

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – April 2019

**Monday April 1, 2019**



### **Indonesia: Karet village, Pleret sub-district, Bantul regency, central Java**

Slamet Sumiarso (painter, evicted from his village along with his family because he was not Muslim, authorities allowed him to stay under their supervision but he decided to leave, posted an online protest video, said the ban "makes no sense and contradicts Pancasila [the official ideology of tolerance] as well as the Constitution of 1945")

[http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Yogyakarta-Catholic-family-expelled-because-non-Muslim-\(video\)-46670.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Yogyakarta-Catholic-family-expelled-because-non-Muslim-(video)-46670.html)



### **India: Jharkhand state**

Bale Murmu (aged 28, wife of Jaata Murmu, mother, beaten by a neighbor for witnessing Christ to his relatives)

Jaata Murmu (husband of Bale Murmu, father, attempted to rescue his wife from a beating by a neighbor, also beaten)

Pastor Girish Chander Marandi (attacked on [February 8, 2019](#) after he and other pastors confronted a neighbor over his attacks on Christians the previous day; **UPDATE:** described the attack by the same neighbor "Majhi with all his force pressed her breasts and pushed her to the floor. While he was kicking her in her stomach, his wife, Gouri Majhi, brought a wooden stick, and the couple beat her black and blue. Murmu suffered bruises all over her body and, her stomach and breasts were swollen. We provided her first aid that night, and the next day we went to the police station")

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/04/food-deprivation-beatings-and-jail-as-christians-suffer-in-jharkhand-india/>



### **Pakistan: Karachi**

Cardinal Joseph Coutts (aged 73, **UPDATE**: reported to have thanked Christian and Muslim entertainers for organizing a music festival to raise funds to repair the cathedral's stained glass windows, which have been damaged by heat and by bombings in 1987 and 1998)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-and-Muslim-artists-to-perform-for-Karachi-cathedral-windows-46658.html>

**Tuesday April 2, 2019**



### **Vietnam**

Francis Nguyen Nam Phong (aged 39, husband of Nguyen Thi Yen, father of Nguyen Hai Giang, convicted of 'resisting officials on duty' for helping fishermen sue a Taiwanese steel plant for pollution, sentenced in [Dien Chau district, Nghe An province](#) on [February 6, 2018](#) to 2 years' imprisonment; **UPDATE**: daughter diagnosed with cancer)

Nguyen Thi Yen (wife of Francis Nguyen Nam Phong, mother of Nguyen Hai Giang)

Nguyen Hai Giang (aged 16, diagnosed with cancer, doctors recommended her leg be amputated, family cannot afford surgery)

Fr John Baptist Nguyen Dinh Thuc (**UPDATE**: has begun a collection for Nguyen Hai Giang's medical expenses, said "Please pray for Giang and her family to be in peace and overcome this difficult time")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/vietnamese-priest-seeks-support-for-convicts-ailing-child/84891>



### **Netherlands**

Chen Yan (Chinese citizen, asylum applicant, detained in an immigration facility after documenting Chinese persecutions, at risk of deportation to China)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/04/imprisoned-petitioner-pens-letter.html>



### **United States – Louisiana: Opelousas**

**The second of three churches was destroyed in an arson attack, a neopagan / Satanist was later arrested**

Rev. Harry J. Richard (church destroyed, said “They burned down a building. They didn’t burn down our spirit”)

Monica Harris (aged 57, church destroyed, said “Seeing the church in the condition it is now, it’s almost like losing a family member”)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/08/us/louisiana-black-churches-fires.html?module=inline>

**Wednesday April 3, 2019**



### **Malaysia**

Pastor Raymond Koh Keng Joo (aged 62, husband of Susanna Liew, father of Jonathan Koh, questioned in 2011 for converting Muslims to Christianity, case dropped for lack of evidence; abducted by 5 armed and masked men in [Petaling Jaya](#) on [February 13, 2017](#), police initially refused to file a report despite witness accounts of the abduction;

**UPDATE:** A human rights investigation concluded that he had been abducted by the Special Branch, the national police intelligence gathering unit)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/police-accused-of-abducting-malaysian-pastor-activist/84895>



