

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – July 2018

Sunday July 1, 2018



Sudan: Khartoum

Elder Nouh Manzoul Musa (vehicles seized by NISS secret police in [2013](#); arrested on [November 25, 2014](#) for opposing the demolition of the parishioner's North Khartoum church, hundreds of church members have acted as human shields protecting the remaining buildings; **UPDATE**: summoned to NISS headquarters and interrogated after he filed a lawsuit for the recovery of his vehicles, later wrote on Facebook "I am safe, thank God for the brethren who supported me")

Amer Kodi (later replied on Facebook "May the Lord be with you and give you grace and wisdom and strength to make you climb all mountains easily")

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/07/sudan-returns-church-building-closed-four-years-ago/>



Nigeria

Zainab Bulus Bawa (aged 16, abducted in [Kugawa Kubau, Kaduna state](#) in [December 2017](#), forcibly converted to Islam, forcibly married; **UPDATE**: released)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2020/04/nigerias-kano-state-governor-converts-christian-under-age-girl-to-islam/>

Monday July 2, 2018



India: Raikashipur village, Pratapgadh district, Uttar Pradesh state

Over 400 Christians at a worship service were attacked by armed Hindu fanatics, 20 were seriously injured, 10 vehicles were destroyed along with all church instruments and electrical equipment

Pastor Ram Kumar Gautam (aged 43, husband, father, later said “I didn’t sleep or eat properly for nearly a week now...The attack on our prayer meeting last Monday has had devastating consequences. Many have serious injuries with their limbs being broken. Also, a false case was booked against six of us under stringent IPC sections”, fled the scene, pursued, escaped)

Pastor Devesh Kumar (described the attack)

Akash (hit in the head with a rod, needed 7 sutures)

Jealal Gautam (beaten, arm broken, 18 year old son hospitalized in critical condition)

Rev Sanjay Robinson (said “There is no Freedom of Religion Act, popularly known as an anti-conversion law, in place in Uttar Pradesh, yet pastors and Christian workers are being frequently harassed by Hindu hardline groups with accusations of forced conversion. The gruesome incident on Christian worshipers in Raikashipur village reflects the pattern and plot of the Hindu hardline groups”)

<https://persecutionrelief.org/blatant-brutal-attack-on-dalit-pastor-congregation-uttar-pradesh/>
<https://www.persecution.org/2018/07/09/twenty-christians-severely-injured-assault-prayer-gathering-northern-india/>



Nepal: Taplejung district

Pastor Isak Tamang (arrested on forcible conversion charges)

Pastor Dip Rai (arrested on forcible conversion charges)

Pastor Kuber Gurung (said that the charges came from their praying over the husband of a parishioner with a drinking problem and their attempt to restrain him when he became violent)

Pastor Tanka Subedi (**UPDATE**: said that the pastors could not pay the US\$4,507 fine)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/07/pressure-on-christians-heats-up-in-nepal/>



Iran: Karaj

Massoumeh Taqinejad (aged 30, mother of Artin, arrested in her home on charges of 'proselytizing Christianity' on the internet, computer and personal belongings seized)

Artin Taqinejad (son of Massoumeh Taqinejad, detained)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20180719182155.htm>

Tuesday July 3, 2018



China: Zongdian, Henan province

Shi Xinping (church fined US\$7,539 for 'organizing illegal activities without reporting to the department of religious affairs')

Zhu (said that the parishioners were reluctant to bow to government pressure to join the official church)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/07/house-church-fined-50000-yuan.html>



Thailand: Phuket

Twelve Pakistani asylum seekers - 8 Christians and 4 Ahmadiyya Muslims - were detained while on their way to work

Shahzad Masih (aged 32, husband of Najma Shahzad, father of two, detained)

Najma Shahzad (aged 28, wife of Shahzad Masih, mother of two, said "My husband went to work far away from my home so he could support my two young children and I. He works endless hours for little pay and our life has become a real mess but we accepted our situation because it was better than the dangers that faced us back in our homeland. Now I am broken and I realize this world has little hope left for my family and I, except our faith that God has something planned for us")

Sattar Masih (aged 43, husband of Margaret Sattar, father of three, detained)

Margaret Sattar (aged 40, wife of Sattar Masih, mother of three, said "Our lives have been totally destroyed both in Pakistan and Thailand. We have been treated like insects - as something in the way that has to be removed. I don't know when I will ever see my husband again and now the responsibility to bring up my three children lies with me alone. This is heart-breaking and I have not stopped crying since I heard the news of my husband's arrest. This world is unfair and Pakistani Christians are the most despised of all people yet we have harmed no-one")

Adnan Masih (aged 32, husband of Sumaira Adnan, father of Yeshhuwa and Eric, detained)

Sumaira Adnan (aged 29, wife of Adnan Masih, mother of Yeshhuwa and Eric, teacher at an underground school for the children of asylum seekers)

Yeshhuwa (aged 9, son of Sumaira and Adnan Masih)

Eric (aged 4, son of Sumaira and Adnan Masih)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/hard-working-and-exploited-pakistani-christian-asylum-seekers-arrested-in-phuket>



India: Jharkhand state

Two sisters were reported to have been beaten by their parents and neighbors after they admitted their conversion, escaped in a downpour to their Christian uncle's home who was then also beaten, all three were turned over to police who released them

Basami Kumari (convert, sister of Sarita Kumari, niece of Pastor Anup Padhan, beaten)

Sarita Kumari (convert, sister of Basami Kumari, niece of Pastor Anup Padhan, beaten)

Pastor Anup Padhan (uncle of Basami and Sarita Kumari, beaten)

Pastor Samuel Thomas (reported on the attack)

Pastor P S Mathaikutty (reported on the attack)

<https://persecutionrelief.org/sisters-pastor-beaten-jharkhand/>



United States

Austin Ruse (columnist, subjected to an FBI investigation after his tweet comparing pressure on business owners to place LGBT rainbows in their locales' windows to mafia shakedowns was reported by the Human Rights Campaign as a civil rights violation, the FBI closed the investigation as trivial, wrote that the complaint was akin to "swatting" and added "It works like this: A local restaurant is owned by a faithful Catholic who objects to the gay agenda. He does not want to put up the gay rainbow. He finds it offensive. So, he doesn't put it up. Gays notice he doesn't have the gay rainbow affixed to his window. 'Why don't you have the rainbow on your window?' they ask. 'Are you homophobic? Do you really want the local community to know about you?' You can see it spooling out from there. He is targeted by the local bully boys who proceed to make his life miserable, perhaps harming and even shuttering his business")

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/top-lgbt-group-sics-fbi-on-conservative-columnist-for-tweet>

Wednesday July 4, 2018



Philippines: General Santos

Church employees were arrested for allegedly harboring fugitives

Aldeem Yanez (arrested)

Roger Plana (arrested)

Rosemarie Cantano (arrested)

Bishop Felixberto Calang (present during the police raid on the spirituality center, said "Police claimed the people they were looking for were inside the building. They accused our staff and volunteers of aiding the people [the fugitives] named in the warrant. Those names are not known to the participants of the program. We are still helping them to secure all necessary documents and requirements and the money so that they can post bail")

Bishop Redeemer Yanez (said the arrest warrant was likely invalid: "There was no signature of the issuing judge or court. The names of the accused are unknown to all the individuals who were arrested. This is clear harassment of the church and the people who are trying to amplify the voice of the poor ")

Ritchie Masegman (decried increasing attacks on church institutions)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/philippine-authorities-arrest-church-workers-activists/82754>



Thailand

Wilson Chowdhry (British citizen; **UPDATE:** received a communication from a church leader who is anonymous for security reasons "...You are probably aware of the police 'scare' that we have a few weeks ago. It seems that several international churches were targeted one Sunday. As a consequence, we have been careful to remove all asylum seeker photos from our website and Facebook etc., and seek to keep a low profile...Thai authorities seem adamant they will remove every last Pakistani Christian asylum seekers from their midst and are becoming more aggressive as the years pass on. This targeting of churches and the raid a few days ago that took place on a public transport bus are clear indicators of their no-tolerance position...Despite clear evidence of persecution in Pakistan the western world and Thailand continue to ignore the plight of Christians who escape the country. This has left many Pakistani Christian asylum seekers stranded or re-persecuted across the globe...This latest targeting of churches who are offering help to a needy and desperate group is a new low for Thai authorities who frightening care agencies and charities who are saving lives, comforting and providing much needed resources to already broken people...If international churches in Thailand are forced to give up their

support and help which does not cost anything to the public purse, I fear the suffering of already beleaguered Pak-Christians is set to reach its lowest ebb")

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/churches-in-thailand-targeted-during-asylum-crackdown>



Kyrgyzstan

Pastor Miran (alias, convert from Islam, father of five, reported to have been jailed for six months on child abuse charges, released after the charges were dropped, fired from his job, unable to find work)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/church-of-muslim-converts-told-to-close-in-kyrgyzstan/>



Egypt: Mitry village, Beni Suef province

Fr Ermia Abdu (thanked the Muslims of his village who donated one ton of cement for a church restoration, said the Christians considered it more precious than gold)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=2184&A=35346>



United Kingdom: Ferryhill, England

Pastor Richard Smith (forced to resign as mayor after outrage over his posting of Biblical statements on his Facebook page, issued a statement: "Over recent weeks I have been subjected to unprecedented levels of adverse publicity. Whilst the instigators are very much in the minority, as evidenced by the widespread messages of support I have received, I realize that my ability to serve the people of Ferryhill in the manner I would have wished will always be subject to disruption and intimidation. To be denied the opportunity to hold personal views was never my expectation when I undertook the role of mayor, and it is a matter of sincere regret to me that those personal views have been so tragically and outrageously twisted and reported on in order to discredit both myself and my faith")

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/freedom/prayer-and-action-alert-councillor-smith-ousted-as-mayor-for-biblical-views>

Thursday July 5, 2018



China: Beijing

Senior Pastor Jin Mingri (church building landlord evicted the church under government pressure on [June 14, 2018](#), the church web site was earlier shut down by the government;

UPDATE: church gate padlocked by the government, parishioners were denied entry to retrieve belongings)

