

# 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](http://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/>



## **Egypt**

### **Egypt: Beni Suef**

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

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=2171&A=35173>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/06/copts-fields-torched-after-rumours-he-was-turning-his-house-into-a-church/>



## **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](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/>



**Ukraine: Molodogvardeisk, Luhansk region**

Sergei Zharkov (church leader, church leader, worship service with 35 parishioners raided by 5 armed men, most parishioners were released after giving their personal information, forced to write a statement, building sealed)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2401](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2401)



**Burkina Faso: Bilhore village, Soum province**

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](http://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>



### **Ukraine: Molodogvardeisk, Luhansk region**

Sergei Zharkov (church leader, church leader, worship service with 35 parishioners raided by 5 armed men on [June 3, 2018](#), most parishioners were released after giving their personal information, forced to write a statement, building sealed; **UPDATE**: summoned to a police station, 'brutally' questioned, driven around with his eyes covered with a bandage, home searched, phone and other items seized)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2401](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2401)



### **Belarus: Vitebsk**

Bishop Aleg Butkevich (application for the entry to the country of Polish citizen Fr Karol Prandzioch denied by the government)

Fr Karol Prandzioch OMI (Polish citizen, entry to the country denied)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2387](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2387)



### **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”)

**India: Pahli village, Latehar district, Jharkhand state**

Shyاملal Kujju (aged 25, driven from his home along with other members of 10 Christian families, later said “We are living in fear, away from our homes. It is almost a month since my house is locked by Hindu radicals and there is no attempt by the police or the government to resolve the issue. Our lives are devastated as we hide ourselves from the Hindu radicals. We do not know how long this will continue”)

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

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/07/03/ten-christian-families-india-driven-village-refusing-recant-faith/>



**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](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/>



### **Kazakhstan: Zhezkazgan**

Arailym Turebekova (acquitted on charges of illegally sharing her faith)

Fariza Dairabina (acquitted on charges of illegally sharing her faith)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2392](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2392)

**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**

**A Christian family abducted from Bilhore village, Soum province on June 3, 2018 was at least in part released – UPDATE: this was a false report, no release occurred – see the July 13, 2018 entry**

Pastor Pierre Boena (**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>



**India: Kodungalloor**

Pastor Roy Thomas (attacked and beaten along with two students by a group of RSS paramilitaries who posted a video of the attack on social media)

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/07/03/filmed-attack-pastor-students-india-goes-viral/>



**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>



## Mexico: Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua state

Pastor Eduardo 'Lalo' Garcia (father of Abraham and Griselda, said “The telephone rang [in [October 2009](#)] and I heard my wife yell. I was on the second floor, but I heard her cry ‘No!’ very loudly. So I went downstairs quickly and asked, ‘What happened?’ And she just said, ‘They killed Abraham’...The pain we feel is really strong. We wouldn't wish it on anyone...We had decided to try to rescue the city, but I never imagined we would become a part of the statistics”; paid a ransom in [April 2011](#) to release his daughter; **UPDATE**: **shot dead** while fleeing suspected drug cartel members in his automobile)

<https://www.charismanews.com/world/71868-pastor-brutally-gunned-down-in-murder-capital-of-the-world>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/06/mexican-pastor-killed-nine-years-on-from-sons-murder/>

**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](http://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/>



**Ukraine: Krasnodon, Donbass region**

Pastor Vladimir Rytikov (church closed by police for failing to have proper registration, the police threatened to evict people from their homes if they moved worship services there)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2401](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2401)



**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>



### **China: Changan district, Hebei province**

Fr Sun Linghui (open church member, received a letter from the government which recommended suspension of his ministry license following his leading a pilgrimage, said "Pray for me and the church")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/authorities-seek-to-disqualify-chinese-priest/82777>



### **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: Seekanankuppam. Tamil Nadu state**

Pastor Arul Ruben (aged 37, church destroyed by arson, said “I received the call around 8 p.m., immediately asked the local pastor in Paramankeni to continue the service and rushed to Seekanankuppam. In 20 minutes I was able to reach it, but by that time, nothing was left – the fire had spread all over...[Last year] they humiliated the Christians for their non-participation [in a Hindu festival] and issued threats that the church would be destroyed if any Christian refused to contribute to the Hindu temple for the annual celebration of their deity. Even this year, they visited the Christian families and asked them to donate for the celebration, but nobody contributed. When the festival is over, just when we were glad for the peace and harmony around us, we get to see the church turn to ashes”)

Pastor Benjamin (said the locals had demanded the church property be used for a cemetery right-of-way and commercial development “Behind the church, the Hindu residents from nearby villages demanded that the church be closed down so a short-cut way can be paved for Hindus taking their deceased for cremation. They even carried the dead via the church premises to the cemetery. They stopped after the area president intervened and warned them that it is not right, and that they must avoid entering the church premises and take the long route instead...The area is in demand because of the ECR route, and random businessmen and real estate dealers constantly ask us to vacate. They told us the land can be of best advantage for commercial use”)

### **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/>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/07/arson-attacks-hit-churches-in-tamil-nadu-india/>



