

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – November 2018

Thursday November 1, 2018



China: Changsha, Hunan province

Pastor Zhang Ganghua (church vandalized by police, sign removed on [October 28, 2018](#); questioned by police for four hours on [October 31, 2018](#), told his church would be banned if it did not join the official church, lock on the church door damaged; **UPDATE**: two door lock were damaged)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/11/changsha-church-harassed-repeatedly.html>



India: Santhoshnagar, Hubli city, Karnataka state

Arjun S Hattimatur (husband, one of several Christians beaten by 100 Hindu radicals who invaded a home during a prayer meeting, suffered a serious head injury, later said “We were beaten up in the presence of the police. They were watching us like spectators. We were taken to the police station on the false charges that we were involved in the forcible conversions and the police filed an FIR [First Information Report] against us...This is the not the first time. We were attacked twice in the last few years, but then the police acted fairly and the rule of law was applied. In this case, nothing seems to be working for us as both the media and police took the side of the attackers”)

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/11/09/christian-leaders-assaulted-hindu-radicals-indias-karnataka-state/>



Congo, Democratic Republic: Kinshasa

Cardinal Laurent Monsengwo Pasinya (aged 79; **UPDATE**: resigned)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/65022->

[AFRICA D R CONGO Resignation of the Archbishop of Kinshasa and appointment of successor](#)

Friday November 2, 2018



Myanmar: Mong Pawk, Shan state

Fr Raymond Than SDB (**UPDATE:** negotiated with leaders of the United Wa State Army after they closed another church and expelled another priest and three nuns, negotiations failed)

Sr Catherine Htay (said the school had been closed)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/wa-army-expels-more-clergy-in-northern-myanmar/83835>



Pakistan

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; the Supreme Court issued a ruling on October 31, 2018 that overturned her conviction on the grounds that she had been denied presumption of innocence, ordered her immediate release, reports told of government preparations for civil insurrection; **UPDATE:** awaiting release in a secure location, reportedly 'terrified' by the anti-government violence underway as a result of the ruling, asylum requests underway but no country has yet agreed to take her and her family, media reports state that the government has caved to pressure and has placed her on the 'Exit Control List')

Wilson Chowdhry (British Pakistani Christian Association chairman, **UPDATE:** said "Asia Bibi and her entire family are in need of immediate asylum. She and her family have suffered enough, she just needs a country willing to cut through the bureaucracy. It would not do for her, after escaping hanging to die because of the tangle of red-tape! Given the often lengthy asylum process most Western embassies have to expect, her clearly established case should be prioritized - after all it has brought a whole country to a standstill, resulted in the death of two senior politicians and more individuals recently. Moreover her prolonged stay in Pakistan will inevitably cause many more deaths. It is incredulous that thus far Asia Bibi has not been granted asylum anywhere as countries remain entrenched in following immigration protocols, despite the thousands of people protesting and

demanding her death in Pakistan. Obviously she is danger and no one can deny that, she requires urgent protection now and the window of time may have already slipped away!")

Joseph Nadeem (Renaissance Education Foundation executive director, legal guardian of Asia Bibi; **UPDATE**: asylum requests underway but no country has yet agreed to take him and his family)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/government-caving-in-to-the-pressure-terror-and-lawlessness-in-pakistan-mean-asia-bibi-needs-asylum->



Egypt: on the road near St Samuel the Confessor monastery

Seven Christians were killed [six from the same family, including a 12-year old girl and a 15-year old boy] and 19 wounded in a terror attack on pilgrims

Asaad Farouk Labib Ghaly (husband, father of four, **killed**)

Kamal Yousef Shehata (**killed**)

Reda Yousef Shehata (**killed**)

Nady Yousef Shehata (**killed**)

Bishoy Reda Yousef Shehata (**killed**)

Maria Kamal Yousef Shehata (**killed**)

Bousy Milad Yousef Shehata (**killed**)

Mina Basem (aged 7, brother wounded, said "We visited the monastery and spent a wonderful time, but on our way back we were attacked by two cars who fired on us. I don't remember anything after that")

Safwat Shehata (cousin of the victims, said "The microbus driver tried to flee, but the bus was surrounded by the attackers. They killed the driver first, shooting him in the head. Then they stopped the bus completely and no one could get away. Three men and their children were killed. Only my female cousins and two children survived. Four families have been completely destroyed. Snatched away by death. [The attackers told the women] 'We will kill the men and children and leave you to live the rest of your lives in misery'")

Magda (teacher, said "Oh God, these children were students in my school! I can't imagine they are dead now!")