Pastor Wu Hongfei (has been "continuously insulted" by government agents)

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



India

A C Michael (member of the United Christian Forum and the Alliance Defending Freedom,

UPDATE: issued a report on religious persecution, said "About 20 episodes of violence against Christians took place every month from January until the end of May 2018")

India: Ranchi, Jharkhand state

Christian leaders responded following the arrest of a nun and orphanage staffer on human trafficking charges

Sr Concilia Baxia MC (arrested)

Sr Marie Deanne MC (arrested)

Auxiliary Bishop Telesphore Billung (**UPDATE:** said "The government is targeting our institutions to defame us...We have reports from different parts of the state about government searches. Through these search operations, the government is trying to prove that Christians and their institutions are involved in illegal activities")

Fr Peter Martin (attorney, said the Church will go to court to "end such illegal practice and harassment")

Abraham Mathai (said "It is not surprising that those malicious elements have resurfaced yet again to get the nuns arrested on dubious charges...Charging the nuns with child trafficking is wildly absurd, unreasonable and nonsensical [it is] engineered by malicious motives to bring the admirable work of Missionaries of Charity to shame and disrepute both at home and abroad")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/witch-hunt-claim-after-mother-teresa-nuns-arrest-in-india/82783>http://www.fides.org/en/news/64468-ASIA_INDIA_The_rate_of_violence_against_Christians_remains_high_a_new_Report
<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/baby-selling-scandal-used-to-malign-missionaries-of-charity-says-chief-minister-of-mother-teresas-home-state/>

Friday July 6, 2018



Vietnam: Prison Camp No. 5, Thanh Hoa province

Mary Magdelene Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Quynh (aged 39, mother of two, sentenced in [Nha Trang, Khanh Hoa province on June 29, 2017](#) to 10 years' imprisonment for anti-government internet postings, which included criticism of hospitals refusing to serve the poor; **UPDATE:** denied a Bible, began a hunger strike to protest deliberate food poisoning, harassment by fellow inmates, and use of a toilet with no privacy, in poor health)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/jailed-vietnamese-activist-on-hunger-strike/82847>



India: Ranchi, Jharkhand state

Sr Marie Deanne MC (arrested on [July 5, 2018](#) in an illegal adoption investigation; **UPDATE:** released after questioning)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/baby-selling-scandal-used-to-malign-missionaries-of-charity-says-chief-minister-of-mother-teresas-home-state/>



Nepal

Pastor De Vera Richard (husband of Rita Gongga, Philippine national, restaurant operator, deported for religious conversions, banned from the country for a year)

Pastor Rita Gongga (wife of De Vera Richard, Indonesian national, restaurant operator, deported for religious conversions, banned from the country for a year)

Pastor Tanka Subedi (**UPDATE:** spoke on the deportation of Pastors De Vera Richard and Rita Gongga “This decision of deportation of the couple is too much, especially when it comes

from the government in a democratic country like Nepal. The government allows them to do business in our country, and because they are Christians, they will certainly attend a church and participate in the community. But objections are raised by the government when they practice their faith. We have many Indian *pujaris* [Hindu temple priests] and a lot of Thai monks in Nepal, the government seems to have no problems with them, but only with Christians”)

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/07/10/two-christians-deported-nepal-forced-conversion-allegation/>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/07/pressure-on-christians-heats-up-in-nepal/>



Turkmenistan: Lebap region

Veniamin Genjiyev (aged 18, arrested for violating a court summons he had never received, the summons was 'issued' due to his refusing military service)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2400



Azerbaijan: Barda

Emil Mehdiyev (aged 18, conscientious objector, case charging him with evasion of military service opened on **January 5, 2018**; trial begun on **May 7, 2018**; motion to dismiss denied on **May 23, 2018**; **UPDATE**: found guilty, sentenced to one year's imprisonment, sentence suspended)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2408



Egypt: Membal village, Minya province

Abdo Adel (aged 43, baker, arrested on 'contempt of religion' charges after making a post to Facebook comparing Muhammad and Jesus)

Karam Youssef (relative of Abdo Adel, said “Abdo is a simple man. He works in making the church’s bread. He is a very humble man and he is loved by all the church members. He is not good at reading and writing, and he is not good at dealing with his Facebook page in the best way, which put him and the village in this crisis”)

Fr Makarios El-Kommas Antoun (posted on Facebook “We strongly denounce what was published on the Facebook page of this man, which is understood as an abuse to our Muslim brothers. We do not accept this abuse. May God protect our country from evil”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/egypt-copt-in-court-for-blasphemous-facebook-post-that-led-to-riot/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/egypt-copts-attacked-after-facebook-post-showing-contempt-of-islam/>



Ukraine: Makeyevka

Pastor Aleksandr Moseychuk (church building seized by the breakaway Donetsk People's Republic government, said "About midday, seven officials – including some with weapons – arrived and told us that our building no longer belongs to us. Despite all our persuasion and discussions, they sealed the building")

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2422



Nigeria

Rev T Y Danjuma (Christian Association of Nigeria, reported to have quoted President Buhari as stating at a recent meeting that the Fulani Muslims - the tribe to which the President belongs - are not known to carry guns)

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



Algeria: Oran

Pastor Rachid Seighir (bookstore ordered closed on [November 10, 2017](#), livelihood lost; notified on [December 27, 2017](#) that his church did not comply with the law on registration of non-Muslim places of worship; church closed on [February 19, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: church conditionally reopened)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/01/order-issued-to-close-church-building-in-oran-algeria-christian-leaders-say/>



United States - Wisconsin

Dr John McAdams (professor of political science at [Marquette University, Milwaukee](#), suspended on [December 16, 2014](#), banned from campus, and under formal investigation for defending a student's defense of traditional Christian morality on his blog; told in a letter from the university president in [March 2016](#) to retract his defense of the student who defended Christian morality, refused; brought suit against the university on [May 2, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: prevailed in a Wisconsin Supreme Court decision which stated "The undisputed facts show that the University breached its contract with Dr. McAdams when it suspended him for engaging in activity protected by the contract's guarantee of academic freedom...we reverse the circuit court and...order the University to immediately reinstate Dr McAdams with unimpaired rank, tenure, compensation, and benefits')

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/breaking-prof-fired-by-catholic-university-for-defending-marriage-has-huge>

Saturday July 7, 2018



India: Dumka district, Jharkhand state

Debjani Chatterjee (wrote a report concerning the arrest of 16 alleged [i.e., unconfirmed] Christians after 25 were held hostage by villagers for illegal conversions)

India: Neredmet area, Hyderabad, Telangana state

Pastor Ananda Rao (Bible study interrupted by a drunken Hindi, said "There was enough space for the pedestrians and vehicles to pass-by but this neighbor was heavily drunk and not in his right state of mind...The youths in the church tried to stop him from damaging the vehicles, but he attacked them also, and had himself collapsed on the road", called police, was arrested instead of the drunken man, released on bail the next day, will face up to 3 years' imprisonment if convicted, also said "We asked the police force to provide us security, as they [RSS and Bajrang Dal] are waiting for a chance to attack us. They are spreading false information that we attacked a Hindu. He was heavily drunk and out of control, we only tried to stop him from hitting the vehicles")

<https://persecutionrelief.org/the-police-in-jharkhand-claimed-that-the-16-arrested-were-associated-with-a-christian-organisation/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/08/hindu-extremist-violence-on-the-rise-in-southern-indian-states/>



United Kingdom: Glasgow, Scotland

Canon Tom White (spat upon by Protestant members of the Orange Order and lunged at by a man with a pole after Mass, parishioners verbally abused as 'Fenian bastards' and other epithets)

Archbishop Philip Tartaglia (**UPDATE:** stated “Our problem is not so much sectarianism but anti-Catholicism”)

<http://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/07/09/catholic-priest-spat-on-at-protestant-march-in-scotland/>

Sunday July 8, 2018



India: Chandanagar area, Hyderabad, Telangana state

Pastor Tekulavari Jairaju (worship service disrupted by two BJP party officials, said “They said that they are posted by the BJP to inspect the churches in this area, and asked me if we had permission to conduct church services...One asked if I had the permission from the neighbors to conduct church services. He advised me to take down their names and contact details, and told that he would return to collect the information”)

India: Bommalaramaram village, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, Telangana state

Pastor Jimmigari Devadanam (church construction halted by RSS paramilitaries, said “They issued death threats; we could not conduct a worship service also that Sunday...We purchased the land to construct the church and for the past 20 years we worshipped under a shed. With the help of some kind-hearted donors, we could collect enough funds to begin the construction work. I took permission from the village president and raised the pillars...Believers from surrounding tribal hamlets also attend the Sunday service and the shed was not enough. I secured permission for construction as well as to run the church from the officials, but it could not stop the Hindu extremists from attacking me...Even the police officers could not assure us of any help. One officer raised his voice and reprimanded me that the youths have the right to question about church services. Instead of assuring us that our rights will be protected, he strengthened them [the RSS]”)

India: Paguthampalayam village, Erode district, Tamil Nadu state

Prathiba Stephen (wife of Pastor Stephen Paul, attacked by 4 Hindu radicals while leading a prayer service in her home in her husband's absence with at least 4 elderly Christians, all were beaten, dragged into her bedroom, at least partially stripped of her clothing and

molested, beaten again later than night by the original perpetrators joined with 20 more radicals after her husband returned and again after she was dragged from an ambulance, fled on a motorbike to a nearby village for hospital treatment, followed to the hospital by the radicals who demanded that the hospital not treat the Christians but rather them for their 'injuries', refused hospital treatment, fled 75 kilometers to another hospital for treatment, the Hindu radicals later filed a criminal complaint against the Christians to counter the Christians' complaint)

Pastor Stephen Paul (same account)

<https://persecutionrelief.org/trespass-molestation-and-assult-tamil-nadu/>
<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/08/hindu-extremist-violence-on-the-rise-in-southern-indian-states/>



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 on [August 26, 2016](#); released on [October 10, 2016](#) on a US\$35,000 bail; **UPDATE**: convicted of 'acting against national security' and sentenced to 4 months' imprisonment [of which he has already served 2 months], appealed)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/iranian-pastors-son-jailed-for-acting-against-national-security/>



