatment)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3550>





### **Russia: Kaliningrad**

V M Maltsev (cited for sharing religious literature, case effectively dismissed)

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



### **Nigeria: Okitipupa, Ondo state**

Elisah Akinsulere (described the results of recent Fulani attacks “The recession has forced many people to go back to farms as advised by the government but now we cannot even enjoy our produce again because of the wreckage caused by cattle. We are appealing to the Federal Government and our lawmakers to do something tangible to address this security breach and threat to farmers on their land”)

<https://www.pmnewsnigeria.com/2017/06/13/can-tells-fg-control-movement-fulani-headsmen/>

**Wednesday June 14, 2017**



### **China: Huaibei, Anhui province**

Wang Hong (wife of Pastor Chen Shixin [who has been detained since [April 12, 2017](#)], home searched by over 10 DSPS agents with a search warrant, computer and documents related to the church's land dispute seized)

Gu (said that the DSPS agents wanted to seize religious books but decided to not do so because no RAB agents were present)

### **China: Jiangmen, Guangdong province**

Pastor Li Wanhua (detained, accused of cult activity)

### **China: Jiaozhou, Shandong province**

Pastor Zhan Gang (described how his 100 year old church building was attacked by a construction crew, fence demolished, several parishioners were injured, local religious affairs bureau [RAB] denied the injuries occurred)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/06/christians-injured-as-officials.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/06/authorities-ransack-home-of-arbitrarily.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/07/wrongly-charged-christians-released-on.html>



### **Iran: Rasht**

**Four Christians were called into court on charges of 'actions against national security, were accused of accepting a half million pounds from the British government, told they would receive a verdict in 20 days, a hardline judge then joined the hearings and said 'Christians make foolish claims'**

Mohammad-Reza Yohan Omidi

Saheb Fadaie

Yasser Mosayebzadeh

Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6527>



### **Russia: Tuapse, Krasnodar region**

Pastor Anatoly Mukhin (fined US\$88 on [March 27, 2017](#) for illegal missionary activity in his own home; **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

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



### **United Kingdom**

Tim Farron (Member of Parliament, under attack for refusing on [April 19, 2017](#) to agree that homosexual behavior was not a sin and for saying "We are all sinners"; **UPDATE**: resigned as leader of the Liberal Democrats, wrote: "...From the very first day of my leadership, I have faced questions about my Christian faith. I've tried to answer with grace and patience. Sometimes my answers could have been wiser. At the start of this election, I found myself under scrutiny again - asked about matters to do with my faith. I felt guilty that this focus was distracting attention from our campaign, obscuring our message. Journalists have every right to ask what they see fit. The consequences of the focus on my faith is that I have found myself torn between living as a faithful Christian and serving as a political leader. A better, wiser person than me may have been able to

deal with this more successfully, to have remained faithful to Christ while leading a political party in the current environment. To be a political leader - especially of a progressive, liberal party in 2017 - and to live as a committed Christian, to hold faithfully to the Bible's teaching, has felt impossible for me. I'm a liberal to my finger tips, and that liberalism means that I am passionate about defending the rights and liberties of people who believe different things to me. There are Christians in politics who take the view that they should impose the tenets of faith on society, but I have not taken that approach because I disagree with it - it's not liberal and it is counterproductive when it comes to advancing the gospel. Even so, I seem to be the subject of suspicion because of what I believe and who my faith is in. In which case we are kidding ourselves if we think we yet live in a tolerant, liberal society...")

Cardinal Vincent Nichols (**UPDATE:** said he was “sorry to read Mr Farron’s statement and I recognize the hurt it expresses. Undoubtedly he has been given a hard time”)

Lord David Alton (human rights advocate; **UPDATE:** wrote “It is ironic that a Party, which I joined as a teenager, because of its belief in conscience, human rights and free speech, has morphed into something so narrow and intolerant...that its leader has been forced to choose between his Faith and his Party”)

Canon Pat Browne (chaplain to Parliament, said he was “very saddened by the resignation of Mr Farron and alarmed if it is true that there is no place in Parliament for a committed Christian. It’s a judgement on the way we do politics in this country”)

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns; **UPDATE:** wrote "Tim Farron's story demonstrates that even those who accept the liberal political agenda wholeheartedly become targets who are unfairly hounded and bullied. He was forced to answer questions on the morality of 'gay sex' and abortion. During the election campaign he had to choose whether to surrender his conscience and forfeit his soul to the intolerant, marauding elite. Even though he capitulated, this did not stop the hunt. Today he felt he could no longer lead, and had no option but to resign. Tim Farron's treatment demonstrates that Christians are simply not tolerated by the illiberal elite in positions of influence. This, alongside the widespread reaction to the DUP's [a Northern Ireland political party's] views on abortion and same-sex unions, is further evidence of this anti-Christian morality. The vilification of the DUP for its opposition to abortion and same-sex unions and castigation of Tim Farron is shocking and upsetting. If we continue in this crusade of 'totaltolerance', we will enter a harsh and conformist world where Christianity will be 'no platformed' and eventually squeezed out of every sphere of public life. The elite determines what are toxic unacceptable views. Unless you approve of their 'new morality' you are punished. At first comes the loss of privilege, a political position, a place at university, then the detriment: the refusal of a grant and ultimately criminal sanction. The history of our nation proves that when Christianity was firmly at the heart of public life there was freedom, prosperity and beauty. The hard atheism that currently dominates our political discourse is cruel and doesn't tolerate dissent. Tim Farron is another in a long line of casualties. It is time to fight back before it is too late")

Fr Alexander Lucie-Smith (wrote "...Religious belief plays a critical, integrating and stimulating role in forming political ideas. If religious people are to be excluded from politics, then politics will be the poorer. Remember what they used to say about the Labour party: it

owed more to Methodism than Marxism, the Liberal party was also deeply informed by Nonconformity. Are these sources of inspiration now to be closed off forever?")

