

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – June 2018

Friday June 1, 2018



China: Heshan, Guangdong province

A Christian couple were arrested for handing out religious literature and for the display of anti-abortion signs in a public park

Liang Ziliang (husband of Li Yinxiu, arrested)

Li Yinxiu (wife of Liang Ziliang, arrested)

www.chinaaid.org/2018/06/christian-couple-criminally-detained.html



India: Gomala village, Jhabua district, Madhya Pradesh state

Janglia Neenama (father of Ramesh, home invaded during a prayer meeting, beaten, hospitalized)

Ramesh (son of Janglia Neenama)

Rakesh (beaten, hospitalized)

Arobai Makodia (beaten, hospitalized)

<https://persecutionrelief.org/christians-beaten-up-mp/>



Palestine: Bethlehem

Fr Fadi Shalufa OFM (threatened with a knife after he shut a gate in the faces of two men who were harassing pilgrims)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/64292->

[ASIA HOLY LAND Bethlehem a Franciscan priest attacked for defending the pilgrims](#)



Egypt: Helwan

Ashraf Mourad (witnessed an attack on a microbus in which the driver was injured from broken glass, said “I approached the microbus and found out that the driver was attacked because he was drinking a cup of tea inside and also because he was a Christian. There was a tattoo of a cross on his right wrist”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/06/coptic-christians-harassed-for-drinking-water-during-ramadan-fasting-hours/>

Saturday June 2, 2018



India: Punpun, Bihar state

Pastor Suryadev Kumar (husband, father of six aged 4-13, reported to have been beaten and thrown from a moving train after sharing a Bible with another passenger, hospitalized with a severe head injury)

<https://persecutionrelief.org/pastor-pushed-out-of-a-moving-train-bihar/>

<https://persecutionrelief.org/update-on-pastor-suryadev-who-was-pushed-from-moving-train/>



Pakistan: Nayya Sarabah (Chak 336) village, Toba Tek Singh district, Punjab province Christians have been ordered to dismantle their church

Pastor Samuel Masih

Rafiq Masih (aged 70, donated the land for the church)

Rafaqat Masih (union councilor for minorities, retired army, shopkeeper, has been working to resolve the dispute, said “Rafiq is childless, so he bequeathed this property for the construction of a church building. The construction began in 2012 and we had been

holding worship services since then. But in December 2016 the local Muslims objected over it and filed an application against us in the local police station. At that time, a compromise was reached and we again started holding services. But, again, in December 2017, they submitted an application in the police station, after which we were called in and were told to sign an agreement [to end services]...We are being forced to demolish the existing church structure and, in lieu of this, they would let us build a church on a piece of government land outside the village which is already dedicated for a school. They haven't even given any documentary proof that this piece of land would be transferred to Christians. Then another issue is that we worked for several years to construct this church building. Now who is going to pay for building from scratch?")

Pastor Liaquat M Qaiser (**UPDATE:** said "Christians are peace-loving people. We don't desire any conflict. If the local Muslims do not want Christians worshipping among them, then they should provide them an alternative place. They are poor people and do not have resources to buy another place and build a church once again")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/06/pakistan-christians-told-they-cant-have-a-church-in-muslim-majority-village/>



Argentina: La Plata

Archbishop Hector Aguer (condemned on [July 2, 2014](#) a video advertisement for a gay bar that was surreptitiously recorded inside the La Plata cathedral and which mocked the sacraments; reported on [September 20, 2016](#) to be under criminal investigation by the Secretary for Human Rights for having written that "carnal copulation outside of marriage" has been "transformed into something trivial, common, unsubstantial"; **UPDATE:** retired due to age, ordered by the Vatican to leave his diocese before his replacement arrives, a Melkite bishop offered to let him stay with him since the Vatican order effectively made him homeless)

<https://onepeterfive.com/respected-predecessor-of-new-la-plata-archbishop-tucho-fernandez-ordered-to-depart-his-diocese-immediately/>



Nicaragua: Diria, Granada

Fr Mario Jarquin (attacked along with neighbors by armed government supporters)

Nicaragua: Masaya

Fr Edwin Roman (said following anti-government demonstrations "On Saturday a young man was executed, this is the right word, because he was arrested, he was helpless, but a woman police officer shot him in the chest. The young man told her: if you have the

intention of killing me, then kill me, and the policewoman shot him, and the victim fell in front of the parish of San Miguel")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/64288-AMERICA_NICARAGUA_Parish_priests_alongside_young_people_while_violence_continues

