

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: Agra, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Ravi Kumar (arrested on [October 30, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: released on bail)

Pastor Anil B Lal (bailed out the arrested Christians, said “It was a very well-planned attack...It is the conspiracy of Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council, an affiliate of the RSS paramilitary organization] that they want to threaten us and instill fear in us”)

India: Odisha state

Pastor John Lakra (convert, husband, father of three, attacked by hundreds of Hindu extremists while taking his 18 month old son to the hospital emergency room on [October 23, 2018](#), the extremists were motivated by a derogatory message about a Hindu goddess that had been sent from his cell phone, doused with gasoline, charged with 'promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion' and 'criminal intimidation' after RSS paramilitaries complained to police, denied bail; **UPDATE**: released on bail after the Central Bureau of Investigation found evidence that his cell phone and social media account had been hacked)

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/>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/11/hindu-extremist-mob-tries-to-burn-pastor-alive-in-odisha-state-india/>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/12/attack-on-private-gathering-in-northern-india-typifies-hindu-extremist-strategy/>



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_appointme
nt_of_successor](http://www.fides.org/en/news/65022-)

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>



India: Bhadupura, Tajganj area, Agra, Uttar Pradesh state

Joshua Gupta (son of Pastor L D Gupta, threatened by Hindu radicals with death if his father did not close their 25 year old church, police took no action)

Pastor L D Gupta (father of Joshua Gupta, threatened with death)

India: Tetua, Bihar state

Pastor Bangali Das (father of Sunil Kumar, beaten for holding an open air religious service, said "Through my preaching, many men and women from the Manjhi caste accepted Jesus and they offered me an open place to conduct worship. We built a 'mutt' [a thatched hut without any walls] and started worshipping under the neem trees. Our fellowship grew to 200 and more people. The Manjhis migrate to work in the brick kilns on a seasonal basis in October and November months. So the strength of the church varies from time to time. The fanatics didn't like this open place worship, so they attacked and beat me...Two men caught me and began to rain blows on me with their hands. I got hurt in my chest very badly and my arm was injured. They threw me on the ground and beat me until I became unconscious", hospitalized for three days, has suffered from a severe headache)

Sunil Kumar (son of Pastor Bangali Das, said his father would resume his ministry once he had recovered from his beating)

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/11/27/pastor-brutally-beaten-leading-open-air-worship-services-india/>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/12/attack-on-private-gathering-in-northern-india-typifies-hindu-extremist-strategy/>



Nepal: Butwal

Four Christians were arrested for distributing Christian literature

Yasura Owa (Japanese citizen, deported)

Makihikula (Japanese citizen, deported)

Pushpa Ghimire

Tirthamaya Ghale

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/11/church-in-nepal-forced-to-shut-down/>



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 Peter 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: Khannupur 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: Abuja

Christian leaders met with President Muhammadu Buhari to report that the military has been aiding the Fulani Muslim attacks on Christians

Rev Dachollom Datiri (**UPDATE**: said that 646 Christians in Plateau state alone had been killed and 38,000 displaced from March through October 2018, added “The narrative has been that these people are killed by unknown gunmen, or suspected herdsmen, or that there have been farmer-herders clashes. All these are deceptive narratives deliberately framed

to conceal the truth and continue to perpetrate the evil. After the attacks, it is the Fulani herders that settle and graze their cattle on the farms of the victims. The proficiency and mode of operation in all of these attacks, as testified by the surviving victims, leaves us in no doubt of the complicity of the military being used as hired mercenaries by the Fulani militias. On this, we are disappointed, and sadly so, that the government has not delivered on her constitutional responsibility of protecting lives and property. Are we to believe that the armed forces sent to keep peace go with the instructions to protect them? The implication is that they protect the aggressors and leave the victims mercilessly helpless...Your excellency, in the last 18 years, COCIN [Church of Christ in Nigeria] as a denomination has suffered destruction of lives and property more than any church or any community. The devastation in terms of massacre of lives and destruction of property is unimaginable. Pastors and members in their thousands have been killed in cold blood, either shot dead or slaughtered like animals or burned to death. Houses and businesses have been burned or looted and farmlands have been destroyed. And yet, despite the huge government intervention in that area, very little relief has come to COCIN and her members, if any. We are aware that a lot of government intervention in terms of relief material has gone to the northeast. Unfortunately, our members in that zone have been left out of the distribution. We have also suffered heavy losses in Taraba, Benue, Nasarawa, Kaduna states. Even on the day you visited Jos in March and launched the Peace Roadmap, your excellency, lives were being massacred in Bokkos and Bassa local government areas. And in June [2018], over 300 people, about 350, were massacred, slaughtered in cold blood over a period of three days in Barkin Ladi and Riyom local government areas. Since then, almost on a daily basis, people are either ambushed and shot dead or attacked in their homes and killed in cold blood or killed on their farms”)

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://morningstarnews.org/2018/11/in-meeting-with-president-pastors-in-nigeria-say-military-complicit-in-attacks-on-christians/>

<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>



Nepal: Butwal

Four Christians were arrested on November 4, 2018 for distributing Christian literature; UPDATE: the two not deported were released

Pushpa Ghimire

Tirthamaya Ghale

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/11/church-in-nepal-forced-to-shut-down/>



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 Mumberev)

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



Kosovo: Pristina

Br M S (Serbian citizen, denied a temporary residency renewal after having been told he had been approved, appeal underway)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/kosovo-institutions-threaten-serbian-monks-and-nuns-with-deportation/>



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>



India: Gandhari village, Kamareddy district, Telangana state

Pastor U Kristudasu (father of S Hanok, beaten by over 100 Hindu radicals while clearing an area to build a house, hospitalized for 3 days, said "I doubted if we would survive with the kind of brutality I have seen and experienced. When my son came to my rescue, the attention was shifted onto him and he was brutally attacked with punches and beatings. He is still not normal with all the internal pains and bruises even after more than two weeks since the incident. We will continue to stay and serve God as long as God enables us. We are so shattered as a family, but honored to suffer for the Jesus. Please pray for us")

S Hanok (son of Pastor U Kristudasu, beaten, hospitalized for 3 days)

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/11/26/pastor-son-brutally-attacked-mob-indias-telangana-state/>



Nigeria

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

Fr Victor Adigboluja

Fr Anthony Otegbola

Fr Joseph Ediae

Fr Emmanuel Obadjere

<http://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



China: Guangzhou, Guangdong province

Pastor Huang Xiaoning (**UPDATE**: detained for 5 days, fasted and prayed)

Fr Francis Liu (reported on the detention of Pastor Huang Xiaoning)

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/11/13/pastor-guangzhou-house-church-detained/>



Congo, Democratic Republic: Mayimoya

Christians were targeted and killed by Muslim 'Allied Democratic Forces' militants

Rev Kausa Kaule Yosua (father of Masika, **shot dead**, grandchild missing)

Masika (aged 27, daughter of Rev Kausa Kaule Yosua, hacked with machetes and then **shot dead**)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/11/two-pastors-among-seven-killed-by-islamist-militants-in-eastern-drc/>



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>

Sunday November 11, 2018



India: Tajganj area, Agra, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Mahesh Chand (orphanage raided by 15 RSS paramilitary members and police during an annual function, demanded the RSS members leave but invited the police to stay to verify that no conversions were underway)

Pastor Anil B Lal (**UPDATE**: called a police supervisor to come to the orphanage who determined that no conversions had taken place)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/12/attack-on-private-gathering-in-northern-india-typifies-hindu-extremist-strategy/>



Egypt: Cairo

A Muslim described as mentally ill entered a church and beat two Christians with an iron rod while shouting 'God is greater'

Ehad (said “The media uses words which don’t reveal the truth. Now we have discovered that that this was a young man, not an old one. Also, he was holding a Koran and sharp tool [while] injuring some people on their heads. The media’s role is to reveal the reality and not to hide information to make the Copt calm down”)

Majeed (said “It’s too awful. I can’t imagine that we should adapt to these incidents. Lies and lies and lies...I’m sure that this criminal will not be punished”)

Hani (said “Mentally ill, what?! How the media manipulates us!”)

