

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – September 2018

**Saturday September 1, 2018**



**Congo, Democratic Republic: Oviri-Okpe, Delta state**

Fr Christopher Ogaga (abducted, ransom demanded)

Bishop Paulinus Chukwuemeka Ezeokafor (said of the abduction of Fr Christopher Ogaga "It is unimaginable and foolhardy the demand on the Church to pay for the release of any abducted priests...where would they get the money from? These priests are going around preaching and calling for repentance. Why go after them?...Why go after those working out your salvation?")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/64735->

[AFRICA NIGERIA The Bishop of Awka after the last kidnapping of a priest Why y persecute those working out your salvation](#)

**Sunday September 2, 2018**



**China: Luohe, Henan province**

Pastor Chen Qi (church raided by police, detained after he refused to sign a document listing the church's alleged violations, other parishioners were beaten and detained when they attempted to record the raid on their phones, property seized)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/09/churches-raided-christians-beat-as.html>



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

Monday Ariki (**dismembered** in a Fulani Muslim attack)

Likita Tsi (wounded in a Fulani Muslim attack, hospitalized, **died** the following day)

**Nigeria: Du, Jos South local government area, Plateau state**

Simon Dung Zih (described a Fulani Muslim attack on shopkeepers “With my friend, we were coming from Lamingo when we saw a moving vehicle coming from Jos, the vehicle was at very high speed and that gave us concern. We continued moving towards Bukuru, and as we got to Yelwa Club, we received a call from someone, telling us that they were attacked...The person told us that some people driving in a very fast car shot sporadically on people in the community and killed many. We waited for some time before rushing to the scene of the attack, only to discover that several people were killed and some wounded. Those wounded were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment. When I went back to the scene of the attack the next morning, I counted 12 dead bodies”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/09/nigeria-dozens-more-killed-as-fulani-herdsmen-violence-continues-in-plateau-state/>

**Monday September 3, 2018**



**Brazil: Uaupes river, near Lauaete**

Fr Norberto Hohenscherer (aged 79, Austrian national, missionary, **disappeared while travelling alone on his canoe during a heavy storm**)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/64701-AMERICA\\_BRAZIL\\_Salesian\\_missionary\\_missing\\_in\\_Amazonia\\_during\\_a\\_storm](http://www.fides.org/en/news/64701-AMERICA_BRAZIL_Salesian_missionary_missing_in_Amazonia_during_a_storm)

**Tuesday September 4, 2018**



**China: Jixi, Heilongjiang province**

Chen Xiuliang (church leader, received a government notice ordering his church to close or face a fine of US\$7,454)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/09/authorities-threaten-to-fine-church-if.html>



### **Syria: Hassake province**

Archbishop Jacques Behnan Hindo (**UPDATE**: reported to have criticized the Kurdish governing authority DFNS of trying to oust Christians from the region, said "For years I have been saying that the Kurds are trying to eliminate the Christian presence in this part of Syria. Since the beginning of the year, the local government has already taken possession of about 100 state-run schools and introduced their own curriculum and textbooks. They do not want us to instruct pupils in the liturgical language, Syriac, and they do not want us to teach history because they prefer to drum their own history into the heads of pupils...To date, Kurds make up only 20 percent of the population, but, thanks to Western support, [they] are disproportionately represented in the local government. The West cannot keep silent...You are obligated to bring everything that is happening out into the open and prevent further violations of our rights and further threats to our presence in this region. We have been warning against this danger since at least 2015. They want to oust us Christians to strengthen their own presence")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20180904182856.htm>



### **Nigeria: Razat village, Kwok Ropp district, Plateau state**

Gyang (**killed** by Fulani Muslims)

Jillim (**killed**)

Lamba (**killed**)

David (**killed**)

Rebecca (**killed**)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/09/nigeria-dozens-more-killed-as-fulani-herdsmen-violence-continues-in-plateau-state/>

**Wednesday September 5, 2018**



### **China: Henan province**

Fr Stanislaus (elderly priest, reported to have complained of a government ban on the display of sacred images in church, wrote that full persecution has not yet arrived)

