

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – April 2018

Sunday April 1, 2018

Easter [Pascha] – Western calendar



Indonesia: Jakarta, West Java

Archbishop Ignatius Suharyo Hardjoatmodjo (**UPDATE**: spoke out against corruption after six politicians including one Christian were arrested)

Yohanes Handoyo Budhisedjati (**UPDATE**: said Catholics "need to uphold the spirit of a good governance which can unite all social elements")

Hargo Mandirahardjo (chairman of the Association of Catholic Graduates and Intellectuals in Indonesia, said he approved of the Archbishop's comments on corruption and added "We must continue to promote our national unity. If we don't, then who will?")

Church leaders thanked Muslims for attending Holy Week services in a demonstration against intolerance

Indonesia: Jakarta, West Java

Fr Antonius Benny Susetyo (**UPDATE**: said the attendance of the governor at Easter celebrations "gives us hope that the commitment to preserve unity remains strong in society")

Bonar Tigor Naipospos (**UPDATE**: said of the attendance of the governor at Easter celebrations "We need such examples to educate the public, that differences of beliefs should not make us hate and demean each other")

Indonesia: Ambon, Maluku province

Bishop Petrus Canisius Mandagi (thanked dozens of young Muslims for attending a Good Friday procession "This is an example of where religion becomes a unifying tool and this religious celebration becomes a bridge to strengthening relations")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/jakarta-archbishops-easter-message-focusses-on-threats-to-unity/81949>

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/indonesian-muslims-defy-extremism-by-marking-holy-week/81948>



India: Bihabandh village, Orissa state

Father Bipin Kishore Majhi (vestments destroyed in a church arson attack)

India: Bihabandh and Salangabahal villages, Orissa state

Bishop Kishor Kumar Kujur (denounced the arson attack against one church and the vandalism of another on Easter "It was a premeditated and planned attack. Both incidents occurred during the night, at about the same time. The parishes are 7-8 km away from each other. This is the work of the same group, which is against the Christian community")

Archbishop John Barwa (**UPDATE:** said "We did not expect such an attack in a secular country. These episodes of desecration that offend our religious sentiment must end...this year marks the tenth anniversary of the violence of Kandhamal" in which dozens of Christians were killed and hundreds displaced)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Orissa,-statues-of-the-Virgin-and-Child-Jesus-destroyed-at-Easter-43511.html>

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/churches-attacked-in-indias-sensitive-odisha-state/81968>

Monday April 2, 2018



Pakistan: Shah Zaman area, Quetta, Balochistan province

A family celebrating Easter was shot dead while going for ice cream, a 10 year old girl was injured

Pervaiz Masih (rickshaw driver, **shot dead**)

Tariq Masih (**shot dead**)

Imran Masih (**shot dead**)

Firdous Bibi (**shot dead**)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/four-catholics-killed-in-pakistan-terrorist-attack/81957>



Iran: Tehran

Hadi Askary (aged 40, arrested without warrant by MOIS agents while fishing and picnicking with his wife in [Firuzkuh](#) on [August 26, 2016](#); sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on [June 11, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: request for release on bail while pending appeal reported to have been denied)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3953>



Iraq

Sr Ban Madleen (denied a visa to visit her ill sister in the UK)

Fr Benedict Kiely (founder of [Nasarean.org](#), commented on the UK government's refusal to issue a visa to Sr Ban Madleen for her lack of recent travel there “Do they not know what happened [in Iraq] between 2014 and now?”)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/04/02/iraqi-nun-displaced-by-islamic-state-denied-uk-visa/>



United States - New Mexico

Colonel Leland B H Bohannon (as of [October 20, 2017](#) had been stripped of his command at [Kirtland Air Force Base](#) and promotion to Brigadier General reversed after he declined to sign a thank you certificate for a retiring airman and his husband, had obtained the signature of a superior officer in a religious accommodation; **UPDATE**: subject of a letter for the Secretary of the Air Force to Congress which stated “[Col Leland Bohannon] had the right to exercise his sincerely held religious beliefs and did not unlawfully discriminate when he declined to sign the certificate...The Air Force has a duty to treat people fairly and without discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, or sexual orientation and [Bohannon] met that duty by having a more senior officer sign the certificate”)

<https://www.stripes.com/news/air-force-colonel-had-religious-right-to-refuse-signing-same-sex-spouse-appreciation-letter-1.520156>

Tuesday April 3, 2018



Philippines: Pontifical University of Santo Tomas, Manila

Fr Quirico Pedregosa Jr OP (seminary rector, said that church organizations need to help protect tribal peoples and their schools during military operations against Communist rebels)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/catholic-university-steps-in-to-aid-persecuted-filipinos/81912>

April 2018, date unknown

Today's Martyrs

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

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