### **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](http://www.fides.org/en/news/64342-)



## 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 Phaniel

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/>



### **United Kingdom: Southgate**

Georgia Savva (aged 48, Palm Sunday cross on her front door recorded on CCTV to have been destroyed by a takeout delivery driver who then proceeded to cheerfully deliver their food)

<https://barnabasfund.org/us/news/london-christian-family-catch-takeaway-driver-destroying-cross-by-front-door-on-cctv>

**Tuesday June 12, 2018**



### **United Kingdom**

Sr Ban Madleen (Iraqi citizen, reported on [April 2, 2018](#) to have been denied a visa to visit her ill sister in the UK on the grounds that she had not travelled from Iraq in seven years [due to the conflict there]' **UPDATE**: reapplied for a visa, again refused)

### **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>

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/commentandblogs/2018/06/29/the-governments-religious-illiteracy-is-making-life-harder-for-persecuted-christians/>

**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/>



### **Kazakhstan: Semei**

Pavel Larionov (fined 35 MFIs for selling 3 icons online)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2392](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2392)



### **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](http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=2171&A=35157)



### **Belarus**

Fr Vladimir Rezanovich (reported to have said that the government had denied two Russian priests entry to the country: "This is not the first time for us. And we know it happens to the Catholics also")

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2387](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2387)



### **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**



### **China: Beijing**

Senior Pastor Jin Mingri (church building landlord evicted the church under government pressure, the church web site was earlier shut down by the government)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/07/beijing-suppresses-church-after.html>



### **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/>



### **United States**

Dr Robert A J Gagnon (aged 59, professor of theology, suspended from Facebook for 24 hours after he criticized a Canadian government funded video that encouraged children to consider homosexuality)

[https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/facebook-suspends-pro-family-expert-for-criticizing-gay-indoctrination-video?utm\\_content=buffer3306d&utm\\_medium=WCDM%2BBuffer&utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_campaign=WCDM](https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/facebook-suspends-pro-family-expert-for-criticizing-gay-indoctrination-video?utm_content=buffer3306d&utm_medium=WCDM%2BBuffer&utm_source=facebook&utm_campaign=WCDM)

<https://www.facebook.com/robert.a.gagnon.56/posts/10160710424990045>

**Friday June 15, 2018**



**China: Qingdao, Shandong province**

Bishop Joseph Li Mingshu (aged 93, **died of lung cancer**, photography banned at his funeral, mourners limited to 600 persons)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/china-puts-restrictions-on-bishops-funeral/82613>



**India: Kaviyoor village, Thiruvalla, Kerala state**

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

**India: Uttar Pradesh state**

Pastor Anil Kumar (accused of casting a spell after a man joined a worship service and then pretended to be mentally ill, later threatened with arrest by police for illegal conversions)

Ram Sudare (hosted the worship service in his home)

<https://persecutionrelief.org/evangelist-team-confronted-kerala/>  
<https://persecutionrelief.org/man-fakes-insanity-and-accuses-pastor-uttar-pradesh/>



**Kazakhstan: Sarkan**

Aleksandr Bekarev (fined 50 MFIs for offering religious literature)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2392](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2392)



**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)

<https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2018/06/15/i-was-told-to-change-my-name-to-play-professionally-the-plight-of-egyptian-christians-in-football/>



## Canada

### **Church leaders condemned a Supreme Court decision that allowed law societies [bar associations] to reject graduates from a Christian law school**

Douglas Farrow (professor of theology, said "evolving moral values [will become] for the rest of us devolving, indeed disappearing, rights...This is not the rule of law but rather the ruin of law")

Iain Benson (law professor, wrote the decision means "law is in free-fall...You will see things now unwind. How quickly is hard to say, but the illiberal direction is clear")

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/07/02/supreme-court-has-allowed-religious-discrimination-canadian-bishops-say/>

**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)

### **India: Udumalpet village, Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu state**

Pastor Bhakkiyaraj (husband, father of one, ordered by police to not meet with his fellow parishioners on Sunday, ignored the order without consequences)

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

<https://persecutionrelief.org/religious-fanatics-targeting-house-churches-tamil-nadu/>



**Nigeria: Hukken village, Plateau state**

Godiya Abass (mother of Friday Emmanuel, herder, **killed** by Fulani Muslims)

Friday Emmanuel (aged 11, son of Godiya Abass, **killed**)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/07/two-pastors-mother-of-eight-shot-to-death-in-plateau-state-nigeria/>

**Sunday June 17, 2018**



**Vietnam: Ho Chi Minh City**

Nguyen Ngoc Lua (beaten by police and dragged into a bus after attending Mass on suspicion she was about to join a demonstration against a new cybersecurity law and new economic zones, taken to a detention center, questioned, released)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/catholics-injured-as-police-suppress-protests-in-vietnam/82601>



**China: Guangzhou, Guangdong province**

Huang Yan (aged 48, wife of Wu Guisheng, human rights attorney, beaten by security officials in 2010, miscarried; beaten by security officials in 2012, miscarried, the beating continued while she was in the bathroom attending to the miscarriage; reported on [January 3, 2017](#) that government officials forced her doctors to cancel a procedure for ovarian cancer, escaped the country to a 'safe location'; **UPDATE**: husband detained for 10 hours and interrogated, phone tapped)

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/acyivist-husband-06222018153319.html>