Sudan: Khartoum

Pastor Philemon Hassan (worship music composer, church building in [Khartoum](#) seized by the government in [August 2014](#); arrested without charge in [North Khartoum](#) on [March 14, 2016](#), released that night, rearrested the next day by the NISS secret police; **UPDATE**: church building returned, likely under foreign pressure)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/07/sudan-returns-church-building-closed-four-years-ago/>



United Kingdom: Dudley, West Midlands

Dr David Mackereth (aged 55, reported to have been fired from the National Health Service for claiming that gender has a biological basis, said "Firstly, we are not allowed to say what

we believe. Secondly, as my case shows, we are not allowed to think what we believe. Finally, we are not allowed to defend what we believe. By stating what has been believed by mankind for centuries - namely that gender and sex are determined at birth - you can come under ferocious attack. If we are no longer allowed to say that you believe sex and gender are the same and are determined at birth, everyone who holds my views can be sacked on the spot under this Act. I'm not an isolated case")

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/07/08/government-drops-doctor-says-gender-given-birth/>



Venezuela: Santa Isabel neighborhood, Barquisimeto

Fr Iraluis Jose Garcia Escobar (aged 38, **shot** in an apparent robbery, hospitalized, **died**)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/64499-AMERICA_VENEZUELA_Priest_killed_to_rob_his_van

Monday July 9, 2018



India: Bommaramaram village, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, Telangana state

Pastor Jimmigari Devadanam (**UPDATE**: again attacked by RSS paramilitaries, force to sign a declaration that agreed to cancellation of the church building permits)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/08/hindu-extremist-violence-on-the-rise-in-southern-indian-states/>



Nepal: Tehrathum district

Dinesh Subba (aged 28, arrested on **May 9, 2018**; **UPDATE**: acquitted)

Ashish Subba (aged 22, arrested on **May 9, 2018**; **UPDATE**: acquitted)

Dipak Subba (aged 28, arrested on **May 9, 2018**; **UPDATE**: acquitted)

Manatula Dhital (aged 44, arrested on **May 9, 2018**; **UPDATE**: acquitted)

Barshiya Dhital (aged 40, Indian citizen, arrested on **May 9, 2018**; **UPDATE**: acquitted)

Pawan Rai (aged 33, Indian citizen, arrested on [May 9, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: acquitted)

Pastor Tanka Subedi (**UPDATE**: said of their release “This has shown us that the legal system and court is trustworthy, but the police are not trustworthy. The way these Christians were arrested and kept in custody for 15 days is frustrating.”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/07/pressure-on-christians-heats-up-in-nepal/>



Azerbaijan: Baku

Emin Tahmazov (conscientious objector, case referred to prosecutors after he refused military service)

Azerbaijan: Quzanli

Vahid Gunduz oglu Abilov (aged 19, conscientious objector, indicted for evasion of military service)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2415



Egypt: Ezbet Sultan Pasha village, Minya province

Hany Farouk (described rioting in his village after rumors spread that a church was to be reopened “The protesters were chanting slogans against us, such as ‘We don’t want a church in our village. We locked ourselves in our homes during the demonstration because we were afraid that they would attack us. Police didn’t do anything to disperse the demonstrators and didn’t arrest anyone of them”)

Egypt: Membal village, Minya province

Girgis Shawky (aged 32, described rioting in his village that was triggered by the arrest of Abdo Adel “The Muslim extremists in our village and the nearby villages incited the Muslim villagers against us...They began pelting the Coptic-owned houses with stones and bricks, while shouting ‘Allahu akbar’ [Allah is the greatest] and chanting slogans against Copts, such as ‘We will displace you and the priest from our village, oh kafir, oh the worshipers of the cross, oh defiled people”)

Fr Makarios El-Kommas Antoun (**UPDATE**: home attacked, rioters stopped when police fired into the air)

Hany Adly (electrical-supplies shop owner, said “We lived very terrible moments while the mob were attacking our homes. Our children were screaming...All of us have stayed in our homes. We are afraid to get out to the village streets. There is a state of panic and fear among all of us here. I cannot open my shop. Despite the presence of security forces in the village, we are still receiving threats from our Muslim neighbors. They say they will

take revenge on all of us as soon as the security forces leave the village. We are afraid that they will attack us this Friday after their noon prayers”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/egypt-mob-attack-encouraged-by-police-promise-no-church-will-be-allowed-here/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/egypt-copts-attacked-after-facebook-post-showing-contempt-of-islam/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/egypt-mob-attack-encouraged-by-police-promise-no-church-will-be-allowed-here/>



Macedonia: Medzitlija, near Bitola

Archbishop Jovan of Ohrid aka Zoran Vraniskovski (aged 54, arrested on [December 13, 2011](#), at the [Bitola](#) border crossing; sentenced on [July 3, 2013](#) in [Skopje](#) to three years in prison and church property seized for alleged money laundering, charges widely viewed as resulting from his efforts to reunify the Serbian and Macedonian Orthodox Churches; released from prison on [February 2, 2015](#); retrial continued on [March 11, 2016](#), the prosecution's chief witness has disappeared, the court has continued to reschedule hearings for two months for the purpose of delay and has refused to allow the Church to use its frozen but empty bank accounts nor open new accounts; **UPDATE**: passport seized at a border crossing, prevented from leaving the country)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/passport-of-archbishop-jovan-vi-of-ohrid-confiscated/>



Nicaragua: Diriamba

Bishops were beaten by pro-government paramilitaries

Bishop Silvio Jose Baez Ortega (aged 60, **UPDATE**: punched in the stomach, arm lacerated, pectoral cross ripped from his person)

Cardinal Leopoldo Jose Brenes Solorzano (aged 69, roughed up, wrote "We were attacked with a brutal force...We have never seen anything like this in Nicaragua and it is really sad. With violence we walk along a dead end road, problems are resolved with reason and dialogue")

Archbishop Waldemar Stanislaw Sommertag (Apostolic Nuncio [Vatican Ambassador], roughed up)

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2018-07/nicaragua-church-cardinal-bishop-nuncio-attack.html>

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/bishops-attacked-by-pro-government-mob-at-basilica-in-nicaragua-71862>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/64494->

[AMERICA NICARAGUA Cardinal Brenes bishops and priests attacked inside the church Never seen anything like this in Nicaragua](#)



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**; an appellate court ruled against them in **June 2018**; **UPDATE: filed an appeal to the state supreme court**

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/>

Tuesday July 10, 2018



Philippines: Cebu

Archbishop Jose Palma (**UPDATE**: residence forcibly entered by a gunman, absent in Manila at the time, the gunman was shot dead)

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis Villarojo (said "Let the [police] process take its course")

Fr Joseph Tan (said "We enjoin everyone to pray for the soul of the deceased even as we ask the public to refrain from forming any speculations relating to this incident pending investigation by the police")

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/gunman-shot-and-killed-by-police-at-filipino-archbishops-residence-83654>

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/cebu-prelate-appeals-for-calm-following-fatal-shooting/82784>

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/gunman-shot-dead-at-bishops-residence-in-cebu/82778>



Sweden

Aideen Strandsson (convert, refugee from Iran, as of [July 28, 2017](#) has been scheduled for deportation back to Iran despite a high risk of imprisonment; still facing deportation to Iran as of [March 14, 2018](#), denied employment by the government, martial arts certificate seized by the government; no date set for the appeal of her deportation order as of [June 8, 2018](#), denied a work permit and welfare benefits; **UPDATE**: married Pastor Cai Berger)

<http://mohabatnews.com/?p=34700>

Wednesday July 11, 2018



India: Ambala, Haryana state

Kalpana (wife of Pardeep Gulati, mother of Pastor Avianshu Kalra, grandmother, home alone when a Hindu mob of 200 people surrounded her home)

Pastor Avianshu Kalra (husband of Ritu Kalra, son of Pardeep Gulati and Kalpana, father of a 4 year old son, said “My mother was all alone and was terrified. The mob was shouting, ‘Come out, we will not spare you, we will burn you’”, police persuaded the mob to leave)

India: Numgbrang village, Imphal East district, Manipur state

Pastor Kontiojam Thumkhong Meetei (reported to have received a letter from the local Youth Club ordering him and the 10 families he pastors to stop worshipping Jesus Christ and threatening ostracization if they do not comply)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/08/hindu-extremists-in-india-create-nightmare-for-pastors-family/>

<https://persecutionrelief.org/christians-ostracized-manipur/>



Turkmenistan: Yilanly, Gurbansoltan Eje district, Dashoguz province

Ikhlosbek Rozmetov (aged 20, convicted for refusing military service, sentenced to one year's imprisonment, appeal underway)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2400



Iran

Amir Sina Dashti (arrested without warrant by MOIS agents while fishing and picnicking with his wife in [Firuzkuh](#) on [August 26, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: sentenced to 4 months' imprisonment)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=4065>



Ukraine: Krasnodon, Donbass region

Pastor Vladimir Rytikov (church closed by police on [June 10, 2018](#) for failing to have proper registration, the police threatened to evict people from their homes if they moved worship services there; **UPDATE**: found guilty of conducting public events without approval, fined US\$129)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2401



Algeria: Riki, Bejaia province

Pastor Esaid Benamara (church closed by police who said it did not comply with an ordinance regulating non-Muslim worship, said the closure was “purely and simply unjustified”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/algerian-government-allows-three-churches-to-re-open-in-june-but-now-closes-another/>



United Kingdom: Ferryhill

Pastor Richard Smith (forced to resign as mayor of his town [on or about July 4, 2018](#) after outrage over his posting of Biblical statements on his Facebook page; **UPDATE**: a vote to remove him from the Town Council was defeated)

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns; **UPDATE**: spoke to the Town Council in defense of Pastor Richard Smith)

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/freedom/ferryhill-town-councils-special-meeting-an-observers-report>

Thursday July 12, 2018



Vietnam: Quang Ngai province

Pastor Dinh Diem (aged 53, arrested in [January 2018](#) for having links to a U.S. based pro-democracy group; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 16 years' imprisonment for 'attempts to overthrow the people's government')