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/11/15/violent-intruder-disrupts-cairo-church-injuring-two/>



Congo, Democratic Republic: Boyikene

Christians were targeted and killed by Muslim 'Allied Democratic Forces' militants

Pastor Josias Kapanga Katembo (aged 44, husband of Rebecca, father of four, abducted along with five other Christians including two of his children, later **found dead**)

Rebecca (aged 34, wife of Pastor Josias Kapanga Katembo, attempted to flee during the attack, **killed**)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/11/two-pastors-among-seven-killed-by-islamist-militants-in-eastern-drc/>



United States – Ohio: North Royalton

Deacon Dennis Lucak (aged 72, husband of Helen Lucak, **shot dead** in his home, son charged)
Helen Lucak (aged 72, wife of Deacon Dennis Lucak, **shot dead** in her home)

<https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/oh-cuyahoga/son-charged-in-connection-with-the-death-of-his-parents-inside-north-royalton-home>

Monday November 12, 2018



Nepal: Gulariya, Bardiya district

Four Christians were arrested for distributing Christian literature

Sweta Manandhar

Shreejan Manandhar

Tej Bahadur Shahi

Dal Bahadur Taruna

Katiya Graham (Australian citizen, sent to Kathmandu for deportation)

Pastor Hari Prasad Regmi (reported on the arrests)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/11/church-in-nepal-forced-to-shut-down/>

Tuesday November 13, 2018



Myanmar

Rev Lazarus (**UPDATE**: reported that 17 male Bible students had escaped from the United Wa State Army: "Some them did not have food for several days. Some are suffering health problems and some now have psychological problems. They can't go back to their homes in the Wa hills, so we are arranging them to continue attending Bible school elsewhere. We are concerned for the remaining [24] students, especially the [20] women, and we are continuing to call for their release through different channels")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/bible-students-escape-from-china-backed-militia-in-myanmar/83861>



South Sudan: Cueibet

Fr Victor-Luke Odhiambo SJ (aged 62, Kenyan citizen, college principal, **shot dead** in his home)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/jesuit-priest-killed-in-south-sudan-89506>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/65098->

[AFRICA SOUTH SUDAN The first Kenyan to become a Jesuit has been killed
A great teacher and an example for all of us says Fr Sosa](#)



Niger

Jeffery Woodke (aged 57, missionary, U.S. citizen, abducted on **October 14, 2016** from **Arcata** by armed men who forced him to strip to his underwear, guard and housekeeper killed;

UPDATE: still in captivity)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/11/nigeriens-call-for-jeff-woodkes-release-2-years-after-his-abduction/>

Wednesday November 14, 2018



Australia: Canberra

Senator Barry O’Sullivan (said after a pro-abortion advocate told him to keep his rosaries off of her ovaries “These people come and attack me for my religion...using words like ‘rosary beads’, because I had the audacity to raise issues around late-term abortions, where babies who are only minutes away from getting a smack on the ass and a name, are being aborted under the policies of the Australian Greens. So I will not stand silent, I will not stand mute while these people try to continue to marginalize policies and ideas that we want to continue to discuss for this nation...It is despicable, the behavior of these people, for them to come in here with the freedom that they do, and that vomit, that vitriol that comes out of their mouths, it needs to be called out”, added that he would accept reassignment as a woman so he could be permitted to comment on abortion)

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/11/20/australian-pro-life-senator-declares-himself-female-so-he-can-speak-out-on-abortion/>



India: Uttar Pradesh state

Sajan K George (Global Council of Indian Christians president; **UPDATE:** reported to have said "In Uttar Pradesh an evil religious and sectarian division is taking place. In view of the 2019 elections, every effort is aimed at polarizing voters. The question of Ram Mandir [Ram temple in Ayodhya] is exploited to mount nationalist sentiment and religious conversions are used to divide the majority against the vulnerable Christian minority...intolerance and suspicion are creating problems of public order. Every day pastors are beaten and prayers interrupted. Unfortunately all this happens in secular India, where Christians are second-class citizens")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Uttar-Pradesh,-Christians-investigated-for-'forced-conversions'-.But-it's-a-fake-news-45473.html>



Ukraine: Dzhankoi. Crimea

Sergei Viktorovich Filatov (aged 46, criminal case opened by the Russian FSB for membership in an illegal religious organization, could face a 10 year sentence if convicted)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2432



United States – Illinois: Wheaton College

Ryan Bomberger (Radiance Foundation, attacked in an email by student government leaders as having caused an ‘unsafe’ environment after giving a presentation entitled “Black Lives Matter In and Out of the Womb”)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/christian-college-students-claim-black-pro-lifers-talk-made-people-of-color>

Thursday November 15, 2018



China: Kowloon, Hong Kong

Cardinal Emeritus Joseph Zen Ze-Kium SDB (aged 86; **UPDATE**: presided at a Mass in memory of Fr Wei Heping [aka Fr Pedro Yu Heping], who was found dead in a river in Taiyuan, Shanxi province on November 8, 2015, said Fr Wei was a martyr and saint who "led many people to be priests, became integrated with church members and went to very poor places to be with the most loyal people of God, and those people are the most simple as the seeds enter their heart immediately blooming and bearing fruit...People who know him will never believe he would commit suicide because a hero will not commit suicide")

Charles Tsang (said Chinese authorities had not given a proper account of Father Wei's death so "we can hardly believe that the Chinese government will treat the religious freedom guaranteed by the constitution in good faith")

Maria Lee (said of Father Wei's death "It is a terrible thing", said of the lack of Vatican interest in his death: "This kind of silence...helps the wicked perpetuate wicked deeds. How can the Chinese government respect our beliefs? I hope they will act to show us they defend the values of faith and freedom of religion")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/catholics-hold-memorial-for-hero-chinese-priest/83891>



India: Gohana town, Mau district, Uttar Pradesh state

Fr Vineet Vincent Pereira (aged 43, elderly residents of his ashram attacked by Hindu Yuva Vahini [youth force] members, said "When I objected, they beat me. One pulled me down holding my hair and dragged out. Then they hit me left and right", arrested by police when an attacker charged him with rioting and disturbing the peace, released on bail)