**India: Shalem, Haripad, Alapuzha, Kerala state**

Pastor K G Punnoose (aged 66, worship service interrupted by local officials after a noise complaint was allegedly filed, said "We are just 12 members and we always close the doors and windows during our worship services on Friday and Sunday. We are careful and keep noise levels to a reasonable minimum")

<https://persecutionrelief.org/ipc-sunday-worship-disrupted-in-kerala/>



**Nigeria: Kpachudu village, Plateau state**

Sarki (aged 20, ambushed by Fulani Muslims, **killed**)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/07/two-pastors-mother-of-eight-shot-to-death-in-plateau-state-nigeria/>

**Monday June 18, 2018**



**Philippines**

Sr Patricia Fox (aged 71, Australian citizen; visa revoked on [April 23, 2018](#); appeal to reinstate her visa denied on [May 23, 2018](#), facing imminent deportation; **UPDATE**: the Department of Justice ruled that the revocation of her visa was invalid)

Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Soncuaco Pabillo (**UPDATE**: said the visa ruling was "positive development...threats against Sister Fox still exist")

Bishop Reuel Norman Marigza (**UPDATE**: said missionaries "should not be treated as criminals...We thanked God for the ruling")

Sr Elenita Belardo (**UPDATE**: said the visa ruling "gives hope to the poor who [Sr Fox] vows to serve with her life")

Bishop Arturo Bastes (**UPDATE**: said "the struggle is not yet over...What Duterte wants Duterte gets by hook or by crook")

**Philippines: Manila**

Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Soncuaco Pabillo (**UPDATE:** said during a Day of Reparation "Enough of the lies, enough of the bad words, stop the extrajudicial killings...Let us not use the weapons being used by oppressors. Let us face evil but not in their way. What will be our weapon? Guns? No. Words. Words of God. We will only drive away the evil spirit in [the presidential palace] through prayer with faith. Let us not be silent. Let us fight by praying with penitence")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/australian-nun-not-off-hook-yet-in-manila/82602>  
<https://www.ucanews.com/news/church-leaders-rally-filipinos-to-condemn-killings/82610>



### **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 Habil (reported on the arrest of Pastor Dependra Prakash Maleywar)

### **India: Thozilpettai, Karur district, Tamil Nadu state**

Samuel Natarajan (aged 27, son of Pastor Jayaseelan Natarajan, accosted by RSS paramilitary members while watering plants at his church construction site who demanded they inspect the unfinished church for prostitutes, no other persons were found, threatened with death along with his father)

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

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/06/hindu-extremists-launch-multifaceted-attack-on-pastor-son-in-southern-india/>



## Iran

Ram-eil Beth Tamraz (son of Pastor Victor Beth Tarmez and Shamiram Isavi, arrested without warrant by MOIS agents while fishing and picnicking with his wife in Firuzkuh on [August 26, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: charged with 'action against national security')

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6873>

**Tuesday 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](http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/06/cbn-news-chinese-pastor-tortured-in.html)



**Nigeria: Kwall village, Bassa local government area, Plateau state**

Danjuma Edo (aged 40, church secretary, **killed**)

Mary Danjuma (aged 34, relative of Danjuma Edo, **killed**)

Sibi Baba (aged 21, relative of Danjuma Edo, **killed**)

Ayo Danjuma (aged 18, relative of Danjuma Edo, **killed**)

Patience Moses (reported on the murder of the family of Danjuma Edo by Fulani Muslims)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/07/two-pastors-mother-of-eight-shot-to-death-in-plateau-state-nigeria/>

Wednesday June 20, 2018



**China: Guangzhou, Guangdong province**

Pastor Huang Xiaoning (one of four Christians detained by police after a [June 10, 2018](#) raid on a worship service at their house church, interrogated for hours, and released later that night; **UPDATE:** church assessed a 50,000 yuan [US\$7,685] administrative fine, said “Today, the church received punishment notices from the municipal religious affairs bureau, the district religious affairs bureau, and the sub-district office...I’ve been a pastor for nearly 20 years. I don’t [own] a car or a house. I don’t owe anything. Awhile ago [people] asked me, ‘Pastor Huang, aren’t you afraid of being fined?’ I answered, ‘No, I don’t have any money for them to confiscate.’ They also asked, ‘Aren’t you afraid of being imprisoned?’ I said that I never feared imprisonment, since I never even feared death”, added his church would pursue a legal defense "in order to become witnesses on God’s behalf”)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/06/church-ordered-to-pay-hefty-fine.html>



**India: Pulaganipalem, Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh state**

Pastor Jeeves Merari (church destroyed, said "When I arrived to Church this morning, I didn't believe what I was seeing. It was just utter and complete destruction")

**India: Pulioorkurichi thakkali villiage, Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu state**

Pastor K Rajesh (hemophiliac, reported to have been beaten along with two other Christians while handing out Bible tracts, taken to a temple and forced to bow before the gods, said "Though we were badly beaten and insulted, we believe that it is a privilege to suffer for Jesus Christ. I have forgiven my attackers in Jesus Christ")