Sunday June 3, 2018



India: Sirsida village, Kanker district, Chhattisgarh state

Hindu radicals attempted to prevent a Christian funeral, then threatened Christians throughout the village

Halal Ram Sahu (convert, widower of Sushila Sahu, father of Manish Kumar Sahu, threatened at his wife's funeral)

Manish Kumar Sahu (son of Sushila and Halal Ram Sahu, threatened at his mother's funeral)

Pastor Arvid (described the attacks)

Sewa Ram (family threatened with death, signed a document renouncing Christ)

Pramila (wife of Suresh Sahu, home threatened, refused to sign a renunciation of Jesus, husband forced to sign despite not being a Christian, father-in-law transferred her farmland to his own daughter)

<https://persecutionrelief.org/christians-harassed-over-burial-cg/>



Burkina Faso: Bilhore village

Pastor Pierre Boena (father of David Boena, grandfather, abducted)

David Boena (son of Pastor Pierre Boena, husband of Ami Sawadogo, abducted)

Ami Sawadogo (wife of David Boena, abducted)

Fasne-wende Ouedraogo (granddaughter of Pastor Pierre Boena, abducted)

Pelagie Sawadogo (granddaughter of Pastor Pierre Boena, abducted)

Pauline Sawadogo (mother of Sanata and Zoenabou, possibly abducted)

Sanata (daughter of Pauline Sawadogo, possibly abducted)

Zoenabou (daughter of Pauline Sawadogo, possibly abducted)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/06/second-christian-leader-in-two-weeks-kidnapped-in-burkina-faso/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/06/burkina-faso-kidnappers-release-pastor-and-his-family-after-four-days/>

Monday June 4, 2018



China: Chengdu, Sichuan province

Police and RAB [religious affairs bureau] officials arrested 17 Christians for holding a prayer service in memory of the 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre

Pastor Wang Yi (husband of Jiang Rong, **UPDATE**: arrested)

Jiang Rong (wife of Pastor Wang Yi, **UPDATE**: arrested)

Rev Li Yingqiang (**UPDATE**: arrested)

Zhang Xudong

Ge Yingfeng

An Yankui

Wen Guanghe

Liu Yingxu

Dai Zhichao

Ren Yifei

Li Chengju

China: Hong Kong

Cardinal Emeritus Joseph Zen Ze-Kium SDB (aged 86; **UPDATE**: denounced the Hong Kong judiciary for acts of suppression "Those citizens who safeguard the intrinsic values of Hong Kong and have ideals, especially young people, have been sent to prison in batches. The authorities have done whatever they want. Is this not China before June 4, 1989?")

www.chinaaid.org/2018/06/17-christians-arrested-for.html

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/cardinal-denounces-hong-kong-judiciary-for-suppression/82496>



Vietnam: Hanoi

Pastor Nguyen Trung Ton (sentenced on [April 5, 2018](#) to 12 years' imprisonment for supporting democratic reforms; **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

Nguyen Van Dai (attorney, sentenced on [April 5, 2018](#) to 12 years' imprisonment for supporting democratic reforms; **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/jail-looms-for-pastor-activists-in-hanoi-as-appeals-fail/82486>



Uganda: Iganga Town

Pastor Moses Saku (prayer crusade reported to have been interrupted by local Muslims, said “We have never abused Muslims or Allah but it seems they [Muslims] are concerned by the way we were highlighting the contradictions in the Quran”)

Pastor Andrew Bogere (reported to have said “Muslims will not stop us from spreading the gospel. We are here for the truth and we shall not be stopped”)

<http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Police-foil-Christian-Muslim-fight-Iganga-Islam-evangelism-/688334-4595484-tsg66j/index.html>