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/vietnamese-rights-groups-condemn-inhumane-regime/82887>



India

A petition for the release of seven Christians falsely imprisoned for the 2008 murder of Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati has reached 50,000

Bhaskar Sunamajhi (husband of Debaki, father of one; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

Bijay Kumar Sunseth (husband of Pabitra Sanseth, father of six; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

Budhadeb Nayak (husband of Nilandri, father of five; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

Durjo Sunamajhi (husband of Gumili, father of five; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

Gornath Chalanseth (father of four; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

Munda Badmajhi (husband of Bandigudali, father of four; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

Sanatan Badmajhi (husband of Badusi, father of four; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

Anto Akkara (journalist, **UPDATE**: reported on the petition results)

India: Ambala, Haryana state

Pastor Avianshu Kalra (husband of Ritu Kalra, son of Pardeep Gulati and Kalpana; **UPDATE**: filed a police complaint against the mob that had surrounded his home on [July 11, 2018](#), Hindu nationalists filed a complaint against him and the rest of his family for hurting religious feelings)

Pardeep Gulati (convert, former Hindu nationalist, journalist, husband of Kalpana, father of Pastor Avianshu Kalra, grandfather, suspended from his job after the police report was filed)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/64511->

[ASIA_INDIA_Over_50_000_signatures_demanding_the_release_of_the_7_innocent_Christians_in_Orissa](#)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/08/hindu-extremists-in-india-create-nightmare-for-pastors-family/>



Iraq: Bartella

Fr Behnam Benoka (**UPDATE:** church occupied by Iraqi military forces for several hours)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20181130191449.htm>



Rwanda

The government has closed over 700 churches and has introduced legislation that would require all clergy to have four year college degrees

Jean Bosco Nsabimana (reported to have asked why the government was not closing bars and nightclubs)

Bishop Evalister Mugabo (reported to have taken steps to ally his Bible school with a university in Tanzania, said "We made this plan because we can't afford to take many pastors out of the country for study at once. We do not have enough resources, so we decided to adopt mass training from within...Most of the pastors have certificates from local Bible schools. Global missions must look at this as an emergency")

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/world/after-shuttering-700-churches-rwanda-proposes-stricter-clergy-guidelines>

Friday July 13, 2018



India: Ambala, Haryana state

UPDATE: A Christian family fled their home to avoid arrest

Kalpana (wife of Pardeep Gulati, mother of Pastor Avianshu Kalra, grandmother)

Pardeep Gulati (convert, former Hindu nationalist, journalist, husband of Kalpana, father of Pastor Avianshu Kalra, grandfather)

Pastor Avianshu Kalra (husband of Ritu Kalra, son of Pardeep Gulati and Kalpana, father of a 4 year old son)

Ritu Kalra (wife of Pastor Avianshu Kalra, mother of a 4 year old son and expecting another)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/08/hindu-extremists-in-india-create-nightmare-for-pastors-family/>



Pakistan: Harsan Kot Chak 165, Samundari district

Shan Jalal (aged 17, witnessed four armed men shooting at his church while he was hanging posters on the outside walls, ran inside to warn the youth group that was meeting at the time, two of the men followed him and shot over the heads of the youths damaging windows and the altar, ripped Bibles and shouted "God is greater", later said "We are under severe threat from the local Muslim community and they are threatening us to kill us and to destroy our houses. Many of us have not gone to work today for fear of a reprisal attack, we stay awake all night to watch over and protect our houses")

Saleem Masih (aged 36, tackled one of the shooters after the two shooters had run out of ammunition, other youth group members helped and restrained the other and called police, police arrived 30 minutes later, a female relative later doused the church and female parishioners with gasoline but was also restrained and arrested)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/shooters-shatter-altar-at-catholic-youth-meeting-threaten-arson-in-land-grab-attempt>



Uganda: Mazuba village, Namutumba district

Pastor Maseruwa Budallah (aged 55, convert, husband, father of eight, reported to have sent his children to a boarding school after they received death threats)

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



Egypt: Ezbet Sultan Pasha village, Minya province

Hany Farouk (**UPDATE:** described more rioting in which stones were thrown at the closed church and a Christian residence "They were shouting 'Allahu akbar' [Allah is the greatest] and chanting hostile slogans against Copts, such as: 'We will not allow any church to exist in our Muslim village', 'We will not allow any other prayers to be held in our Muslim village except our prayers'")

Bishop Makarios (escaped a [September 30, 2013](#) assassination attempt; **UPDATE**: issued a statement denouncing the rioting and police complicity)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/egypt-mob-attack-encouraged-by-police-promise-no-church-will-be-allowed-here/>



Burkina Faso: Bilhore village, Soum province

A pastor and his family who were abducted on [June 3, 2018](#) and reported on [June 7, 2018](#) to have been released were reported to still be in captivity, the report of their release was incorrect

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, abducted)

Sanata (daughter of Pauline Sawadogo, abducted)

Zoenabou (daughter of Pauline Sawadogo, abducted)

Baowend-Som Boena (son of Pastor Pierre Boena, said “I was away, in the northern city of Ouahigouya, when I heard the news of the release of my father on 7 June. I then travelled to Ouagadougou, with the aim of meeting them. I went first to meet with a leader of the Assemblies of God Church, who told me that there’s no doubt about the release of the hostages, as the Minister of Interior Affairs [Simon Compaore] had confirmed the news to him over the phone...On Saturday 16 June, one of the kidnappers called me on the telephone. He told me that my father and the rest other hostages are still detained in Mali and they are all in good health. When I asked him to pass the telephone on to my father, he said the hostages were elsewhere, in a camp near the Burkina border...Today we don’t know exactly what to do. I don’t know what to tell my mother again in order to calm her worries. We only rely on God and the support of the government in order to obtain the release of my father and the other hostages”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/families-left-confused-after-reported-release-of-burkina-faso-christians-turns-out-to-be-false/>



Nicaragua: Managua

Fr Erick Alvarado Cole (anti-government protesters and journalists took refuge in his church after two were killed, said “They are shooting at a church. The government says it respects human rights. Is this respecting human rights?”, pro-government paramilitaries prevented ambulances from arriving)

Fr Raul Zamora (described how he opened his church as a refuge for demonstrating college students after they came under attack by government agents: "That university is actually under my pastoral care. It is right next to our parish. I am in charge of attending to those students spiritually. I knew the students personally. I told them, ‘Come to the parish. Come to the parish. Don't stay there’...If the cross is not in our life, if we are not willing to suffer for love, then our religion just stays as something that is exterior. Just trying to do what is ritually appropriate. Our faith starts when we have that deep conviction in Jesus and his message. This is what we learned”)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/in-nicaragua-paramilitaries-attack-bishop-and-besiege-church-66759>

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/night-of-terror-inside-the-catholic-church-attacked-by-nicaraguas-paramilitary-10741>

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/07/17/bishops-pray-for-exorcism-as-anti-catholic-attacks-continue-in-nicaragua/>



Canada: New Westminster, British Columbia

Brother Ronald Brown (church sponsored teen conference on sexuality reported to have been cancelled by the local government-owned civic center after objections were raised to the speaker list and the conference name 'LGBT: Let God Be True', said the controversy over the name “shows that something is amiss in society...Is there a patent on that acronym?...Our teaching is based on the word of God, and whatever the word of God says, that’s what we’re going to be expounding...We see ourselves, the church, as a hospital, right? That’s where people who are sick and in need of help come”, has threatened a lawsuit if the cancellation is not reversed)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/church-may-sue-city-for-pulling-venue-on-lgbt-let-god-be-true-teen-con>

Saturday July 14, 2018



India: Sant Kabir Nagar, Uttar Pradesh state

Ram Sudare (convert, farmer, beaten for converting while returning from his field, hospitalized, police threatened to arrest him on forced conversion charges unless he paid them a bribe of US\$15)

Pastor Anil Kumar (**UPDATE**: reported on the attack on Ram Sudare)

India: Sangameshwar village, Siddhipet district, Telangana state

Pastor Sapa Srinivas (church demolished, said “Six years ago, we purchased the piece of land and registered it by the name Good Fruit Ministries and constructed a church. It falls on the south-west of Sangameshwar village. At least 100 believers attend the Sunday service. As most of the converts to Christianity hail from the Dalit caste, the leaders of the village ordered that the church must be demolished...They [upper-caste Hindus] have been after the church for more than three months now. Finally, they succeeded in uprooting the structures...They believe in Vastu shastra [the Hindu 'science of architecture']. According to their Vastu beliefs, Dalits [untouchables, 'those who are trampled upon'] cannot reside to the west or south-west of the village as it is considered as inauspicious or evil in Hindu mythology”)

<https://persecutionrelief.org/christian-beaten-by-religious-fundamentalists-extortion-by-police-uttar-pradesh/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/08/hindu-extremist-violence-on-the-rise-in-southern-indian-states/>

Sunday July 15, 2018



China: Beijing

Ni Yulan (aged 59, wife of Dong Jiqin, civil rights attorney, unable to walk without crutches due to police torture, disbarred; **UPDATE**: reported to have said after the government sent a questionnaire to all churches in the capital “control is more and more severe. They are preparing for further suppression by touching base and collecting information. This is only the start”)

China: Guangzhou, Guangdong province

Pastor Huang Xiaoning (**UPDATE**: reported by telephone “We had just begun when 30-40 personnel from the State Food and Drug Administration, the cultural law enforcement brigade, as well as the police came and raided the venue where we gather. We had to stop our worship. Now, I have to go with them. People from the religious affairs bureau found me to question me”, questioned and released, five or six other Christians were still in detention)