**China: Shihe district, Henan province**

Guo Chunmei (received a government notice of administrative punishment that fined her US\$7,304 for organizing unlawful religious events, church closed)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Chinese-priest,-the-time-of-persecution-and-betrayal-has-not-yet-arrived-44854.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/09/church-raided-amid-escalating-crackdown.html>



**India: Bulandi village, Jounpur district, Uttar Pradesh state**

**Two hundred and seventy-one [271] parishioners were accused by police under a court order of poisoning, cheating, imputations and assertions prejudicial to national integration, defiling a place of worship, outraging religious feelings, criminal conspiracy and inducing persons to believe that they will be rendered an object of Divine displeasure**

Durga Prasad Yadav (aged 45, brother of Jai Prakash, criminal complaint lodged against him on August 2, 2018, later dismissed; **UPDATE**: accused)

Kirit Rai (aged 50, accused)

Jitandra Ram (aged 40, accused)

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



**Congo, Democratic Republic**

Fr Christopher Ogaga (abducted in Ovir-Okpe, Delta state, on September 1, 2018, ransom demanded; **UPDATE**: released, no ransom paid)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/64735->

[AFRICA NIGERIA The Bishop of Awka after the last kidnapping of a priest Why persecute those working out your salvation](http://www.fides.org/en/news/64735-)



**Nigeria: Kwi village, Riyom local government area, Plateau state**

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/09/nigeria-dozens-more-killed-as-fulani-herdsmen-violence-continues-in-plateau-state/>

**Thursday September 6, 2018**



**Egypt: Dimshau Hashim village, Minya province**

Wadih Habib Henein (aged 68, **died of natural causes**, funeral held in the street after authorities closed his church)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/09/35253/>



**Nigeria: Nding Susut village, Barkin Ladi local government area, Plateau state**

James Pam (aged 34, reported on the murder of four Christians two days after a peace meeting “We thought everything was all right between us until this morning, around 6:30 AM, when we heard gunshot sounds. We later found out that the Fulani militants killed some of our youths, who were on their way to farm”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/09/nigeria-dozens-more-killed-as-fulani-herdsmen-violence-continues-in-plateau-state/>



**United States**

Denise 'D C' McAllister (columnist, under police protection after receiving death and rape threats following an anti-abortion tweet)

**United States – Texas: Dallas**

Botham Shem Jean (aged 26, youth pastor, son of Allison Jean, **shot dead** in his apartment by a police officer who mistook the apartment for her own)

<https://www.charismanews.com/us/73070-youth-pastor-shot-to-death-in-his-own-home>  
<https://www.christianpost.com/news/worship-leader-bible-teacher-shot-dead-in-home-by-police-officer-who-entered-wrong-apartment-227273/>

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-woman-hiding-amid-death-rape-threats-for-anti-abortion-tweet-227335/>

**Friday September 7, 2018**



**Pakistan: Gujranwala**

Faraz Ahmed Badar (hospital manager, attacked with acid over his entire body, hospitalized)

<https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/gujranwalas-christian-suffers-serious-injuries-in-male-acid-attack/>



**South Africa: Soweto and Zeerust**

Archbishop Buti Joseph Tlhagale (reported to have decried anti-immigration violence "Once again, we had to see media images of well dressed, well fed South Africans looting foreign owned shops, assaulting the owners, threatening them with death and leaving destruction and shattered lives in their wake...Xenophobic violence is a violation of the commandment of love")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/64718-AFRICA\\_SOUTH\\_AFRICA\\_The\\_Archbishop\\_of\\_Johannesburg\\_Xenophobic\\_violence\\_is\\_a\\_violation\\_of\\_the\\_commandment\\_of\\_love](http://www.fides.org/en/news/64718-AFRICA_SOUTH_AFRICA_The_Archbishop_of_Johannesburg_Xenophobic_violence_is_a_violation_of_the_commandment_of_love)

**Sunday September 9, 2018**



**China: Chaoyang district, 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; church gate padlocked by the government on [July 5, 2018](#), parishioners were denied entry to retrieve belongings; **UPDATE**: church ordered closed after refusing to install video cameras to facilitate government surveillance, said "I fear that there is no way for us to

resolve this issue with the authorities”, parishioners decided to hold services outdoors, personal assets frozen)

