

**Today's Martyrs**  
**2014-11-30 through 2014-12-06**



**Afghanistan**

**Event: Christian aid workers from South African murdered by the Taliban, along with two Afghans**

Werner Groenewald (husband of Hannelie Groenewald, father of Jean-Pierre Groenewald and Rode Groenewald, former pastor, **killed**)

Jean-Pierre Groenewald (aged 17, son of Werner and Hannelie Groenewald, brother of Rode Groenewald, **killed**)

Rode Groenewald (aged 15, daughter of Werner and Hannelie Groenewald, sister of Jean-Pierre Groenewald, **killed**)

Dr Hannelie Groenewald (medical doctor, wife of Werner Groenewald, mother of Jean-Pierre Groenewald and Rode Groenewald, survived, not present when her family was killed)

Date: November 29, 2014

Location: Karte Seh district, Kabul

Source [with photos]: [https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/12/article\\_3509858.html/](https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/12/article_3509858.html/)



**Azerbaijan**

Pastor Ilya Zenchenko (**UPDATE:** said "He [State Committee Deputy Chair Heydarov] told us he wanted to help and said we would finally get registration in November 2014. But when we brought our documents again they said we would have to liquidate ourselves as an existing community, form a new community and apply anew. At first we were positive – we rejoiced, but now we're uncertain")

Date: October 16, 2014

Location: Baku

Source: [http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2019](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2019)



**China**

Ni Yulan (aged 54 in 2013, civil rights attorney, unable to walk without crutches due to police torture, disbarred, released from prison on October 5, 2013, had been forced to crawl on the floor to make her way around the prison; **UPDATE**: placed under house arrest during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] meetings, husband Dong Jiqin beaten in their home by police, hospitalized)

Date: November 10, 2014

Location: Beijing

Source [with photo]: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/12/beijing-rights-defender-husband-under.html>

Pastor Yang Rongli (wife of Wang Xiaoguang, arrested in 2009 for “gathering a mob to disturb public order”, sentenced to seven years' imprisonment, reported to be in good health, parishioners expecting her release in two years)

Wang Xiaoguang (husband of Pastor Yang Rongli, arrested in 2009 for “gathering a mob to disturb public order”, sentenced to three years' imprisonment)

Date reported: December 2, 2014

Location: Jinghong, Shanxi province

Source [with photo]: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/12/china-18-member-in-good-health-linfen.html>

Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-Kium SBD (**UPDATE**: surrendered for arrest with the principal organizers of the pro-democracy Occupy Central movement, which had been engaged in civil disobedience in an effort to convince the government to allow direct elections of the Hong Kong executive, released)

Rev Chu Yiu-min (Occupy Central organizer, **UPDATE**: surrendered for arrest after engaging in civil disobedience, released)

Date: December 3, 2014

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Card-Zen-and-Occupy-Central-leaders-released-by-police-32865.html>



## Egypt

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**: detained temporarily in an execution chamber by prison authorities)

Date reported: December 2, 2014

Source [with photo]: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=58309>



## Eritrea

Dr Kiflu Gebremeskel (pastor and mathematics professor, imprisoned)

Pastor Kidane Weldou (imprisoned)

Rev Haile Naizghe (imprisoned)

Date reported: November 2014

Location: Asmara

Source: <http://www.churchinchains.ie/node/760>



## Ethiopia

**Event: Church demolished by local officials in Muslim majority district, Christians detained for seven hours after attempting to photograph the demolition**

Pastor Zemace Tadesse (aged 30, husband of Aster Tadesse)

Aster Tadesse (aged 30, wife of Pastor Zemace Tadesse)

Pastor Yosefe Hailemariam (aged 39)

Date: November 28, 2014

Location: Shenkore district

Source: <http://www.persecution.org/2014/12/01/local-officials-demolish-evangelical-church-in-muslim-majority-area/>



## India

Irma Markami (beaten by Hindu nationalists along with his wife and three sons, threatened with death, hospitalized)

Pastor Vijay Purusu (witnessed the attack on Irma Markami and his family “In front of our eyes, they mercilessly beat up the Christians – kicking them, they pushed them down to the ground, stomped on them and beat them up with clubs and their hands”)

Narendra Gachha (said of the attack on Irma Markami and his family “The attack lasted for about one and a half hours, and by the time they were rushed to the hospital, the Christians were barely conscious”)

Date: October 25, 2014

Location: Gumkaguda, Malkangiri, Odisha state

Source [with photo]: <http://morningstarnews.org/2014/11/christians-in-india-beaten-nearly-unconscious-in-latest-of-several-attacks/>

Fr Mathew Kojickal (chancellor of the Archdiocese of New Delhi, condemned the arson attack on a church serving 1,000 families "I do not dare to accuse anyone but what is certain is that the attack was carefully planned and carried out on a place of worship of a religious minority...We had to organize a protest in the street to convince the police to send an investigation team")

Cardinal Oswald Gracias (**UPDATE:** said "[This] must be condemned in the strongest possible, am completely shocked and deeply saddened at this arson attacks. While I do not want to attribute communal motives, but this act of deliberate torching of a Sacred Place of worship, is completely unacceptable and cannot be condoned. People are revolted and feel vulnerable, whenever the miniscule Christian community is targeted")