[https://www.reddit.com/r/ukpolitics/comments/6h95e5/tim\\_farrons\\_resignation\\_letter/](https://www.reddit.com/r/ukpolitics/comments/6h95e5/tim_farrons_resignation_letter/)

<http://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/06/15/tim-farron-was-given-a-hard-time-for-being-christian-says-cardinal/>

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/commentandblogs/2017/06/15/tim-farrons-resignation-spells-dark-times-ahead-for-christians-in-politics/>

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/same-sex-marriage/tim-farrons-resignation-shows-totaltolerance-of-illiberal-elite>



### **Chile: Santiago**

Auxiliary Bishop Fernando Ramos (reported to have said in response to a proposed abortion law which would limit most conscientious objection “The door is being opened for the State to rob citizens of their freedom to make decisions to protect life...all health structures, hospitals, universities and private clinics whose purpose or institutional orientation is for a clear choice for the protection and defense of human life, always and in every circumstance, could be forced to betray their institutional characteristics and agree to perform abortions as a legal health service...We reject a State which robs us of our freedom”)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/62456->

[AMERICA CHILE We reject a State which robs us of our freedom Bishop Ramos on the subject of abortion law#.WUFD7uvyuM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/62456-AMERICA_CHILE_We_reject_a_State_which_robs_us_of_our_freedom_Bishop_Ramos_on_the_subject_of_abortion_law#.WUFD7uvyuM8)

**Thursday June 15, 2017**



### **China: Jiangmen, Guangdong province**

Luo Caiyan (wife of Ruan Haonan, pregnant, detained along with her sister, Bibles seized, released after signing an admission of cult activity)

Pastor Li (wife detained, released after signing an admission of cult activity)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/06/christians-pressured-into-confessing.html>



**India: Satna, Madhya Pradesh state**

Sr Bina Joseph (arrested on [June 13, 2017](#) while traveling on a train with four girls, all were held for 12 hours except the legal minor who was held until her parents arrived; **UPDATE:** charged with abduction of the girls, police said an arrest could come at the end of the investigation)

Archbishop Leo Cornelio (**UPDATE:** said the charge against Sr Bina Joseph was a "totally a false case")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/freed-indian-nun-slapped-with-abduction-charges/79524>



**Pakistan: Lahore**

Ashfaq Masih (bicycle repairman, accused of blasphemy by a Muslim customer after he protested the customer's refusal to pay his bill, arrested)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6509>



**Egypt**

Nermin Mamdouh (sister of Emad Mamdouh, reported to have disappeared while on her way to church, brother was killed a year earlier while in military service fighting terrorists in the Sinai)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1917&A=31092>



**Canada: Camrose, Alberta**

Deanna Margel (Christian school official, ordered by the local government school board to not allow the use of 'offensive' Biblical passages in her school, said "We're talking about freedom of religion, but we're [also] talking about freedom of expression. We need every single word there to challenge us, to call us to greater understanding. It's just so important")

<https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2017/june/canadian-district-bans-christian-school-from-teaching-offensive-parts-of-bible-nbsp>

**Friday June 16, 2017**



**China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province**

Bishop Peter Shao Zhumin (detained on [May 18, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: seen disembarking at the local airport under police escort, picked up his luggage, did not return home)

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

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mgr-Peter-Shao-Zhumin,-Wenzhou%E2%80%99s-bishop-not-recognised-by-the-government,-is-missing-again-41063.html>



**Tanzania: Zanzibar**

**Three Christians were arrested for cooking in a private home during Ramadan**

Emmanuel Yohana (husband of Katherine Emmanuel)

Katherine Emmanuel (wife of Emmanuel Yohana)

Khadija

<http://www.csw.org.uk/2017/7/7/press/3627/article.htm>



**Nigeria: Abuja**

Rev Samson Olasupo Ayokunle (reported on [April 3, 2017](#) to have been scheduled for interrogation by the DSS over a Christian Association of Nigeria media campaign alleged to incite violence; **UPDATE**: led a CAN delegation to the presidential villa to protest the elimination of the Christian Religious Knowledge curriculum in favor of either Islamic Studies or French [despite a shortage of French teachers], said “We are here to point your attention to a time-bomb, obnoxious, divisive and ungodly secondary school curriculum that the Federal Ministry of Education is introducing into our schools and of which we had earlier complained to the presidency. Then, if I am not mistaking, it was suspended

but has again been re-introduced without any review at all...This curriculum is the brain-child of Nigerian Educational Research Council, an agency of the Federal Ministry of Education. To us in CAN, its introduction is an ill-wind that blows nobody any good for so many reasons. A state has started implementing it already and Christians that are more on the receiving side of it are already crying foul because of its potential dangers now”)

**Nigeria: Umuokpu, Nwangele local government area, Imo state**

Fr Charles Nwachukwu (abducted for ransom while traveling on a road)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/62546->

[AFRICA NIGERIA The police releases a priest victim of a seizure for extortion#. WVOs0oTyuM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/62546-)

<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2017/06/16/can-protests-replacement-of-christian-education-in-secondary-schools-with-islamic-studies/>



**United Kingdom: Edinburgh, Scotland**

Anthony Horan (director of the Catholic Parliamentary Office, told a committee at the Scottish parliament of: “a number of young people who had experienced anti-Catholic prejudice in their school, most of it relating to the Church’s teaching on abortion and marriage. One student even dropped a subject to ‘avoid the harassment’...My overriding concern is the culture of fear that runs right through society and which makes people feel at best uncomfortable and at worst totally frightened to be open about their faith...A deeply worrying and disturbing 57 per cent of charges [of persecution] are as a result of anti-Catholic behavior. Compare this to the percentage of charges relating to Protestantism [27 per cent] and Islam [17 per cent] and we are left with an undoubted sectarian problem that needs to be addressed...There is an alarming level of intolerance being levelled at some young people simply because they are Catholic or because they hold a particular view that others may disagree with. This is not a culture of tolerance and respect. We have to be very mindful of the need to tackle anti-religious behavior and be wary of creating a hierarchy of rights in relation to the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010. We cannot allow some to trump others. It must be all or nothing”)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/06/16/catholics-in-scotland-fear-being-open-about-their-faith-says-bishops-conference-official/>