**India: Thozilpettai, Karur district, Tamil Nadu state**

Pastor Jayaseelan Natarajan (aged 50, father of Samuel Natarajan, said: “Kumar [the RSS paramilitary leader] saw us and blew whistles, and immediately a mob of 20 barged inside the [church] compound. We asked what was wrong and why they were entering the premises. They paid no heed, picked up flower pots and smashed them. They chased me and beat me badly”, the RSS militants prevented an ambulance from answering his call, said: “I walked limping and bleeding around the street and pleaded for the ambulance to stop and told the driver that I was the one who called, but he told me he is only supposed to pick up people from the point/address they mention, and that he can’t pick me up,”, the beating resumed when he was seen by an attorney who was an RSS

member: “He first hit me and then forcefully pulled me inside his car. He ordered the driver to take us to a desolate place and said that I should be killed at that spot. By God’s grace, after traveling about a kilometer or so, there was a traffic circle and speed breakers on the road, and the driver slowed down the car. I quietly loosened the car’s door to my side and jumped out quickly”, hospitalized, police refused to record his abduction and threatened death by the RSS attorney)

Samuel Natarajan (aged 27, son of Pastor Jayaseelan Natarajan; **UPDATE**: beaten with wooden sticks, fled the scene)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/06/hindu-extremists-launch-multifaceted-attack-on-pastor-son-in-southern-india/>

<https://persecutionrelief.org/church-vandalized-andhra-pradesh/>

<https://persecutionrelief.org/trapped-and-beaten-for-distributing-bible-tracts-tamil-nadu/>



### **Kazakhstan: Semei**

Sergei Shutov (fined 35 MFIs for selling crosses)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2392](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2392)



### **Ethiopia**

Temesgen Mitiku Mezemir (aged 24, charged with 'causing outrage to religious peace and feeling' in Arba Minch on [January 23, 2018](#) after a debate with other Christians over a replica of the Ark of the Covenant, attacked and beaten along with fellow parishioners outside the courthouse; convicted on [February 2, 2018](#), sentenced to 7 months' imprisonment; appeal denied on [March 19, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: remanded back into custody, has 4 months remaining of his sentence to serve, may be released after 2 months)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/06/ethiopian-evangelical-sent-back-to-prison-for-causing-outrage-to-religious-feeling/>



### **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 REPUBLIC The militias are raging NGOs and U N troops are also attacked](http://www.fides.org/en/news/64385-)



**Nigeria: Kai village, Barkin Ladi area, Plateau state**

**A Christian family was killed in their home**

Dauda Mahan (aged 54, **killed**)

Mangai Agwom (aged 46, **killed**)

Christian Mangai (aged 15, **killed**)

John Mangai (aged 10, **killed**)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/06/slaughter-of-more-than-200-people-in-plateau-state-nigeria-shocks-christians/>

**Thursday June 21, 2018**



**India: Kochang village, Jharkhand state**

Fr Alphonse Aind SJ (middle school principal, arrested on fabricated charges of organizing the abduction and rape of five social activists by six Pathagadi tribal gunmen after the gunmen had seized his automobile, denied bail)



Sr Ranjita Kindo OSU (arrested)

Sr Amita Nag OSU (arrested)

Auxiliary Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas SFX (**UPDATE**: said the charges against Fr Alphonse Aind were made to link the church to the anti-Hindu Pathagadi tribal movement)

Fr Xavier Soreng SJ (said Fr Alphonse Aind had been "falsely accused" and "The Catholic Church is no way connected to the Pathalgadi movement...We are made to suffer for helping the poor stand up on their legs")

Fr Gyan Prakash Minj SJ (reported on the arrests)

Sr Eileen Kujur (reported on the arrests)

Fr Mahendra Peter Tigga (reported on the arrests)

<https://persecutionrelief.org/jesuit-priest-among-several-held-in-jharkhand-gangrape-case/>  
<https://www.ucanews.com/news/abetting-gang-rape-charges-against-indian-priest-fabricated/82656>



#### **Pakistan: Shaukat line Gojra, near Chaanar Shab Nala- Muzaffarabad**

Riyasat Masih (church elder, reported to have complained to police after local Muslims disrupted a church construction site by stealing materials and destroying the water supply pipe)

<http://www.claas.org.uk/news/pakistani-christians-punished-for-building-church-in-muzaffarabad/>



#### **Kazakhstan: Semei**

Gulsara Erzhitova (fined 35 MFIs for selling icons)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2392](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2392)



#### **Uganda: Butaleja district**

**Four church leaders were injured with stones thrown during a debate on the incarnation of the Son of God in which an unprepared imam left embarrassed**

Pastor Tom Palapande (aged 38, injured, hospitalized, later said "This is not the first time when Muslims attacked us, especially when they lost debates in Nasenye, Nabiganda and

Bumadanda. I was beaten up, and it was falsely reported in a local newspaper as well as the local radio station that I am disrespecting the religion of Islam. This is a calculated move to tarnish my name. The perpetrators of this heinous crime must be found and punished to the fullest extent of the law”)

Moses Balabye (injured)

Agrey Gibenya (injured)

Milton Magezi (injured)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/07/islamist-violence-against-christians-in-uganda-injures-pastors-stops-church-services/>



### **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](http://www.fides.org/en/news/64389-AFRICA_CENTRAL_AFRICA_There_are_powerful_economic_interests_that_want_to_leave_Central_Africa_in_chaos)