Date: December 1, 2014

Location: Dilshad district, Delhi

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Card.-Gracias:-Arson-attack-on-Delhi-church-an-attack-on-India's-progress-32848.html>



## Iraq

Sr Maria Hann OP (wrote: "After four months of exile there are no signs of hope that the situation here in Iraq will be resolved peacefully. Unable to think or make decisions, everything is vague and we feel as if we have been living a nightmare. Christianity in Iraq is bleeding; so many families have left, and many are leaving to Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, preparing themselves for second immigration and an uncertain future. We do not know how long these families will be able to tolerate the burden and survive financially...Many still are forced to stay in unfinished buildings on construction sites. In one place, a mall has been remodeled to accommodate families, with the hall divided merely with partitions. Although they are better than tents, they resemble dark, damp cages with no ventilation. Most difficult of all is the lack of privacy...Everyday we hope that tomorrow will be better, but our tomorrows seem to bring only more tears and hardship. 'Out of the depths we cry to thee, O Lord! When will you rescue us?' We desperately count on your prayers, and we need you carry us to Jesus like the men who brought the paralytic to Jesus")

Date: December 2, 2014

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20141201203134.htm>



## Japan

Nickeles Fernando (aged 57, Sri Lankan citizen, refugee, **collapsed and died** in an immigration detention center after being refused medical treatment for chest pain)

Date: November 22, 2014

Location: Tokyo

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/sri-lankan-man-dies-at-japan-immigration-center/72521>



## Kenya

**Event: Thirty-six Christians killed by Al-Shabaab gunmen in two locations, thirteen wounded**

Boniface Daae (**shot dead**)

Kevin Ojwang (shot, hospitalized in serious condition)

Tom Gikundi (shot, hospitalized in serious condition)

John Muchiri (shot, hospitalized in serious condition)

Peter Nderitu (hid in a trench while Al Shabaab militants killed over 30 Christian workers at a stone quarry)

Date: December 2, 2014

Locations: Wajir and Mandera county

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2014/12/al-shabaab-islamists-again-attack-non-muslims-near-mandera-kenya-killing-36/>

and <http://www.assistnews.net/Stories/2014/s14120013.htm>



## Lebanon

Faris Mansour (aged 76, said of British efforts to protect his village from an ISIL attack "During the time of the crisis, the watchtowers helped to protect us. We were concerned about what was happening in Iraq and Syria. We were watching the news all the time, and we thought the violence would happen here")

Date: December 1, 2014

Location: Ras-Baalbek

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20141201045407.htm>



## Malaysia

Pastor Nelson Sembiling (worship service disrupted by police, service continued, police left)

Date: November 30, 2014

Location: Bangi

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/malaysia-mp-says-police-were-wrong-to-disrupt-church-service/72532>



## Nigeria

Ishaya Brimah (described an attack on his village "They started throwing bombs into houses...then the Boko Haram fired shots at people fleeing. They set ablaze the police station, houses and a telecom mast...I saw people fleeing, some bodies on the ground")

Shuabu Lawal (shopkeeper, said of the Boko Haram attack on his village "A boy ran into my shop and said his father and elder brother had been shot. He was only wearing shorts, no top and sweating despite the wintry weather")

Date: November 29, 2014

Location: Shani, Borno state

Source: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/scores-killed-thousands-flee-christian-town-in-boko-haram-rampage-in-nigeria-130467/>



## Pakistan

Noreen Bashir (aged 14, daughter of Bashir Masih and Ruqqiya Bibi, abducted, forcibly converted to Islam and married to her captor)

Bashir Masih (husband of Ruqqiya Bibi, father of Noreen Bashir)

Ruqqiya Bibi (wife of Bashir Masih, mother of Noreen Bashir)

Fr Mushtaq Piyara (reported on the abduction of Noreen Bashir)

Dr Rafaqat Masih (has been assisting Bashir Masih and Ruqqiya Bibi in their effort to recover their daughter Noreen Bashir from her abductor)

Date: November 26, 2014

Location: Thatha Gondal Hafizabad

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5079>

Sehrish (aged 18, daughter of Ilyas Masih, abducted and gang raped, told by her attackers that hers was the fate of 'poor Christian girls', released half naked)

Farazana (aged 14, daughter of Ilyas Masih, abducted and gang raped, told by her attackers that hers was the fate of 'poor Christian girls', released half naked)

Ilyas Masih (father of Sehrish and Farazana, attempted to file a police report on his daughters' abduction and rape, police refused and attempted to coerce him into a compensation agreement with the perpetrators, a court finally ordered the issuance of a police report, family now receiving threats)

Date reported: December 4, 2014

Location: Jaranwala district

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5080>

Aasiya Noreen aka Asia Bibi (**UPDATE**: has filed an appeal to the Pakistan Supreme Court in an effort to overturn her death sentence for blasphemy)

Date: November 24, 2014

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2014/12/as-injustice-escalates-senator-in-pakistan-seeks-solution-to-blasphemy-violence/>