**Saturday June 17, 2017**



**Nigeria: Vwak hamlet, Jol village, Riyom local government area, Plateau state**

Gyang Yarima (crops destroyed by Fulani herdsmen)

Davou Mwangwong (crops destroyed by Fulani herdsmen)

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



**United States - New York: Amityville**

**Four churches were defaced with Satanic graffiti**

Deacon Alton Lamont (said "It's very upsetting that someone would desecrate a house of God")

George Richardson (aged 81, said "It is really scary! It is a sign of the end of time coming. It is a shame this is what the world is coming to. We need more prayer")

Pastor Walter Willie (said "They must have a vendetta. To attack a place of healing, a place that helps people in time of great need — whoever did this has hurt in their heart")

Pastor Willard Price (said he will pray for the perpetrator)

Pastor William Walker (aged 48, said "The blood of Jesus covers this house! No distress, no fear, to this family! Bless this house, no sign of evil will stop the word of God. Hail Jesus, hail Jesus, hail Jesus!")

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/06/17/police-3-churches-on-long-island-hit-with-satanic-graffiti.html>

<http://nypost.com/2017/06/18/several-churches-found-sprayed-with-satanic-graffiti/>

**Sunday June 18, 2017**



**Bangladesh: Madarpur, Gaibandha**

Fr Samson Marandy (**UPDATE:** described the attempted rape of a 20 year old Tribal Christian that was witnessed by police who did not intervene, said she "is already in a state of weakness because persecuted for their land. She lives like a refugee and has also had to suffer sexual assault by Muslims...Christians here are the minority and remain victims of the Islamic majority. We as church leaders are on the part of our people. We want justice and security")



<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Gaibandha,-Muslims-attempt-to-rape-a-Catholic-tribal-41076.html>



**India: Abasing village, Gajapati district, Odisha state**

**A Christian worship service was attacked by Hindu radicals, several were beaten, some were detained by police and forced to sign an agreement that prohibited worship outside the home and with visitors**

Pastor Samuel Karjee (described the attack on the church "We were dragged out, and there were over 300 village Hindus waiting to beat us. They have beaten us with sticks and lathis, kicked us and used foul language against women believers. We tried hard to keep them from physically attacking the women", spoke of the 'agreement' to stop worship services "There was no worship last Sunday, and this Sunday too we can't worship. I can't tell you how dry and barren we feel. Our hearts yearn to pray and worship together")

Madhusmita Bhuyan (aged 13, punched in the stomach)

Taruna Kumar Nayak (detained, denied food and water, forced to sign the 'agreement', released)

Aruna Kumar Nayak (detained, forced to sign the 'agreement', released)

Budhanth Kumar Nayak (detained, forced to sign the 'agreement', released)

Ashes Bhuyan (detained, forced to sign the 'agreement', released)

Ravindra Bhuyan (injured, detained, released)

Rajata Bada Raita (aged 24, seriously injured, has continued hospital outpatient treatment)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/06/hindu-extremist-attack-odisha-state-india-ends-agreement-stopping-worship-services/>



**Uzbekistan: Karshi**

**Police raided a worship service for 200 deaf Christians**

Viktor Toshpulatov (**UPDATE:** identified by police as an organizer)

Jahongir Shadmonov (identified by police as an organizer)

Mikhail Balykbayev (**UPDATE:** identified by police as an organizer)

Munira Gaziyeva (**UPDATE:** identified by police as an organizer)

Svetlana Andreychenko (**UPDATE:** identified by police as an organizer)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2304](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2304)



**Nigeria: Dajol hamlet, Jol village, Riyom local government area, Plateau state**

Joshua Peter (crops destroyed by Fulani herdsmen)

**Nigeria: Umuokpu, Nwangele local government area, Imo state**

Fr Charles Nwachukwu (abducted for ransom while traveling on a road on [June 16, 2017](#);

**UPDATE:** rescued by police)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/62546->

[AFRICA NIGERIA The police releases a priest victim of a seizure for extortion#. WVOs0oTyuM8](#)

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

**Monday June 19, 2017**



**Tanzania: Zanzibar**

**Three Christians were arrested on [June 16, 2017](#) for cooking in a private home during Ramadan, UPDATE: released**

Emmanuel Yohana (husband of Katherine Emmanuel)

Katherine Emmanuel (wife of Emmanuel Yohana)

Khadija

<http://www.csw.org.uk/2017/7/7/press/3627/article.htm>

**Tuesday June 20, 2017**



**Myanmar**

Assistant Pastor Dom Dawng Nawng Latt (aged 65, disappeared on [December 24, 2016](#), had told media of the [December 3, 2016](#) bombing of the church in [Mongkoe township](#), last seen near a military base; as of [January 26, 2017](#) reportedly will be tried for 'illegal association'; **UPDATE**: health reportedly failing)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/06/pastor-jailed-burma-falls-ill/>



**India: Bongaigaon, Assam state**

**Cathedral vandalized, tabernacle broken**

Archbishop Emeritus Thomas Menamparampil (**UPDATE**: said "The surrounding area is not inhabited by groups that could be called anti-Christian or anti-minority")

Sajan K George (**UPDATE**: said "I do not think we can call it a simple robbery. The frequency of anti-Christian hostility is increasing, causing communal tensions")

Allen Brooks (Assam Christian Forum spokesman, said "The incident has struck everyone. Christians in the state are under shock and are afraid")

**India: Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh state**

Akash Gundia (aged 15, son of Hartesh Singh Gundia, put in juvenile detention on [May 21, 2017](#), 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"; **UPDATE**: released)