Mina (said "The micro-bus was from my church. The gunmen shot the men in their head and some of the injured are women. They had a nervous breakdown of what they have seen and they are in the hospital. Some women also were killed")

Kirolos (said "Who can accept these incidents? Every day, there are many incidents harming Christians. We must leave our land and get out of here. I'm so exhausted... it's so dull and dark these days")

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/11/islamist-terrorists-ambush-kill-seven-christians-near-monastery-in-minya-egypt/>

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/egypt-isis-bus-attack-coptic-survivors-recount-horrors-seeing-parents-children-killed-228471/>

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/11/02/gunmen-replicate-2017-bus-attack-egyptian-christians/>

Saturday November 3, 2018



Philippines

Sr Patricia Fox (aged 72, Australian citizen, arrested on [September 17, 2013](#), slapped and punched by police; arrested on [April 16, 2018](#) for 'illegal political activity'; released on [April 17, 2018](#) after a prosecutor found no probable cause for the arrest; visa revoked on [April 23, 2018](#); deportation suspended on [July 22, 2018](#) pending appeal; **UPDATE:** deported)

Fr Jerome Secillano (**UPDATE:** said "The faith she proclaims is not detrimental to the life of Filipinos. In fact, it is a source of hope and consolation to our suffering countrymen")

Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Soncuaco Pabillo (**UPDATE:** said "This is not the end of your story, be strong. We know that God works with us, that's why there will be more surprises. Just keep on and be courageous")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/nun-leaves-philippines-telling-church-to-fight-injustice/83794>

Sunday November 4, 2018



China: Changsha, Hunan province

Pastor Zhang Ganghua (church vandalized by police, sign removed on [October 28, 2018](#); questioned by police for four hours on [October 31, 2018](#), told his church would be banned if it did not join the official church, lock on the church door damaged; two door lock were damaged on [November 1, 2018](#); **UPDATE:** police raided his church but refused to show identification, the congregants refused to open the doors until the end of the service at which point the police entered the church and demanded identification, the congregants refused to identify themselves until the police did, the police attempted to take a man into custody but the congregants resisted, the police left after 30 minutes)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/11/changsha-church-harassed-repeatedly.html>



Cameroon: Bamenda

Rt Rev Fonki Samuel Forba (spoke with separatists after they abducted 79 children and 3 staffers from a Christian school "They don't want any ransom. All they want is for us to close the schools. We have promised to close down the schools We hope and pray they release the kids and the teachers")

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/79-presbyterian-schoolchildren-kidnapped-cameroon-near-where-us-missionary-murdered-228371/>

Monday November 5, 2018



China: Changsha, Hunan province

Pastor Zhang Ganghua (police raided his church on [November 4, 2018](#) but refused to show identification, the congregants refused to open the doors until the end of the service at which point the police entered the church and demanded identification, the congregants refused to identify themselves until the police did, the police attempted to take a man into custody but the congregants resisted, the police left after 30 minutes; **UPDATE:** church door locks were damaged)

China: Hebei province

Four underground priests were reported to have disappeared into police custody, reportedly are held in a hotel undergoing indoctrination to coerce them to join the official church

Fr Zhang Guilin

Fr Wang Zhong

Fr Su Guipeng

Fr Zhao He

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hebei,-four-underground-priests-disappear-in-police-custody-45386.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/11/changsha-church-harassed-repeatedly.html>



Vietnam: Hanoi

Church leaders protested the seizure of land that once hosted a school

Cardinal Pierre Nguyen Van Nhon

Auxiliary Bishop Laurent Chu Van Minh

Fr Alfonse Pham Hung

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hanoi-authorities-start-construction-work-archdiocesan-land-45451.html>

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/govt-construction-on-church-land-in-hanoi-meets-opposition/83834>



India

Dr John Dayal (**UPDATE:** reported to have said “Recent developments in India must disturb not just Indian citizens, but the peace-loving people of the world at large. The killing of Muslims in the garb of protecting cows, the threat to throw out Christians, closing their educational institutions and ending all conversions by changing the constitution of India are real threats... Without the economic progress it promised, the Modi government is engineering a confrontation between the religious minorities and charged sections of the Hindu majority. The targeted hate, the manner of denying sections of Muslims the protection of the law as citizens, stripping Dalits [untouchables] of the affirmative action and protection from discrimination, and the punitive persecution of small Christian communities and new followers of Christ are clear signals. The RSS [paramilitary organization] is leading the national discourse”)