China: Xinyu, Jiangxi province

Liu (church leader of two churches, village church service interrupted by two government officials, said “They want to tear down the cross. I made it clear to them that the cross must not be dismantled. They said they didn’t mean this and asked again whether or not we could hang the national flag. Now, they have conceded...The church [downtown] unanimously opposed the cross dismantling. They asked the religious affairs bureau ‘By which law do you dismantle our cross? Law enforcement should be carried out in accordance with legal procedures.’ The authorities also said that [we] could not bring children to church, that there were policies [opposing this]. I said, ‘Your policy is in conflict with the Constitution. When the children are born, they are citizens of the People’s Republic of China, and they have freedom of belief. Children’s freedom of belief cannot be interfered with. They can follow their parents’ beliefs”)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/07/churches-across-beijing-subject-to.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/07/church-targeted-for-third-time-in-month.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/07/churches-asked-to-replace-crosses-with.html>



India: Ambala, Haryana state

Ritu Kalra (wife of Pastor Avianshu Kalra, mother of a 4 year old son and expecting another, fled her home with her family on [July 13, 2018](#) to avoid arrest; **UPDATE:** hospitalized for 5 days with complications to her pregnancy)

India: Ranchi, Gumla, Simdega, Bokaro, Jemshedpur and Khunty, Jharkand state

Prabhakar Tirkey (president of ecumenical Christian forum Rashtriya Isai Mahasangh; **UPDATE:** organized a demonstration in which 10,000 Christians formed a 20 kilometer human chain to protest anti-Christian activities, said "Catholic nuns, priests, pastors are attacked and jailed. Their institutions are searched. They are accused of every wrong that takes place in the state...It is part of an organized to plan to keep ordinary people away from Christian institutions and missionaries")

Ankita Kujur (protester, said the Hindu nationalist state government was trying to politically weaken the indigenous tribal people by dividing them into opposing Christian and non-Christian camps)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/thousands-protest-harassment-of-christians-in-india/82846>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/08/hindu-extremists-in-india-create-nightmare-for-pastors-family/>



Egypt: Ezbet Sultan Pasha village, Minya province

Deacon Ayman Samir (said “We didn’t celebrate the feast of St Karas the Anchorite on 15 July as we used to do, and to congratulate each other on that wonderful occasion. This year we were deprived of that celebration because of the current events”, namely the anti-church riots on July 9 and 13, 2018)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/egypt-mob-attack-encouraged-by-police-promise-no-church-will-be-allowed-here/>



Nicaragua

Fr Jairo Velasquez (rectory raided by police and paramilitaries, parish and personal property taken)

Nicaragua: Nindiri

Bishop Juan Mata Guevara (shot at by pro-government paramilitaries at a police checkpoint while in his vehicle, escaped injury, tires and windows destroyed, took refuge in a house and prevented from leaving by hostile government supporters for 90 minutes, returned home)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/in-nicaragua-paramilitaries-attack-bishop-and-besiege-church-66759>

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/07/17/bishops-pray-for-exorcism-as-anti-catholic-attacks-continue-in-nicaragua/>



United States - Texas

Bishop Edward J Burns (expressed thanks after a Federal appellate court reversed a district court ruling to compel the Catholic bishops of Texas to release their private emails regarding abortion, “We believe that life is sacred from the moment of conception. We also believe that we have a right to discuss in private how to address this issue and uphold the dignity of every human life, and that while upholding the sacredness of life may seem at odds with some people, our religious liberties and religious rights should not be eroded”, the bishops were not a party to the suit by abortion providers against the state law requiring funeral internment of aborted remains but had only stated they would provide free burial in Catholic cemeteries)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/federal-appeals-court-sides-with-texas-bishops-in-privacy-case-87392>

Monday July 16, 2018



India: Tamil Nadu state

P S Nehemiah Christie (**UPDATE:** said “On one side, we see the Hindu extremists barging inside the churches and attacking pastors, and the other side is what goes on behind us – in remote areas, they are burning away churches, especially those with roofs of tar sheet or coconut leaves, so fire can be spread speedily and easily, and before anybody can notice the perpetrators, they escape from the spot...The brotherhood Tamilians share irrespective of their caste or religion is today under threat, with political figures attempting to spread hatred against Christian and Muslim minorities for their political agenda. In every case of arson, the police conveniently register it as fire accident due to short circuit, and they refuse to register the suspects’ names. But in reality, it is targeted violence to create communal disharmony between the Hindus and Christians”)

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



Belarus: Minsk

Pastor Vyacheslav Novakovsky (application for church registration withdrawn in 2017 after the church landlord said he could not wait for approval; **UPDATE:** church registration denied on the grounds that their denomination was 'previously unknown' in the country)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2436



United Kingdom: London

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]; reapplied for a visa, again refused on [June 12, 2018](#); **UPDATE:** visa granted after the denials were raised in the House of Commons)

Sir Edward Leigh (Member of Parliament, raised the issue of the denials of a visa for Sr Ban Madleen in the House of Commons, the visa was then granted within hours)

Jacob Rees-Mogg (aged 49, Member of Parliament, **UPDATE:** raised the issue of the denials of a visa for Sr Ban Madleen in the House of Commons)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/07/17/home-office-finally-grants-visa-to-iraqi-nun-after-rejecting-her-twice/>



United States - Pennsylvania

Christian foster parents and Catholic Social Services sued the city of Philadelphia for its attempts to shut down their foster care program because they would not place children in same-sex households, a Federal court has denied their request for an injunction, appeal underway

Sharonell Fulton (has fostered over 40 children)

Cecelia Paul (has fostered over 100 children)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/dont-let-philadelphia-shut-down-catholic-foster-agency-appeal-says-93623>

Tuesday July 17, 2018



China: Liangwang, Shandong Province

A registered church was demolished without warning by zoning officials, three female caretakers were roughed up and their cell phones were destroyed

Gao Rongli

Zhang Siling

Li Xiangmei

[http://asianews.it/news-en/Official-church-in-Liangwang-\(Shandong\)-torn-down-because-of-new-zoning-\(photos-and-video\)-44463.html](http://asianews.it/news-en/Official-church-in-Liangwang-(Shandong)-torn-down-because-of-new-zoning-(photos-and-video)-44463.html)



India

Christians denounced calls by Hindu radicals that Mother Teresa be stripped of her government awards in the wake of an illegal adoption scandal at one of her order's orphanages

Sr Sister Mary Prema Pierick MC (Superior General, issued a statement alleging that the illegal act was perpetrated by an orphanage employee who hid her actions from the nuns, also stated that the scandal could have been avoided if the government child welfare agency acknowledged to the orphanage in writing that a child had been placed for adoption)

Bishop Vincent Barwa (**UPDATE:** said "The entire world knows the good work Mother Teresa did for humanity, especially the poor")

Fr Denzil Fernandes SJ (Executive Director of the Indian Social Institute; **UPDATE:** said the attackers "could not stomach the good work the nuns are continuing to do. It is their agenda to target the church")

Abraham Mathai (**UPDATE:** said at the most, the nuns are guilty of naivety and overtrusting people" and that media and police are "ridiculously and shamelessly" accusing them)

A C Michael (United Christian Forum; **UPDATE:** said that Mother Teresa had been granted honors for her merit and so "It is unfair to demand to take them away for the alleged wrongdoing of her nuns")

Auxiliary Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas SFX (**UPDATE:** said "What has this to do with Mother Teresa and the Bharat Ratna [award]?...There has been a lapse at the MoC home. It should have never happened. The MoCs have admitted it", alleged that the investigation was a "conspiracy behind blowing up the isolated case in the MoC home to discredit the MoCs and Christians...[the scandal cannot be seen in isolation from the several incidents in which the BJP government has been hostile to the Christian community"]")

India: Kalka Chowk, Ambala City, Haryana state

An entire family was reported to have been arrested on false forced conversion charges

Pastor Avianshu Kalra (husband of Ritu, son of Pardeep Gulait and Kalpana, father of a four year old son, arrested)

Ritu (wife of Pastor Avianshu Kalra, mother of a four year old son, has experienced complications in her current pregnancy, arrested, hospitalized)

Pardeep Gulait (husband of Kalpana, father of Pastor Avianshu Kalra, arrested)

Kalpana (wife of Pardeep Gulait, mother of Pastor Avianshu Kalra, arrested)

<https://persecutionrelief.org/pastor-and-family-booked-under-false-allegations-haryana/>

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-hindus-call-for-mother-teresas-award-to-be-revoked/82851>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/baby-selling-scandal-used-to-malign-missionaries-of-charity-says-chief-minister-of-mother-teresas-home-state/>



Turkmenistan: Danew

Veniamin Genjiyev (aged 18, arrested on [July 6, 2018](#) in [Lebap region](#) for violating a court summons he had never received; **UPDATE**: convicted for refusing military service, sentenced to one year's imprisonment, decided not to appeal)

Maksat Jumadurdiyev (aged 18, convicted for refusing military service, sentenced to one year's imprisonment, decided not to appeal)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2400



United Kingdom: Glasgow Caledonian University

Fr Mark Morris (fired as a university chaplain after offering an off campus service of reparation for a Gay Pride march)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/07/19/university-chaplain-sacked-after-holding-service-of-reparation-for-gay-pride/>

<https://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/education/university-fires-chaplain-for-views>

Wednesday July 18, 2018



Philippines

Jennifer Taborada (aged 27, widow of Ryan, mother of Prince Junior and Princess, **shot dead** apparently for leading a diocesan support group for the widows of men killed in the government's extrajudicial campaign against illegal drugs)

Bishop Pablo Virgilio David (**UPDATE**: said after the murder of Jennifer Taborada: "I feel so, so, so, so sad that I am not able to protect my flock from the wolves. Today, in utter shame and frustration, I declare I have not been a good shepherd to my flock. The wolves, they have been prowling the streets and alleys of [the Manila suburbs of] Caloocan, Malabon, and Navotas for almost two years now. They have killed hundreds already, and I am unable to protect them with my life...I will bow in shame if the Good Shepherd will denounce me as a mere hireling who remains very safe and very secure, who can get a good night's sleep in his warm bed while his sheep are being slaughtered")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/manila-prelate-bemoans-failure-to-protect-murder-victims/82867>

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/07/19/while-i-am-tucked-up-in-bed-my-flock-is-being-slaughtered-says-bishop/>



Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan

Fr Boulus Eskander Bahnam (father of Fadi Eskander, abducted in [Mosul](#) on [October 9, 2006](#); [body found](#) on [October 12, 2006](#), had been [beheaded](#))