**China: Pi county, Sichuan province**

Cheng Zhangchuan (church minister, detained by officials during a raid on a church, Bibles and other books seized)

**China: Zhengzhou, Henan province**

Wang Yanfeng (cited in a government notice ordering a church to close, the government agents left the notice after 400 congregants resisted their entry into the church)

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-religion/china-outlaws-large-underground-protestant-church-in-beijing-idUSKCN1LQ07W>

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\\_pacific/group-officials-destroying-crosses-burning-bibles-in-china/2018/09/10/55d68366-b4af-11e8-ae4f-2c1439c96d79\\_story.html?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.85d16a6c4a91](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/group-officials-destroying-crosses-burning-bibles-in-china/2018/09/10/55d68366-b4af-11e8-ae4f-2c1439c96d79_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.85d16a6c4a91)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/09/locations-of-church-broken-into-forced.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/09/christians-resist-as-officials-attempt.html>



**Iraq: Basra**

Archbishop Habib Hormouz al-Naufali (**UPDATE**: appealed for prayer during an uprising against the central government: "...half the places traditionally occupied by the faithful [in the pews] were empty, because people could not reach the church because surrounding streets were closed [by the military, but it] did not stop even Muslim brothers and sisters from reaching our church to ask them for the mercy and help of God in front of what is happening...[This is a] humanitarian, social and cultural disaster. When you hear what is happening in Basra, you feel ashamed as a human being")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/64728->

[ASIA IRAQ Basra in flames The Chaldean Archbishop describes the social catastrophe of the city](http://www.fides.org/en/news/64728-ASIA_IRAQ_Basra_in_flames_The_Chaldean_Archbishop_describes_the_social_catastrophe_of_the_city)

**Monday September 10, 2018**



**Rwanda: Bannyahe, Kigali**

Grace Umutesi (aged 35, mother of four, church elder, reported to have said “I’m very disappointed by the decision of the government to close our church. But we cannot stop

to pray and praise God because our church has been closed. God is everywhere and he listens to our prayers”)

### **Rwanda: Nyamirambo, Kigali**

Esther Umohoza (walks nine miles every Sunday to worship, reported to have said “Life has become hard, especially for Christians in this country. You have to travel for a distance to seek God. But we are not going to give up on seeking God. I pray that the government revises these rules. We need churches to be everywhere so that people can pray freely...We are praying God to change the government’s mind so that they don’t completely shut down churches. We believe no leader can go against God, and if he does so, our country will be cursed”)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6914>



### **Nigeria: Umuwala, Imo state**

Fr Jude Egbom (**shot dead** during a robbery in a barbershop)

Fr Patrick Tor Alumuku (**UPDATE**: described the murder of Fr Jude Egbom "Fr. Egbom was at the barber’s when some bandits entered. We do not know what happened but at some point the criminals fired some shots, killing the priest and seriously injured a seminarian who was with him. What is striking is the total lack of respect for human life")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/64749->

[AFRICA NIGERIA Fr Jude Egbom killed during a robbery What is striking is the total lack of respect for life says a priest](http://www.fides.org/en/news/64749-)

**Tuesday September 11, 2018**



### **India: Jaunpur district, Uttar Pradesh state**

**Seven assistants to Pastor Rajender Chauhan were arrested on fraudulent conversion charges, three were released, four were held without bail**

Ratnesh Kumar

Jiyalal

Rajendra Vishwakarma

Manoj Chauhan



Pastor Rajender Chauhan (arrested in [2003](#); arrested in [2007](#); **UPDATE**: 2007 case still pending, in hiding)

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



## Nigeria

Fr Gabriel Oyaka CSSP (abducted on the [Okene-Auchi road, Kogi state](#) on [September 7, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: still missing)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/64735->

[AFRICA NIGERIA The Bishop of Awka after the last kidnapping of a priest Why persecute those working out your salvation](#)