Fr John Abraham (said that Fr Vineet Vincent Pereira was very popular with 1,500 Christ Bhaktas [devotees of Christ]: "None of them have become Christians, but they follow Christian spiritual values")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/hermit-priests-popularity-brings-attack-from-hindu-hardliners/83892>



Pakistan: 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 on [November 8, 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; **UPDATE:** in hiding with her family in a secure location, subject of a police inspector general report that she and other Christians are the targets of currently planned terror attacks)

Wilson Chowdhry (Chairman of the British Pakistani Christian Association; **UPDATE:** stated "Asia Bibi has been at a high risk of attack the entire duration of her case and the potential for her to be killed in Pakistan is reaching an apex. The police leak of sensitive information is a clear indication of the corruption from within and their lack of professionalism and does nothing to inspire confidence. Weakness in the security services around Asia Bibi's detail continue to alarm us. The Police Inspector General has now ostensibly confirmed that Asia Bibi is still in Punjab which could make it easier to locate her...I have no faith in the Pakistani Security forces who failed in their protection of Benazir Bhutto, Salmaan Taseer and Shahbaz Bhatti...The threat continues to be imminent and this will not change as long as she is in Pakistan. Every minute she remains there she became a lightning rod for not only terrorists trying to kill her, but for her possible neighbors who would feel it their civic and religious duty...This situation is untenable...")

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/threat-alert-issued-by-punjab-police-inspector-general>



Ukraine: Dzhankoi. Crimea

Aleksandr Ursu (aged 78, home one of eight raided by Russian FSB agents and OMON riot police, pushed against a wall, fell on his knees, handcuffed, at another residence the wife suffered a miscarriage)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2444



Central African Republic: Alindao

The Muslim UPC [United for Peace in Central Africa] militia attacked refugees and a cathedral, killing over 100

Fr Blaise Mada (**killed**)

Fr Celestine Ngoumbango (**killed**)

Bishop Cyr-Nestor Yapaupa (saved lives by ordering people to not take refuge in the cathedral - which was ultimately burned - but rather to flee and hide in the savanna, remained after the attack with three priests)

Fr Donald (witnessed the murder of Fr Blaise Mada and Fr Celestine Ngoumbango)

Bishop Juan Jose Aguirre Munos MCCJ (Spanish citizen; **UPDATE:** reported on the killing of the priests and the destruction of the cathedral: "Do not stop to denounce the massacre of Christians. Ask yourselves why this happened...The event that triggered the massacre was the killing of a Nigerian mercenary of the UPC, a few days ago. The members of the UPC are Peuls who come mostly from neighboring countries like Niger. The UPC, born from a division of Seleka, has been in Alindao for 5 years, in the west of the city. The Catholic mission is in the east, where the camp for displaced people for non-Muslims is located, which welcomes about 26,000 people...The reprisal was terrible. The men of [UPC leader] Ali Darassa assaulted, looted and set fire to the displaced camp and killed women and children, they burned down the cathedral where they killed the two priests. Immediately after the UPC mercenaries allowed groups of young Muslims of the western part to enter the eastern part of Alindao and looted the Bishop's residence and burned the presbytery and the center of Caritas. I saw some photos. What remains of these structures are only the limed walls...Everybody [from NGOs] left except Mgr Cyr-Nestor Yapaupa, Bishop of Alindao, and three priests who wanted to remain close to the population. I spoke with them, they are exhausted, but they had the strength to bury the two priests and the 42 people massacred in the camp. I believe that tomorrow, Cardinal Dieudonne Nzapalainga, Archbishop of Bangui, intends to go to Alindao...As soon as the attack began, the Mauritan Blue Helmets [peacekeepers] of MINUSCA withdrew to their base. Bear in mind that the rules of engagement of some contingents such as Mauritania, Egypt and Pakistan, have an agreement with the UN on the basis of which they respond to armed assaults only if attacked directly. Therefore the Blue Helmets were completely ineffective. Other contingents such as that of Rwanda have rules of engagement on the basis of which they intervene to defend the population when there is a sign of an attack against them...we cannot limit ourselves to denouncing these massacres. We need to get to the bottom of what is happening in Central Africa. Groups like the UPC are made up of foreign mercenaries who have occupied parts of our territory for 5 years. They are paid by some Gulf countries and led by some neighboring African states. They enter Chad through Birao with weapons sold to Saudi Arabia from the United States. They want to divide Central Africa by fueling hatred between Muslims and non-Muslims. In this way they take advantage to plunder the riches of Central Africa, gold, diamonds, and cattle. But above all, some foreign and non-African countries want to use Central Africa as a gateway to enter the Democratic Republic of Congo and the rest of the continent, manipulating radical Islam. This is the game that is behind the massacre of Alindao")

Fr Frederico Trincherio OCD (**UPDATE:** later said "The massacre occurred in front of the inertia of the UN contingent that has the mandate to protect civilians. Among the victims, in addition to women, children and elderly people, there are also two priests: Fr Celestin and Fr Blaise. The courage of the young Bishop of Alindao, His Exc Mgr Cyr-Nestor Yapaupa, prevented the toll from being even heavier. Instead of welcoming people, who wanted to find refuge inside the Cathedral, he ordered everyone to flee to the savannah. If the Christians had not obeyed him, the number of dead would have been even higher. The Bishop, however, and some priests decided to remain...A few days after the events, we participated in a meeting of priests in Bangui. Fr Donald is present, who had just arrived from Alindao. For some weeks Fr Donald had been sent to help the diocese of Alindao. Donald has not yet had time to learn how to be a priest, but he has already seen two of them die before his eyes...The students in front of me are the future priests of Central

Africa. They saw the war and now they are in the Seminary of Bangui because they want to do the same job as Celestin and Blaise. I ask them if they still want to continue the journey undertaken and if they are aware of the high-risk mission that awaits them. [Seminarian] Odilon answers for everyone: 'I am scared, mon pere. I am so scared. But I will not change my mind. I still want to become a priest. I would like to tell Donald that I am afraid too. But no desire to change jobs'...This 2018, where five priests and dozens of Christians were killed during the celebrations or near their churches, gives us a Church that is still young and fragile, but does not run away from the enemy")

Cardinal Dieudonne Nzapalainga (**UPDATE**: later reported on the attack that killed more than 60 including two priests and the destruction of the cathedral: "it was the start of a war for positioning. In the talks with the armed groups those with the most men will have the control of a higher number of areas and therefore be able to ask for ministries, money...Alindao is completely under the control of the UPC. The attack was planned, organized. I think these are moves to take position in view of dialogue with the state and the international community...The Bishop of Alindao said that in the most recent group of aggressors there were men who did not speak Sango, the official language, or French. This means they are mercenaries who come to steal diamonds, gold or livestock, anything that can be sacked...[people fled to Ndakoto], a village of only 15 homes, 7 km away. The villagers were not able to provide shelter for 26,000 people. After a week people were dying of starvation. On 23 November the World Food Program sent four trucks. You should have seen how the people threw themselves on the food. In the first few days I saw people scratching the ground for a grain of rice...We have become the soft belly of the region and I fear we will end up being its garbage dump")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/65114->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA There is huge interest behind the massacre of Alindao says the Bishop of Bangassou](#)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/65196->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA Alindao Massacre At least 60 killed but who knows how many more lie dead in the undergrowth says Cardinal Nzapalainga](#)