### **China: Mindong, Fujian province**

Bishop Vincent Guo Xijin (aged 60, underground bishop, abducted by police on [March 26, 2018](#) after refusing to concelebrate Easter Mass with an excommunicated bishop; returned to his residence on [March 27, 2018](#), prohibited from public Mass; demoted on [December 12, 2018](#) to auxiliary bishop as part of an concordant between the Chinese government and the Vatican, will serve under a government sponsored bishop; **UPDATE:** reported to have been told by the government that he could not engage in public ministry until he joins the Patriotic Association, [the government controlled church])

John (reported on the prohibition on public ministry by Bishop Vincent Guo Xijin "In practice it is blackmail. If the bishop does not register with the PA [the government controlled church], he cannot concelebrate with Bishop Zhan Silu [the PA bishop] at the Chrism Mass and risks not exercising any ministry. After the China-Vatican agreement, everything turned upside down: the bishop who was previously unlawful [excommunicated] can now celebrate, what used to be the ordinary has now become even illegal! It's something to laugh about, if it weren't serious and painful!")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Msgr.-Guo-Xijin-and-blackmail-in-the-diocese-of-Mindong-after-the-China---Holy-See-agreement-46681.html>

**Thursday April 4, 2019**



**China: Qianyang, Shaanxi province**

Bishop Peter Li Huiyuan (local parish church and health clinic demolished by Maoists in control of the local government)

**China: Mujiaping, Taibai district, Shaanxi province**

Bishop Peter Li Huiyuan (**UPDATE:** a shrine to Mary the mother of Jesus was the object of an attempt to be demolished by Maoists in control of the local government, 200 Christians blocked the attempt)

**China: Shanghai**

Pastor Michael Yu (dual U.S.-Taiwanese citizen, arrested along with more than 20 Christians, released, prevented from leaving the country)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/04/shanghai-seizes-more-than-20-christians.html>

[http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Shaanxi-government-razes-Qianyang-parish-to-ground-\(video\)-46686.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Shaanxi-government-razes-Qianyang-parish-to-ground-(video)-46686.html)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Fengxiang,-200-faithful-in-standoff-with-600-policemen-who-want-to-destroy-the-Marian-shrine-of-Mujiaping-46733.html>



**United States – Louisiana: Opelousas**

**The third of three churches was destroyed in an arson attack, a neopagan / Satanist was later arrested**

Rev Gerald Toussaint (church destroyed, said “We don’t know who did it so if you put race in it and it turns out to be something else, it makes it look like we’re pushing towards that. I

just want to find who did it and then why they did it. And then we'll go from there. They might have destroyed the building but they didn't stop the church. So we have got to keep on going...There's an atmosphere that says we need to support the flag, we need to respect the flag. And they don't realize, I'm a veteran. I spent seven years for my country. And this is what people do to a person who has spent their time fighting for their country. It's heartbreaking. Because I love this country. I wasn't born in Africa. I was born in Opelousas, Louisiana. That's all I know. My daddy pastored here for 21 years. After he left, I came. And so, that's 30-something years of service to these people")

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/05/us/louisiana-black-church-fires.html>

<https://www.rawstory.com/2019/04/pastor-145-year-old-burned-black-church-love-country-wasnt-born-africa/>

**Friday April 5, 2019**



**India: Atrauli, Aligarh district, Uttar Pradesh state**

Rev Raju Abraham (church construction site demolished by local officials after they seized the building permit, said "The damage caused to the church, a symbol of religious tolerance, seems almost irreparable")

**India: New Delhi**

**Christian leaders spoke after the Supreme Court postponed a hearing on the Rajasthan state High Court's ruling establishing 'guidelines' to regulate religious conversion**

A C Michael (**UPDATE:** said the Rajasthan Court's decision "infringes upon the fundamental rights of all persons" and violated of the Indian constitution, added "The act of accepting any religious belief or doctrine is a private affair and is exercised only within a person's conscience. The act of conversion is a personal act and does not require the state to be notified of such an act of conversion")

Joseph Dias (**UPDATE:** said "Choosing faith is not a crime. The court in its order tried to restrict individual liberty and it conflicts with the idea of a secular state where freedom of religion is guaranteed in the constitution itself")

