

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – January 2019

Friday January 4, 2019



Ukraine

Patriarch Kirill aka Vladimir Mikhailovich Gundyayev (aged 72, Russian citizen; **UPDATE:** printed Christmas homily reported to have been seized by custom officials)

<http://orthochristian.com/118408.html>

Saturday January 5, 2019



Central African Republic: Bangui

Sr Luigia Coccia SMC (reported on the nighttime robbery of three missionary sisters)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/65344->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Comboni Missionaries attacked and robbed in their community](#)

Sunday January 6, 2019



Bolivia: Trinidad

Fr Adam Bravo Mendoza (aged 78, stabbed in the abdomen during a robbery, hospitalized)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/65349-AMERICA BOLIVIA Priest stabbed by thieves who entered the parish](http://www.fides.org/en/news/65349-AMERICA_BOLIVIA_Priest_stabbed_by_thieves_who_entered_the_parish)

Monday January 7, 2019



Netherlands

Kees van der Staaij (member of parliament, reported to have had a criminal complaint filed against him for signing the Nashville Statement in favor of traditional Christian marriage)

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/250-dutch-christians-sign-nashville-statement-prosecutors-to-decide-if-declaration-breaks-law.html>

Tuesday January 8, 2019



Netherlands: Free University, Amsterdam

Piet De Vries (theologian, signer of the Nashville Statement in favor of traditional Christian marriage, reported to have said “When the Nazi ideology was forced on, the churches were silent, now that gender ideology has begun, churches are silent too often, and we have to make ourselves heard”, following that statement was told by his university that ‘a line had been crossed’ and that he would be brought up on disciplinary charges, prosecutors have been considering criminally charging him and the other 250 Dutch signers)

<https://www.nu.nl/binnenland/5671832/vu-overweegt-stappen-tegen-bij-nashvilleverklaring-betrokken-docent.html> - with translation



United Kingdom: Oxford University

John Finnis (aged 88, Australian citizen, Professor Emeritus of Law and Legal Philosophy, reported to be the object of a student petition to prohibit him from teaching due to his Christian defense of natural law)

<https://www.oxfordstudent.com/2019/01/08/petition-launched-to-remove-law-professor-for-discriminatory-comments/>

Wednesday January 9, 2019



India: Narnepadu village, Muppalla Mandal, Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh state

Pastor Koteswara Rao (new church demolished because it did not conform to Hindu building principles)

Pastor Konda Lazarus (said “That morning the village president’s husband, also a local political leader, telephoned church pastor Koteswara Rao and asked him to be present at the meeting to discuss the matter, but Rao declined the invite as he was pre-occupied with his tasks for the day and said that he can be available the following day. This annoyed the leader, and he ordered the tribal men to demolish the church”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/01/hindu-version-of-feng-shui-leads-to-demolition-of-church-building-in-southern-india/>



Algeria: Ain-Soltane village, Ain-Defla province

Ahmed Beghal (aged 32, alias, convert, father of two girls, reported to have said that after his divorce “They took my two daughters to prevent me from seeing them – whenever I asked to see my daughters in accordance with the rights granted by the judge, my wife’s brothers created impediments and threatened me. This happened to me several times...Today I am far from my family, my wife, and my two daughters, without work or home. Such is the lot of a Muslim who converts to Christianity in Algeria today”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/01/christian-in-algeria/>

Thursday January 10, 2019



China: Chengdu, Sichuan province

Zha Changping (church elder, church raided and declared illegal by officials, books seized, expressed fears the church will be shut down)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/01/church-declared-illegal-elder-fears-it.html>

Friday January 11, 2019



United States - New York: Albany

Bishop William H Love (aged 61, has been placed under a partial restriction by his presiding bishop after refusing to allow same sex marriages in his diocese, the refusal was sent in a letter to his diocese in November 2018 and stated that his church's 2018 General Convention requiring that all bishops approve same sex weddings was “in direct conflict and contradiction to God’s intent for the sacrament of marriage as revealed through Holy Scripture”)

https://www.anglicannews.org/news/2019/01/us-bishop-faces-partial-restriction-on-ministry-over-same-sex-marriage-stance.aspx?utm_source=Christian+Concern&utm_campaign=4f69a375f9-WN-20190118&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9e164371ca-4f69a375f9-127548989