Fadi Eskander (son of Fr Boulus Eskander Bahnam; **UPDATE**: reported to have been ordained to the priesthood)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/64547->

[ASIA IRAQ Fadi Iskander becomes a priest son of Syriac Orthodox priest martyr Boulos Iskander](#)



Turkey: Aliaga, near Izmir

Gungor Senturk (occasional church cook, denied having seen any secretive or discriminatory acts committed by Pastor Andrew Brunson “Everything was done openly. The prayers, the hymn singing, greetings between them all. There were some books, Bibles there”)

Umut Dogan (church board chairman, said he not aware of any major differences among church members of different ethnicities)

Pastor Andrew Brunson (U.S. citizen, husband of Norine Brunson, detained as a 'national security risk' in [Izmir](#) on [October 7, 2016](#); 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**: denied bail, told the judge “that they [none of the prosecution witnesses] had heard anything about the PKK [Kurdish terror organization] from my mouth...I completely reject the accusations of these witnesses against me. I greatly miss my wife and family, but my faith teaches me to forgive, so I forgive those who testified against me... There is no concrete evidence against me. The disciples of Jesus suffered in his name, now it is my turn. I am an innocent man on all these charges. I reject them. I know why I am here. I am here to suffer in Jesus’s name. It is a privilege to suffer for the sake of Christ. Blessed am I as I suffer for Him. Blessed am I as I am slandered. Blessed am I as I am lied about. And blessed am I as I am imprisoned. Blessed am I to share His suffering”)

Kristina Arriaga de Bucholz (U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom [USCIRF] Vice Chair, attorney, attended the hearing, later said “The government of Turkey continues to make a mockery of justice in its treatment of Pastor Brunson. Today I was hoping to see the judge order his complete release and put an end to the miscarriage of justice that Pastor Brunson’s entire case represents. Turkish authorities still have not provided one good reason for depriving Pastor Brunson of his liberties”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/hopes-dashed-for-release-of-pastor-andrew-brunson-as-trial-to-continue-into-october/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/brunsons-third-turkish-hearing-focused-on-pkk-allegations/>



United Kingdom: Leeds

Bishop Marcus Stock (reported to have criticized a report on religious education [RE] by a former Education Secretary and a professor “Not only are their recommendations largely incompatible within our sector, they were compiled with the knowledge that the Catholic community would find them unacceptable, this was explicitly stated in their report...Firstly, [it is wrong] that the State can impose a national RE curriculum, which would dictate what the Church is required to teach in Catholic schools. Secondly, the curriculum they suggest contains no theological content, which is at the core of Catholic RE...Catholic schools are the most successful providers of Religious Education in the country. This is because we take it seriously as a rigorous, theological academic subject. However, rather than look at the sector that does it the best they have opted for a reductionist approach which is exclusively sociological and has no consensus amongst RE professionals”)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/07/18/religious-education-report-is-an-attack-on-catholic-schools/>

Thursday July 19, 2018



Philippines: Manila

Sr Patricia Fox (aged 71, Australian citizen, visa revoked on [April 23, 2018](#); the Department of Justice ruled on [June 18, 2018](#) that the revocation of her visa was invalid; **UPDATE:** the Immigration Bureau ruled she was an 'undesirable alien' whose actions were 'inimical to the interest of the state', ordered to be deported and placed on the government blacklist barring re-entry, said she will appeal)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/philippines-orders-deportation-of-australian-nun/82875>



India

Fr Cedric Prakash SJ (**UPDATE**: condemned the July 17, 2018 attack by Hindu radicals on 79 year old Hindu reformer Swami Agnivesh and the lynching of 32 year old computer technician Mohammed Azam: "The tragedy of lynchings in India today is that they apparently have the official sanction by the Government of the day: in fact, some of the central ministers, in the recent past, have publicly anointed those responsible for these bloody murders. All this portends ill for the future of the country")

<http://www.mangalorean.com/lynching-indias-murderous-mobs-on-rampage/>



Nepal: Kathmandu

Pastor Sagar Baizu (aged 46, attacked by up to eight men in a coffee bar, "They beat me for a minute and a half and suddenly fled the site. They said, 'We will blast your church and all the churches with bombs and shoot you and all your leaders'...I just could not understand what was happening to me for about 10 minutes after the assault" due to disorientation from head injury)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/07/assault-on-christian-leader-in-nepal-reflects-growing-threat/>



Nigeria: Abuja

Fr Patrick Tor Alumuku (**UPDATE**: reported to have responded to a UN report on religious warfare in the Middle Belt states: "It is a continuous massacre that takes place every day. It has never happened, in the life of this country, that there have been such frequent massacres of this kind")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/64553-AFRICA_NIGERIA_UN_Alarm_Violence_between_farmers_and_herders_risks_turning_into_forms_of_terrorism

Friday July 20, 2018



Vietnam: Ho Chi Minh City

William Nguyen (U.S. citizen, convicted for opposing a new cybersecurity law, deported)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/vietnamese-court-imprisons-peaceful-demonstrators/82966>



Egypt: Beni Suef

Maheer Girgis Tawfiq (aged 45, husband, father of four, brother in law of George Erian, cousin of Sameh, barber, **beaten to death** by police after he made a complaint concerning threats made against him by a Muslim)

Sameh (cousin of Maheer Girgis Tawfiq, said “We headed to the morgue to see Maheer’s body and noticed some bruises on different parts of it – a blue bruise at the back of his neck, his lips turned blue, and we saw white foam coming out of his mouth. There was also blood in his pupils”)

George Erian (brother in law of Maheer Girgis Tawfiq, said A group of police officers threatened Maheer’s brothers that if they insisted that he was killed at the police station or demanded an autopsy, they would receive charges, meaning the police would fabricate charges against them...The perpetrator must be brought to a fair trial. I will not find consolation until the perpetrators are held accountable. We want to feel that we live under the rule of law, with justice and equality, and not in a state of repression within the walls of state institutions, and of bullying outside those walls”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/coptic-barber-dies-after-fainting-at-police-station-family-say-he-was-killed/>



India: Biloli village, Meerut district, Uttar Pradesh state

Rev Sumer Samuel (father of Abhinav, witnessed the beating of his son by up to 30 Hindu radicals armed with bricks, told they would return and inflict a more severe beating if he did not leave his home within 2 months, threatened with arrest when he attempted to file a police report)

Abhinav (son of Rev Sumer Samuel, beaten by up to 30 Hindu radicals armed with bricks, hospitalized for 4 days with internal injuries)

<http://persecutionrelief.org/home-invasion-reverend-son-beaten-up-uttar-pradesh/>



Cameroon: on the road between Buea and Muyuka

Fr Alexandre Sob Nougi (aged 42, pastor, diocesan education secretary, **shot dead**)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/64566->

[AFRICA CAMEROON A priest killed in the English speaking area scene of clashes with separatists](http://www.fides.org/en/news/64566-)

<http://www.africanews.com/2018/08/11/cameroon-priest-was-assassinated-stray-bullet-claim-untrue-buea-bishop/>



United Kingdom: Chichester

Steve Loha (convert, former convict, license to operate a booth selling watches and cell phone cases at an outdoor market suspended in **May 2017** after a customer complained about his evangelical activities, brought suit against the market; **UPDATE**: court ruled that his license had been illegally suspended)

<https://www.christianconcern.com/media/market-trader-steve-loha-wins-case>



Nicaragua: Monimbo, Managua

Fr Augusto Gutierrez (reported to have said “We've gotten death threats because they say we're the ringleaders of this situation, but we have been out in public because what the government of Daniel Ortega is doing is unjust. This is a genocide because there's no other name for it. Don't let us die. Please, intervene, do something...for three months the government has lashed out against the population all over Nicaragua, including Monimbo, which has remained steadfast with great courage. But now they're killing us...with heavy military weapons, they're desecrating churches and destroying lives”, in hiding)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/nicaraguan-priest-appeals-for-intervention-to-prevent-massacre-of-protesters-19074>

Saturday July 21, 2018



China: Gansu province

Two underground priests were accused of holding a youth summer camp and were sent back to their hometowns

Fr Wang Yiqin

Fr Li Shidong

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/underground-catholic-priests-removed-in-china/83025>

Sunday July 22, 2018



Philippines: Manila

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle (aged 61; **UPDATE**: spoke against the continuing extrajudicial killing of persons suspected of involvement with the illegal drug trade "Do you rejoice at the deaths of the innocent? We want to believe that you do not rejoice in their death. But there are so many of them")

Sr Patricia Fox (Australian citizen, the Immigration Bureau ruled on **July 19, 2018** she was an 'undesirable alien' whose actions were 'inimical to the interest of the state', ordered to be deported and placed on the government blacklist baring re-entry, said she will appeal; **UPDATE**: deportation suspended pending appeal)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/cardinal-tagle-laments-deaths-of-innocent-people/82899>

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/australian-nun-wins-another-reprieve-in-philippines/82913>



India: Meerut

Pastor Narendra Jacob (described 2 attacks: "The worship was disrupted in two separate incidents in Meerut. Worship at Beersheba Church of God and Eternal Hope Church, both in the city of Meerut, were disrupted by a group of Hindu radicals accompanied by police. The Christians attending the churches and the pastors were threatened by the angry mob")

India: Saharsa district, Bihar state

A worship service was disrupted by Hindu radicals, police observed the attack but did nothing

Pastor Krishnanand Yadav (husband, wife six months pregnant, father of a 14 month old daughter, locked his family in their residence during the attack, later taken by police along with his wife and 25 parishioners and questioned into the evening concerning forced conversions, taken to another police station with his family and held overnight)

Devkant (owner of the church building)

Ravin Kumar (Bible college student, beaten, hospitalized in critical condition)

Sarwan (beaten)

<http://persecutionrelief.org/police-mute-spectators-as-sunday-worship-disrupted-congregation-beaten-bihar/>

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/08/06/five-incidents-anti-christian-violence-hit-uttar-pradesh/>