Friday November 16, 2018



Indonesia

Grace Natalie (aged 36, politician, former television journalist, accused of blasphemy after criticizing laws that prohibited socializing with persons of the opposite sex)

Petrus Selestinus (attorney; **UPDATE**: defended Grace Natalie)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/christian-politician-in-indonesia-accused-of-blasphemy/83914>



China

Rev John Cao San Qiang (husband of Jamie Powell, father of two sons, U.S. resident, minister to Myanmar Christians, arrested [at the Myanmar border with China](#) on [March 5, 2017](#) and charged with illegal border crossing; sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment in [Pu'er, Yunnan province](#) on [March 23, 2018](#), fined US\$3,168; **UPDATE:** still in prison, health declining, has lost 50 pounds)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/11/aclj-releases-petition-to-free.html>



Thailand: Bangkok

Adnan Masih (aged 32, husband of Sumaira Adnan, father of two, Pakistani asylum applicant, detained in [Phuket](#) on [July 3, 2018](#) while on the way to work; **UPDATE:** still detained)

Sumaira Adnan (aged 29, wife of Adhan Masih, mother of two aged 4 and 9, Pakistani asylum applicant, as of [July 3, 2018](#) has worked as a teacher at an underground school for the children of asylum seekers; detained with her two sons on [October 9, 2018](#); **UPDATE:** released on bail with her children, said "I don't know about when we will leave but we are refugees so hopefully soon we will find a new country. We need your prayers. We can't return to Pakistan because it is very dangerous, the Pakistan police have arrest orders against my husband and our lives will be in danger. This is why we ran from Pakistan to Thailand where the UNHCR has declared us refugees...Inside the Immigration Detention Center the conditions are very bad. The people who are being held have no food, no money, no proper clothes, and no proper place to sleep. Many women with their children are kept together in one room without proper water and no space to move, when I think about that I feel depressed and I cry...Pak-Christians in IDC they have many health problems because inside there is no clean drinking water, as a result almost everyone held in IDC has a throat infection and most people have fever and itching. These are the most notorious health and sanitation concerns inside IDC...When I was arrested there were almost 60 to 70 kids total, but as of right now almost all refugee women have posted bail, so right now inside the IDC where there are only people with cases that are closed there are 15 or 16 children still in IDC...I do not believe the Thai government are directly trying to be mean to the kids and guards sometimes will even play with them...They are not deporting anyone forcefully but the horrible conditions can make living in detention, especially with a family very hard so some people gone back of their own accord, almost 20 families whose cases have been closed have left already and other are waiting for their tickets")

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/bangkok-bail-out-of-refugees-is-slow-as-thai-police-continue-their-hardline-purge-of-pakistani->



India: North Sentinel Island, South Andaman district, Andaman and Nicobar Islands territory

John Allen Chau (aged 26, U.S. citizen, missionary, **killed by native tribesmen** after illegally making contact with them)

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-46286215>



Nepal: Palpa

Pastor Tufani Bhar (aged 53, reported to have forced to end his ministry after Hindu leaders forced the closure of his church and prohibited him from visiting private homes, said “I was too disappointed to see the Christians scared and thus did not go last week, on November 10 [2018]. The Hindu-Brahmins are resorting to every method possible to scare us, threaten us and not let us meet...Before there was no persecution, but [Hindu extremist group] Shiv Sena from India has been working among the Nepalese people and radicalizing them. They want Nepal to become a Hindu nation, but we have all religions in our country, and not just Hinduism”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/11/church-in-nepal-forced-to-shut-down/>



Iran: Mashhad

Behnam Ersali (convert, arrested)

Davood Rasooli (convert, arrested)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=4121>



United States – Colorado: Denver

Archbishop Samuel Aquila (defied by administrators at Regis University after writing their “guidance is not in conformity with the Catholic faith, despite the attempts made to justify it as rooted in Jesuit values. On the contrary, Pope Francis has repeatedly decried

the promotion of gender fluidity as a type of ideological colonization...Why is Regis University promoting and teaching an ideology that is contrary to what we know from the Scriptures?")

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/catholic-university-defends-drag-show-transgender-policies-in-defiance-of-a>

Saturday November 17, 2018



Australia

Luke and Carla Burrell (shut down their wedding magazine due to an advertising boycott following their refusal to feature same sex couples)

<https://whitemag.com/blog/official-statement/?q=%2Fblog%2Fofficial-statement%2F&v=7516fd43adaa>

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/australian-wedding-magazine-forced-to-shut-down-after-christian-owners-refuse-to-feature-gay-couples.html>



Vietnam: Hanoi

Cardinal Peter Nguyen Van Nhon (**UPDATE**: resignation due to age accepted)

Bishop Joseph Vu Van Thien (**UPDATE**: named Archbishop of Hanoi)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/65117->

[ASIA_VIETNAM_Resignation_of_Metropolitan_Archbishop_of_Ha_Noi_and_appointment_of_successor](http://www.fides.org/en/news/65117-ASIA_VIETNAM_Resignation_of_Metropolitan_Archbishop_of_Ha_Noi_and_appointment_of_successor)



Niger: Makalondi

Fr Vito Girotto SMA (forced to abandon his mission after the [September 18, 2018](#) abduction of Fr Pierluigi Maccalli; **UPDATE**: reported on a jihadist attack on a police checkpoint near a mission, two policemen were killed and their weapons taken)

Fr Pierluigi Maccalli SMA (Italian national, abducted in [Bomoanga](#) on [September 18, 2018](#) by jihadists, probably taken over the border into Burkina Faso; **UPDATE**: still in captivity)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/65112-AFRICA_NIGER_New_jihadist_attack_near_the_mission_of_Makalondi

Monday November 19, 2018



Indonesia: Jayapura, West Papua

Fr Neles Tebay (Papuan Peace Network coordinator, criticized the arrest of more than 100 peaceful pro-independence protestors "I would have thought such an assembly would have been fine so long as they didn't pose a threat to security")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/over-100-pro-independence-activists-arrested-in-papua/83911>



Pakistan

Adeel Patras Chaudhry (vice president of "Jesus Life TV", received the police inspector general report stating that Asia Bibi and other Christians are the targets of currently planned terror attacks, said "Christians will pay close attention and act with caution in the organization of gatherings and celebrations at Christmas time. We pray for the protection of the faithful and also of the security forces, committed to our protection. We are aware of the delicate situation and collaborate with the police and with the Government")

Pakistan: Peshawar

Rt Rev Sarfarz Humphrey Peters (**UPDATE:** received the police inspector general report stating that Asia Bibi and other Christians are the targets of currently planned terror attacks, said "We know it is a critical moment. Christians in Pakistani have trust in the security forces. We will continue to carry out our role in society, in full cooperation with law enforcement and government")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/65113-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Police_warn_Christians_danger_of_terrorist_attacks



Uzbekistan: Namangan region

Ravshan Yunusov (arrested along with six others during a police raid on a home during a meal and Bible study, Bibles, computers, and other materials seized, released the next morning)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2431