Central African Republic

Fr Francis Davy Barka-Nado SMA (said "It seems as if there was a planned depopulation project in some parts of the country. Villages, infrastructures, human lives are destroyed; entire families eradicated due to ethnicity, race and religion. It can be said that at present there is an atypical form of genocide in the CAR...The news on incidents and massacres committed by rebel groups against the civilian population do not reflect reality on the ground. What is said, transmitted and disseminated by international means, is bias and exploited...When there is a tragedy in a city or village, the survivors know who did what and know the number of victims. But they are also victims and do not have access to international media to express themselves. Often the perpetrators are presented as victims...The suffering of the Central African population far exceeds what is reported outside the Country or what is seen on television in the West. Death has become an everyday friend. The morgues of the Bangui General Hospital and the community hospital are no longer sufficient to receive corpses. The coffin business, which culturally represents a taboo, is becoming very profitable right now...The arrival of the Russian army in the country was greeted by the population as a relief against the atrocities, despite the presence of United Nations forces")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/64290->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICAN REP An atypical form of genocide is scourging the country](#)



Mali

Jeffery Woodke (aged 57, husband of Els, missionary, U.S. citizen, abducted on [October 14, 2016](#) from [Arcata](#) by armed men who forced him to strip to his underwear, guard and housekeeper killed; **UPDATE**: still in captivity according to the government)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/06/us-missionary-captive-for-20-months-is-alive-reports-nigers-president/>



United States - Colorado

Jack Phillips (bakery owner, cited in [2013](#) for refusing to make a cake for a same gender wedding; the state Supreme Court in [Denver](#) refused on [April 25, 2016](#) to hear his appeal; **UPDATE**: the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the state Civil Rights Commission ruling against him and upheld his right to exercise his religious beliefs)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/breaking-supreme-court-rules-in-favor-of-baker-who-declined-to-serve-gay-wedding-81541>

<https://www.charismanews.com/politics/71444-colorado-baker-scores-huge-victory-for-religious-rights-at-u-s-supreme-court>

Tuesday June 5, 2018



China: Tianjiaying village, Henan province

Bishop Joseph Zhang Yinlin (a Way of the Cross shrine constructed in 1903 was demolished by local authorities in the middle of the night, had been notified of the pending demolition a month earlier)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/chinese-authorities-demolish-way-of-the-cross-in-henan/82510>



India: Dindigul, Tamil Nadu state

Bishop Thomas Paulsamy (spoke on continuing persecution “The BJP [Hindu nationalist party] supports the fundamentalists...[Prime Minister Modi] does not want the constitution to apply, but rather the religious principles and values of Hinduism”)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/06/05/christians-protest-amid-surge-in-hindu-nationalist-attacks-in-india/>



Egypt: Giza

Hani Shamshoun Girgis (aged 31, newspaper photographer, detained by police for carrying a bottle of water during Ramadan, said “There was a bottle of water inside my bag and, while he was searching it, he was staring at this bottle with anger. He took my ID from me and asked me to follow him. When I resisted and asked where he was taking me, he started insulting me and ordered that I stopped talking – as if I was a criminal, [later at the police station] The officer told me, ‘Why did you have this bottle of water while we are in Ramadan?’ I told them I was not fasting because I was a Christian, but they insulted me and said that I would stay there until sunset and that I was not allowed to sit...When I am at work, I don’t eat or drink in front of my Muslim colleagues, as a sign of respect”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/06/coptic-christians-harassed-for-drinking-water-during-ramadan-fasting-hours/>

Wednesday June 6, 2018



Philippines: Calamba City

Fr Rey Urmeneta (aged 64, shot while in his automobile, hospitalized in stable condition)
Remedios de Belen (church secretary, witnessed the shooting)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/third-philippine-priest-shot-since-december/82500>



Bangladesh: Bandarban district

Christians continue to try to reclaim church land seized by a Buddhist priest and his followers

Fr Jerome D'Rozario (said that the Buddhists destroyed paddies and beat Christian farmers)

Romesh Tripura (local Union Council chairman, said "At the end of the year, we won the case to get back the property as we possessed all valid land documents. However, Bhante filed a review petition, which the church authority was unaware of, so he again won the property. Then we filed a petition with the High Court, which is still going on")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/church-fights-to-reclaim-land-grabbed-by-bangladesh-monk/82492>



India: Goa

Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrao (**UPDATE:** reported to have said "The Indian Constitution is in danger and many people live with a feeling of insecurity. It is urgent to protect the values of the Constitution, including the freedom to practice one's own religion...Lately we have seen a new trend that is emerging in our country: one wants to impose a kind of uniformity on what and how to eat, dress, live and even on the God to be worshiped. It is a kind of mono-culturalism: human rights are under attack and democracy seems to be in danger")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/64308-ASIA_INDIA_Archbishop_of_Goa_The_Indian_Constitution_is_in_danger