### **United Kingdom**

Bishop Gavin Ashenden (**UPDATE:** wrote "...I encountered the dictatorship of Marxism as I carried Bibles and theology books behind the Iron Curtain to help sustain the severely persecuted Christians. The control and repression of the Marxist state was murderous, brutal and total. [If our analysis is correct, the Christians in Russia may soon need to return the favor and smuggled soon-to-be-banned Christian books and Bibles { see hate crime } to us in the UK.]...The family is not no longer about generation, but about sexual and romantic self-expression. It is co-opted into a sexualizing of society into a perversion and distortion of God's intentions as we encounter them in revelation. It was not enough for this new movement has set out to capture not only the secular society in the West primarily, it has set out also to capture the Church...Secularized Christians have no

immunity against the zeitgeist, the spirit of the age. By swallowing the values and language of cultural Marxism Christians have deprived themselves of the protection they needed in the spirit and cosmic struggle against evil...Can we win? In the West? Almost certainly not. This project has captured education, the law, medicine, and even the armed forces. The situation is too far gone. We may argue and pray as long as we can, but even that may not be open to us for very long. [Leading Presbyterian theologian] Robert Gagnon was thrown off, suspended from Facebook a few weeks ago. Already as Christians committed to scriptural anthropologies, we fail the terms and conditions of Facebook, twitter and YouTube...The catacombs was where we begun. And like them, we face a dangerously repressive culture determined to persecute the church. What we face, unpalatable as it is, is not a wave of revival to capture our culture, but a season of persecution. It is part of what we signed up to when we became Christians, and it is not without honor to share in the sufferings of Christ as we bear faithful witness to who He is, what He has done for our souls, and what He will do at the end of time, as we are ushered into His presence...", presented an expanded version the following day at the Global Anglican Future Conference [GAFCON] in Jerusalem)

<https://ashenden.org/2018/06/21/the-challenge-of-cultural-marxism-to-the-church-jerusalem-2018/>

<https://ashenden.org/2018/06/22/the-threat-of-cultural-marxism-to-orthodox-christianity-a-presentation-given-in-jerusalem-for-gafcon-june-2018/>

**Friday June 22, 2018**



## **Philippines**

### **Church leaders responded after President Duterte called God a "SOB" and "stupid"**

Bishop Arturo Bastes (**UPDATE:** said the president was "a psychological freak, a psychopath, an abnormal mind...[he has become] intolerable to normal, well-minded people [who have been praying] that God will deliver us from this evil...I share with the feelings and thoughts with these concerned fellow Filipinos" and called on people to "fervently pray to the Lord that such blasphemous utterances and dictatorial tendencies of this mad man will cease")

Bishop Ruperto Santos (said the president crossed a "red line...[he should] not tempt God as He said vengeance is mine")

Senator Panfilo Lacson (presidential supporter, said "May my God forgive him and make him atone for all his sins...Between him and my God to whom I pray every single day and with whom I've found solace and comfort in all my difficult times, I don't even have to think of my choice")

Senator Antonio Trillanes (presidential opponent, called the president "one evil man...It is the height of arrogance of power not only to disrespect and spit on an individual's faith but also to act as though he is God")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/philippine-president-blasts-creation-story-calls-god-stupid/82654>



## **China**

Aaron Ma (Open Doors International researcher, said "There is now a heightened sense that a breach of regulations will be met by some form of warning, increased surveillance, or punishment. Certainly, most churches feel it is time to take extra precautions, to downsize or maybe even relocate some of their ministries...Christians who used their own church building for meetings were targeted [in 2018], and their buildings closed...In the wake of recent speeches by top leaders, local authorities do not want to appear weak when implementing new regulations. Conversely, they do not want to upset the tentative, but effective, relationship they have with local churches...There is also the possibility that a crackdown will spark demonstrations, or lead to information being leaked to overseas media, so authorities must be extremely prudent in their engagement with the Church. The level of enforcement also varies from region to region, depending on this tentative relationship, and how the Church responds each time pressure is applied...Some surmise that so-called 'foreign' religions, particularly Islam and Christianity, will be forced to cast off their attachment to external forces and morph into Chinese-style religions that fit both culturally and politically. Affiliation with overseas religious groups and receipt of overseas funding are the primary concerns voiced by authorities...Rather than encourage unity based on a celebration of diversity, they have preferred an intentional and sustained process of Sinicization to create uniformity in order to achieve President Xi Jinping's dream of 'rejuvenation of the Chinese nation'. Social stability must be preserved at all cost...The CCP [Chinese Communist Party] believes the Church is a de-stabilizing force, but not because it is bad, in fact, local communities and authorities tend to believe Christians are good people. Some suggest that because Christians' allegiance is first and foremost to God and not the Communist Party, there is a conflict of interests that the party believes can potentially hinder the process of unification. Others are more concerned by what they perceive as potential 'chaos' arising from the huge number of Christians")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/06/chinas-underground-churches-told-to-seek-guidance-from-state-approved-bodies/>



**India: Kochang village, Jharkhand state**

Sr Ranjita Kindo OSU (arrested on [June 21, 2018](#) on fabricated charges of organizing the abduction and rape of five social activists by six Pathagadi tribal gunmen; **UPDATE:** released)