Saturday January 12, 2019



China

Hu Shigen (church elder, disappeared on [July 10, 2015](#); formally arrested in [Tianjin](#) on [January 8, 2016](#) on a charge of 'subversion of state power'; sentenced in [Beijing](#) to 7 years' imprisonment on [August 3, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: reported to be currently held in a prison hospital, forced to take unknown medications, health apparently not in decline but release on medical parole delayed until another prisoner has been prosecuted)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/01/imprisoned-church-elders-family-hopes.html>



Egypt: Manshyet Zaafarana, Minya province

Bishop Makarios (**UPDATE**: issued a statement after police allowed Muslim protestors to close a house church and arrested two priests, later taking them to the police station in an animal control vehicle “This is not the first time a place used for worship by Copts in Minya is closed. The common factor among all closures, however, is that they were done to appease fundamentalists and extremists to the detriment of the Copts. It appears to indicate that extremists now hold the upper hand, and appeasing them is the easy way out of problems...This comes in the wake of declarations by the Grand Imam of al-Azhar, Sheikh Ahmad al-Tayyeb in favor of churches, also positive talk and actions by President Abdel-Fattah a-Sisi that every Egyptian has the right to practice his or her religion of choice, and to Pope Tawadros’s efforts on that front”)

Andro (attorney, said “The police behaved by an offensive way. They behaved with the priests as [they would with] killers. How dare the police cuff the priests!”)

Fr Sami (said “What happened frightened us. I am a priest and it is possible for the police to cuff me if the extremist neighboring Muslims protest or gathered in front of my church. Things are getting worse, but let us pray to make God keep us in peace”)

Mina (photographer, said “We could build the biggest cathedral in the desert! Now let us close the churches which are in poor places, where the poor and weak people can pray. The hate has become more direct and clear towards Christians”)

<https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2019/01/13/minya-manshiyet-zaafarana-copts-attacked-church-closed/>

<https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2019/01/16/egyptian-authorities-close-four-churches/>

Sunday January 13, 2019



United States – Mississippi: Jackson

Pastor Anthony Finch Longino (aged 63, **shot dead** while opening his church for services in a robbery attempt)

<http://www.wlbt.com/2019/01/14/year-old-arrested-charged-after-pastor-gunned-down-sunday-morning/>

Tuesday January 15, 2019



United States – Virginia: Springfield

Karen Pence (aged 52, wife of Vice President Michael Pence, criticized by two media outlets for returning to a part time art teaching position at a Christian school, the school was falsely accused in the headlines of 'barring' homosexual students)

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/15/politics/karen-pence-art-teacher/index.html>

Friday January 18, 2019



Egypt: on the road to al-Arish, Sinai

Adeeb Nakhla Yassa (aged 55, abducted from a microbus)

<https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2019/01/18/coptic-man-abducted-by-sinai-islamists/>
<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=2320&A=37306>

Sunday January 20, 2019



United States – Kentucky: Covington

Nick Sandmann (parochial high school student, received death threats along with his family after returning home two days earlier from the March for Life in Washington DC, the threats originated from a video in which he was confronted by a Native American protestor at the Lincoln Memorial and from which several media outlets characterized his actions as racist, wrote in a statement "I was not intentionally making faces at the protestor. I did smile at one point because I wanted him to know that I was not going to become angry, intimidated or be provoked into a larger confrontation. I am a faithful Christian and

practicing Catholic, and I always try to live up to the ideals my faith teaches me - to remain respectful of others, and to take no action that would lead to conflict or violence")

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/20/us/covington-kentucky-student-statement/index.html>

January 2019, date unknown

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

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