Egypt: Beni Ibrahim village, Asyut province

Adel Ayoub (aged 52, farmer, beaten by several young men for drinking water, said "They asked me, 'Why are you breaking Ramadan fasting?'. I told them I was a Christian. As soon as they heard the word 'Christian', they attacked and beat me with their hands until I almost fainted")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/06/coptic-christians-harassed-for-drinking-water-during-ramadan-fasting-hours/>

Thursday June 7, 2018



Eritrea: Asmara

Pastor Oqbamichel Haiminot (husband, father of three, detained for 'a few weeks' in 2003; arrested along with 68 other Christians including the wedding couple while officiating at their January 2005 wedding, abused in prison, released after four months; arrested in October 2007, held in a police station; **UPDATE**: reported to have been released, in need of medical care)

<https://vom.com.au/eritrea-prisoner-released/>



Burkina Faso

Pastor Pierre Boena (abducted from Bilhore village on June 3, 2018; **UPDATE**: released)

David Boena (son of Pastor Pierre Boena, husband of Ami Sawadogo; **UPDATE**: released)

Ami Sawadogo (wife of David Boena; **UPDATE**: released)

Fasne-wende Ouedraogo (granddaughter of Pastor Pierre Boena; **UPDATE**: released)

Pelagie Sawadogo (granddaughter of Pastor Pierre Boena; **UPDATE**: released)

Pauline Sawadogo (mother of Sanata and Zoenabou; **UPDATE**: whereabouts not reported)

Sanata (daughter of Pauline Sawadogo; **UPDATE**: whereabouts not reported)

Zoenabou (daughter of Pauline Sawadogo; **UPDATE**: whereabouts not reported)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/06/burkina-faso-kidnappers-release-pastor-and-his-family-after-four-days/>

Friday June 8, 2018



China: Zhengzhou, Henan province

Wei Jindang (church raided by police on [May 22, 2018](#), several members arrested; **UPDATE**: filed an application for administrative review with the local government after to protest the banning of his church)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/06/christians-in-custody-after-henan.html>



Sweden

Aideen Strandsson (aged 37, convert, refugee from Iran, as of [July 28, 2017](#) has been scheduled for deportation back to Iran despite a high risk of imprisonment; **UPDATE**: no date set for the appeal of her deportation order, denied a work permit and welfare benefits, said “I know some people who sent their requests for appeal at the same time as I did, about one year ago. They’ve received an answer to their appeal, but there is no answer for me yet. I don’t think they even care if I’m alive or not”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/06/convert-in-sweden-tells-of-nightmares-every-night-amid-fears-of-deportation-and-iranian-jail/>



Denmark

Dr Sara Afshari (criticized Western governments for their attempts to reject the Christian conversion of people from Muslim majority countries in asylum applications “I don’t like this naïve understanding of conversion by the politicians or the media saying they become Christian because their case will be strengthened. That might be one of the reasons for some – not for all...there are no reliable criteria for judging what a Christian should know in order to believe”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/06/assessment-of-religious-conversions-as-genuine-or-asylum-motivated-dismissed-as-naive/>



United Kingdom

Rev Andrew White (aged 54, suspended from his charity Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East on [June 30, 2016](#) after allegations that he had paid ISIL to release sex slaves; **UPDATE**: exonerated by police)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lk6ljbmwZ-0&t=87>

Saturday June 9, 2018



India: Bhandaria, Garhwa district, Jharkhand state

James Kujur (reported that a cross in a cemetery was vandalized on [November 22, 2017](#);

UPDATE: the cross was vandalized again, saw the perpetrators flee)

India: Raebareli district, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Vinay (reported to have received threats for leading worship services)

Mahabali (convert, reported to have been threatened after he started construction of a house on his own land that was near to a Hindu temple, told he could proceed if he renounced Christ, said "I am not concerned about this perishable house I will never forsake Jesus Christ who will come back to take me and we will live together in the imperishable house he is building for me")

<https://persecutionrelief.org/cross-in-cemetery-vandalized-jharkhand/>

<https://persecutionrelief.org/prayer-only-defense-of-persecuted-christians-uttar-pradesh/>



Pakistan: Latifabad

Five Christian youth were arrested and tortured for a theft at a medical clinic, the Muslim doctor who saw the thieves said they were not the culprits, two were released