Allen Brooks (**UPDATE:** said "The constitution of the country is very clear about this. The right to freedom is a very fundamental right of the people living in India. I hope the Supreme Court will reject the guidelines set for conversions by Rajasthan court")

[http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Church-under-construction-demolished-by-bulldozers-in-Uttar-Pradesh-\(video\)-46747.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Church-under-construction-demolished-by-bulldozers-in-Uttar-Pradesh-(video)-46747.html)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-christians-look-to-supreme-court-for-religious-freedom/84919>

**Saturday April 6, 2019**



**India: Chinnasalem, Tamil Nadu state**

Sr Devaseer Mary FIH (**UPDATE:** reported more details on the [March 26, 2019](#) attack by 200 RSS paramilitary members on a parochial school: "four nuns wounded in the attack by Hindu radicals were discharged from hospital and are back in the convent. They were hospitalized for a few days, first in the Kallakurichi Government Hospital, later at the Krishna Hospital in Cuddalore. Thanks to Divine Providence and the good guidance of our Lord, the sisters have recovered from pain and are now feeling better...six people have been arrested and many others are under investigation is underway")

Auxiliary Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas SFX (**UPDATE:** said "For us, this attack is a very sad thing. The whole school was mourning the death of the girl [who killed herself over bad grades]. We love our pupils as if they were our children...How is it possible for such a large crowd to act against a school? Why did no one stop them? Power, violence left in the hands of a mob is a danger to everyone in India, not only for minorities. This is what troubles us. The problem is that in the country different groups are spreading a climate of hatred...If it were just a question of money, they would not have desecrated the Crucifix. Even the attempt to strangle the sisters with their Cross, is a contempt of faith. Sisters strangled with the Crucifix? What is this country coming to?...In Indian culture sacred objects are sacred for everyone, regardless of religion. Such lack of respect, and the hatred caused by such lack of respect are the country's greatest danger")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Tamil-Nadu:-Nuns-beaten-by-Hindu-radicals-released-from-hospital-46707.html>

**Sunday April 7, 2019**



**Russia: Verkhnebakanskiy, outside Novorossiysk**

Yevgeny Kokory (home raided by police during a Lenten worship service, wrote on Facebook that the police perpetrated "vulgarity and screams" and "threatened women and warned people not to tape the raid with video cameras or mobile phones", appealed "to you, Vladimir Vladimirovich [Putin], to intervene to stop these abuses, especially in a heroic

city like Novorossiysk [famous for its resistance to the Nazis], where freedom of conscience is violated in brutal way by the representatives of the State")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Persecution-of-non-orthodox-groups-continues-as-police-interrupt-Baptist-service-46758.html>

**Monday April 8, 2019**



**India: Mumbai**

Dr John Dayal (**UPDATE:** summoned to appear in court as the defendant in a defamation lawsuit for stating on [July 12, 2018](#) on television "The RSS [paramilitary organization] spreads fear. The RSS kills remember. The RSS killed [Mohandas] Gandhi", said that he will not appear in court)

<http://mattersindia.com/2019/04/court-summons-activist-dayal-in-defamation-case/>

**Tuesday April 9, 2019**



**China: Hong Kong**

Rev Chu Yiu-ming (aged 74, convicted of conspiracy and public nuisance in connection with a series of public demonstrations, in his mitigation statement said "Today, old and grey, I find myself in the defendant's dock, making a final plea as a convict. It looks so absurd, if not outright shameful for a person holding any office. Yet...my heart tells me that with this defendant's dock, I have found the most honorable pulpit of my ministerial career...I am just a bell toller. I ring the bell. So doing, I hope that consciences may wake up, and together we work to save the day")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Convicted-Protestant-clergyman,-found-most-honourable-pulpit-of-my-ministerial-career-in-Occupy-Central-46741.html>

**Wednesday April 10, 2019**



### **India: Jhurmu village, Gumla district, Jharkhand state**

Prakash Lakra (**beaten** by a mob along with three others for allegedly slaughtering a cow, **died hours later from his injuries**)

Fr Cyprian Kulla (said that Prakash Lakra and his companions did not kill a cow, they took a hide from an already dead ox, added “A group of people came back by evening and began beating the four involved. They also took them to a nearby police station, where Lakra’s condition deteriorated. He was rushed to a nearby hospital but was declared dead”)