India: Khannapur village, Muzafernagar district, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Surajveer Peter (aged 43, reported to have been ordered to close his church under threat of arrest, said I was so afraid. When the police came to the place where the worship was going and chased the Christians worshipers, I thought to myself, I didn't do any harm to anybody, but I was treated as a criminal by both Hindu radicals and also the police”)

India: Loksabha, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Sanjay Robinson (reported to have said “Pastors and Christian workers are terrified and worried about their survival as the attacks continue to rise in Uttar Pradesh. The trend of increased attacks will get worse as the election for the Loksabha is fast approaching”)

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/11/05/indias-christians-troubled-surge-religious-persecution/>

Tuesday November 6, 2018



Philippines: Cotabato, Mindanao

Cardinal Orlando Quevedo OMI (aged 79; **UPDATE**: resignation accepted)

Bishop Angelito Lampon OMI (**UPDATE**: appointed successor to Cardinal Orlando Quevedo)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/vatican-names-new-archbishop-for-mindanao/83810>



Nigeria: between Agbor and Umutu, Ukwani local government area, Delta state

Fr Victor Adigboluja (abducted)

Fr Anthony Otegbola (abducted)

Fr Joseph Ediae (abducted)

Fr Emmanuel Obadjere (abducted)

<https://punchng.com/gunmen-abduct-four-catholic-priests-in-delta/>

Wednesday November 7, 2018



India: Jaunpur district, Uttar Pradesh state

Dinanath Jaiswar (activist; **UPDATE**: reported to have said “Jaunpur district [Uttar Pradesh state] has emerged as the epicenter of violence against the Christian community. The frequency and intensity of the incidents took us by surprise. There were days when at least two or three incidents would be reported from different parts of Uttar Pradesh, and we would struggle on how to provide help to hapless Christians. Many a time we have had to divide our team or call more people, just so we could stand with the people who were being targeted and arbitrate with the authorities for their release...About six megachurches that were targeted by the police in Jaunpur are permanently closed since the initial attack. They have been asked to obtain permission from the district magistrate or High Court to resume church services”)

Rev Vijayesh Lal (Religious Liberty Commission national director; **UPDATE**: reported to have said “Incidents of violence and hate targeting Christians have risen to a never-before level in Uttar Pradesh. Whereas there were 50 incidents that were documented in the state of Uttar Pradesh last year as a whole, this year till [the end of] October we have already documented 64 incidents”)

A C Michael (All India Catholic Union national coordinator; **UPDATE**: reported to have said “It is a fact that the Christians living in the most populous state of India, Uttar Pradesh, are facing heightened fear of threat to their lives for practicing their faith. In one such case, on September 13 [2018], a Christian who was leading a prayer meeting was beaten up and warned of severe consequences if he continued to pray. Christians in Jaunpur are in great fear of being attacked and are not even conducting prayers in their own homes”)

India: Punjab state

Pastor Satpal Singh (church destroyed in an arson attack)

Shibu Thomas (Persecution Relief; **UPDATE**: said "In Punjab, the fanatics want to instigate sectarian violence. All this is wrong, criminals do anything against Christians, because nobody stops them. We have appealed to the government, so that it arrests the guilty. Christians should not be afraid, no religious place should be attacked. Christians everywhere are like sacrificial lambs")

P S Nehemiah Christie (Head – ADF India Tamil Nadu Legal Aid Center; **UPDATE**: said "similar incidents are common in India. Churches are vandalized and prayer meetings interrupted. All this happens in the largest democracy in the world, which in theory promotes peace. Every Indian citizen must be treated equally. It is worrying that the Hindutva ideology violates the Constitution. Attacking the Christian minority has become a habit and serves to ruin the harmony between religious communities for political advantages")

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/11/persecution-of-christians-radiates-outward-from-hub-in-northern-india-sources-say/>

[http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Punjab,-a-Pentecostal-church-burned-at-Diwali-festival-\(Video\)-45442.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Punjab,-a-Pentecostal-church-burned-at-Diwali-festival-(Video)-45442.html)

Thursday November 8, 2018



Vietnam: Thien An, Thua Thien Hue province

Monks were reported to have protested the seizure of monastery land for construction of an ancestor temple

Fr Louis Gonzaga Dang Hung Tan OSB (**UPDATE**)

Br John Nguyen Minh Sang OSB

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/benedictines-resist-unwelcome-temple-construction-in-vietnam/83815>