## United Kingdom

Brian Walker (Scout leader, reported on [February 16, 2018](#) to have been dismissed as a Scout leader after writing a letter to a Scouting magazine questioning the promotion of LBGQT and Islamic events relative to Christian events, the letter was not published; **UPDATE**: reinstated, said “Scouting was started in 1908 by Sir Robert Baden-Powell, based on Christian principles, whilst welcoming those of all faiths and none. Over recent years, I have been concerned that the movement has increasingly promoted Islam above Christianity. Islam is not what has given the scouting movement its inclusive and welcoming nature...The irony is that the Chief Scout is Bear Grylls, an internationally-known Christian who is the figure-head for the Alpha Course - which specifically states that Jesus is the only way to God and that Christianity is unique! Their own Chief Scout believes this, and says this publicly, and yet, when I, as a grass roots member for 52 years, challenge the values in a letter which is not even published, I am silenced and dismissed...I am raising this case as I believe the fundamental values of Scouting are being undermined. Parents need to be made aware of what is happening at the center of Scouting, and will eventually flow out into the local groups. We need to act now to maintain and protect the values on which the movement was based”)

<https://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/freedom/scoutmaster-wins-settlement-over-christian-roots-letter>

**Wednesday September 12, 2018**



### **China: Hong Kong**

Yeung Ho-yin (church leader, wrote of the growth of persecution in China "The government is planning to tighten preaching on the internet", and also of the silence of Hong Kong churches "Do the Hong Kong churches honor God or Emperor Xi?")

Ying Fuk-tsang (divinity school director; **UPDATE**: said the government was suppressing churches "reflecting [President] Xi Jinping's ideological fight and his belief that Protestant churches threaten the Communist Party")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/china-suppresses-protestant-churches-in-several-provinces/83332>

**Thursday September 13, 2018**



### **China: Hebei province**

John (explained that the Communist Party's planned to purge religious believers from its rolls "because they now feel that they [the believers] are somewhat uncontrollable...The newly revised regulations have already interfered with human rights and religious freedom, going beyond a political party's constitution")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/chinese-communist-party-targets-members-with-religious-beliefs/83313>



### **Philippines: Manila**

#### **Church leaders responded to allegations that there were plans to destabilize the government**

Fr Jerome Secillano (**UPDATE**: reported to have said "I'm not in the intelligence community, I cannot say if such a plan really exists. This is the assurance I can give you, the church has no part in it")

Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Soncuaco Pabillo (**UPDATE**: reported to have said the destabilization allegations are "an old tune strongmen use when they land in hot water...in

a healthy democracy there should be strong opposition to abuse of power. The opposition is not to be crushed but to be engaged to arrive at best actions for the common good. The church has to speak out and warn the people of the dangers of authoritarianism")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/bishops-distance-themselves-from-duterte-ouster-plot/83317>



**India: Jaunpur district, Uttar Pradesh state**

Pastor Gulab Chand (home raided at 1:00 AM by police, arrested on fraudulent conversion charges)

**India: Karmahi village, Dharmapur block, Jaunpur district, Uttar Pradesh state**

Pastor Ravindra Maurya (church attacked by Hindu radicals during a prayer service, the mostly female congregation faced down the radicals and 'boldly' professed their faith in Jesus)

**India: Englisia village, Madiyahu, Jaunpur district, Uttar Pradesh state**

Ram Milan Gaud (church leader, severely beaten by the younger brother of the village chief, ordered to halt services in his home)

**India: Aaspur village, Devsara, Pratapgarh district, Uttar Pradesh state**

Pastor Ram Milan (arrested in his home by police along with 2 visiting pastors, all were later released, the visiting pastors were ordered to leave the state)

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



**Nigeria**

Leah Nathan Sharibu (aged 15, daughter of Nathan Sharibu, student, abducted by Boko Haram in [Dapchi](#) on [February 19, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: still in captivity because she has refused to convert to Islam)

Nathan Sharibu (father of Leah Nathan Sharibu, reported to have said “Unfortunately, since the abduction of our daughter, no government official in Nigeria has contacted us or even let us know the effort the government is making towards the release of my daughter. However, Christians across the world have been supporting us and praying with us. It has not been easy bearing the pains of missing our daughter, but the Lord has been gracious through His unmerited grace to us”)