A C Michael (**UPDATE**: later said “Such violence is nothing but a strategy to terrorize minorities and polarize the country in the name of religion for votes”)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/christians-muslims-protest-over-indian-cow-vigilantes/84985>



### **Sri Lanka: Siyambalanduwa village, Monaragala district, Uva province**

**Christians have been reported as having continued to worship outdoors since their church was forcibly closed by local Buddhists**

Alocious (aged 94, said "My greatest wish before dying is to attend Mass inside the church again and resume catechism classes. I pray every day: Please Lord, bring back our church to us”)

Anthony Perera (said “We do not want any conflict with Buddhists or the members of other religions. We only want our church, catechism and kindergarten. We are sure that we will get our church back and get back to worshipping”)

Anthony Fernando (village official, said Buddhists organized protests against the Christians between 2011 and 2016, once burning the cross on the church facade)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mass-under-the-tamarind-tree-in-Monaragala-46740.html>



### **Pakistan**

Shalet Javed (aged 15, daughter of Tasleem and Javed Masih, abducted in **Dhandra village, Faisalabad district** on **March 25, 2019**, beaten and tortured, forcibly converted and forced into an Islamic marriage; **UPDATE**: recovered in a police raid, returned home, later said "I never gave up hope entirely, I kept praying to God and beseeched Him to release me from my degrading captivity. God answered my prayers and now I am back with my



mum and dad - I am so grateful to God. I was violated and abused by my captor but he has not broken my spirit, I spoke in court and will testify again and again till the monster is jailed - he should not be allowed to do this to anyone else ever again")

Javed Masih (husband of Tasleem, father of Shalet Javed)

Tasleem (wife of Javed Masih, mother of Shalet Javed)

## **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**: still in country, Prime Minister Imran Khan announced that she would be leaving within weeks)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/abducted-raped-and-forced-into-islamic-marriage-15-yo-shalet-has-now-been-rescued-and-has-given-test>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-girl-kidnapped,-raped-and-forcibly-converted-is-freed-46763.html>

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/asia-bibi-still-in-pakistan-pm-khan-says/84941>



## **Vatican City**

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI aka Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger (**UPDATE**: wrote "Today God also has His witnesses [martyres] in the world. We just have to be vigilant in order to see and hear them. The word martyr is taken from procedural law. In the trial against the devil, Jesus Christ is the first and actual witness for God, the first martyr, who has since been followed by countless others. Today's Church is more than ever a 'Church of the Martyrs' and thus a witness to the living God...There are values which must never be abandoned for a greater value and even surpass the preservation of physical life. There is martyrdom. God is [about] more than mere physical survival. A life that would be bought by the denial of God, a life that is based on a final lie, is a non-life. Martyrdom is a basic category of Christian existence. The fact that martyrdom is no longer morally necessary in the [relativistic] theory advocated by [German theologian Franz] Bockle and many others shows that the very essence of Christianity is at stake here")

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/the-church-and-the-scandal-of-sexual-abuse>

**Friday April 12, 2019**



## India

Pastor Satyen Biswakarma (church in Siddharth Nagar district, Uttar Pradesh state ordered closed by state officials on September 16, 2018; **UPDATE**: the state High Court ordered the state to allow the church to reopen)

Tehmina Arora (attorney, **UPDATE**: said “The court’s order is a welcome stop towards protecting the rights of all religious minorities to be able to freely practice and profess their faith...The court has protected the idea of India as outlined in the constitution. No one should be targeted for their faith”)

Jenis Francis (attorney, educationalist; **UPDATE**: said radical Hindu groups have increased persecution against Christians since Yogi Adityanath was elected Chief Minister)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/court-orders-indian-states-govt-to-reopen-church/84975>



## Egypt: Khalaf Allah Jaber village, Sohag province

**A church was closed after an attack by a mob instigated by construction for expansion, religious school children were traumatized by the attack**

Fr Basil (injured)

Fr Pachomius (injured)

Asaad Bakhit Rizk Allah (injured)

<https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2019/04/20/egypt-coptic-christians-without-church-for-pascha-following-mob-attack/>

