

# 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/>

**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/>

**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 two, detained)

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

<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 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](http://www.fides.org/en/news/64468-ASIA_INDIA_The_rate_of_violence_against_Christians_remains_high_a_new_Report)

**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>



## 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/>



## 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/>



## 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)

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



**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: 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/>



### **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](http://www.fides.org/en/news/64499-AMERICA_VENEZUELA_Priest_killed_to_rob_his_van)

**Monday July 9, 2018**



**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/>



**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](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>

**Wednesday July 11, 2018**



**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://persecutionrelief.org/christians-ostracized-manipur/>



**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**



## 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)

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

[ASIA INDIA Over 50 000 signatures demanding the release of the 7 innocent Christians in Orissa](http://www.fides.org/en/news/64511-)



## 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-strict-clergy-guidelines>

**Friday July 13, 2018**



**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/>



**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**



**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)

<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/>

**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”)

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



**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>



**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/>

**July 2018, date unknown**

**Today's Martyrs**

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

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