

Today's Martyrs
2014-12-07 through 2014-12-13



China

Pastor Guo Pingxi (detained with more than 20 house church members while training them in 'common sense law' to help them defend their rights, given 15 day's administrative detention along with seven other detainees)

Yang (detained with Pastor Guo Pingxi, released)

Date: November 25, 2014

Location: Dazhou, Sichuan province

Source [with photo]: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/12/sichuan-law-training-class-raided-8.html>



Egypt

Milad Nageh Gad (shops seized by thugs, accused a police detective of aiding them)

Date: December 6, 2014

Location: El-Khusus

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=58387>

Mounir Sami (legal advisor, described how the Monastery of St Catherine received a warning from the South Sinai governor demanding that it relinquish 29 parcels of land or pay an US\$700,000 fine)

Date: November 30, 2014

Location: Mt Sinai

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=58363>

Amira Hafez Waheeb (aged 15, as of April 11, 2014 has been abducted for more than 40 days; **UPDATE:** the family of her accused abductor has demanded a ransom of almost US\$5,600)

Date: December 7, 2014

Location: Nag Al-Siagh, Luxor

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=58418>

Sherif Fekry (deliveryman, disappeared, motorcycle found)

Date: December 8, 2014

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1264&A=16787>

Mina Thabet (**UPDATE:** said that Coptic Christians have paid US\$16,800,000 in various ransom cases since January 25, 2011 in Minya province alone)

Date: December 9, 2014

Source: <http://www.copticsolidarity.org/cs-releases/3183-minya-s-copts-pay-120-million-in-ransom>

Fr Beman Shaker Adle (said that the construction of a church service building has not been allowed despite the issuance of a building permit in 2011)

Date: December 11, 2014

Location: Mit Nama, Shubra al-Khaymah, Qalyubia

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=58496>



India

Archbishop Anil JT Couto (**UPDATE:** has called on the Prime and Home Ministers to order a judicial inquiry into the church arson, also said that Christians are living in fear in India, also said “The arson in St. Sebastian’s church was condemnable not just because it was an act of sacrilege and hate against the community and its faith, but that it could happen in the national capital which is just recovering from a series of communal incidents”)

Fr Anthony Francis (pastor, said "The police and the forensic team only reached at 5.30 pm, though the fire broke out in the morning")

Fr Stanley Kozhichira (media director of Delhi archdiocese, said "The sanctuary, sacristy and the first floor balcony of the church is completely gutted. It seems to be a deliberate act as we could smell kerosene on the spot")

Rev Vijayesh Lal (Religious Liberty Commission national director; **UPDATE:** said “Normally, in churches, there is a distance of about 20 feet between the altar and the pews, but the entire area was burnt. The burning is so thorough that nothing remains except the outer structure. This could not have been done except by design. Plus there was reportedly the stench of kerosene sensed all over the church. Foul play cannot be ruled out”)

Jenis Francis (attorney, said “The SHO [police Station House Officer] didn’t record any statements of the people present, and before we could press for more details, he went away. The ACP [Assistant Commissioner of Police] later declared that it was not a short circuit, but indeed, clearly a case of mischief”)

Date: December 1, 2014

Location: Dilshad district, Delhi

Source:

<http://www.christiantoday.co.in/article/christians.protest.against.burning.of.delhi.church.demands.quick.action/17741.htm>

and <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=58415>

and <http://morningstarnews.org/2014/12/christians-protest-violence-as-church-burning-hits-new-delhi-india/>

Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara (reported that parishioners were anxious after their church was pelted with stones and windows broken during Divine Liturgy)

Date: December 6, 2014

Location: Jasola, New Delhi

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2014/12/christians-protest-violence-as-church-burning-hits-new-delhi-india/>

Fr Francis Arackal OP (criticized an announced plan by the RSS paramilitary organization to convert 1,000 Muslim and 4,000 Christian families to Hinduism on December 25, 2014)

Date: December 10, 2014

Location: Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/The-Christmas-of-Hindu-radicals:-We-will-reconvert-5,000-Christian-and-Muslim-families-32917.html>