**Saturday April 13, 2019**



## Laos: Sing district, Luang Namtha province

**Three U.S. citizens were reported to have been arrested for distributing Bibles and Christian literature, detained in a hotel for six days**

Autumn

Joseph

Wayne

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Vientiane-arrests-three-US-citizens-over-distribution-of-material-on-Christianity-46766.html>

**Sunday April 14, 2019**



**China: Hebei province**

Fr Peter Zhang Guangjun (arrested in 2011, held for 2 months; **UPDATE**: pulled from his automobile after Mass by plainclothes government agents, disappeared)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/underground-priest-in-china-arrested-as-holy-week-begins/84988>



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

Rev Ram Vachan Bind (church attacked by 200 Hindu radicals, beaten with sticks along with congregants, police stood by and did nothing, fled the village with his family)

Rev P David (said "No arrest so far but police are cooperating. [The] Situation in Khetasarai is tense because Christians think that they can be targeted again. We need to keep exerting pressure on police authorities so that they will provide security. The worst thing is that people think that they can do anything in the name of religion and get away with it without consequences")

**India: Patamanda village, Odisha state**

**Forty Christians were beaten and driven from their village into the forest, seven homes were ransacked**

Mohan Vadeka

Mistu Vadeka

Jilla Vadeka

[http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Uttar-Pradesh:-The-Passion-of-churches-at-Easter-\(photos-and-video\)-46797.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Uttar-Pradesh:-The-Passion-of-churches-at-Easter-(photos-and-video)-46797.html)

<https://www.persecution.org/2019/04/23/40-christians-violently-kicked-village-india/>



### **Sri Lanka: Kundichcham Kulam, Anuradhapura district**

Bishop Asiri Perera (accosted by 25 young people as he arrived for services, told he could not enter the church, locked into the church with the congregation, church pelted with rocks during the service, rescued by police, said of the congregation "[They are] heart-broken. They have no place to pray, or celebrate the Easter Triduum. We all pray that God may give them courage and keep them steadfast in the face of persecution")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Methodist-Church-attacked-in-Anuradhapura;-bishop-held-hostage-with-the-faithful-46790.html>



### **Nigeria: Konshu-Numa village, Akwanga county, Nasarawa state**

**Fulani Muslims attacked a church during a baby dedication, killing 17 including the baby's mother**

Safaratu John Kabiru Ali (aged 21, wife of John Kabiru Ali, mother, **killed**)

Afiniki Kako (aged 10, **killed**)

Ali Nkene (aged 80, **killed**)

Amos Julius (aged 60, **killed**)

Ayuba Bulus (aged 11, **killed**)

Gode Kako (aged 13, **killed**)

Haruna Bawa (aged 22, **killed**)

Justina Barrau (aged 60, **killed**)

Kadon Sule (aged 20, **killed**)

Mary Amos (aged 40, **killed**)

Matthew Emmanuel (aged 28, **killed**)

Samame Andaha (aged 28, musician, **killed**)

Sarakuna Haruna (aged 21, **killed**)

Simon Anfani (aged 37, **killed**)

Sunday Adebayo John (aged 21, **killed**)

Tafiya Baya (aged 17, **killed**)

Talatu Mada (aged 40, **killed**)

John Kabiru Ali (aged 32, widower of Safaratu John Kabiru Ali, father, injured, hospitalized in critical condition)

Alkali Raba (aged 43, injured)

Ayuba Maikano (aged 80, injured)

Biyaya Engila (aged 60, injured)

Gode Tijani (aged 30, injured)

Juliana Clement (aged 47, injured)

Maikasuwa Engila (aged 30, injured)

Nicholas Danzaria (aged 26, injured)

Samuel Meshi (Akwanga Local Government Council chairman, said of the Fulani Muslims  
“They just started shooting sporadically on a community that was just having a feast of dedication of a child after a church service earlier in the day on Sunday, 14 April, at a Baptist church in the area. The killings occurred in the evening of that day. Unfortunately, these persons were killed in cold blood for just no reason”)

Pastor Samson Gamu Yare (**UPDATE:** called the attack "barbaric")

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/04/muslim-fulani-herdsmen-massacre-christians-after-baby-dedication-in-nigeria/>