Edwin Javed

Shakil Masih

Victor Masih

Adnan Masih

Johnson Masih

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6870>

Sunday June 10, 2018



Philippines: Zaragoza, Nueva Ecija

Fr Richmond Nilo (aged 43, **shot dead** while preparing the church altar for Mass)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/06/12/third-priest-shot-in-philippines-in-six-months/>



China: Guangzhou, Guangdong province

Four Christians were detained by police after a raid on a worship service at their house church, interrogated for hours, and released later that night

Pastor Huang Xiaoning

Wang Chuanjun

www.chinaaid.org/2018/06/four-christians-detained-in-guangzhou.html



India: Haryana state

Seema (wife of Pastor Jay Bagwan, saw Hindu radicals block a dozen Christians from coming near her house church, the Christians were chased away, threatened with harm if she and her husband did not stop worshipping Christ)

Pastor Jay Bagwan (husband of Seema, threatened with harm if he and his wife did not stop worshipping Christ)

India: Kumelsingha village, Odisha state

Pastor Mukunda Sagar (beaten and stripped down to his underwear by a Hindu mob, fled into the fields, rescued by other Christians, taken to a hospital, said "I love Jesus and Jesus Christ loves me. This I know for sure")

Bijari Khondu (witnessed the attack on Pastor Mukunda Sagar)

Pastor Shravan Kumar (reported on the attack on Pastor Mukunda Sagar)

India: Satna district, Madhya Pradesh state

A worship service was interrupted by Hindu radicals and allied media, the attending Christians boldly testified to the media, three pastors were arrested on illegal conversion charges

Pastor Mahendra (arrested, released)

Pastor Prem (arrested, released)

Brother Rahul (arrested, released)

Rev Pramod Thomas (worked with police to secure the release of the church leaders)

Pastor Raj (reported on the incident)

<https://persecutionrelief.org/christians-chased-off-from-attending-sunday-worship-service-haryana/>

<https://persecutionrelief.org/brutally-beaten-for-visiting-christian-friend-odisha/>

<https://persecutionrelief.org/2-pastors-detained-during-sunday-worship-madhya-pradesh/>



Nigeria: Kwall village, Bassa area, Plateau state

Christians were attacked by Fulani Muslims as they returned home from church

Ibrahim Weyi (aged 45, **hacked to death**)

Larry More (aged 53, **hacked to death**)

Samuel Weyi (aged 23, wounded, hospitalized)

Lawrence Zango (reported on the attack, said “Fulani herdsmen have continued to kill innocent Christians in our villages, yet the Nigerian government has not taken proactive measures to end the onslaught”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/06/two-christians-ambushed-killed-in-central-nigeria/>

Monday June 11, 2018



Philippines: Lingayen-Dagupan

Archbishop Socrates Villega (**UPDATE**: issued a statement: "They are killing our flock. They are killing us the shepherds. They are killing our faith. They are cursing our Church. They are killing God again as they did in Calvary...Let us implore the grace of God to touch the heart of the President of the Philippines to stop the verbal persecution of the Catholic Church because such attacks can unwittingly embolden more crimes against priests")

<https://www.rappler.com/nation/204692-archbishop-villegas-statement-killing-nueva-ecija-priest-richmond-nilo>



Vietnam: Tan Son Nhat International Airport, Ho Chi Minh City

Fr Joseph Nguyen Duy Tan (aged 40, church attacked by government thugs on [September 4, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: prevented from leaving the country for a conference after he spoke with an EU representative on May 16, 2018 concerning religious persecution)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/vietnam-bars-dissident-priest-from-traveling-abroad/82550>



India

Ahmed (alias, convert from Islam, called to a police station along with three other Christians, told that a complaint had been filed accusing them of creating a terror cell and receiving foreign aid, the police said they did not take the allegation seriously)

Vicky Nanjappa (published an analysis of the book *Breaking India*, which purports that Christian missionaries are seeking to destabilize and partition the country)

India: Sundarayya Vignana Kendram

Bishop Singham (demanded that government censors remove objectionable scenes from the allegedly anti-Christian movie *Jai Ho Indians*)

<https://persecutionrelief.org/how-christian-missionaries-are-funding-naxals-their-urban-friends-to-break-india/>

<https://persecutionrelief.org/christians-demand-ban-on-jai-ho-indians-telangana/>