Sr Amita Nag OSU (arrested on [June 21, 2018](#); **UPDATE:** released)

<https://persecutionrelief.org/jesuit-priest-among-several-held-in-jharkhand-gangrape-case/>



### **Kazakhstan: Semei**

Aliya Abdykarimova (fined 35 MFIs for selling an icon)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2392](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2392)



### **Canada: Calgary**

Bill Whatcott (aged 51, bus driver, arrested and charged with 'willful promotion of hatred against an identifiable group, namely the gay community' after he handed out 'Jesus Saves' pamphlets at a 2016 Toronto gay pride parade, faces 2 years' imprisonment if convicted, denied food and medicine for 24 hours in custody, fired from his job)

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/canadian-man-faces-2-years-prison-passing-out-jesus-saves-pamphlets-gay-pride-parade-225577/>

**Sunday June 24, 2018**



### **India: Ranci**

Cardinal Telesphore Toppo (aged 78; **UPDATE:** resigned due to age)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/64413->

[ASIA\\_INDIA Resignation of Archbishop of Ranchi India and appointment of successor](#)



## Egypt

Amany Magdi (aged 20, college student, abducted near [Benha University](#) on [May 24, 2018](#) while on her way to final exams, police informed her parents that she had converted to Islam and could not be seen by them; **UPDATE**: released, returned home)

<https://barnabasfund.org/us/news/egyptian-christians-celebrate-the-return-of-abducted-young-woman>



## Bosnia-Herzegovina: Visoko

Fr Miljan Radjenovic (church largely destroyed in an arson attack, had been undergoing renovations due to prior vandalism)

[https://www.b92.net/eng/news/region.php?yyyy=2018&mm=06&dd=25&nav\\_id=104472](https://www.b92.net/eng/news/region.php?yyyy=2018&mm=06&dd=25&nav_id=104472)



## Nigeria

### More than 200 Christians were killed by Fulani Muslims

#### Nigeria: Plateau state

Rev Chidi Okoroafor (Christian Association of Nigeria, said ““We mourn the death of over 200 Christians slaughtered on the Plateau at the weekend, and we passionately appeal to the Buhari-led administration to rise up and put a stop to further killings of innocent people, including defenseless women and children...CAN is, once again, calling on President Muhammadu Buhari to replace all the security chiefs and the Inspector General of Police, because they have overstayed their welcome. It is ridiculous and embarrassing that in the last three years, none of these criminals have been apprehended, detained, arraigned and convicted...We are approaching a state of anarchy faster than we can imagine. Why are we following the footpath of Rwanda daily with these unprecedented killings and mass burials when we are not at war? ENOUGH IS ENOUGH”)

#### Nigeria: Gana Ropp village, Plateau state

Rev Musa Choji (**killed** by Fulani Muslims along with his wife, son, and many parishioners)

#### Nigeria: Nghar, Gashish district, Barkin Ladi area, Plateau state

Thomas Chuwang (aged 45, said “In Nghar village alone, about 70 corpses of Christians were recovered and the entire village has been burnt down by the Fulani herdsmen”)

Dogo Nvou (texted "My uncle, his wife and many relations [were] killed. Over 70 people in my village have been killed. It is only the Lord that can comfort us all")

**Nigeria: Xland and Gindin Akwati villages, Plateau state**

John Isa (reported on the murder of about 60 Christians)

**Nigeria: Kakuruk village, Plateau state**

Christiana Audu (aged 35, texted "The church building, pastor's house and many other houses were destroyed by the herdsmen as they set fire on house. I saw one corpse as I was escaping. More than 200 of us have escaped to the military base near our village")

**Nigeria: Dorowa Babuje village, Plateau state**

Thomas Wurim (Plateau State Polytechnic lecturer, **killed**)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/06/slaughter-of-more-than-200-people-in-plateau-state-nigeria-shocks-christians/>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/07/death-toll-in-jos-nigeria-attacks-at-218-including-pastor-wife-and-son/>



**United Kingdom: London**

Allan Coote (street preacher, arrested [on or before June 24, 2018](#) on the sidewalk outside St Paul's cathedral for reading the Bible aloud)

<https://barnabasfund.org/us/news/492-years-after-burning-bibles-st-paul's-calls-police-when-man-reads-word-of-god-aloud-in-front>

<https://barnabasfund.org/us/news/st-pauls-cathedral-forbid-public-reading-of-the-bible-police-disagree>

**Monday June 25, 2018**



**Iran: Babol**

Mohammadali Yassaghi aka Estifan (aged 52, arrested on [April 10, 2018](#), charged with 'propaganda against the establishment'; **UPDATE**: charges dismissed, released)

<http://meconcern.org/2018/07/05/iran-mohammadali-yassaghi-freed-from-detention/>



### **Nigeria: Lagos**

Bosun Emmanuel (National Christian Elders Forum secretary, **UPDATE**: reported to have said the government "was openly pursuing an anti-Christian agenda that has resulted in countless murders of Christians all over the nation and destruction of vulnerable Christian communities...Realistically speaking, Christianity is on the brink of extinction in Nigeria. The ascendancy of Sharia ideology in Nigeria rings the death toll for the Nigerian Church...In 2018, we can say in 25 years from now, we are facing the risk of being the last Christians in Nigeria. Therefore, Christians should be in the frontline of defending democracy in Nigeria. The Church is the bastion of democracy. A divided CAN [Christian Association of Nigeria] cannot defend democracy and promote justice, equity, and fairness. Consequently, Sharia will grow stronger. As Sharia grows stronger, democracy will become weaker and the Church will be emasculated out of existence")