Hartesh Singh Gundia (father of Akash Gundia, said he attempted to recover custody of his son "But they refused to hand over my child to me. Later, I got to know from the police station that police had not intended to file the case, but that there was pressure from RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, a Hindu paramilitary group] and Bajrang Dal [Hindu youth] activists, because of whom my child spent 25 days in judicial custody")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Bishop-Menamparampil,-vandalism-against-Catholic-cathedral-in-Assam-has-hurt-and-raised-concerns-among-Christians-41093.html>

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



**Pakistan: Rao Khan Wala, Kasur**

Mehwish Shaukat (aged 8, victim of an attempted rape on [June 8, 2017](#) by a Muslim neighbor while her parents and older siblings were at work)

Shaukat Masih (aged about 46, father of Sharoon, Haroon, Mehwish, Samson, and Kajal, brick kiln bonded laborer; **UPDATE**: beaten by his employer after he refused to sign a compromise document which would allow his daughter's attacker to go free)

Haroon Shaukat (aged 13, brother of Mehwish Shaukat, brick kiln bonded laborer; **UPDATE**: beaten and tortured by his employer, forced to confess he had raped the 3 year old daughter of another kiln employee, arrested, family told he would be tried alongside the attacker of their daughter)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6516>



### **Kazakhstan: Astana**

Teymur Sultan ogly Akhmedov (aged 61, 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; sentenced on [May 2, 2017](#) to 5 years' imprisonment followed by 3 years' prohibition on preaching; **UPDATE**: appeal denied, still denied medical treatment)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2289](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2289)

**Wednesday June 21, 2017**



### **Philippines**

Jen-Jen (convert, student, reported to have been forced to pray in a mosque to graduate from school)

### **Philippines: Malagakit, Mindanao**

Cardinal Orlando Quevedo OMI (**UPDATE**: condemned the desecration of a chapel by Islamic militants, said the act was "wicked")

<https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/stories/forced-pray-muslim-prayer-jen-jens-persecution-story/>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/islamic-state-desecrates-catholic-chapel-in-mindanao/79576>



### **China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province**

Bishop Peter Shao Zhumin (aged 54, detained on [May 18, 2017](#); seen disembarking at the local airport under police escort on [June 16, 2017](#), picked up his luggage, did not return home; **UPDATE:** the German Ambassador wrote "I welcome China's declared intention to achieve progress with regard to the Catholic Church. However, despite progress in this direction, we also see setbacks in guaranteeing religious freedom. One case of growing concern is the treatment of Bishop Shao Zhumin by the authorities. Since autumn last year he seems to have been forced to move to unknown locations no less than four times and now seems to have been confined to his home since his return. His full freedom of movement should be restored")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/The-German-ambassador-asks-China-to-release-Msgr.-Shao-Zhumin-41079.html>



### **Pakistan: Quetta**

Juan Won-Seo (South Korean citizen, Urdu language school owner, reportedly will be expelled from the country for 'illegal preaching activities' after two of his Chinese Christian students [Lee Zingyang and Meng Lisi] were abducted by ISIL and killed before or during a government airstrike)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/06/pakistan-expels-south-korean-illegal-preaching-murder-chinese-missionaries/>



### **Azerbaijan: Sheki**

Hamid Shabanov (husband of Hinayat Shabanova, home raided by police during a [November 26, 2016](#) worship service, 26 people detained for 5 hours; found guilty in [Zakatala](#) on [December 5, 2016](#), fined US\$993; **UPDATE:** appeal denied)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2294](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2294)



### **Lebanon: Aley**

Bishop Joseph Absi (aged 71, dual Syrian citizen, elected Patriarch of the Greek Melkite Catholic Church)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bishop-Joseph-Absi-is-the-new-patriarch-of-the-Greek-Melkite-Church-41083.html>

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/06/22/syrian-bishop-elected-new-melkite-catholic-patriarch/>



### **Russia: Sergiyev Posad, Moscow region**

Two Christians were investigated beginning in [April 2013](#) for 'incitement of hatred'; acquitted on [March 4, 2016](#); acquittal overturned in [Moscow](#) on [March 26, 2016](#); **UPDATE: verdict reached on re-trial but not disclosed**

Vyacheslav Yuryevich Stepanov (aged 40)

Andrei Petrovich Sivak (aged 43)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2290](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2290)



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

Investigative journalists' office raided on [April 5, 2016](#), video recordings seized; the journalists were indicted on [March 28, 2017](#) on 15 felony counts for having secretly recorded Planned Parenthood officials negotiating the illegal sale of tissue harvested from aborted children, despite the fact that the state never prosecuted animal rights groups and NBC for doing the same with other subjects [and in the NBC case a civil case resulted in their exoneration under the law]; **UPDATE: 14 counts were dismissed, prosecutorial refiling allowed**

David Daleiden (aged 28; **UPDATE**: all counts dismissed)

Sandra Merritt (aged 64; **UPDATE**: 14 counts dismissed, one count on invasion of privacy allowed to stand)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/court-drops-charges-against-pro-life-investigators-who-exposed-planned-pare>

**Thursday June 22, 2017**



### **North Korea**

Pastor Lim Hyeon-Soo (aged 62, Canadian citizen, disappeared after his [January 31, 2015](#) entry to the country; confessed on [July 31, 2015](#) in Pyongyang to attempting to overthrow the state; sentenced in [Pyongyang](#) on [December 16, 2015](#) to life imprisonment at hard labor; **UPDATE:** still imprisoned)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/family-of-canadian-pastor-imprisoned-in-north-korea-very-concerned-in-wake-of-americans-death-189098/>



### **Iran: Teheran**

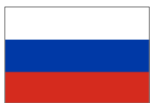
Bahram Nasibov Alkan Oglu (aged 38, Azeri citizen, husband, father, detained in a [June 24, 2016](#) police raid on a [Tehran](#) engagement party; released on bail on [October 29, 2016](#); left the country on [November 6, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** sentenced *in absentia* to 10 years' imprisonment)