Rev Yunusa Nmadu Jr (**UPDATE**: reported to have said “I visited the father and had discussions with him. Her mother too, was invited here at the ECWA headquarters [in Jos], and she had the opportunity to speak to a women’s fellowship group who were attending a

conference here. So, we have done what we can do to be with her family in solidarity, as we await the release of Leah...We once again are appealing that the government should speed up the efforts to get Leah released, because it's torturing to her parents and to all of us who are related to Leah, as she's still left there as the only girl, the only victim in fact, out of those that were abducted. And you can imagine that the narrative is that [she is yet unreleased] because she is a Christian. This goes a long way not to help the image of the government at this time...We have been trying as much as possible, working with other organizations in and outside the country, to raise the tempo of the campaign for her release. One such organization is Christian Solidarity Worldwide, and the office in the UK marked the 200-days campaign, which was held in front of the office of the Nigerian High Commission [Embassy] in the UK")

**Nigeria: Bolki village, Numan local government area, Adamawa state**

Rahab Solomon (later said "My husband and I went to Numan to my pick up our children around 2pm. At about 3pm, while we were on our way back home, we heard that our village was under attack and that three persons were killed. We couldn't go back home because we were told that our house was burnt. So we came to stay in this camp...The next day [September 14] we called my husband's brother and he told us that the Fulani chased our people and killed so many of them. Those who tried to run through the river were shot and many who tried to escape through the river, but could not swim, died as well, those who could swim were able to survive. We heard that over 25 bodies were recovered from the river. The exact number of people who died in the attack is yet to be known as the place is still under attack...We were told that the Fulani militants burnt down all our houses, and some women and children who hid in the farms were abducted by the Fulani. We no longer have a place to call home. Right now we are helpless")

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/09/parents-of-kidnapped-leah-sharibu-awaiting-government-action-amid-groundswell-of-support/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/09/20-nigerian-christians-drown-in-river-attempting-to-escape-fulani-attackers/>

**Friday September 14, 2018**



**India: Jaunpur district, Uttar Pradesh state**

Seven assistants to Pastor Rajender Chauhan [who is in hiding] were arrested on [September 11, 2018](#) on fraudulent conversion charges, three were released, four were held without bail;

**UPDATE: the four were released on bail, Hindu radicals attempted to disrupt the court bail hearing, media representatives actively supported the radicals**

Ratnesh Kumar

Jiyalal

Rajendra Vishwakarma

Manoj Chauhan

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



### **Nigeria: Bassa local government area, Plateau state**

Lawrence Zongo (Miango Youth Development, said of his local district “So far, we lost 27 of our people in ambush attacks from April to September 2018. The Fulani herdsmen killers have changed their method of killings and have adopted ambushing of our youths, targeting them when going back home or going to farm”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/09/nigeria-dozens-more-killed-as-fulani-herdsmen-violence-continues-in-plateau-state/>

**Saturday September 15, 2018**



### **Pakistan: Lahore**

Faraz Ahmed Badar (aged 26, son of Bibi and Badar Masih, hospital manager, reported on [September 7, 2018](#) to have been attacked in [Gujranwala](#) with acid over his entire body, hospitalized; **UPDATE: died**)

Badar Masih (aged 48, father of Faraz Ahmed Badar, said "There was a lot of jealousy at his place of employment, we live in a dog eat dog culture where often Christians become the victims because of their vulnerable status. My son was regularly abused by Muslims who could not stand the fact that a Christian man was in a position senior to them. Our country is bigoted and many most Muslims believe all Christians should be sweepers not managers, they call us 'Chura' a name that means untouchable cleaner...This is not the first time that Faraz was attacked. Only a few months previously Faraz was attacked by another group of unidentified men wearing masks telling that as a Christian he was not fit to lick their boots, they even shoved their boots in Faraz's mouth. They threatened him with death unless he left his employment telling him that his ritual impurity meant he was contaminating the health of 'pure Muslims'")

