

Today's Martyrs
2014-11-02 through 2014-11-08



China

Zhang "Shanshan" Linxin (daughter of Pastor Zhang Shaojie and Wang Fengrui; **UPDATE:** abducted by local police while attempting to buy groceries, detained in a 'black' jail along with Fan Ruizhen and her aunt Zhang Cuijuan, detention is believed to be an attempt to prevent her from distributing literature about her father's conviction at the current Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] meeting)

Zhang "Esther" Huixin (daughter of Pastor Zhang Shaojie and Wang Fengrui, said "My family is very concerned for my sister, Shanshan, as well as my aunt and Fan Ruizhen")

Date: November 5, 2014

Location: Nanle county, Henan province

Source [with photo]: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/11/nanle-county-government-detains-pastors.html>

Pastor Zhu (questioned by DSPS agents concerning church activities and finances, warned to join the Three-Self Patriotic church, threatened with church demolition if he had anything to do with 'that Pastor Zhang' [Zhang "Bike" Mingxuan])

Date: October 28, 2014

Location: Nanyang, Henan province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/11/henan-house-church-ordered-to-turn-over.html>



Egypt

Fr Timothy Shaker (reported on two homemade bombs planted near his church, no injuries or damage)

Date: November 6, 2014

Location: Port Said

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1241&A=16390>

Marina Adly Abdul Malek (daughter of Mariam Saber, refused medical treatment by a Muslim doctor)

Mariam Saber (mother of Marina Adly Abdul Malek)

Date reported: November 6, 2014

Location: Shubra

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=57795>

Bishoy Armiya aka Mohammed Hegazy (aged 31 in 2014, Egypt's 'most famous' convert, arrested again on July 21, 2014 on 2009 charges of "defaming Islam", charges were filed after he attempted to have his religious affiliation changed on his government ID card; **UPDATE:** his attorney said "Bishoy told me when I visited him a week ago in Tora prison that he was beaten and tortured by some police officers who insulted his religion")

Date reported: November 6, 2014

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=57798>



India

Rev John Daniel (said of the recent attack by Hindu nationalists that led to the hospitalization of at least 11 Christians and the arrest of 2 "I have been here for 40 years. Whenever Christians are attacked, this is the pattern. Before the Christian victims would reach the police station, the attackers would have filed a case against them with the police. That's why innocent Christians have been arrested")

Date: October 25, 2014

Location: Madhota village, Bastar district, Chhattisgarh state

Source [warning - graphic]: https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/11/article_3458309.html/

Rev Rana (meeting with seven parishioners interrupted by members of the Bajrang Dai, the youth branch of the RSS paramilitary organization, all were stripped naked, beaten, whipped and arrested)

Date: November 4, 2014

Location: Kotla, Madhya Pradesh state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Madhya-Pradesh:-Hindu-radicals-beat-eight-Christians,-have-them-arrested-32636.html>



Iraq

Sr Habiba (has been aiding 1,500 displaced Christians, described the October 20, 2014 flooding of the refugee camp "The tents quickly filled with water and collapsed. They were engulfed in mud. Some people had to be taken to the hospital. This happened at 3 a.m.")

Sr Ban (has been aiding 1,500 displaced Christians, said "What is this Islamic State [ISIL] that is frightening the world? More should be done to remove these militants who have caused great human suffering to our people")

Fr Bashar (has been aiding 1,500 displaced Christians, said his bishop has obtained 60 trailers for people to live in)

Date: November 6, 2014

Location: Ankawa. Erbil, Kurdistan

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20141106174018.htm>

Faten (former teacher, refugee, described life in a school with no heat)

Date: November 6, 2014

Location: Ankawa. Erbil, Kurdistan

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20141106152731.htm>

Soham Yakoub (refugee, said "Every moment is suffering. We can't sleep. It rained yesterday. The sound was like stones on the tent. My child said to me this morning he wants to go home. He told me we'll go back today. I asked him, 'how, did you dream this?' He stared at me, silently. I don't know, maybe he dreamt he went back to our house")

Asrar Walid (refugee, said "Life is very bad here when it rains. We've suffered a lot. There is no machine for washing. We don't have anything. We don't have money. We ask for help to leave Iraq. Everyone just sits watching us from a distance without going to much trouble to find out how bad things are for us. Water leaks into the tents. They won't protect us in winter")

Fadia Salem (refugee, said "We left our homes around Qaraqush. No one is there now, everyone left. If there'd been international protection for us, we wouldn't have left our homes, wouldn't have to live in these tents. But is there any international protection?")