<https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/if-persecution-continues-nigerias-christian-population-could-be-wiped-out-by-2043/>

**Tuesday June 26, 2018**



### **Nicaragua: Matagalpa**

Bishop Rolando Jose Alvarez Lagos (**UPDATE**: chancery office attacked by masked armed men in his absence, guards threatened with death, furniture damaged, items stolen)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/masked-armed-men-attack-chancery-in-nicaragua-91055>

**Wednesday June 27, 2018**



### **China**



Jiang Tianyong (aged 47, husband of Jin Bianling, son of Jiang Lianghou, human rights attorney, abducted by police in [Changsha, Hunan province](#) on [November 22, 2016](#); charged with 'subversion of state power' on [May 31, 2017](#); sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment on [November 20, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: has been forced to take an unidentified medication in prison and has shown a memory deficit as a possible result, legs appear to have been injured due to torture or shackles, has been denied access to clothing and money sent by his family)

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/medicated-06272018131637.html>



**India: Pallivilakam, Sooriacode PO, Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu state**

Pastor Isaac (church convention reported to have been cancelled by police, attendees defied the police order but did not use a sound system)

<https://persecutionrelief.org/ag-church-convention-stopped-tn/>



**Greece: Larissa**

Pastor Apostolos Theodorakos (described an attack on seven Iranian Christian refugees in a refugee camp by Muslim refugees "Before I even woke up for my work, [a lady] called me and told me she was in the University Hospital because she and her husband were assaulted by a group of Muslims. I ran into the hospital and I found this beloved soul with her child, terrified, with jabs. A group of 30-40 people had come...accusing them of being Christians and going to church. In fact, one took a liquid inside the container and someone tried to [ignite a] fire")

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/07/05/christian-converts-iran-violently-targeted-mob/>



**Nigeria: Jos, Plateau state**

Archbishop Benjamin Kwashi (**UPDATE**: reported to have written "When leadership at any level, including religious, turns its back on the sufferings of orphans, the poor and widows, its next and only option is embrace of wickedness, unexplainable greed and shameless display of God forbidden evil. The poor are dying defenselessly, BUT their blood is crying in the land...Judgment is coming")

**Nigeria: Miango, Plateau state**

Rev Micah Wujit (aged 46, husband of Ruth Wujit, father of eight, **shot dead** by Fulani Muslims)

Ruth Wujit (aged 35, wife of Rev Micah Wujit, mother of eight, **shot dead**)

Pastor Emmanuel Tingo (husband, father of three, **shot dead**)

Rev Ayuba Ahmadu (reported on the murders)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/06/slaughter-of-more-than-200-people-in-plateau-state-nigeria-shocks-christians/>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/07/two-pastors-mother-of-eight-shot-to-death-in-plateau-state-nigeria/>

**Thursday June 28, 2018**



## **Nigeria**

Rev Soja Bewarang (**UPDATE**: denied Fulani allegations that Christians were rustling cattle:

“We condemn these unholy acts of systematic genocide and see it as a deliberate attempt to destroy the cultural heritage of Plateau people in particular the most affected areas.

The killings are becoming no longer herder and farmer clashes [but a] deliberate attempt to conquer and occupy the land of the people’s ancestral heritage”)

Pastor Steve Kwol (described “very serious attacks” in which entire villages had been badly damaged)

## **Nigeria: Jos, Plateau state**

Rev Isa Nenman (arrested after leading a protest against the mass murder of Christians which allegedly ended with stones thrown at automobiles and government officials chased)

Paul Dekete (protest organizer, said “Following yesterday’s peaceful protest by CAN supported by youth groups, the CAN chairman, Northern Zone, is in police custody, and there is a directive from Abuja to make arrests”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/07/death-toll-in-jos-nigeria-attacks-at-218-including-pastor-wife-and-son/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/06/nigerian-christians-refute-claims-herdsmen-killings-were-retaliatory-as-plateau-violence-reaches-new-peak/>



## **Nicaragua: in or near Matagalpa**

Fr Vicente Martinez Bermudez (reported to have been detained by 20 hooded men, threatened with death)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/masked-armed-men-attack-chancery-in-nicaragua-91055>



### United States - Kansas

Mary Anne Sause (retired nurse, ordered by police to cease silent prayer during a [November 22, 2013](#) search of her [Louisburg](#) home during investigation of a noise complaint; **UPDATE:** the U.S. Supreme Court reversed an appellate court decision that held she had experienced no police infringement of her right to free exercise of religion)

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/supreme-court-reverses-ruling-against-kansas-woman-told-stop-praying-in-her-home-225530/>