Rwanda: Kigali

Archbishop Thaddee Ntihinyurwa (preached in [Cyangugu](#) against the massacres of Tutsis on [April 10, 1994](#), then travelled to [Nyamasheke](#) in an attempt to stop an attack against Tutsis in a church; tried to evacuate three religious brothers from [Cyangugu](#) on [April 10, 1994](#) but was forced to watch their murders; **UPDATE**: resignation due to age accepted)

www.fides.org/en/news/65118-

[AFRICA RWANDA Resignation of Archbishop of Kigali and appointment of successor](#)

Tuesday November 20, 2018



Malaysia: Langawi Island

Four citizens of Finland were arrested for handing out items with a Christian message

Timo Valtonen

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/christian-missionaries-from-finland-allege-torture-in-muslim-prison/>

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/11/28/finnish-nationals-arrested-malaysia-distributed-christian-pamphlets/>



Afghanistan: Kabul

Fr Giuseppe Moretti (Italian embassy chaplain, reported on a suicide bombing of a celebration of the birthday of Muhammad in which at least 50 Muslims were killed and 85 wounded: "The attack is even more serious than usual, because it was against clerical leaders, who are akin to Christian bishops")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Murderous-attack-against-Sunni-ulema-in-Kabul-is-an-'attack-on-religion'-45540.html>



Turkey: Istanbul

David Byle (aged 49, Canadian-U.S. citizen, husband of Ulrike, father of five; arrested in [Ankara](#) by anti-terrorism police on [October 13, 2018](#), released the following day with an order to leave the country within 15 days; left the country on [October 27, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: attempted to re-enter the country to join his family, denied re-entry though he had been told in October that he could re-enter and though no order prohibiting his re-entry was produced, deported)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/11/turkey-refuses-entry-to-n-american-christian-evangelist/>



United Kingdom: Blackburn

Bishop Gavin Ashenden (**UPDATE**: wrote after the Dean of Blackburn Cathedral allowed the Muslim call to prayer [which contains an implied condemnation of Christians and Jews] to be sung in the Cathedral: "Too many of the Church of England's cathedrals are in the hands of the under-read, under-learned, unreal and sub-Christian who like their religion comfortable, who prefer inclusion to salvation, who give themselves the choice not to choose between good and evil, but offer comfort-spirituality to 'those of every religion and none'. But life is not like that, Christian faith is not like that, Jesus is not like that")

United Kingdom: London

Lord David Alton (human rights advocate; **UPDATE**: raised questions in the House of Lords as to why the government had not offered asylum to freed Pakistani blasphemy victim Asia Bibi, was told that the government could not comment due to security concerns)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/asia-bibi-lord-alton-asks-questions-that-cannot-be-answered-but-we-must-answer-them>

<https://ashenden.org/2018/11/20/when-does-a-cathedral-stop-being-a-cathedral-art-inclusion-and-choosing-between-mohammed-and-jesus-in-blackburn/>



United States – Missouri: Ballwin

Jamie Schmidt (aged 53, wife of Gregg Schmidt, mother of three, **shot dead** while shopping in a religious goods store, the attack was not due to robbery or other material crime)

Gregg Schmidt (widower of Jamie Schmidt)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/gunman-kills-one-at-catholic-store-in-missouri-26096>

Wednesday November 21, 2018



Pakistan: Chak 62 Bhagywala, Matiyani district, Faisalabad, Punjab province

Laiba (aged 9, sister of Sonia, daughter of Shakeel Masih, abducted along with her sister by a man who told them they were 'filthy Christian Churee [low caste]' who only existed for the pleasure of Muslim men, bit the perpetrator on the hand while being undressed, escaped, ran to her parents who raised the village to search for Sonia)

Sonia (aged 10, sister of Laiba, daughter of Shakeel Masih, abducted along with her sister, recovered after her sister's escape unharmed except for torn clothes, villagers chased the masked culprit but did not catch him)

Shakeel Masih (aged 35, father of Labia and Sonia)

Pakistan: Karachi

Rashid Gill (activist, reported to have said "We demand that false ascertained accusers are given the same punishment inflicted on the blasphemer, in every single case of alleged blasphemy. This will be the only way to stop the abuse of the blasphemy law")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/65133->

[ASIA_PAKISTAN_Blasphemy_law_campaign_to_punish_false_accusers_is_increasing](http://www.fides.org/en/news/65133-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Blasphemy_law_campaign_to_punish_false_accusers_is_increasing)
<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/brave-girl-who-bit-hand-of-would-be-rapist-thwarted-double-child-abduction>



Belarus: Vitebsk

Andrei Fokin (husband of Tatyana Fokina; detained in [Lepel, Vitebsk region](#) on [October 27, 2018](#) while singing Christmas carols and handing out Christian literature, literature seized, the police report was a copy of his October 14, 2017 arrest for the same offense; fined US\$310 on [October 30, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

Tatyana Fokina (wife of Andrei Fokin; detained in [Lepel, Vitebsk region](#) on [October 27, 2018](#) while singing Christmas carols and handing out Christian literature; fined US\$253 on [October 30, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2437



Cameroon: Kembong

Fr Cosmas Omboto Ondari MHM (aged about 30, Kenyan citizen, **shot dead** outside his church by a military patrol)

Bishop Andrew Nkea (later said "I visited Kembong Parish on Thursday the 22nd of November, and I personally counted 21 bullet holes made on the Church building of Kembong where at the time, the priest, the Catechist and many Christians were carrying out various activities in the Mission compound. The blood of the murdered priest was still clearly seen on the cemented entrance to the Church just at the door...Father Cosmas died right in the house of God and it is our prayer that the God whom he served so well will welcome him into his eternal kingdom. While we mourn with the Mill Hill Family and the natural family of Fr. Ondari, we trust that he died doing what he had offered his life for...The forces of evil are on a rampage against the Church of God, but as Christians, we believe in the promise of Christ that the gates of the underworld will never prevail over the Church [Mt.16:18]. At the same time we must remain vigilant, because the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for someone to eat, stand up to him strong in faith...The value of human life is diminishing and the human person is wasted away for any flimsy reason")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/65135->

[AFRICA CAMEROON A missionary of Kenyan origin was killed in the English speaking South West region](#)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/65151->

[AFRICA CAMEROON The Bishop of Mamfe An investigation into the murder of Fr Ondari let us remain united in prayer](#)

Thursday November 22, 2018



Philippines

Church leaders responded to President Duterte's call for people to stop attending church

Bishop Pablo Virgilio David (**UPDATE**: said "people who are sick sometimes do not know what they are talking about")

Bishop Arturo Bastes (**UPDATE**: said "Every Filipino with the right mind should only ignore this nonsense. I don't want to comment on this crazy idea. I am tired of his stupid remarks")

Bishop Ruperto Santos (**UPDATE**: said the president's statement was "very irresponsible and heartless")

Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Soncuaco Pabillo (**UPDATE**: said the president's statement "will have no effect")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/duterte-tells-filipinos-to-stop-going-to-church/83979>



China: Qingtian, Zhejiang province

Fr Lu Danhua (taken away by Religious Affairs Bureau agents on [December 29, 2017](#), reportedly taken to study the new regulations of religion; **UPDATE**: released, had been kept in a luxury hotel under guard just a five minute walk from where he had been taken)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/bishop-shao-freed-by-chinese-authorities/84000>