### **United States - South Carolina: Anderson county**

Bob Harrell (church elder, described church vandalism in which 125 year old windows were broken and Islamic slogans were painted on outside walls: "It was very disturbing because we feel like this was an individual act and we don't hold any religious group responsible for it. We think it most likely was some misguided young people. However, we do take it very seriously and we'll do everything we can to assist law enforcement")

<https://www.wspa.com/news/vandals-spray-paint-messages-break-windows-at-anderson-co-church/1925708015>

**Monday April 15, 2019**



### **India: Mumbai**

Anthony Francisco Duarte (won a suit against the administrators of former Portuguese colonies Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli who had removed Good Friday as a public holiday)

A C Michael (**UPDATE**: quoted the court as ruling that the administrators' decision to remove Good Friday as a holiday was "against the secular principles of the country...Christmas is celebrated with much bonhomie by all communities. People of all castes, creed and communities commemorate Good Friday")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-court-restores-good-friday-as-public-holiday/84981>

**Tuesday April 16, 2019**



**Pakistan: Hyderabad, Sindh province**

**Christian leaders were reported to have complained of the scheduling of college exams for Easter weekend**

Bishop Samson Shukardin OFM (**UPDATE**: said "The Department of Education of the province of Sindh has the duty to take into account the dates of religious festivals and to set up the schedule of examinations. It is not difficult to know. We ask for the postponement of the exams foreseen during the Easter Triduum")

Pastor Adeel Patras Chaudhry (vice president of "Jesus Life TV", **UPDATE**: said "Holy Week is a challenging and busy time for the Church, not only for Priests, but also for every Christian. It is the heart of the whole year. The faithful participate with great devotion to the religious celebrations. We request the higher authorities of the Government of the Sindh to reschedule exams")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/65903-ASIA\\_PAKISTAN\\_Christians\\_ask\\_for\\_the\\_postponement\\_of\\_college\\_exams\\_scheduled\\_for\\_the\\_Easter\\_Triduum](http://www.fides.org/en/news/65903-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Christians_ask_for_the_postponement_of_college_exams_scheduled_for_the_Easter_Triduum)



**United States - Washington state: Burien**

Abbot Tryphon (aged 72, blogger, attacked while pumping gasoline, said "When the man saw the [monastic clothing and pectoral] cross, he went insane. He got this insane look and that's when he punched me", before he was struck the man asked "How's Trump?" and he replied he had no idea, later wrote "I should be filled with rage against a brute who could perpetrate such an unwarranted attack against me...Instead, I find myself filled with

compassion and love for the poor tortured soul who was driven to commit such a heinous act. That a young man would sucker punch an obviously old man, and a stranger to him, is truly hard for me to comprehend. Even more, I am praying for my attacker...What inner torment could cause him to lash out at someone who has done him no harm? He is his own victim even more than I am his victim. I know I have forgiven him, but can he forgive himself?...I have been left with a certain amount of hearing loss, with a ringing in my left ear and reduced hearing in my right ear, along with an echoing sound. As a lover of classical music, I pray this will not be permanent. I'm also suffering from headaches, and general body pain. So, in your charity, please keep this old monk in your holy prayers...I am grateful that I was blessed to share in Christ's suffering and abuse, during these final days of the Great Lenten Journey...I want him caught, not only that he not injure another person, but that I can have a chance to visit him in jail, and let him know that I forgive him, and that God loves him")

Fr Martin (witnessed the attack on Abbot Tryphon)

<http://orthochristian.com/120672.html>

<http://orthochristian.com/120703.html>

**Wednesday April 17, 2019**



**Indonesia: Sibolga, North Sumatra**

**Church leaders reported on security measures taken for Easter**

Fr Aloysius Barut (said “Catholics in Sibolga are on high alert following the incident [last month when a terror suspect's home was raided and his wife and child died in a suicide explosion]. Police and military personnel will secure the church. Parishioners will also help”)

**Indonesia: Matraman, East Jakarta, Java**

Paternus Telyohud (church security coordinator, said “We have coordinated with them [police, military, and Muslim volunteers] to secure Holy Mass at the church”)

**Indonesia: Surabaya, East Java**

Benediktus Yulita (church secretary, said “About 100 security officers will secure the church” as well as members of the youth wing of Nahdlatul Ulama, the moderate Islamic organization)