Pakistan: Fateh Jang Chowk, Attock

Rev Javed Johnson (reported to have complained to authorities about businesses seizing part of a Christian cemetery)

<https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/attock-encroachment-on-graveyard-land-ticks-local-christian-community-off/>



Uganda

Abdul Hamza (convert from Islam, husband [wife did not convert], father of Bwambare and Mumbere, reported to have **died from poisoning**, his widow abandoned their sons and married the suspected poisoner)

Bwambare (orphan son of Abdul Hamza)

Mumberev (orphan son of Abdul Hamza)

Rev Canon Kainja (described the conversion and poisoning of Abdul Hamza, has taken custody of his orphan sons Bwambare and Mumbere)

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/11/08/two-boys-abandoned-recently-converted-father-poisoned-uganda/>



Canada: Toronto

Cardinal Thomas Collins (**UPDATE:** said “The time for review of the federal euthanasia law is upon us, and there is great pressure to eliminate the so-called ‘safeguards’ which made it seem to be not so terrible. One such safeguard is that euthanasia is to be only for adults. Now we hear arguments made that the concept of ‘adult’ is to be made so elastic that even minors are to be eligible for euthanasia, even without the consent of their parents. The cold shadow of euthanasia is spreading further in our land”)

<http://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/11/11/resist-the-cold-shadow-of-euthanasia-says-cardinal-collins/>

Friday November 9, 2018



China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Bishop Peter Shao Zhumin (underground bishop; **UPDATE**: abducted by police reportedly for "10 or 15" days of interrogation and indoctrination)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Wenzhou's-bishop-Shao-Zhumin-taken-by-police-45439.html>



Bangladesh: Gulta Adibashi

Nikhil Khaka (Bangladesh Christian Association president, complained of sexual assaults against Christian women: "We want an exemplary punishment for [secondary school principal] Abdur Satar. We know that he has abused many girls in the past, but none have dared to report. Christians appear weak and can be easily persecuted")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bangladesh,-tribal-Catholics-molested-and-raped.-The-attackers-remain-unpunished-45450.html>



Nigeria

Four priests abducted on **November 6, 2018 were rescued by police**

Fr Victor Adigboluja

Fr Anthony Otegbola

Fr Joseph Ediae

Fr Emmanuel Obadjere

<https://punchng.com/kidnapped-four-catholic-priests-regain-freedom/>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/65068->

[AFRICA NIGERIA The four priests kidnapped in southern Nigeria have been released thanks to the police force](#)



United Kingdom

Paul Woolley (Bible Society official, produced a 3 minute Bible Society film on British soldiers' use of the Bible in World War One, a theater chain refused to show it because it was religious)

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns; **UPDATE:** criticized a theater chain for refusing to show a 3 minute Bible Society film on British soldiers' use of the Bible in World War One: “Bans on Christian films have a chilling effect on free speech. These bans are preventing Christians from promoting the Bible or Christianity, even with historical facts reading of famous passages. It is a matter of historical fact that British soldiers were issued with Bibles and that many found comfort from the text. The denial of any religious advertising amounts to an enforcement of a secular perspective. Anything challenging secularism is silenced. This is not how a free society functions”)

<https://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/freedom/cinemas-reject-ww1-bible-society-short-film>



United States – California: University of California at Berkeley

Isabella Chow (aged 20, business and music student, student government senator, reported to have abstained in a vote regarding a resolution condemning a Federal government proposal to recognize gender as only male and female and based on the gender identified at birth, wrote “As a Christian, I personally do believe that certain acts and lifestyles conflict with what is good, right and true. I believe that God created male and female at the beginning of time, and designed sex for marriage between one man and one woman. For me, to love another person does not mean that I silently concur when, at the bottom of my heart, I do not believe that your choices are right or the best for you as an individual”, over 1,000 students signed a petition for her recall, the student newspaper refused to print a letter from her that further explained her position)

<https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/UC-Berkeley-campus-senator-abstains-from-a-vote-13378621.php?t=bd81bb94a4#photo-16472734>

Saturday November 10, 2018



United Kingdom

Keri Gibbs (British-Pakistani Christian Association, criticized the British government for not offering asylum for freed Pakistani blasphemy victim Asia Bibi but noted that 100,000 British Muslims had signed a petition that called for her execution, and so commented that "perhaps this [lack of an asylum offer] is more thoughtful than it first appeared and a kindness after all")

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/judicial-review>

November 2018, date unknown

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

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