**Friday June 29, 2018**



### Central African Republic: Bambari

Fr Firmin Gbagoua (aged 52, said that the Seleka rebels attacked the refugees at the [Bambari](#) cathedral on [July 7, 2014](#) out of the belief that anti-balaka militia members were among them; reported on a [May 14, 2018](#) militia attack in [Bambari](#) "The population is devastated, houses burned and looted. The bodies of the victims lie on the ground"; **UPDATE:** **shot** by Fulani Muslims in his bedroom after telling them he had no money and to take his personal possessions, had been dining with friends when the assailants arrived, hospitalized, **died**)

Fr Mathieu Bondobo (reported on the murder of Fr Firmin Gbagoua, said "Nobody is protected in this country, but the church will not be silent")

Michel Roy (Caritas International Secretary General, said "The murder of Fr Firmin reflects the tragedy of the Central African Republic. The country has suffered too much. The establishment of peace and security is essential")

Bishop Nestor-Desire Nongo Aziagbia (**UPDATE:** said "When the other Fathers arrived in the room, they found Fr Firmin lying in his blood. He was hit by a bullet in his abdomen...Unfortunately, the efforts made by the medical team were not enough to save the life of our brother Firmin. The bullet which hit him in the abdomen caused a big hole in his back, at the spine. He died as a result of a hemorrhage")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/64455->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA The Catholic Church in the Central African Republic is in mourning after the murder of the Vicar General of Bambari](http://www.fides.org/en/news/64455-)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/central-african-republic-in-mourning-again-as-another-priest-killed/>

<http://cisanewsafrika.com/car-vicar-general-murdered-in-suspected-fulani-attack/>



## **Nigeria**

Bishop Augustine Obiora Akubeze (signed a statement *Shameful Inversion of Values: The Plateau Massacre* from the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria: "...the latest horrendous massacre of scores of innocent Nigerians, especially women and children, especially pregnant women, in Plateau State, by the same rampaging and murderous terrorists who now seem to be spreading without any hinderance in the Middle Belt and other parts of Nigeria...a group who clearly seem to be above the law in our country and who, by their words and actions, have insisted that human lives are worth less than the lives of cattle. This shameful inversion of values portrays our country as barbaric and our society as brutish...it can no longer be regarded as mere coincidence that the suspected perpetrators of these heinous crimes are of the same religion as all those who control the security apparatus of our country, including the President himself. Words are no longer enough for the President and his chiefs to convince the rest of the citizens that these killings are not part of a larger religious project...Once again we ask President Muhammadu Buhari to please save this country from further pain and considerable chaos, anarchy, and doom...")

Bishop Camillus Raymond Umoh (signed the statement *Shameful Inversion of Values: The Plateau Massacre* from the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria)

### **Nigeria: Gboko, Benue state**

Bishop William Avenya (reported to have said that 492 people have been killed in his state - which has a Christian majority – in 2018 so far and added “Don’t wait for the genocide to happen before intervening... Please don’t make the same mistake as was made with the genocide in Rwanda. It happened beneath our noses, but no one stopped it. And we know well how that ended...The [militant Fulani] are criminals and terrorists, but they do not do the same things in the majority Muslim areas. We are convinced that what is happening is an ethnic cleansing of Christians”)

### **Nigeria: Jos, Plateau state**

Rev Gideon Para-Mallam (**UPDATE:** said in a video appeal "Plateau state has become not just a killing field through the years, but now a land flowing with rivers of blood")

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/06/29/anti-christian-violence-in-nigeria-could-become-another-rwanda-says-bishop/>

<https://www.charismanews.com/world/71900-local-pastor-my-home-is-now-a-land-flowing-with-rivers-of-blood>  
<http://cbcn-ng.org/docs/g33.pdf>

**Saturday June 30, 2018**



**Nigeria: Gashish district, Plateau state**

Pastor Pam Chollom (reported: “Fulani people attacked our members who attended the burial of the father of one of our clergy...The armed Fulani ambushed the sympathizers on their way back from the burial, attacked and killed 34 persons from Began village, 39 others from Kufang, and 47 from Ruku Village”)

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/07/09/massive-attack-shows-true-horror-fulani-crisis/>

**June 2018, date unknown**



**Turkey: Izmir**

Pastor Andrew Brunson (U.S. citizen, husband of Norine Brunson, detained as a 'national security risk' in **Izmir** on **October 7, 2016**, denied access to U.S. diplomats, attorneys, and fellow parishioners; confirmed to be a hostage at a **September 28, 2017** press conference by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the President explicitly called for the U.S. government to exchange him for Sufi cleric and U.S. resident Fethullah Gulen;  
**UPDATE:** visited in prison **on or before June 29, 2018** by U.S. Senators Lindsey Graham and Jeanne Shaheen who have called for his release and for sanctions against Turkey if he is not)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/america-ups-the-ante-over-pastor-brunsons-detention/>



**United States - Arizona**

Two Christian artists filed suit in [May 2016](#) to block a [Phoenix](#) municipal ordinance that would require them to cater to same sex weddings; the court ruled against them in [September 2016](#); the court ruled again against them in [October 2017](#); **UPDATE: an appellate court ruled against them**

Breanna Koski

Joanna Duka

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/artists-ask-arizona-high-court-for-protection-from-law-forcing-them-work-same-sex-weddings-225899/>

## **Today's Martyrs**

**2490 Black Rock Turnpike #455**

**Fairfield CT 06825-2400**

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

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