<https://persecutionrelief.org/christians-accused-of-terrorism/>



Egypt: Shubra al Khaymah

Bishop Morcos (**UPDATE**: publicly thanked imam Sheikh El Jamea who used his mosque loudspeakers to call Muslims to help put out an accidental church fire)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/64342->

[AFRICA EGYPT Fire in a church the imam launches the SOS and calls for help from the mosque s loudspeakers](#)



Romania: Husi

Archimandrite Mina Dobzeu (aged 96, imprisoned in 1948 for 11 months and then subjected to 5 years' house arrest for protesting the seizure of icons, churches, and monasteries; arrested after the dismantling of the monasteries, tried in a military court, and sent in February 1959 to prison and then to a Danube canal labor camp; released in 1964; jailed in 1988 for eight months after he wrote seven letters to President Nicolae Ceausescu regarding communist atheism and morality; **UPDATE: died of natural causes**)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/archim-mina-dobzeu-confessor-of-communist-romania-reposes-in-the-lord-at-96/>

<http://ziarullumina.ro/arhimandritul-mina-dobzeu-aparator-al-unitatii-de-credinta-si-neam-129670.html> - with translation



Nigeria: Yola, Adamawa state

Five Christians were sentenced to death by hanging by a Muslim judge after rejecting their argument that they had acted in self defense when they killed a Muslim

Alex Amos

Alheri Phanuel

Holy Boniface

Jerry Gideon

Jari Sabagi

Zidon Love (texted “These five Christians will die if nothing is urgently done to assist them”)

Rev Samson Ayokunle (Christian Association of Nigeria president; **UPDATE:** later wrote a condemnation of the death sentence of the five Christians in the face of a lack of prosecutions of Muslim killers: “CAN is not supporting jungle justice or any criminality. But hundreds of our members [Christians] in southern Kaduna, Benue, Taraba and Plateau states in the north-central geo-political zones, and a state like Enugu in the south, have been killed. Citizens stood helpless at the massacre of their peaceful fellow Nigerians, the international community watched in anguish how government security agencies could not bring perpetrators of these heinous killings to book... We are shocked at the speed of light deployed by security and judicial officers in sentencing the alleged killers of the herdsman in Adamawa state... Why did the court discharge the alleged killers of Madam Bridget Agbahime on the orders of the Kano state government? Why have security officials not arrested those behind the killings of Christians in southern Kaduna? Why did Nigeria Police set free those arrested for the murder of Mrs Eunice

Elisha Olawale in Kubwa, Abuja? In view of this, CAN is calling on President Buhari to intervene in the death sentence passed on these Christian youths in Adamawa”)

Bishop Emmah Isong (later wrote a condemnation of the death sentence of the five Christians: “It looks as if it is vengeance for a Yola court to condemn five Christians to death for allegedly killing herdsman when herdsmen are rampaging everywhere killing and maiming innocent Christians and going free...It is high time the federal government had to intervene and to ensure that those Christians are not killed to forestall further religious conflict within that axis. Instead of killing people for herdsmen, the Nigerian federal government should rather find a way to curtail their activities and provide adequate security to all Nigerians”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/06/christian-death-toll-from-herdsmen-attacks-mounts-in-adamawa-state-nigeria/>

Tuesday June 12, 2018



United Kingdom: Glasgow, Scotland

Maqsood Bakhsh (aged 50, Pakistani refugee, has not been granted asylum after 6 years, said to PM Theresa May "Prime Minister, please help us because I do not understand why the Home Office keep rejecting us. They keep telling us that some parts of Pakistan are safe for Christians. It is true that lots of Christians live in Pakistan but once you have been targeted by Islamic extremists who know your name and your face, it is impossible to live. Four of my friends have been killed by Islamic extremists and my sister-in-law's brother is serving life in jail because of the blasphemy law. My nephew was kidnapped last month and no one knows what has happened to him")

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/asylum-family-in-plea-to-pm-over-fears-of-death-in-pakistan>

Wednesday June 13, 2018



Australia

Archbishop Mark Coleridge (said that a new law that would require priests to divulge the contents of confessions is “seemingly driven by a desire to penalize the Catholic Church”)

Archbishop Christopher Prowse (said “The Government threatens religious freedom by appointing itself an expert on religious practices and by attempting to change the sacrament of confession while delivering no improvement in the safety of children”)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/06/13/australian-law-forces-priests-to-violate-seal-of-confessional/>