Eldar Gurbanov (aged 49, Azeri citizen, husband, father, detained in a [June 24, 2016](#) police raid on a [Tehran](#) engagement party; released on bail on [October 29, 2016](#); left the country on [November 6, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** sentenced *in absentia* to 10 years' imprisonment)

Naser Navar Gol-Tapeh (aged 45, convert, arrested in [Tehran](#) on [June 24, 2016](#); released on bail on [October 29, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment)

Yusif Farhadov Talt Oglu (aged 53, Azeri citizen, husband, father, detained in a [June 24, 2016](#) police raid on a [Tehran](#) engagement party; released on bail on [October 29, 2016](#); left the country on [November 6, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** sentenced *in absentia* to 10 years' imprisonment)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3585>



### **Russia: Korkino district, Chelyabinsk region**

Pastor Nikolai Raskopin (acquitted on charges of distributing illegal literature and of not displaying the church's full legal name)

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



## **United Kingdom**

Rev Gavin Ashenden (**UPDATE**: wrote following the resignation of Tim Farron as leader of the Liberal Democrat party "...Seeing ourselves primarily in terms of our sexual identity or erotic appetites seems to me a very poor and shallow reflection on our potential as human beings. Perhaps it's part of our consumerism? 'We are what we want' – and we want sex... it's a long way from Descartes' 'I think therefore I am'...There is another part of the narrative which doesn't make sense, if this is only about trying to make counter-cultural politicians accountable. There are 15 Muslim MPs and the Mayor of London is a Muslim. Islam is uncompromisingly against homosexuality. In fact ISIL goes so far as to post YouTube videos of homosexuals being executed by being thrown off tall buildings. Yet none of the Muslim MPs or the Mayor of London are being asked the questions that Tim Farron was hounded with...Tim Farron made a claim that should have shocked our society to the core. He said he could no longer lead a political party and be faithful to Christ...At this point I would have hoped that all open-minded, tolerant people would have protested on his behalf. I would have expected the Archbishop of Canterbury and all the bishops of the Church of England to have publicly backed his right to have a Christian conscience and maintain a public office...But there was silence. Except for Archbishop Welby. He went so far, in his defense of freedom of speech and Christian conscience, as to wonder if Farron's forced resignation "raised questions." Nazi Germany suppressed freedom of speech and specifically Christian beliefs. So did the Marxist Soviet Union. Whatever else we can discern about our society in its distaste for freedom of speech and conscience, we see it drawing steadily closer to the practice of the two most totalitarian states of modern times...")

<https://ashenden.org/2017/06/22/first-they-came-for-tim-farron-soon-theyll-come-for-you/>

**Friday June 23, 2017**



## **China: Haozhou, Anhui**

Lin Yongju (reported to have been prohibited from travelling to Hong Kong for a church conference)

Pastor Zhang "Bike" Mingxuan (**UPDATE**: said "[The public security bureau - DSPS] limits preachers, preventing them from going abroad. I am almost 70, but they are still controlling me, preventing me from travelling abroad. The Mainland Chinese government controls Christians both to maintain stability and out of the fear the Christians will unite")

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/06/pastor-forbidden-from-traveling-abroad.html>





## India

Fr Z Devasagayaraj (**UPDATE**: criticized the BJP party for nominating Dalit [untouchable] leader Ram Nath Kovind for President because he maintained that Islam and Christianity as alien religions and should not be protected by law)

Samuel Jaykumar (National Council of Churches in India; **UPDATE**: said "We hope and expect that the president upholds the constitutional and secular values")

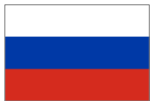
<http://www.ucanews.com/news/controversy-over-indias-presidential-nominee/79581>



## Kazakhstan: Astrakhanka district

Pastor Aleksandr Gorbunov (Bible meeting in [Astrakhanka village, Akmola region](#) interrupted by police on [May 24, 2017](#); fined US\$728 on [May 25, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: conviction overturned on appeal)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2303](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2303)



## Russia: Sergiyev Posad, Moscow region

**Two Christians were investigated beginning in [April 2013](#) for 'incitement of hatred'; acquitted on [March 4, 2016](#); acquittal overturned in [Moscow](#) on [March 26, 2016](#); verdict reached on re-trial on [June 21, 2017](#) but not disclosed**

Vyacheslav Yuryevich Stepanov (aged 40, **UPDATE**: acquittal announced)

Andrei Petrovich Sivak (aged 43, **UPDATE**: acquittal announced)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2310](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2310)



## United Kingdom: East Anglia

Bishop Alan Hopes (called for the government to remove a cap on faith admissions to new schools: "All the cap achieved was to bar the Catholic Church from opening new schools.

This is because it would result in Catholic schools turning away Catholic pupils on the grounds of their Catholicism, a feature which is prohibited by Canon Law”)

### **United Kingdom: London**

Ian Sleeper (restaurant owner, arrested for street preaching "Love Muslims, Hate Islam, Tell the Truth" in front of Southwark Cathedral, held for 13 hours, released on bail but not charged, told to not repeat his actions)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/06/23/bishop-calls-on-government-to-keep-catholic-schools-promise/>

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/freedom-of-speech/victory-for-street-preacher-arrested-for-sharing-love-for-muslims-and>

**Saturday June 24, 2017**



### **Philippines: Marawi, Mindanao**

Fr Teresito 'Chito' Sukanob (abducted by Islamic militants along with 13 parishioners on [May 23, 2017](#), cathedral burned, 9 other Christians shot dead; **UPDATE**: seen alive by rescued hostages)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/filipino-priest-held-hostage-seen-alive-in-marawi/79604>



### **China**

Pastor Zhang Shaojie (husband of Wang Fengrui; **UPDATE**: reported to have been tortured in prison)