Fr Douglas Bazi (**UPDATE:** said "When our history and our name and everything are obliterated, that really is a genocide. The groups who have suffered the most from what's happened in Mosul are our brothers the Yazidis and the Christians. I am not surprised if ISIL kills people of that religion. What a way to treat them, and those who have no religion!")

Date: November 7, 2014

Location: Erbil, Kurdistan

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20141107160305.htm>



Israel

Pastor Karen Dunham (**UPDATE:** complained of municipal harassment of her church after she was ordered to remove a painted cross from a stone arch "I was told to remove graffiti because it was lowering the value of surrounding buildings, and I thought, 'You've gotta be kidding. My neighbor is building a third story [on an illegally constructed building], there's an illegal house sitting on my property, my fence is missing and he's giving me a ticket for a cross on my door?")

Danny Povolotski (spoke of a double standard in the persecution of Christians “If it was Jews, there would be choppers there and tanks. I really believe most of the indifference of the police is because she’s not a Jew, she’s a Christian...It’s almost like everyone is deaf. The level of brute force compared to the level of lack of response of the police force there is pretty shocking. To me it’s pretty shocking how it looks like a massive corruption thing going on there.”)

Date reported: November 7, 2014

Jake Tayler (U.S. citizen, beaten when he was repairing a damaged church security door, suffered a bloody nose, swollen mouth, swollen ankle and bruises)

Joe Buonaiuto (aged 24, U.S. citizen, attempted to shield Jake Tayler from further blows, suffered a large welt on his forehead)

Date: October 16, 2014

Location: East Jerusalem

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2014/11/incessant-attacks-on-jerusalem-church-in-israel-meet-with-police-indifference/>



Nigeria

Reports from survivors of recent Boko Haram attacks

Cecilia Sumaila (abducted by Boko Haram, threatened with death for refusing to convert, released)

Location: Madagali

Martina Ibrahim (abducted by Boko Haram along with three other women, escaped, whereabouts of husband and children unknown)

Kiviana John (widow, fled into the bush to escape Boko Haram, captured along with her sister by Boko Haram when looking for food for their children, refused to renounce Christianity, escaped by hiding in a tomb)

Location: Gulak

Elizabeth Chutsi (captured by Boko Haram, escaped)

Location: Bazza

Mary (abducted by Boko Haram, released after she said her husband was hospitalized and her children needed her)

Barnabas Paul Mbiya (fled to a mountain to escape Boko Haram, after three days escaped to the state capital)

Naomi Zira (captured by Boko Haram, daughter fled in the bush, refused to convert to Islam, escaped into the bush and rejoined her family)

Location: Michika

Yohanna Haman (church security officer, escaped from Boko Haram by pretending to be dead after fired upon)

Date: September 2014

Location: Shuwa

Regina Bitrus (attacked by a Boko Haram insurgent while bathing her child, pushed him down and escaped, fled the village)

Date reported: November 2, 2014

Source: <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2014/11/boko-haram-survivors-outwitted-insurgents-escape/>

Gift Ugo (Polytechnic student, fled into the bush to escape Boko Haram, said "Actually, the incident happened on Wednesday morning although we never knew it would be that serious as the jets were dropping bombs...About 150 students ran to Cameroon border and were accommodated by the Cameroonian soldiers but we decided to stay back in the hostel to see how safe it would be until they called us that an HND 1 Accounting student had been killed")

Queen Samuel (said "we have been running, we have lost almost everything. We trekked all the way from Mubi to Hong and got a cab that took us here [Yola]. The situation in Mubi was very, very terrible. Immediately we left, we learned that the insurgents had burnt our hostel")

Debora Fandum (escaped from Boko Haram)

Samuel Kasinda (escaped from Boko Haram)

Date: October 29, 2014

Location: Mubi, Adamawa state

Source: <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2014/11/mubi-boko-haram-still-control-3000-relocate/>

Beatice Elisha (civil servant, said "They [Boko Haram] were burning houses and many people have died. There was gunfire all over the place")

Date: November 2, 2014

Location: Sabon Gari

Source: <http://www.bosnewslife.com/33979-news-alert-christians-slaughtered-in-northeast-nigeria>