Bibi (aged 45, mother of Faraz Ahmed Badar, said "I cannot believe my innocent son was killed. He done nothing wrong barring adhering to the Christian faith. He was a committed volunteer of our church and he was nearing the age of marriage which was very exciting for our family - he did not get a chance to live a full life")

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/christian-hospital-manager-dies-after-motorcycle-acid-attack>



### **Nigeria**

Fr Louis Odudu (abducted, date unknown; **UPDATE**: escaped from captivity)

<http://dailypost.ng/2018/09/21/catholic-priest-dies-four-days-escaping-kidnappers/>



### **Nicaragua: Sutiava, Leon**

Fr Abelardo Toval (beaten and bound in his rectory by 3 hooded men, possessions stolen)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/64763-AMERICA\\_NICARAGUA\\_Priest\\_attacked\\_and\\_robbed\\_by\\_three\\_hooded\\_people\\_the\\_climate\\_is\\_always\\_tense](http://www.fides.org/en/news/64763-AMERICA_NICARAGUA_Priest_attacked_and_robbed_by_three_hooded_people_the_climate_is_always_tense)

**Sunday September 16, 2018**



### **Nigeria: Gon village, Numan local government area, Adamawa state**

Jidauna Igiya (village leader, said "...we were home with our families, we did not know that the Fulani were coming to attack us. Although we heard rumors earlier that there was a planned attack by the Fulani on Pasham and Lau villages, so we did not think they will attack us since we did not receive such messages, but at about 4pm, we heard gunshot sounds. Everybody in the village sought cover and began to run for safety, as the Fulani were shooting and burning houses...The Fulani burnt all our houses. No house is standing right now and we cannot go back to our villages. The Fulani also moved from our village to Ndumusu, from Ndumusu to Yanga, from Yanga to Bolki, and continued their attack, killing more people and burning more houses. They took away our cattle and looted our

foodstuff and property and burnt the remaining things they could not take away. Twenty-six people were killed in our village, Gon, while two others were wounded...During the attack, we tried to call security forces but none came to our rescue. We managed to put our families, children, women and old people through the bush and that is how we were able to be saved. Right now we are all scattered. Some of us are still in the bush, taking shelter around Gon north, while some of our families are in Numan and others in other villages...Most people who tried to escape through the river during the attack lost their lives as the Fulani chased them because they could not swim. It is not easy for us right now to find food to eat. We have to go to nearby villages to get food for our survival”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/09/20-nigerian-christians-drown-in-river-attempting-to-escape-fulani-attackers/>



#### **United Kingdom: HMP Brixton**

Pastor Paul Song (South Korean national, prison chaplain, told by the senior Muslim chaplain that he could no longer use the Alpha course materials due to its “extremist” nature, banned from the prison without explanation in [August 2017](#), appealed the ban; falsely accused on [September 4, 2017](#) of having called an undisclosed prisoner a 'terrorist', told that his testimony would not be allowed in his appeal; informed on [January 11, 2018](#) that his ban has been made permanent; **UPDATE**: reported to have been reinstated after another prison governor met with him and concluded that the prison was being 'not reasonable')

<https://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/freedom/pastor-paul-song-wins-return-to-brixton-prison>



#### **Colombia: Antioquia**

Pastor Elfren Martnez Prez (aged 55, husband, father of five, **shot dead** by a paramilitary group outside his home)

<https://www.csw.org.uk/2018/09/24/press/4079/article.htm>

**Tuesday September 18, 2018**



### **Niger: Bomoanga**

Fr Pierluigi Maccalli SMA (Italian national, abducted by jihadists, probably taken over the border into Burkina Faso)

Fr Mauro Armanino SMA (missionary; **UPDATE:** said "The area has been in a state of emergency for some months due to this presence of terrorists from Mali and Burkina Faso")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/64769->

[AFRICA NIGER Italian priest of the Society of African Missions kidnapped](http://www.fides.org/en/news/64769-)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/64775->

[AFRICA NIGER The Italian missionary kidnapped is probably in Burkina Faso where the jihadists are based](http://www.fides.org/en/news/64775-)