## **Qatar**

**Event:** Christian couple, U.S. citizens, jailed in January 2013 on murder charges after their 8-year old daughter Gloria died from anorexia, authorities accused her of adopting Gloria for organ harvesting since she was not "good looking", the prosecutor also cited the Islamic prohibition on adoption; sentenced to 3 years imprisonment on March 27, 2013 despite an autopsy that showed their daughter's illnesses were due to pre-adoption malnutrition, released from jail on November 6, 2013 on bail pending appeal; **UPDATE:** charges dismissed, cleared to leave the country, escorted to the airport by the U.S. Ambassador, passports seized after the prosecutor appealed the dismissal of charges, still unable to leave the country)

Matthew Huang

Grace Huang

Date: November 30, 2014

Location: Doha

Source: <http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2014/November/Qatar-Bars-US-Couple-from-Leaving-after-Acquittal/>



## **Russia**

**Event: A court declared the video "Bailiffs' Piety" as 'extremists' because it is critical of the Russian Orthodox Church, in showing an attempt to seize relics from the Russian Orthodox Autonomous Church**

Mikhail Baranov (video producer)

Anna Dombrovskaya (video producer)

Aleksandr Soldatov (web developer, hosted the video on his website)

Date: November 21, 2014

Location: Vladimir

Source: [http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2020](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2020)



**Sudan**

**Event: Thirty-eight Christians arrested and fined for attempting to prevent the demolition of their church**

Daud Bashir Gadalah (church elder; **UPDATE**: severely beaten)

Date: December 2, 2014

Location: North Khartoum

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2014/12/police-in-sudan-attack-worshipping-congregation-arrest-38-christians/>



**Syria**

Fr Imad Daher (**UPDATE**: recounted how he had been injured in an October 2012 artillery attack on his church, lost an eye and has a prosthetic cheek and a metal rod in his arm, said "I was treated in Lebanon and then came back, because a shepherd does not abandon his flock, otherwise the wolf will come")

Date: November 27, 2014

Location: Aleppo

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20141202174517.htm>

Archbishop Samir Nassar (**UPDATE**: reported that 21 people including 5 children have died from winter cold in his diocese, wrote "Our loyal Damascus feels isolated, condemned to live in danger, and die in a 'hole' cut off from relatives and friends already living in Lebanon. This loneliness adds to the anguish, the bitter cold winter experience, the sad tenor and feeling of neglect...Our faithful spend their Christmas celebration in the freezing cold of their 'household nativity' relying on the warmth of their faith under the tender gaze of the Holy Family")

Date: December 4, 2014

Source: <http://www.catholicerald.co.uk/news/2014/12/04/children-in-damascus-are-freezing-to-death-archbishop-tells-faithful/>



## Turkey

**Event: The leaders of the Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches issued a joint statement on Christian persecution:** "We cannot resign ourselves to a Middle East without Christians, who have professed the name of Jesus there for two thousand years. Many of our brothers and sisters are being persecuted and have been forced violently from their homes. It even seems that the value of human life has been lost, that the human person no longer matters and may be sacrificed to other interests. And, tragically, all this is met by the indifference of many. As Saint Paul reminds us, "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together" [1 Cor 12:26]. This is the law of the Christian life, and in this sense we can say that there is also an ecumenism of suffering. Just as the blood of the martyrs was a seed of strength and fertility for the Church, so too the sharing of daily sufferings can become an effective instrument of unity")

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I aka Dimitrios Arhondonis

Pope Francis aka Jorge Mario Bergoglio SJ

Date: November 30, 2014

Location: Istanbul

Source: <http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2014/12/joint-declaration-of-his-holiness-pope-francis-and-his-all-holiness-ecumenical-patriarch-bartholomew/>

Fr Yoqin (described how most of the land owned by his monastery has been seized by local Kurds)

Date: December 6, 2014

Location: Mor Augin

Yuhanna Aktas (president of the Syriac Unity Association, said that Christians were driven from their lands during the Kurdish-Turkish conflict in the 1990's, and so were not present to prevent land seizures)

Rudi Sumer (attorney, said "The law does not ask why people left their land, or why they had to leave")

Date: December 6, 2014

Location: Midyat

Ibrahim Ogur (said of Kurdish squatters "They bore false witness against each other. None of them would testify on behalf of my father...If these land problems are solved, then many Christians will return home")

Date: December 6, 2014

Location: Mzizah

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20141205212009.htm>



### **United States - Alabama**

Bill Baker (mayor, has been fighting efforts by Wisconsin atheists to ban a municipal Christmas parade)

Date reported: December 4, 2014

Location: Piedmont

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2014/12/04/town-told-to-keep-christ-out-christmas-parade/>

### **United States - Florida**

Pastor James Battle (aged 31, married, father of two, **shot dead** by the husband of a church employee)

Amber Avalos (aged 33, church nursery and children's director, mother of six, **shot dead** by her husband at a neighbor's home, the neighbor was also killed)

Date: December 5, 2014

Location: Bradenton

Source: <http://www.charismanews.com/us/46368-manhunt-underway-for-florida-suspect-who-murdered-pastor-2-others>

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