North Korea

Kenneth Bae (U.S. citizen, has begun his third year in captivity)

Date: November 3, 2014

Source: <http://eugenecho.com/2014/11/03/two-years-730-days-and-counting-its-time-to-release-kenneth-bae-bringbaeback/>



Pakistan

Event Christian husband and wife accused of Quran desecration, attacked by a mob summoned with mosque loudspeakers, stripped naked, legs broken, tied to a tractor and dragged to a brick kiln and burnt alive, police were called but did nothing, nearly a dozen local Christian families fled the area, their remains were recovered from the brick kiln but were quickly buried rather than turned over to their family

Shahzad Masih (aged 28, husband of Shama Bibi, father of four aged 18 months to 7 years, **burnt alive**)

Shama Bibi (aged 25, wife of Shahzad Masih, expectant mother, mother of four aged 18 months to 7 years, **burnt alive**)

Parveen Bibi (sister-in-law of Shahzad Masih)

Yasmeen Bibi (sister of Shama Bibi, described the attack on her sister and brother-in-law "They beat them with wooden clubs on their heads, and hatchets, before they were both tied to a tractor and pulled out onto a road which was under construction, covered with crushed stones. I think they were unconscious, but still breathing, but the mob was still not willing to leave them alone. They took some petrol from a tractor and doused their bodies and threw them in the kiln. Then I lost hope and fled with my children from there...Some men asked them [the police who were present] to fire into the air to quell the protestors, because the mob had no weapons to fire back...Shama and her husband might have survived if the police had taken timely action")

Mukhar Masih (father of Shama Bibi, said "and I know tactics the government uses to oppress us...Last night when I left the village, it had been decided that the funeral would be held the next day. But instead it was hastily done at midnight, as if our children were thieves...My daughter Yasmeen is the eyewitness of the entire incident, but she is not included in the FIR [police report], so how can I know the state is committed to providing us justice?")

Poonam (youngest daughter of Shama Bibi, pulled from her mother's arms and thrown on the floor when he mother was seized by the mob)

Bishop Irfan Jamil (said that the perpetrators must be prosecuted)

Date: November 4, 2014

Location: Kot Radha Kishan, Kasur, Punjab province

Sources: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5024>

and <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5025>

and <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5023>

and https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/11/Article_3462820.html/

and <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5033>



Poland

Event: A judge has ruled in a closed session that pro-life demonstrators who call abortion 'killing' have defamed the hospital that performs the abortions, ordered the demonstrators to publicly apologize with words chosen by the court and to pay all court fees, the court refused to allow witness testimony and refused to release the legal reasoning for the decision

Agata Rejman (midwife, testified that her hospital performed abortions, threatened with legal action)

Jacek Kotula (aged 48, pro-life demonstrator)

Przemysław Sycz (aged 35, pro-life demonstrator)

Senator Kazimierz Jaworski (wrote "We can't say that abortion is killing? This is shocking in itself. But what's more, we are not even allowed to find out why.")

Date: October 16, 2014

Location: Rzeszow

Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/outrage-in-poland-as-judge-tells-pro-life-activists-they-cant-call-abortion>



Ukraine

Fr Piotr Rosochacki (Polish citizen, told by Russian authorities on September 9, 2014 that his residency permit will not be renewed; **UPDATE:** has left the area, said "Although other priests and nuns have Ukrainian residence permits for Crimea valid into next year [2015], the Russian authorities have said they will regard them as valid only until the end of this year. This means all our priests and nuns will have to leave by the 2014 year end")

Date: October 24, 2014

Location: Simferopol, Crimea

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2012



United Kingdom

Antonia Tully (criticized the government's threat to downgrade or close faith-based schools that do not promote homosexual rights to their students, said "The prospect that schools will have to champion homosexuality or risk being downgraded by Ofsted [the Office for

Standards in Education] strips all parents of their right to educate their own children about sexual morality")

Date: November 3, 2014

Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/uk-gvmt-tells-faith-based-schools-they-must-promote-gay-rights>

Bryan Barkley (aged 71, dismissed from his 20 year volunteer position at the Red Cross for publicly opposing same-sex marriage)

Date reported: November 4, 2014

Source: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/freedom-of-speech/red-cross-dismisses-volunteer-for-views-on-same-sex-marriage>

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