Egypt

Abraam Youssef (teacher, criticized a 2016 religious ruling that required Christians to publicly observe the Ramadan fast “This fatwa is a crime of incitement of violence and opens the door to religious extremism under a political cover”)

Egypt: Tanta

Nancy Michael Girgis (disappeared after taking an exam, likely abducted)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/06/coptic-christians-harassed-for-drinking-water-during-ramadan-fasting-hours/>
www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=2171&A=35157



Ireland

Dr Ruth Cullen (commented after the Prime Minister said that proposed legislation will compel Christian hospitals to provide abortions “We are witnessing something truly appalling at present – a government that seems prepared to trample on freedom of conscience in order to keep the pretense going that their abortion proposals are somehow medically indicated and based. It is very reassuring though to see the numbers of GPs [general practitioners] who are voicing their opposition”)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/gay-irish-prime-minister-catholic-hospitals-will-be-required-to-abort-babie>

Thursday June 14, 2018



United Kingdom

Lord David Alton (human rights advocate, **UPDATE:** wrote "The Northern Ireland minister Lord Duncan of Springbank recently remarked that the province's insistence that the only lawful justification for abortion should be a threat to the mother's life was 'Victorian'. This ill-considered and patronizing remark was not random. It was part of a concerted attempt to force abortion legislation on Northern Ireland...Significantly, the most recent vote on abortion within any UK legislature was 18 months ago in the Northern Ireland Assembly. It voted against a change to the law. But British political parties, once champions of devolution [i.e. local autonomy], have turned full circle when it comes to abortion...This is only the latest example of what the philosopher John Gray calls 'alt-liberalism', a mutant version of liberal ideology: all-knowing, self-regarding and autocratic. It's the phenomenon that led to Tim Farron packing his bags as Liberal Democrat leader, saying it had become impossible to reconcile his Christian faith with this new ideology. One Labour MP told me that he daren't say what he believes for fear of retaliation. Free speech is going the same way as devolution and conscience. The judiciary, meanwhile, is becoming increasingly politicized...one hundred thousand people are alive in Northern Ireland who would be dead had the 1967 Abortion Act applied there")

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/issues/june-15th-2018/the-mutant-ideology-thats-driving-mps-to-impose-abortion-on-northern-ireland/>

Friday June 15, 2018



India: Kaviyoor village, Thiruvalla, Kerala state

Aniyachayan (reported to have been threatened along with another Christian for distributing Christian literature)

<https://persecutionrelief.org/evangelist-team-confronted-kerala/>



Egypt

Mina Bendary (aged 22, forced out of professional soccer in 2015, said “Christians simply don’t play in professional football clubs in Egypt. I was told by club officials to change my name in order to play professionally”, has opened a soccer school for Christians)

Mina Samir (aged 17, brother of Abanoub Samir, said “I have been playing football since I was 12 and started applying then. My first experience was at El-Ismaily. The coaches there told me they were impressed by my performance. But as soon as I told them my name is Mina...they said they would call me back. I never got that call...Last year, I applied at Petrojet. I was the only player wearing yellow trainers while we stood in line during the trial. The coach called out to me ‘the one wearing the yellow trainers, what’s your name?’ So I told him ‘Mina’ and then he quickly diverted his attention away claiming he meant the player standing next to me. The player next to me was wearing black trainers. It was then I knew I wouldn’t make the cut after his sudden shift in the way he treated me”)

Abanoub Samir (aged 21, told in 2013 to change his name to 'Mostafa Ibrahim' to obtain a contract with a soccer team, denied a contract after he refused)

George Murad (aged 24, unsuccessfully attempted to lodge a complaint when he was told to change his Christian name “It’s very difficult in Egypt to prove religious discrimination because it’s often not explicit”)

Madgi Khalil (activist, has been finalizing a report to FIFA the violation of FIFA rules against religious discrimination, FIFA did nothing for two years following the initial complaint of Egyptian non-compliance and then merely asked for more information)

Egypt: Beni Suef

Ibrahim Sadic (land burned in an arson attack after he was accused of operating a house church)

<https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2018/06/15/i-was-told-to-change-my-name-to-play-professionally-the-plight-of-egyptian-christians-in-football/>
<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=2171&A=35173>

Saturday June 16, 2018



India: Nandamuru village, Tadepalligudem, West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh state