Zhang “Yunyun” Huixin aka Esther Zhang (daughter of Pastor Zhang Shaojie and Wang Fengrui, U.S. resident; **UPDATE**: said “My father applied to file an appeal, but the government officials said that they would not process the appeal unless he would plead guilty. They are treating him harshly in order to bend him...They cruelly torture my father. He’s unable to see the sun during the day. He’s deprived of sleep for 24 hours at a time. The prison gives him only one steamed bun a day and intentionally starves him. According to people who have been released from that prison, my father is barely alive, suffering both mentally and physically”)

Zhang Cuijuan (aged 40, wife of Jia Limin, younger sister of Pastor Zhang Shaojie, released from prison on [May 31, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: described her brother's condition after a visit with him in prison “He was in a terrible mental state. His eyes burned from sleep

deprivation. He said that he is forbidden to sleep during 'strict supervision.' He was depressed, and I had no way to help him. The prison guard held the phone throughout our entire conversation and we were forbidden to talk about his case")

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/06/exclusive-incarcerated-pastor-reports.html>



### **Indonesia: Medan, North Sumatra**

#### **Christian leaders condemned an ISIL-linked attack that killed a policeman during the Eid al-Fitr holiday which ended Ramadan**

Christopher Nugroho (general secretary of Catholic Youth, called the attack "barbaric and inhuman...We will offer our condolences to the victims and their families")

Rev Karo Sekali (secretary of Religious Harmony Forum, said "We should safeguard the unity of the nation and state, and not violate the norms of religion and law")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/indonesian-christians-condemn-eid-al-fitr-attack/79605>



### **Vietnam: Ho Chi Minh City**

Peter Pham Minh Hoang (aged 62, husband of Le Thi Kieu Oanh, father, professor of mathematics, activist and blogger, dual French citizen, told on [June 1, 2017](#) that the government would revoke his citizenship - despite his birth in the country - and expel him; **UPDATE**: expelled)

Le Thi Kieu Oanh (said "Hoang is an excellent husband. I love him because he dedicates himself to the country. He accepts imprisonment and poverty to work for the nation, I trust completely in God. God chooses us to carry His cross on our shoulders, He will open other doors for us")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/vietnam-expels-catholic-activist-to-france/79588>



### **Iran: Rasht**

#### **UPDATE: Four Christians were each sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment**

Mohammad-Reza Yohan Omidi

Saheb Fadaie

Yasser Mosayebzadeh

Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3605>



**Egypt: Minya, Minya province**

Michael Nabil Bebawy (aged 32, canonical painter, **beheaded** after leaving a Divine Liturgy)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1928&A=31287>

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



**United Kingdom: Wood Green, London**

Pastor Oluwole Ilesanmi (aged 62, arrested for saying there were connections between terrorism and the Quran while street preaching)

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/freedom/pastor-oluwole-ilesanmi-acquitted>



**Brazil: near Humaita, Amazonas state**

**Two missionaries died in an automobile accident**

Sr Luisa Manuel MCCJ (aged 47, Mozambican citizen, **died**)

Sr Giuseppina Lupo MCCJ (aged 37, Italian citizen, **died**)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/62532->

[AMERICA BRAZIL Two Combonian missionaries die in a road accident#.WVJYoevyuM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/62532-AMERICA BRAZIL Two Combonian missionaries die in a road accident#.WVJYoevyuM8)

**Monday June 26, 2017**



### **China: Guangzhou, Guangdong province**

Tang Jingling (civil rights attorney, husband of Wang Yanfang, arrested in 2014; sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment on [January 29, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: family concerned for his health, has had chest pains)

Wang Yanfang (wife of Tang Jingling, said "Tang Jingling's elder brother met with him on June 26. He asked his brother to consult a doctor for possible causes of his chest pain. During the Jasmine Revolution in 2011 [a series of pro-democracy protests that occurred in several cities across China], he was not allowed to sleep for more than 10 days, which caused pain in his chest. The recent occurrence of Liu Xiaobo's late-stage liver cancer [untreated in prison] has caused us to worry about Tang Jingling's condition")

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/07/family-fears-for-health-of-christian.html>



### **Bangladesh: Dhaka**

Fr Albert Thomas Rozario (**UPDATE**: reported to have defended attorney Sultana Kamal after she came under political attack for defending a Lady Justice statue, said "I suspect it is electoral politics ahead of national polls as the ruling Awami League try to consolidate their voter base among conservative Muslims. The government is playing a risky game and its result will be ominous for the country")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/catholic-official-condemns-islamist-death-threat-to-rights-lawyer/79578>



### **Central African Republic: Bangui**

Rev Nicolas Guerekoyame-Gbangou (**UPDATE**: said he did not support the June 19, 2017 peace agreement that was signed in Rome, called it a "non-event", added "A question a Western diplomat asked me said a lot about the general mood here in CAR: 'How many peace deals are you going to sign?'...What causes the problem here is impunity, with on one side the 'godfathers' and executioners who continue to kill, rape, plunder and commit all sort of atrocities. And on the other, those who have no 'godfathers', who continue to suffer...The question one may ask and which deserves to be addressed by the European Union, which sponsored the trips of the rebel leaders to Rome and Brussels, is: 'what is the future of the Special Criminal Court, as its prosecutor was just recently appointed?...The people of the Central African Republic have no words to describe the situation, which has now become explosive")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/06/cars-clerics-say-war-must-stop-killings-continue-despite-peace-agreement/>



**Nigeria: Panwasa Mada village, Nasarawa state**

Pastor Ibrahim Maisaje (farm invaded by a Fulani herdsman with cattle, said “When I got to the spot to see things for myself, I could see the considerable damage done to the crops. Instantly I went to confront the owner, a Fulani man of about 20 years old. As he saw me, his face changed and he became stubborn. I did all I could to hear from him about the damage done to my crops by his cattle, but he refused to accept any wrongdoing. I went to take his machete as proof of what he had done, only to find him raising his machete to cut me. Thank God, I was able to protect my head with my left hand, but I suffered a very deep cut, which left blood gushing out of my hand”, managed to overpower the herdsman, hospitalized, the herdsman was later arrested and agreed to compensate him for his damages)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/07/church-leader-seriously-injured-in-fulani-attack-in-nigerias-nasarawa-state/>