Friday November 23, 2018



China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Bishop Peter Shao Zhumin (underground bishop; abducted by police on [November 9, 2018](#) reportedly for "10 or 15" days of interrogation and indoctrination; **UPDATE**: released)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/bishop-shao-freed-by-chinese-authorities/84000>



Uzbekistan: Urgench, Khorezm region

Sharofat Allamova (aged 50; **UPDATE**: home raided by police without warrant during a meal for fellow church members)

Pastor Ahmadjon Nazarov (husband of Yelena Nazarov; home raided by police on [July 25, 2018](#), sermons and other items seized; fined US\$244 on [September 12, 2018](#) for illegal possession of religious literature; **UPDATE**: questioned by police, hospitalized after suffering chest pains)

Pastor Ahmadjon Nazarov (husband of Yelena Nazarov)

Lolakhon Umarova (questioned by police)

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

Saturday November 24, 2018



Uzbekistan: Urgench, Khorezm region

Lolakhon Umarova (questioned by police after the [November 23, 2018](#) raid on the home of Sharofat Allamova; **UPDATE**: threatened by police with a criminal case and seizure of her two children, physically assaulted and then evicted from the family home along with her son by her mother-in-law under police pressure)

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



Syria: Aleppo

Bishop George Abu Khazen OFM (**UPDATE**: witnessed a rebel chemical attack that injured over a hundred, later said "For us the attack was a real surprise. It was about 10 pm and we heard the usual loud explosions. Shortly thereafter, however, we saw yellow smoke rise, different from the black and dense columns of dust and debris that follow a normal bombardment. Within a few minutes sirens could be heard as ambulances carried injured people. No fighting is taking place right now in the area. We are talking about civilian areas with unarmed residents. They bombed a sector not far from our vicariate, only later did we learn that it was chlorine bombs...We hope that it will remain an isolated case, but the fear is so great that it can start a new battle. Episodes like this one have been used as a pretext by Western powers to attack again in Syria. These rebel groups have lost the battle and now try by every means to hinder the return to peace, to normal life...for a long time Russia and the Syrian government have warned of the risk of attack with chemical weapons by rebel groups, which possess this type of weapons and are very scary...[This raises a] big question mark about our future. We hope the situation does not get worse.

The Turks had promised to guarantee respect for the truce, instead they allow these attacks")

<http://asianews.it/news-en/Rebel-surprise-chemical-attack-raises-fears,-says-Vicar-of-Aleppo-45576.html>



Uganda: Sironko

Police under pressure from a Muslim mob arrested six pastors for stating that the Biblical account of Jesus was correct and the Quranic account was in error

Pastor Moses Wangai (convert from Islam, popular apologist)

Pastor Mwanje

Pastor Anthony

Pastor Palapande Tom

Pastor Jowashi

Pastor Grace

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/11/muslim-mob-incites-police-to-arrest-six-pastors-in-uganda/>



Cameroon: on the road to Muyenge

Two priests and a religious student were abducted

Fr Jude Thaddeus Langeh Basebang CMF

Fr Placide Muntong CMF

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/65157->

[AFRICA CAMEROON Three Claretian religious abducted in the Anglophone region of the south west](http://www.fides.org/en/news/65157-)



Nigeria: Adim, Ebom, Abi local government area, Cross River state

Pastor George Lifted (**beheaded** along with his driver)

<http://dailypost.ng/2018/11/26/pastor-commercial-motorcyclist-beheaded-renewed-communal-clash-cross-river/>

Sunday November 25, 2018



Pakistan: Fateh Jang Chowk, Attock

Rev Javed Johnson (complained to authorities on or before [November 8, 2018](#) about businesses seizing part of a Christian cemetery; **UPDATE**: led a public protest against the continued occupation of the cemetery)

<https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/attock-christians-protest-against-encroachment-on-graveyard-land/>



Uzbekistan: Urgench, Khorezm region

Rano Abdullayeva (detained by police after visiting Pastor Ahmadjon Nazarov's apartment, mocked, threatened, and forced to recite Islamic prayers)

Uzbekistan: Yashnobod district, Tashkent

Andrei Serin **UPDATE**: (worship service raided by SSS secret police and National Guard troops, religious literature and DVDs seized)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2446

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

Monday November 26, 2018



Philippines

Bishop Pablo Virgilio David (**UPDATE**: alleged by President Duterte that he used drugs, which could make him a target of death squads)

Philippines: Marbel

Bishop Cerilo Casicas (reported to have directed his priests to attend training on human rights abuses)

Fr Ariel Destora (reported to have helped organize training on human rights abuses)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/duterte-tells-filipinos-to-stop-going-to-church/83979>

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/drug-killings-bring-rights-drive-in-philippine-diocese/83955>



Belarus: Pervomaisky district of Minsk

Fr Vikenty aka Viktor Kovalkov (aged 58, detained on a charge of 'disturbing public order' after he went door to door in an apartment block preaching and seeking alms, held in a cell despite a legally recognized disability, released)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2437



Nigeria: Dogo Awo village, Kaduna state

Yakubu Musa (aged 50, church elder, husband of Ladi Yakubu, father of Believe Yakubu and five others, **shot dead** by Fulani Muslim gunmen)

Believe Yakubu (aged 20, son of Ladi Yakubu and Yakubu Musa, shot in the leg)

Ladi Yakubu (aged 49, widow of Yakubu Musa, mother of Believe Yakubu and five others, said “As we were eating, a Fulani man came over to where we were sitting under a tree. We offered him food, but he declined to eat with us. When my husband asked the Fulani man whether he needed help in anyway, the man said he was only out to find areas he could take his cattle to for grazing...the Fulani man returned with one other Fulani. Both of them were armed with guns. They shot at us, killing my husband and shooting my son on the leg, while me and my husband’s nephew narrowly escaped being shot. My husband was shot twice in the stomach...My husband’s corpse was recovered by our church members, and he was buried here in our house. That is the grave you see by the door to this room where we are seated...My husband is no more alive, and so the burden to feed our children is on me. How do I feed them without having a job? And I cannot go to the farm because of the murderous activities of these herdsmen”)

Rev Ali Ndaks (said of murder of Yakubu Musa “He was a man of peace, always ensuring that issues in the church were resolved amicably...Before this incident, our church, even though a small congregation, had 50 members. But with the incessant attacks on our community, we now have only seven members left. Almost all Christians in this village have fled out of fear of the attacks by the herdsmen”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/01/christian-family-church-devastated-by-killing-of-church-elder-nigeria/>



United Kingdom: Birmingham

Asher Samson (aged 41, Pakistani citizen, theology student, former assistant pastor, detained by immigration officials after he had been denied asylum despite threats of death and physical attacks in [Abbottabad, Pakistan in January 2007](#))

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/pak-christian-bailed-out-of-immigration-detention-after-christmas-alone-needs-asylum-in-the-uk>



United States – Texas: Dallas

Jeff Younger (father of James Younger [aged 6], reported to have been prohibited by court order from telling his son about Christian beliefs on sex and gender, charged by his ex-wife as a child abuser for not affirming their son's alleged transgenderism)