Pastor Suguna Rao (reported to have been harassed by 'fanatics' who brought pressure against the government in an attempt to deny him a home loan on the grounds that he would use his home for religious purposes)

<https://persecutionrelief.org/pastor-being-harassed-andhra-pradesh/>

Tuesday June 18, 2018



India: Sardhana, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Dependra Prakash Maleywar (aged 58, father of Ritika and Rohin Maleywar, attacked by Bajrang Dal [the Hindu nationalist youth organization] members on court premises when he attempted to notarize affidavits from 16 Christians testifying that their conversions were not forced, arrested on forced conversion charges, denied bail due to political pressure)

Ritika Maleywar (daughter of Pastor Dependra Prakash Maleywar, said “The members of the Bajrang Dal went door-to-door and met all the 16 families and spoke to them” to pressure them to not convert)

Pastor Nirmal Jacob (aged 39, said that Bajrang Dal members have exerted severe pressure on all the converting families: “The head of the village, along with Bajrang Dal members, went to the homes of these believers and threatened them with dire consequences. They said that they would be boycotted from the village, asked to leave, their educational certificates would be confiscated and their entitlement to government benefits would be withdrawn if they profess their faith in Jesus Christ”, said that two days later local and national television media interviewed him and many families from his church and then edited the video to disparage them, added that he has received death threats: “I do not know where to find help in a situation like this. The police, media and judiciary are biased, I do not feel safe any longer”)

Alwan Masih (synod general secretary, said “As citizens of our country, we have rights and we will execute our rights, but at places people have suffered for their faith”)

Bishop Prem Prakash Hambil (reported on the arrest of Pastor Dependra Prakash Maleywar)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/06/pastor-in-india-arrested-while-securing-affidavits-on-converts-faith/>

Wednesday June 19, 2018



China

Pastor Li Guozhi aka Yang Hua (husband of Wang Hongwu, detained on [December 9, 2015](#) for ‘illegally holding state secrets’; formally charged on [January 22, 2016](#) with ‘obstructing

justice' and 'gathering a crowd to disturb social order'; sentenced in [Guiyang, Guizhou province](#) on [January 5, 2017](#) to two and a half years imprisonment; **UPDATE**: released, sang worship songs as he left prison)

www.chinaaid.org/2018/06/cbn-news-chinese-pastor-tortured-in.html

Wednesday June 20, 2018



Central African Republic: Bambari

Aurora Mele (Jesuit Relief Service, said "...here is a mix of fighters. The Anti Balakas are located on the left bank of the river, the former Seleka on the right. The two groups then generate criminal gangs that exploit the chaos to get rich by looting")

Jean Francois Alain Ospital (Jesuit Relief Service national director, said "JRS was heavily attacked and looted in the early days of the conflict. Our base has been looted completely and we no longer have the material opportunity to send staff to the site, partly because of the continuous situation of insecurity. We therefore had to reorganize the activities...A good part of the religious have remained there, but continued to receive threats. A community of nuns has remained and continues to run a school. The leaders of the diocese have remained and continue the activities at the Michel Maitre school. The diocesan Caritas continues the humanitarian actions [distribution of food to displaced persons], water services, hygiene and latrines [on sites and schools]. ECAC [Enseignement Catholique Associe] continues the educational activities)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/64385->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBBIC The militias are raging NGOs and U N troops are also attacked](#)

Thursday June 21, 2018



Central African Republic: Bozoum

Fr Aurelio Gazzera OCD (**UPDATE**: said "The security problems in our area are concentrated in the border area with Cameroon mainly due to the arrival of Peuls nomadic peoples, who are protected by Seleka rebels...several strong African men, heads of State and

government, generals, entrepreneurs, invest part of their fortunes in thousands of cattle who rely on the Peuls. Therefore, behind these massive movements of herds carried out by the Peuls, there are strong economic interests...The hottest areas of the country remain those of Bambari and Bria where several gangs are competing for the control of diamond mines or simply of road check points in order to extort money. They too have no interest in re-establishing the state and order")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/64389-AFRICA_CENTRAL_AFRICA_There_are_powerful_economic_interests_that_want_to_leave_Central_Africa_in_chaos

June 2018, date unknown

Today's Martyrs

2490 Black Rock Turnpike #455

Fairfield CT 06825-2400

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

Permission is granted to copy, disseminate and forward this document without charge or fee, provided no changes are made and full attribution is made to Today's Martyrs