**Indonesia: Pringgolayan, Yogyakarta, Java**

Fransisca Ita (church secretary, said “This will be the first Easter this parish will be guarded by the police and military”)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/indonesian-churches-tighten-easter-security/84986>



**India: Krishnagar, West Bengal state**

Bishop Joseph Suren Gomes (**UPDATE**: resigned upon reaching retirement age)

<http://mattersindia.com/2019/04/krishnagar-bishop-resigns/>

**Thursday April 18, 2019**



**China: Mindong, Fujian province**

Bishop Vincent Guo Xijin (aged 60, underground bishop, told by the government [on or before April 3, 2019](#) that he could not engage in public ministry until he joins the Patriotic Association, [the government controlled church]; **UPDATE**: the local government apparently reversed itself under pressure from Beijing, allowed to concelebrate the Chrism Mass with the government appointed bishop)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/-Mindong,-Msgr.-Guo-Xijin-and-Msgr.-Zhan-Silu-celebrate-the-Chrism-Mass-together-46806.html>

**Saturday April 20, 2019**



**Germany: Munich**

**A Muslim yelled 'Allahu akbar' [God is greater] in a church and threw rocks at the 500 congregants, started a stampede, 24 were injured, 4 hospitalized**

Marko Vidovic (teacher, said "I heard someone call out loud. The church was full of visitors. People threw themselves anxiously on the floor, others ran and stumbled. Kids were screaming")

Jozo Dramac (said "Someone was screaming in Arabic ' Allah, Allah', I understood. I was there with my wife and son. People were panicking. I tried to keep calm but I'm still scared")



Marko Petrovic (said "The man ran past me, rammed my elbow into my side and shouted 'Allahu Akbar'. He threw something. A few visitors, strong men, were able to wrestle and hold him to the ground until police arrived")

<https://politikstube.com/muenchen-dunkelhaeutiger-platzt-in-oster-gottesdienst-und-schrie-allahu-akbar/> - with translation

<https://www.tz.de/muenchen/stadt/muenchen-ort29098/muenchen-mann-loest-massenpanik-in-muenchner-kirche-aus-neue-dramatische-details-12207368.html> - with translation

**Sunday April 21, 2019**  
**Easter [Pascha] – Western Calendar**



**Sri Lanka: Colombo, Kochchikade, Negombo, and Batticaloa**

**Nine explosive devices targeted three churches and three hotels, among other locations, killing at least 321 and wounding at least 500**

Cardinal Albert Malcolm Ranjith Patabendige Don (aged 71, **UPDATE**: condemned the bombings as "bestial and inhuman", called on doctors to cancel their holidays and for citizens to donate blood)

**Sri Lanka: Kochchikade, Colombo**

Ravi Fernando (husband of Delicia Fernando, father of a son and two daughters, **killed**)

Delicia Fernando (aged 52, widow of Ravi Fernando, mother of a son and two daughters, was sitting in the front of the church at the time of the explosion, found Ravi crushed under debris from the roof)

Fr Joy Mariyaratnam (saw a fireball at the time of the explosion, later said "I was thinking, 'how could such a thing happen in a place of worship?'. We are still in shock")

**Sri Lanka: Katuwapitiya village, Negombo**

Ft Edmond Tillekeratne (said "The whole roof was shattered and there was flesh all over the walls and even outside the church")

Ranjitha Fernando (searched for missing relatives in the bombed rubble, said "It is the responsibility of the government to find the perpetrators and give the due punishment. Are we going back to the dark ages again?")

Eranda Weththasinghe (several friends killed, later said "I don't have words to express my pain. Tomorrow is going to be the mass funeral service, we only want prayers. We lost so many people...The smell of flesh is all around me. We are a peace-loving community in this small city, we had never hurt anyone, but we don't know from where this amount of hate is coming. This city has become a grave with blood and bodies lying around...Since

the past three years, we don't know why, but we see an extremist's mindset developing among the Muslims. I know many good Muslims, but there are also a lot who hate us, and they have never been so before. It is in these three years that we see a difference")

Fr Lour Fernando (said "At this moment I have no idea what to say. We have to remain strong and keep going to church and keep praying. We can't stop")