**Venezuela: Quebrada Honda, Caracas**

Fr Oswaldo Montilla (church desecrated)

Auxiliary Bishop Tulio Luis Ramírez Padilla (denounced the desecration of a church)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/62542->

[AMERICA VENEZUELA Mgr Ramirez Enough thefts and profanations while chaos reigns in the capital#.WVOrq4TyuM8](#)

**Tuesday June 27, 2017**



**China: Changji, Xinjiang**

Chen Yajie (sentenced to 4 years' imprisonment on [April 18, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

Liu Yan (sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment on [April 18, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

Wang Lulu (sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment on [April 18, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: appeal denied)  
Yang Zhaocun (sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment on [April 18, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: appeal denied)  
Zheng Lan (sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment on [April 18, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: appeal denied)  
<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/07/failed-appeals-leave-five-christians.html>



### **India: Pujaripurvah village, Uttar Pradesh state**

#### **Six Christians were arrested at a worship service for 'unlawful assembly' and detained for 9 days, Bibles and literature seized, later accused of vandalizing an idol**

Pastor Asha Ram Sahni (aged 38, accused of illegal conversions, slapped by the arresting officer after the officer asked for his favorite Bible reading and he read Matthew 7:7-11)

Gurudeen (aged 35, detained, told he deserved life imprisonment for eating beef, said “I don’t do any such thing. I only believe in Jesus Christ. Christ has done many wondrous things in my life. Sir, I did not do anything that I have to be jailed”, wife threatened with arrest in response and subjected to harassment at their home, after his release was threatened with arrest for 'making false statements' - the statements were his defense)

Lal Bihari Verma (aged 35, detained, said “The villagers respected my belief and even requested us to pray for their illnesses and problems since I accepted Christ as my personal Savior three years ago. There have been divisional politics and conspiracies cooking in the village for three months as the Christians are growing in numbers. The same people who earlier told us we can assemble and pray as church are now opposing us”, after his release the arresting officer called him to say the events so far were just a prelude)

Ram Naresh (aged 35, detained)

Gobrey Nishad (aged 45, detained)

Chote Lal (aged 45, detained)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/07/calling-worship-unlawful-assembly-police-uttar-pradesh-india-arrest-six-christians/>



### **Pakistan**

**The hospital where Irfan Masih died after suffocating in a sewer and after doctors refused to treat him on [June 2, 2017](#) has reportedly brought legal action against 16 of his relatives and co-workers for 'obstructing the doctors from performing their duties' when they tried to obtain medical treatment for him and protested his death, police have resisted the hospital's action as frivolous and an attempt to rebut the charges**

**of criminal negligence that have been brought against them but a court has ordered the police to arrest the relatives and co-workers, the police are appealing the court order**

Pervaiz Masih (sanitation worker, cousin of Irfan Masih; **UPDATE**: said “The hospital has levied a false charge against us in order to save themselves. The doctors were responsible for Irfan’s death, because he would have been alive today had they not refused to treat him immediately. Our outburst against the doctors was natural, but we did not damage or steal anything from the hospital. It is a lie, and even the police know it”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/06/hospital-pakistan-accused-letting-christian-die-requests-arrest-relatives-colleagues/>



### **Egypt: Cairo**

Neveen Adly Beshai Sawiris (aged 15, abducted while walking on a public street, pushed into a car by 3 men, forced into an Islamic marriage)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/09/egypt-ex-kidnapper-admits-get-paid-every-copt-christian-girl-bring/>



### **Ukraine: Dzhankoi, Crimea**

Vitaly Arsenyuk (aged 67, **died** of a massive heart attack in his home, hours earlier had appeared in a Russian court for illegal missionary activity, had been persecuted during the Soviet era)

Date: June 27, 2017

Location:

Source: [http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2299](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2299)



### **Central African Republic: Bangui**

Fr Frederic Nakombo (Secretary General of the Justice and Peace commission, said “We have prepared 5,285 dossiers to be submitted to this [Special Criminal] court" concerning crimes committed since 2013)



Cardinal Dieudonne Nzapalainga (**UPDATE:** denied that he had a representative sign the June 19, 2017 peace agreement in Rome, said "the text, as published, is an open door to impunity for crimes committed")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/62536->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA No to impunity for crimes committed otherwise the Country will sink back into hatred and violence#.WVJdSevyuM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/62536-)

**Wednesday June 28, 2017**



**Vietnam: Thien An, Thua Thien Hue province**

Fr Anthony Nguyen Van Duc OSB (**UPDATE:** wrote "Officials from the Thuy Bang commune of Huong Thuy Town witnessed the mob uproot the iron cross that the monks had recently erected on June 26 [2017]" )

Fr Peter Cao Duc Loi OSB (described an attack by 100 undercover police and hired thugs on his monastery in which a large cross was pulled down "They have thrown stones against the monks and hit three or four of them. They prevented us from raising it again and pulled the monks clinging to it by their hair and clothes. Two of them were injured and another was knocked senseless. It was horrible")

Fr Anthony Vo Van Giao OSB (beaten on the head by police with a wooden stick when he tried to prevent demolition of a cross)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Thi%C3%A0An-An-monastery-cross-demolished;-Monks-and-faithful-assaulted-41166.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/benedictines-assaulted-for-protecting-monastery-in-vietnam/79669>



**India: New Delhi**

Michael Williams (president of the United Christian Forum, joined in an anti-Hindu religious extremism rally held a week after a 17 year old Muslim was killed on a train, said "A small group in India believe that every Indian should follow a particular culture and lifestyle dictated by them")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/thousands-across-india-rally-against-religious-intolerance/79639>