Iran: Rasht

Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani (aged 39, husband of Fatema Pasindedih Nadarkhani, father of Daniel and Yoel, sentenced to death for apostasy prior to 2012; released on September 8, 2012 from prison with time served; arrested on December 25, 2012; released January 7, 2013; arrested on May 13, 2016; released on May 14, 2016; arrested on July 24, 2016; sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on June 24, 2017; **UPDATE:** attacked by police during an early morning raid on his home, incapacitated with an electroshock weapon and then beaten, arrested, transferred to Evin Prison in Teheran)

Daniel Nadarkhani (teenaged son of Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani, attacked with an electroshock weapon by police when he answered the door during an early morning raid on his home)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/iranian-pastor-taken-to-evin-prison-after-violent-raid-on-home/>



Egypt: Kom El-Loufy village, Minya province

Fr Feltaws Ibrahim (presided over the first Divine Liturgy in his new church, the construction of which was delayed for seven years by the same anti-Christian sentiments that caused the closure of the original church)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/egypt-copts-celebrate-first-mass-in-new-church-seven-years-since-last-churchs-closure/>



Nicaragua: San Rafael del Norte

Fr Noe Armando Flores (church desecrated, tabernacle stolen, found the next day in a field)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/two-churches-desecrated-in-nicaraguan-diocese-36984>



United States – Pennsylvania: Sewickley Heights Borough

A couple has been reported to have brought suit against their town after it ordered them to stop religious activities on their 35 acre farm and threatened to fine them \$500 per day, the obituary of the previous owner said the Bible studies and services had been attended for decades

Scott Fetterolf

Terri Fetterolf

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-family-sues-over-order-stop-hosting-bible-studies-church-retreats-dundee-farm-property-226297/>

Monday July 23, 2018



Vietnam: Prison Camp No. 5, Thanh Hoa province

Mary Magdelene Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Quynh (aged 39, mother of two, sentenced in [Nha Trang, Khanh Hoa province](#) on [June 29, 2017](#) to 10 years' imprisonment for anti-government internet postings, which included criticism of hospitals refusing to serve the poor; has been denied a Bible in prison, began a hunger strike on [July 6, 2018](#) to protest deliberate food poisoning, harassment by fellow inmates, and use of a toilet with no privacy, in poor health; **UPDATE**: ended her hunger strike after a visit with U.S. diplomats)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/jailed-vietnamese-catholic-activist-ends-hunger-strike/82934>



Bangladesh

Archbishop Moses M Costa CSC (**UPDATE**: condemned violence in which 7 tribal hills people were shot dead: "At least 60 percent of the [1997 peace] accord remains unimplemented, and it causes uproar and bloodshed on the hills. Some people opposed the treaty and the government didn't do enough to diminish their grievances. The government needs to take the issue more seriously, listen to locals and find an acceptable way to tackle conflicts")

Date: August 19, 2018

Location: Chittagong

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/panic-condemnation-after-killings-in-bangladeshi-hills/83120>



India: Bulandi village, Jounpur district, Uttar Pradesh state

Jai Prakash (brother of Durga Prasad Yadav, detained and questioned by police)

India: Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Bharat Lal (home invaded by Hindu radicals while hosting a training class for new pastors, said "The mob kept increasing from 20 to over 50 in just a few minute. They were shouting 'Jai Sri Ram, Jai Sri Ram [Hail Lord Ram],' and that they will not allow conversions")

Pastor Biswas Das (arrested while speaking to new pastors at the home of Pastor Bharat Lal, said "They snatched away my Bible, held me by my collar and pushed me. I did not utter a word. I was in police lock up for over six hours without food or water")

Deenanath Jaiswar (volunteer aid; **UPDATE**: said after the arrest of Pastor Biswas Das "In every case, once police receive a complaint against Christians, they grab it as an opportunity to extort money by threatening them, saying, 'Settle this outside the police station by bribing the police officers, or let them book cases and rot in jail'. Sadly, it is how most police officers are dealing with the cases against Christians...It is sad that now it has become a trend that complaints given to the police authorities are ignored, and the innocent victims are arrested basing on the complaints filed by Hindu extremists. Added to the trauma and beatings, pastors undergo imprisonment for days to weeks. They will eventually come out clean, but their families go through the most difficult phase. It is heart-wrenching that some can't even provide for themselves")

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/08/police-in-india-demand-money-to-release-falsely-accused-christians-sources-say/>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/09/hindu-extremists-accelerate-clampdown-on-christians-in-uttar-pradesh-india/>



Colombia: Cali

Archbishop Darío de Jesus Monsalve Mejia (**UPDATE**: reported to have condemned in a radio broadcast the continuing assassinations of political and social leaders including human rights defenders)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/64565-AMERICA_COLOMBIA_Archbishop_of_Cali_the_systematic_murder_of_social_leaders_and_human_rights_defenders_is_a_real_tragedy



United States – Virginia: Fredericksburg

An elderly couple was threatened with eviction from their retirement home for having conducted Bible Studies

Kenneth Hauge (semi-retired minister)

Liv Hauge

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/virginia-couple-threatened- eviction-holding-bible-study-file-complaint-hud-227921/>

Tuesday July 24, 2018



India: Telangana Nagar, Palvancha Mandel, Bhadra Sri Kothagudem district, Telagana state

A prayer meeting in a private home was disrupted by Hindu radicals, police negotiated a compromise

Parama Vinay Kumar (home invaded, threatened, beaten)

Ester Rani (mother of Ruben, beaten)

Pastor Ruben (son of Ester Rani, beaten)

India: Lalgadi Malakpet village, Telangana state

Pastor Avaru Santosh (visit with a Christian family to pray for a sick member attacked by 150 RSS paramilitaries and their Bajrang Dal youth members, said “The mob was shouting

angrily and the believers' family whom I was visiting did not allow me to go out. It continued for hours. They did not want to move from there without beating me, and it was late in the night...At around 11pm, one from the mob challenged me that he can go to church with me and so I should go to a Hindu temple with him, eat what they give to prove to him that all humans are equal. Another from the mob said, 'Today we will finish this pastor and leave only after that'...[After police arrived the RSS] issued a complaint against me in writing that I convert Hindus to Christianity by offering money, and demanded the police to register a case")

<http://persecutionrelief.org/christians-attacked-during-prayer-meeting-telangana/>
<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/08/hindu-extremist-violence-on-the-rise-in-southern-indian-states/>



Iran: Rasht

Saheb Fadaie (convert, home raided by VEVAK agents on [February 16, 2015](#); arrested on [May 13, 2016](#); sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on [June 24, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: arrested, transferred to Evin Prison in Teheran)

Mohammad-Reza Yohan Omid – aka Mehdi Reza Omid Youhan (convert, arrested on [December 31, 2012](#); sentenced to 80 lashes for drinking communion wine on [October 20, 2013](#); sentence executed on [November 2, 2013](#), was flogged; home raided by VEVAK agents on [February 16, 2015](#); arrested on [May 13, 2016](#); sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on [June 24, 2017](#); **UPDATE** arrested, transferred to Evin Prison in Teheran)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/iranian-pastor-taken-to-evin-prison-after-violent-raid-on-home/>



United Kingdom: Lambeth Borough, London

Anne Scanlan (Director of Education for the prolife group Life, reported to have protested the closure of the group's exhibit at a municipal fair, said: "Nothing on our stall was offensive. There were life-like fetal models and pictures of the unborn baby at different gestational stages which can be seen on any pregnancy website including the NHS [National Health Service])"

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/07/24/pro-life-charity-accuses-council-of-censorship-after-being-kicked-out-of-london-show/>

Wednesday July 25, 2018



China: Lincang, Yunnan province

Event: Several Christians were reported on [January 16, 2018](#) to have been sentenced to lengthy prison terms for alleged involvement in the Three Grades of Servants cult; **UPDATE:** **appeal reported to have been denied**

Ju Dianhong (sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment; **UPDATE:** appeal denied)

Liang Qin (sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment; **UPDATE:** appeal denied)

Yang Shunxiang (sentenced to between 4 and 8 years' imprisonment; **UPDATE:** appeal denied)

Zhang Hongyan (sentenced to between 4 and 8 years' imprisonment; **UPDATE:** appeal denied)

Zhang Shaocai (sentenced to between 4 and 8 years' imprisonment; **UPDATE:** appeal denied)

Zi Huimei (sentenced to between 4 and 8 years' imprisonment; **UPDATE:** appeal denied)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/07/yunnan-court-rejects-appeals-of.html>



Pakistan

Shahaan (activist, said of the national elections "Christians are extremely disappointed at this time because none of the Parties have nominated a single Christian candidate for even one seat reserved for minorities in the National Assembly. It is quite possible that their will be no representation of Christians or their concerns in the National Assembly...Because of this hard line rhetoric surrounding the blasphemy legislation [295C] Tareek-e-Insaf has gained support in the country leaving Christians insecure and doubtful about the protection of their rights should party leader Imran Khan form the government. A surprising factor contributing to this anxiety is the participation of hardcore Muslim extremist groups in the elections who are involved in Tehreek e Labaik...This is the party of Moulana Khadim Hussain Rizwi who praised Mumtaz Qadri the murderer of former governor Salman Taseer and a who also is an ardent support of 295C")

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/christians-brace-for-further-marginalization-with-zero-representation-in-the-national-assembly-as-bl>



Uzbekistan: Urgench, Khorezm region

Pastor Ahmadjon Nazarov (husband of Yelena Nazarov; **UPDATE**: home raided by police, sermons and other items seized)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2434



Iran: Rasht

Yasser Mosayebzadeh (convert, home raided by VEVAK agents on [February 16, 2015](#); arrested on [May 13, 2016](#); sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on [June 24, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: arrested, transferred to Evin Prison in Teheran)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/iranian-pastor-taken-to-evin-prison-after-violent-raid-on-home/>



Azerbaijan: Qakh

Levani Otarashvili (conscientious objector, case referred to prosecutors after he refused military service)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2415



Turkey

Pastor Andrew Brunson (U.S. citizen, husband of Norine Brunson, detained as a 'national security risk' on [October 7, 2016](#); 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**: a court ruled that he is to be released from jail and placed under house arrest; banned him from leaving the country)