Fr Sanjeewa Appuhamy (said "After the mass we were listening to the parish council's thanksgiving speech. All of a sudden we heard a big noise and then a bang. Unfortunately we lost many parishioners in a second")

Nimal Perera (said "We were waiting to join the procession for the Risen Christ which is held after Mass and winds through the parish and the village. But all of a sudden we heard a big noise coming from one side of the church and we thought it was a special firecracker, since usually in the Christian holidays various types of firecrackers are used. But then I saw my son-in-law running back and forth screaming "Oh my God, it's a bomb. I don't know how many managed to save themselves. We attended the vigil of the eve because my niece had asked us. Otherwise we too would have gone to morning Mass...Oh God, assist us and give us the strength to endure the deep sorrow of our parishioners")

Kumara Cherchill Karunarathna (middle-aged man, later said "No member of my family has died. We have no faith in this government or in the Supreme Court or in parliamentarians. We have only our God, to whom we ask for everything when we come to church. Now even this possibility has faded because of the horrible act. Who are the killers who kill innocent Catholics and hit the churches? Every morning, before bringing my three children to school, I come to this church and pray for a minute. Then I accompany them to class. Some people I met, now they are gone. The pain is too big to bear. I lay these flowers for all the dead, to [show] them our love. How can we watch over our children when similar things happen?")

Ms Thivanka (uncle and aunt were at Mass, aunt's lifeless body found, uncle missing, not found at any hospital)

### **Sri Lanka: Batticaloa**

Ramesh (questioned the suicide bomber, pushed him outside the church, **killed**)

V Jackson (aged 13, son of Arasaratnam Verl, only child, **killed**)

Arasaratnam Verl (aged 41, father of V Jackson, son killed, said "My elder sister was killed too. My two younger sisters and my brother-in-law are critical")

Fr Kumaran (church pastor, confronted the suicide bomber because he was a stranger with a bag, said "I asked him who he was and his name. He said he was a Muslim and wanted to visit the church", was then pulled away from the bomber by other clergy to begin Mass, later said "Twenty-eight people were killed, among them 12 children. Two are critical")

Caroline Mahendran (Sunday school teacher, said "Today was an Easter Sunday school at the church and we asked the children how many of you willing to die for Christ? Everyone raised their hands. Minutes later, they came down to the main service and the blast happened. Half of the children died on the spot")

Fr Kanapathipillai Deivendiran (said “I was a few minutes late or you will not be speaking to me now. I didn’t know that there had been a blast a few minutes before that, I just walked into the premises. As I entered, I was shaken by the sight — walls had collapsed completely, there were bodies all over the floor”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/As-the-number-of-dead-and-wounded-rises,-the-authorities-declare-a-curfew-46824.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/At-least-150-people-die-in-various-blasts-in-Sri-Lanka-on-Easter-Sunday.-The-Church-calls-for-prayers-46821.html>

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/sri-lanka-blames-local-islamist-extremist-group-for-easter-bombings-that-killed-290/ar-BBWa1GU?ocid=spartandhp>

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/cardinal-condemns-sri-lanka-bombings-as-death-toll-reaches-290/85010>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/04/unprecedented-suicide-bombing-attacks-shock-christians-in-sri-lanka/>

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/minutes-after-sunday-school-class-said-they-would-die-for-christ-half-killed-in-sri-lankan-bomb-blast.html>

<https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2019/04/21/easter-bomb-attacks-on-sri-lanka-churches-hotels-kill-at-least-207/>

<https://www.persecution.org/2019/04/23/isis-claims-responsibility-easter-bombings-sri-lanka/>

[http://www.asianews.it/news-en/-Sri-Lanka-in-mourning:-the-faithful-mourn-their-dead-\(Photo\)-46831.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/-Sri-Lanka-in-mourning:-the-faithful-mourn-their-dead-(Photo)-46831.html)

**Tuesday April 23, 2019**



**China: Beijing**

Xu Yonghai (imprisoned three times in past years for his faith; **UPDATE**: reported to have said the current crackdown against churches was the darkest he has even known)

<https://www.persecution.org/2019/04/23/beijing-house-churches-not-ceasing-worship-spite-challenges/>

**April 2019, date unknown**

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