### **Egypt: Balansora village, Minya**

Marilyn Medhat (aged 16, daughter of Medhat Saad Edward and Hanaa Aziz Shukralla Farag, abducted, forced into an Islamic marriage)

Fr Boutros Khalaf (said "On Wednesday evening at 5pm, Marilyn disappeared. Her mother searched everywhere but couldn't find her. Some people told us that she had been kidnapped by a young man named Taha. He had taken her to a farm where he works...On August 14th, the prosecution dropped Marilyn's case. We've done everything we could to get our girl back. We even sent a complaint to President Sisi, the Interior Minister and many other important people. Her family lives in bitterness and pain, and we don't know what to do anymore. We just don't know... There is also a state of terror, panic and fear among all the Christians in our village. They worry about their children. No father will allow his daughter to walk on the street alone anymore. He goes with her or sends her mother or brother to accompany her")

Medhat Saad Edward (father of Marilyn Medhat, said "I filed a report in two police stations, and I gave the names of the kidnappers and the place where they hid my daughter. But the police haven't arrested them")

Hanaa Aziz Shukralla Farag (mother of Marilyn Medhat, said of the video in which her daughter announced her conversion to Islam "She was holding the Quran as if she was holding a medal. I see she is under pressure. My daughter is a minor and doesn't know anything, why aren't the authorities doing anything to help her?")

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1931&A=31323>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/09/egypt-ex-kidnapper-admits-get-paid-every-copt-christian-girl-bring/>



### **Cyprus: Machairas Monastery, Lazanias village**

**Two families have reportedly sued the Church for US\$2 million after two adult sons, one aged 28, became monks**

Metropolitan Athanasios Nikolaou (sued)

Abbot Epiphanius Mahairiotis (sued)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/104733.htm>



## **Nigeria**

Fr Gabriel Oyaka CSSP (abducted on the [Okene-Auchi road, Kogi state](#) on [September 7, 2015](#);  
**UPDATE:** fate unknown)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/62546->

[AFRICA NIGERIA The police releases a priest victim of a seizure for extortion#.WVOs0oTyuM8](#)



## **United States - District of Columbia**

Trevor Neil McFadden (aged 39, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, federal court nominee, questioned by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse regarding his membership in a church that prohibited homosexual clergy and opposed same sex marriage)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trevor\\_N.\\_McFadden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trevor_N._McFadden)

<https://youtu.be/7I4PpUQRzC4?t=126>

**Thursday June 29, 2017**



## **Vietnam: Nha Trang, Khanh Hoa province**

Mary Magdelene Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Quynh (aged 38, mother of two, sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for anti-government internet postings)

Le Cong Dinh (aged 48, attorney, released from a [Ho Chi Minh City prison](#) on [February 7, 2013](#) after serving more than three years of a five year sentence; **UPDATE:** said "I am really surprised by the 10-year sentence that shows the government's inhumanity to a single young mother. I did not realize what a state of panic the ruling party is in...It is certain that in her lifetime she will witness the death knell of the regime that sentenced her")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/vietnamese-catholic-blogger-sentenced-to-10-years-in-jail/79638>



## **Russia: Lipetsk**

Vladimir Boyev (fined US\$505 for not displaying the church's full legal name on the sign outside the church, the building has been purchased only days before the inspection)

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



### **United Kingdom: Bristol**

Mike Overd (street preacher, arrested on [July 6, 2016](#) on of public order offences; convicted and fined £2,016 - US\$2,495 on [February 28, 2017](#), the prosecutor stated "To say to someone that Jesus is the only God is not a matter of truth. To the extent that they are saying that the only way to God is through Jesus, that cannot be a truth", the judge stated that quoting parts of the King James Bible in the context of modern British society "must be considered to be abusive and is a criminal matter"; **UPDATE**: acquitted on appeal)

Michael Stockwell (street preacher; **UPDATE**: acquitted on appeal)

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/freedom-of-speech/christian-street-preachers-acquitted-of-public-order-offences>

**Friday June 30, 2017**



### **Egypt**

Neven Nabil Bishay (aged 15, reported to have been abducted while out with her mother)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1928&A=31284>



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

Pastor Aleksandr Mikhailov (fined US\$466 on [March 15, 2017](#) because the sign outside his church did not state its full legal name; **UPDATE**: appeal successful on statute of limitations grounds)

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



### **Greece: Lesbos**

Kamran Iqbal Maseh (Pakistani refugee, faces imminent deportation, may be killed if returned to Pakistan)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Pakistani-Catholic-refugee-in-Greece-asks-for-pope%E2%80%99s-help-41161.html>



### **Venezuela: Caracas**

Cardinal Jorge Urosa Savino (**UPDATE:** wrote "We [the Bishops] ask the national government to reconsider, stop that attitude of wanting to establish a totalitarian Marxist militaristic system in Venezuela, and, of course, to refrain from using legal resources to dismantle the state. All this is reprehensible and intolerable and it is not what most Venezuelan people want...One could speak of a government war against the people")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/62556-AMERICA\\_VENEZUELA\\_Cardinal\\_Urosa\\_Enough\\_violence\\_one\\_could\\_speak\\_of\\_a\\_government\\_war\\_against\\_the\\_people#.WVeh44TyuM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/62556-AMERICA_VENEZUELA_Cardinal_Urosa_Enough_violence_one_could_speak_of_a_government_war_against_the_people#.WVeh44TyuM8)

**June 2017, date unknown**



### **United States – Ohio: Columbus**

Fr Joseph Klee (struck by an abortion supporter's motor vehicle after she fled the scene following her attempt to steal anti-abortion signs on [April 8 or 9, 2017](#), hand injured, treated and released from the hospital; **UPDATE:** has had a restraining order imposed on him by the woman, who has barged into groups of pro-life demonstrators and then 'flopped' onto to ground to appear as if she were pushed)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/pro-abortion-activist-files-restraining-order-against-priest-she-hit-with-h>

### **Today's Martyrs**

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

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

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