**Wednesday September 19, 2018**



### **China: Hong Kong**

Ying Fuk-tsang (divinity school director; **UPDATE:** described new government restrictions on religious use of the internet "The measures, plus the recent suppression of house churches, reveal that authorities are completely obliterating the space for house churches to publish information since the internet is the main way in which house churches preach")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/chinas-internet-rules-will-strangle-religion/83363>



### **Nigeria: Warri**

Fr Louis Odudu (abducted, date unknown; escaped from captivity on [September 15, 2018](#); **UPDATE: complained of pains, hospitalized, died**)

Fr Benedict Ukutegbe (said that Fr Louis Odudu's death was likely related to his abduction, from which he escaped only 4 days earlier: "He was pronounced dead at a private hospital in Warri, hours after he reportedly complained of pains and demanded to be taken to a hospital")



<http://dailypost.ng/2018/09/21/catholic-priest-dies-four-days-escaping-kidnappers/>

**Thursday September 20, 2018**



**Jamaica: St Catherine**

Pastor James Johnson (aged 29, **shot dead** while teaching a class at his church)

[http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/Young\\_St\\_Catherine\\_pastor\\_shot\\_dead\\_in\\_church?profile=1228](http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/Young_St_Catherine_pastor_shot_dead_in_church?profile=1228)

**Saturday September 22, 2018**



**China: Hong Kong**

Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-Kium SDB (aged 86; **UPDATE**: wrote that the recent agreement between the Vatican and the Chinese government concerning joint appointment of bishops is "A masterpiece of inventiveness in saying nothing with many words")

<https://oldyosef.hkdavc.com/?p=1071>

**Sunday September 23, 2018**



**Argentina: Barrio Larrea, Rosario**

Fr Juan Pablo Nunez (church door shot at, bullet fragments landed on the altar, the shooting came a month after he had complained about organized drug crime activities in his neighborhood)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/64816->

[AMERICA ARGENTINA Shots against the church intimidating message of the narcos](#)

**Monday September 24, 2018**



**Pakistan: Multan prison, Punjab province**

Aasiya Noreen aka Asia Bibi (aged 53, wife of Ashiq Masih, mother of five including Isham, daughter of Soran Masih, convicted of blasphemy in 2009 and sentenced to death;

**UPDATE:** still incarcerated, has begun to show symptoms of possible dementia such as memory loss and confusion, has not received medical treatment)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/pakistani-christians-raise-awareness-of-asia-bibis- plight-by-running>

**September 2018, date unknown**



**Nigeria: Gon, Bolki, Ndumusu, Yotti and Yanga villages, Numan local government area, Adamawa state**

Rev Gerison Ezekiel Killa (aged 43, husband, father of six, **drowned** along with at several others in a river while attempting to escape a Fulani Muslim attack that claimed at least 27 lives)

Bishop Stephen Dami Mamza (aged 49, Christian Association of Nigeria [CAN]; **UPDATE:** said of the [September 13-16, 2018](#) attacks "[Innocent Christians were being] killed by these so-called herdsmen on a daily basis, without security forces responding appropriately to stop them from hurting Christians...incessant attacks on Christians has led to hunger and starvation, adding that if these Christians are not aided many will die of starvation")

Solomon Faider (said the conflict has "gone on for three or four years now, without the government or anybody else finding a solution. There seems to be collusion between the military and the killer herdsmen group. Where the suspected killer herdsmen are reported to be attacking from is called Abbare. This place is just a 30 minutes' drive from Numan,

and the military have been informed of the impending attack four hours before it happened”)

Sodom Tayedi (state House Assembly member, said of the [September 13-16, 2018](#) attacks “There are soldiers camped in Abbare, yet these attackers will always mobilize from that Abbare. There is never a time they’ll attack and I don’t call security forces as member representing the constituency...I just called the Brigade Commander again and he assured me that troops are on their way to the area. We had intelligence report of the attack and reported to the paramount ruler [local chief], who always passes the same information to the security forces, but they will always come and destroy our community”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/09/20-nigerian-christians-drown-in-river-attempting-to-escape-fulani-attackers/>

## **Today's Martyrs**

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

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