Norine Brunson (**UPDATE**: acted to ensure her husband's transfer to house arrest)

Kristina Arriaga de Bucholz (United States Commission on International Religious Freedom [USCIRF] Vice Chairman, attorney; **UPDATE**: attended the hearing, stated "It is good that Pastor Brunson will have some relief after being held in a Turkish prison for more than 600 days. But it is not enough. The Turkish government has deprived this innocent man of his due process rights and liberty for too long, and it must completely release him")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/07/us-pastor-andrew-brunson-moved-from-prison-to-house-arrest-but-cant-leave-turkey/>



Colombia: Bethlehem Los Almendros neighborhood, Medellin

Fr John Fredy Garcia Jaramillo (aged 50, **killed** in an apparent robbery)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/64586-AMERICA_COLOMBIA_Another_priest_murdered_in_Medellin

Thursday July 26, 2018



India: Telangana Nagar, Palvancha Mandel, Bhadra Sri Kothagudem district, Telagana state

UPDATE: A prayer meeting in a private home was again disrupted by Hindu radicals two days after a similar event, police again negotiated a compromise

Parama Vinay Kumar (home invaded, threatened, beaten)

Ester Rani (mother of Ruben, beaten)

Pastor Ruben (son of Ester Rani, beaten)

India: Tellicherry, Kerala state

Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Pamplany (attended a youth group candlelight protest against the National Women's Commission Chairman's recommendation that the government ban confessions, said "Commission chairperson Rekha Sharma has crossed all limits by ridiculing confession and hurting the religious faith of Christians")

<http://mattersindia.com/2018/07/kerala-bishops-decry-women-commissions-call-to-abolish-confession/>

<http://persecutionrelief.org/christians-attacked-during-prayer-meeting-telangana/>



United Kingdom

Sarah Kuteh (nurse in [Dartford](#), fired in [August 2016](#) after sharing her faith with patients;
UPDATE: cleared by the Nursing and Midwifery Council to return to work as a nurse without restrictions)

<https://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/employment/victory-as-restrictions-lifted-on-nurse-who-gave-bible-to-patient>

Friday July 27, 2018



Indonesia: Jakarta

Young Christians and Muslims met for three days to discuss ways to fight persecution

Dio Saputra Christiano Manurung (said "It's time for us as young people to unite to create peace...We see human rights abuses continue, including against churches. Many Christians in some regions do not have a church to pray in")

Andre (aged 27, said "Our church is sealed but it does not limit our love for our neighbors, including Muslims")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/persecuted-indonesian-christians-muslims-strengthen-bonds/82964>



China: Hong Kong

Benedict Rogers (convert, British citizen, journalist and human rights activist, reported to have received vague threatening letters as did his neighbors and his elderly mother in England)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/issues/july-27th-2018/china-is-trying-to-bully-me-but-i-wont-be-silenced/>



India: Jangalpur village, Dongargaon Tehsil, Chattisgarh state

Pastor Thomas George (husband of Vina, reported to have been accosted by Hindu radicals while walking home, questioned and accused of forced conversion, home invaded later that evening by the same men, ordered to vacate their home, possessions thrown into the

street, police arrived and supported the radicals, arrested on forced conversion charges, denied bail until the following Monday)

Vina (wife of Pastor Thomas George, same account)

Ramdas (convert, home reported to have been invaded by the Hindu radicals while he was away, wife questioned and verbally abused)

India: Kerala state

Fr Varghese Vallikkatt (Kerala Catholic Bishops Council deputy secretary general; **UPDATE:** issued a letter after the Chair of the National Women's Commission recommended that the government ban confessions)

India: Mumbai

Ezekiel Baskar (aged 19, college student, reported to have been charged under the Black Magic Act after the parents of a classmate who converted to Christianity filed a police report, said "The girl has been tortured by her parents. We are also being threatened by a political party")

Cyril Dara (activist reported to have said "The girl follows the teachings of Jesus Christ of her own volition")

<http://persecutionrelief.org/religious-fanatics-trespass-private-property-vandalize-and-allege-conversion-chhattisgarh/>

<http://persecutionrelief.org/kcbc-protests-the-unconstitutional-recommendation-of-the-national-womens-commission/>

<http://persecutionrelief.org/fir-filed-against-sobo-student-for-black-magic/>

Saturday July 28, 2018



Nicaragua: Managua

Thousands demonstrated in support of the country's Catholic bishops after attacks on them by pro-government paramilitaries

Elma Amador (said that President Ortega "knows he's lying, he knows the bishops are not attempting a coup. He's afraid that the people have risen up, have woken up, and that's why he makes baseless accusations")

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/thousands-march-in-support-of-nicaraguan-bishops-24808>

Sunday July 29, 2018



Egypt: Saint Macarius Monastery, Wadi Natrun, Beheira province

Bishop Epiphanius (aged 64, **found dead** inside his monastery, had been beaten with a blunt object, three others were wounded)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mystery-surrounds-the-killing-of-Coptic-Orthodox-bishop-in-Egypt-44550.html>

http://www.fides.org/en/news/64592-AFRICA_EGYPT_Coptic_Orthodox_Bishop_Epiphanius_Abbot_of_the_Monastery_of_San_Macario_murdered

Monday July 30, 2018



China: Chongqing, Sichuan province

Lead Pastor Li Yang (church closed by the local Religious Affairs Bureau, posted on WeChat “They came and broke into our place, packing up and selling the church’s possessions, including books, chairs, and desks. In addition, the offering box was taken. They confiscated all things without giving us an inventory. It is impossible for us to get the stuff back”)

China: Guangzhou, Guangdong province

Pastor Huang Xiaoning (church assessed a 50,000 yuan [US\$7,685] administrative fine on **June 20, 2018**; **UPDATE**: fine upheld on appeal, said that someday the government would be held accountable for its illegal actions)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/07/after-court-hearing-government-forces.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/08/authorities-ban-chongqing-house-church.html>



Vietnam: Ben Hoa

Authorities continued to prosecute opponents of a new cybersecurity law

Tran Nguyen Duy Quang (aged 35, sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment)

Pham Ngoc Hanh (aged 45, mother of five, sentenced to 16 months' imprisonment)

Fr Joseph Nguyen Duy Tan (**UPDATE**: defended the demonstrators, said "The sentences are inhumane and take away the right to demonstration of citizens...Demonstration is good for the government to know the people's opinion")

Fr Anton Le Ngoc Thanh CSSR (**UPDATE**: said "The judges and police violated the constitution when they convicted the defendants of causing public disorder")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/vietnamese-court-imprisons-peaceful-demonstrators/82966>



India: Jharkhand state

Bishops protested the state government's use of the Anti-Terrorism Squad against church institutions including the arrest of church employees and volunteers on fabricated charges

Auxiliary Bishop Telesphore Billung (**UPDATE**: said "We are now treated as terrorists and officials of the ATS are after us as if we are involved in terrorist activities")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-state-treats-christians-as-terrorists/82954>

Tuesday July 31, 2018



Myanmar: Kachin state

Pastor Mading Zaidan Bawm Ying (youth minister, husband, beaten by border guards after he asked them to stop their destruction of villagers' homes, wife beaten, taken to an army camp and held overnight, released the next day)

Pastor Lagyi Naw Awn (youth minister, beaten, condition unknown)

Rev Dr Hkalam Samson (secretary of the Kachin Baptist Convention, described the beating of "His face was bruised. His wife was also dragged and beaten by the soldiers...We negotiated, and the pastor was released the next day. We asked the militia's leaders to make sure that the soldiers don't use guns to attack civilians in the future. So, their leaders promised that they won't do this again")

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/08/military-backed-forces-in-burma-beat-two-youth-pastors-sources-say/>



India: Sarai Gunja village, Jaunpur district, Uttar Pradesh state

Police invaded a private home without warrant, demanded money in exchange for not arresting anyone, took two Christians into custody when no money was produced

Anita Rajak (aged 31, wife of Pappu Rajak, mother of four, told police “We are praying in our own house. Why would there be an arrest for praying inside one’s own house?”, police called her a 'prostitute Christian')

Pappu Rajak (husband of Anita Rajak, father of four, arrested, called a pimp by police, beaten on the face and back while in custody, forced to sign unknown documents)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/08/police-in-india-demand-money-to-release-falsely-accused-christians-sources-say/>



Iraq

Patriarch Louis Raphael I Sako (**UPDATE**: wrote a letter to government officials and foreign diplomats which called for reforms including the disarming of sectarian militias)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/64595->

[ASIA IRAQ Chaldean patriarch to politicians a strong coalition government to re move weapons from sectarian militias is needed](http://www.fides.org/en/news/64595-)



United Kingdom: Limavady, Northern Ireland

Fr Bryan McCanny (church vandalized with graffiti with anti-Catholic paramilitary slogans, said "We never had a problem like this before. There was something very minor about five or six years ago but this is completely new to us. Parishioners are very upset about it. It's depressing that things like this should happen when we are enjoying peace. The two police officers who arrived this morning helped to clean the paint off the door")

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/catholic-church-in-northern-ireland-hit-with-sectarian-graffiti-68455>

July 2018, date unknown



Uganda: Kachiribong village, Kasasira town, Kibuku district

Sulaiman Pulisi (convert, former imam, father of Abdulmajidu and a daughter aged 13, both children abducted in retribution for his conversion)

Abdulmajidu (aged 11, son of Sulaiman Pulisi, abducted along with his 13 year old sister in retribution for his father's conversion)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/09/christian-boy-in-uganda-feared-killed-in-ritual-sacrifice/>



Nigeria: Ariri village, Plateau state

Danladi Musa (aged 45, shot in the eye by Fulani Muslim gunmen, survived)

Maiangwa Tshohu (aged 70, **shot dead**)

Nigeria: Kongo Zaria, Kaduna state

Parmata Adulkarim Misari (aged 15, abducted, forcibly converted to Islam)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/12/for-survivor-of-attack-on-christians-in-nigeria-a-lonely-christmas/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2020/04/nigerias-kano-state-governor-converts-christian-under-age-girl-to-islam/>

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