James Younger (aged 6, reported to have been identified by his pediatrician mother and a gender therapist as transgendered, is slated to begin hormone therapy in 2 years)

Walt Heyer (former transgendered, wrote "The criteria for a diagnosis of childhood gender dysphoria are that a child be persistent, consistent, and insistent about being the opposite sex. James [Younger]'s mom is 'all in' on the diagnosis of gender dysphoria and assisting with social transition. She used the name Luna to enroll him as a girl in first grade, and provides only female clothes. Meanwhile, Dad [Jeff Younger] isn't seeing signs of gender dysphoria. In the father's home, James appears to be a normal boy and doesn't identify as a girl. He has a choice of boy's or girl's clothes there, and he chooses to dress as a boy. The fact that James changes gender identity depending on which parent is present makes the diagnosis of gender dysphoria both dubious and harmful. The transition therapist has observed that James is not consistent, insistent, or persistent in the desire to become 'Luna'...When the appointment only included his mother, James selected Luna, the name and gender he uses at his mother's home and in his first-grade classroom. When the appointment was only with his father, however, James pointed to the boy name James, not the girl name...The glaring disparity between a child's preferred identity when in the presence of one parent versus the other should cause a therapist to reassess, perhaps nullify the diagnosis of gender dysphoria, and terminate any steps toward transition. But in the case of James, this hasn't happened...A questionable diagnosis locks a vulnerable child into an alternate gender identity long before they can understand what is happening or where it might lead. It's up to the adults to observe the child carefully, consider and question the grey areas, and ultimately guard innocent children against hasty diagnoses and conclusions about something so fundamental as their gender identity")

<http://thefederalist.com/2018/11/26/mom-dresses-six-year-old-son-girl-threatens-dad-losing-son-disagreeing/>

Tuesday November 27, 2018



Philippines

Senator Antonio Trillanes (presidential opponent; **UPDATE**: responded to President Duterte's announcement that extrajudicial killings were now official policy)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/duterte-plans-to-deploy-death-squads-against-rebels/83976>



Tanzania

Sr Rohini Pradhan CSST (aged 44, missionary, Indian citizen, **killed in a vehicular road accident**)

<http://mattersindia.com/2018/11/indian-nun-dies-in-tanzania-in-road-accident/>



Uganda: Sironko

Police under pressure from a Muslim mob arrested six pastors on November 24, 2018 for stating that the Biblical account of Jesus was correct and the Quranic account was in error; UPDATE: released, all received threatening messages

Pastor Moses Wangaia (convert from Islam, popular apologist, received a text message stating 'Know that disrespecting the Quran means a punishable crime, which is death')

Pastor Mwanje

Pastor Anthony

Pastor Palapande Tom

Pastor Jowashi

Pastor Grace

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/11/muslim-mob-incites-police-to-arrest-six-pastors-in-uganda/>



United Kingdom: Derby

Rev Melvin Tinker (reported to have been banned from speaking at Derby Cathedral for his orthodox Christian views, said "I guess the implication was that I was going to say something rather dodgy or bring the cathedral into disrepute, but I think they've done a good job of that themselves, with some of the films they've been showing over the summer, which are rather dubious, and blocking me an Anglican priest in the church of England...It seems that basically the progressive agenda is one that is being bought into, and if you don't buy into that, then by default you are excluded....I'm saddened and not surprised, because this is part of a bigger trend. With all the talk of radical inclusion in the Church of England by two Archbishops, it seems increasingly the only people not being included are orthodox or particularly evangelicals")

<https://www.premierchristianradio.com/News/UK/Cathedral-denies-banning-vicar-from-preaching-at-carol-service>

<https://ashenden.org/2018/11/29/the-abuse-of-sex-money-and-power-in-the-c-of-e-radical-inclusion-played-out-in-derby-cathedral/>



Ireland: Dublin

Carol Nolan (aged 40, Member of the Dail [Parliament], former teacher and principal, suspended in [March 2018](#) from the Sinn Fein party for voting against the referendum to remove the prohibition of abortion from the Constitution; **UPDATE:** attacked by fellow parliamentarians as 'sinister, inducing 'trauma, fear and shock, trying to 'inject shock tactics and US nonsense', that her comments 'display[ed] no compassion' and were 'dripping with judgement, dripping with a kind of visceral hatred of women' when she unsuccessfully attempted to amend the new abortion bill that would require government funding of all costs of abortions - nearly all other medical procedures carry some kind of cost sharing, said in response: "Unfortunately, many Pro-Life have been bullied into silence, but I won't allow my views on the issue to be silenced, it appears that democracy in Dail Eireann only exists if you hold a liberal and pro-choice view – so much for equality and respect. My sole motivation at all times has been a concern for the welfare of women and their unborn babies...I am not accustomed to describing the abortion procedure in detail but when colleagues in the Dail won't even support an amendment to provide pain relief for an unborn baby during a late-term abortion then I think it is reasonable to challenge them on what they are doing")

Danny Healy Rae (aged 64, Member of the Dail [Parliament], objected to the rush to pass the abortion bill and the lack of a conscientious objection clause for health care providers)

Date: November 27, 2018

Location:

Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/pro-life-irish-politician-accused-of-hating-women-for-fighting-taxpayer-fun>
and <https://www.rte.ie/news/politics/2018/1127/1013780-dail-debate-abortion-bill/>

Wednesday November 28, 2018



Malaysia: Langawi Island

Four citizens of Finland were arrested on November 20, 2018 for handing out items with a Christian message; UPDATE freed, deported

Timo Valtonen (said "All we did was share pens with the text 'Jesus is the way, the truth and the life' [John 14]. I did not understand that this was illegal. We were mocked for our faith...We weren't given enough to drink, suffered from dehydration, and had to sleep on a hard cement floor riddled with cockroaches. At night, we heard screams from other prisoners who were beaten with bamboo poles...God heard our prayers, that's why we were released")

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/christian-missionaries-from-finland-allege-torture-in-muslim-prison/>

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/11/28/finnish-nationals-arrested-malaysia-distributed-christian-pamphlets/>



India: Madhya Pradesh state

Archbishop Leo Cornelio (**UPDATE**: one of hundreds of Christians who were turned away from voting in the state election, said "I'm sure my name was deliberately deleted from the voter list, which is unjust and not a good sign for the democracy. This is a stern message to the Christian community that they are no more in the reckoning. The message is subtly conveyed through deletion of names of senior community leaders")

Indira Iyengar (aged 78, former State Minorities Commission president, **UPDATE**: one of hundreds of Christians who were turned away from voting in the state election, said "It is a well known fact that I am a member of the Congress Party and my vote will never go to any other party. Therefore, my name was struck out. It is a ploy of the Hindu [BJP] party")

Saji Abraham (demanded an investigation into the voter list purge of Christians)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/christians-denied-vote-in-indian-state-election/83987>



Turkmenistan: Mary City

Gurbangylych Dovletovich Muhammetgulyyev (aged 18, conscientious objector, sentenced to one year's imprisonment)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2443



Iraq

Archbishop Bashar Matti Warda CSSR (**UPDATE**: spoke in [Washington DC](#) on Red Wednesday “Since 2003, 61 churches and shrines were burned, destroyed, or harmed. Over 55,000 homes seized, 150,000 Christians were displaced in 2015. Countless Christians have been kidnapped or murdered...The Church in Iraq is a martyr Church. Our persecution continues to make us a church of peace and reconciliation, transforming us into an apostolic, missionary church. Persecution brings us closer to Jesus...We are called upon to remain faithful to the Gospel [through] an invitation to the cross...We must not hide from suffering when it comes. We must firmly address it in faith, love, and prayer”)

Naser al-Shimary (reported to have been attacked after arriving in the country, alleged he had been deported from the United States under coercion and false pretenses, had been a refugee in the U.S. since age 2, feared that his U.S. history will be discovered)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/we-must-not-hide-from-suffering-iraqi-archbishop-says-on-red-wednesday-64940>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20181128180429.htm>

Thursday November 29, 2018



Philippines: Talaingod, Davao del Norte province, Mindanao

Nineteen people including a current member and a former member of Congress were arrested on child trafficking charges after rescuing 14 children from a tribal school that had been attacked by a paramilitary group

Pastor Edgar Ugal (arrested)

Pastor Ryan Magpayo (arrested)

Pastor Jurie Jaime (arrested)

Pastor Eller Ordeza (arrested)

Jeffrey Lozano CSSR (missionary, said "We came to aid the children and teachers who walked for five hours in heavy rain because the military attacked their school and tried to lock it down")

Michael Salem (church spokesman, said "This is very alarming and a call to all Christian churches to act...[The church has secured counsel] to determine the proper legal actions that we should take")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/pastors-arrested-during-bid-to-rescue-tribal-students/83997>



Iraq: Bagdad

Fr Albert (reported to have described the outcome of the ISIL occupation of the Nineveh plain "ISIL's capture of Mosul and the Nineveh Plains was more than just an occupation for Christians. It's related to trust. ISIS broke the community and Christians will not be able to mix within the general community anymore. Half of the civilians in Mosul joined ISIL. Christians saw many movies on social media of how civilians welcomed ISIL in June 2014. How can they trust those people anymore?")

Iraq: Mosul

Christians described the outcome of the ISIL occupation of the Nineveh plain

Samer (said "The mindset [about] ISIL is that it was not something born in 2014. It was kind of like a result of a mindset that existed in Mosul. Christians say that their neighbors took everything from their houses. ISIL took the big things, the big establishment. But the Muslim neighbors took and stole the Christian houses. These wounds are not going to heal in the Christian community")

Nadia (aged 22, has refused to return to live in Mosul but does visit, said "Mosul will never go back as it was, we are ready all the time to flee. The city looks pale", said she might return to get a university degree: "That is the sacrifice, going to Mosul. Kurdistan didn't offer us anything, still the private college is available and need a lot of money...The level of education is too low at Mosul university, because we attend only three days a week", has been harassed at checkpoints: "Checkpoints are good with us unless there are Arabs with us at Kurdish check points, and vice versa")

Akram (has refused to return to live in Mosul but does visit, said "We as Christians don't have a future in Iraq...I think West Mosul [has] two concerning points. First is the destruction, second is security. The government doesn't admit that ISIL is still there")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20181129182730.htm>



Ukraine: Voronki, Kiev oblast

Metropolitan Pavel Lebed (abbot at the [Monastery of the Kiev Caves](#); reported on [September 26, 2018](#) that his name had been added to the web site of a Ukrainian nationalist group as an enemy of the state, some who have been listed in the past have been killed; **UPDATE:** monastery relics inventoried by a government commission, stated "Today there are many questions about whether the actions of our state authority in relation to the church are legitimate. To a certain extent they are illegal. There is a pressure on me personally, threats are being heard, all sorts of attacks not only on me, but also on other bishops and priests. For what reason I do not know. But for me the main thing is that peace would reign in our country and that the truth would prevail in our country")

<http://orthochristian.com/117583.html>



Nigeria: Abuja

Church leaders spoke out against human traffickers

Archbishop Augustine Obiora Akubeze (**UPDATE:** said "Our collaboration with the government must supply financial, spiritual and legal assistance for the victims...pursuing those responsible for the crime of human trafficking is also a way to restore the dignity of the victims. Our laws must ensure that those directly responsible for human trafficking are brought to justice")

Cardinal John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan (**UPDATE:** denounced "the most atrocious form of human trafficking, sexual exploitation of children and minors, activities controlled by criminal gangs which make enormous profits to the detriment of helpless victims")

Archbishop Matthew Manoso Ndagoso (**UPDATE:** said "no few members of the nation's security forces compromise with traffickers in committing this ferocious crime against fellow Nigerians")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/65178->

[AFRICA NIGERIA Bishops tell government We must unite to fight people trafficking](#)

Friday November 30, 2018



Myanmar

Rev Lazarus (**UPDATE:** reported that the last four male Bible students forcibly conscripted by the separatist United Wa State Army had successfully escaped: "When they arrived initially, they had some psychological problems. But they are coping with it as they now feel safe taking refuge in the church", the 20 female students are still in captivity)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/more-bible-students-escape-myanmar-militia/84001>



Iran: Karaj

Jamshid Derakhshan (convert, disappeared while travelling to a church service)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=4139>



Iraq: Tel Skuf

Christians rebuilt their church and homes with foreign help

Lloyd Najim (engineer, reported to have said "Of course, this church is one of the cultural landmarks, and we're preserving it. We must rebuild it in order to encourage the people to return. It's necessary to keep these cultural landmarks in Tel Skuf")

Selima Loqa (reported to have said "I'm tired of having to leave and then having to return again and again. We all got tired and we are getting old. We went to Al Qosh, we went to Enishki (Duhok), we went to ...I mean we have suffered, and we went to Lebanon. Every time we leave and then return, we buy houses over and over again. What can we do? Situations like this must end")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20181130144903.htm>



Uganda: Buyaga town council, Bulambuli district

Shakira Wanyenze (aged 31, secret convert from Islam, mother of four aged 5 to 9, beaten by her husband when he suspected her conversion: “I fell down, and he started to strangle me. Fortunately, neighbors arrived and rescued me and took me to a clinic at Buyaga town council for treatment, and I was discharged after two days”, took refuge along with her children with an undisclosed pastor, husband threatened the pastor with death and was reported to have purchased a coffin)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/12/christian-mother-pastor-face-death-threats-in-uganda/>



Ukraine: Voronki, Kiev oblast

Metropolitan Pavel Lebed (abbot at the [Monastery of the Kiev Caves](#); **UPDATE**: residence raided by police investigating charges of sectarian hatred, one book seized)

<http://orthochristian.com/117589.html>



Belarus: Minsk

Fr Vikenty aka Viktor Kovalkov (aged 58, detained on a charge of 'disturbing public order' on [November 26, 2018](#) after he went door to door in an apartment block in the [Pervomaisky district of Minsk](#) preaching and seeking alms, held in a cell despite a legally recognized disability, released; **UPDATE**: found innocent)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2437

November 2018, date unknown

Today's Martyrs

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

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