Fr Z Devasagayaraj (secretary for Scheduled Class/Backward Class and tribal affairs, condemned the new proposal for a national law banning religious conversion, said “Even Hindus who want freedom from caste oppression and untouchability will be restricted to follow the religion”)

Date: December 12, 2014

Location: New Delhi

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/indias-government-advocates-anti-proselytization-law/72610>



Iran

Pastor Ebrahim Hossin-Zadeh (aged 32, arrested by plainclothes police from the Ministry of Information, interrogated, whereabouts and condition unknown but believed to be in the city detention center)

Date: November 20, 2014

Location: Shiraz

Source [with photo]:

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9519:the-arrest-and-the-unknown-condition-of-one-the-house-church-leaders-in-shiraz&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Iraq

Fr Mazen Ishoa aka Abuna Mazen (has resided in a refugee camp to minister to his flock, said "I hold no grudge against the extremists. 'Love your enemies,' Jesus says. And the Bible is clear: 'If you follow Me, you will be persecuted'"")

Date: December 9, 2014

Location: Erbil, Kurdistan

Inaam Isho Poulos (aged 36, **killed in an ISIL mortar attack**, her sister said "It was to be a wonderful day, she was to be engaged that day. But she was buried instead...perhaps a reason that she died [was that the] exodus began, just in time. Thousands of people were rescued by her death")

Date: August 2014

Location: Qaraqosh

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20141209172524.htm>



Israel

Fr Gabriel Nadaf (said on a trip to Madrid, Spain that "What is happening in the Middle East is genocide, and it is happening today, now. Every five minutes, a Christian dies in the Middle East, and Muslim leaders know it")

Date: December 12, 2014

Location: Nazareth

Source: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/every-five-minutes-a-christian-dies-in-the-middle-east-27028/>



Jordan

Najem Handaniyeh (Iraqi refugee, husband, father of four, family now lives in a single room, said "Thank God we are here now and we have this. Any Christian still in our home [in Iraq] is now either Muslim or dead...For all the people here, there is only one toilet, and until last week we didn't have a shower. We have no money to buy water to wash. We tell our children to wait and be patient, but it's difficult as they can't go to school")

Nual Ibrahim (Iraqi refugee, said of the ISIL attack on Mosul "They said convert to Islam or die and gave us one day to decide, so we fled. There is no future in Iraq for us now but we have no papers, no money and begin at zero again. To be a refugee is like being sick, you live just to eat and sleep...Iraq is destroyed now. We just want to go somewhere where we can live in peace")

Yusuf Ishak Bahey (aged 66, Iraqi refugee, said of the ISIL attack on Qaraqosh "When ISIL arrived, we took nothing from our homes and left with just the clothes on our backs. In two hours, the town [of 40,000] was emptied")

Date: December 7, 2014

Location: Amman

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20141207051642.htm>



Kenya

Bishop Emanuel Barbara (**UPDATE:** said of the recent Al-Shabaab attacks on Christians “we are telling our people, ‘Be cautious and pay attention to what’s happening around you; but don’t let anger and vengeance grow in your hearts’”)

Br John Mwangi Wambugu (said that church attendance has dropped due to fear of more attacks “There is a lot of insecurity and fear among Christians, especially in the coastal regions and northeastern Kenya...people [Christians and Muslims] are not as close as they used to be”)

Date: December 5, 2014

Location: Malindi

Source: <http://www.catholicerald.co.uk/news/2014/12/08/christians-in-kenya-living-in-fear-after-latest-islamist-attack/>



Lebanon

Fr Paul Karam (**UPDATE:** spoke a few days after the UN announced it had run out of money to feed Syrian refugees and that US\$4.4 billion will be needed "In Lebanon, there are at least 1.6 million Syrian refugees...Soon, there will be no food for refugees under UN protection. Until now, these people survived on aid. How will they live in the future? Will they start stealing? Will they move to other countries and destabilize them?...Most Syrian refugees are Muslims, not Christians. This affects Lebanon's own situation, which is defined by a balance between two communities, Muslims and Christians, and the relationship between 18 religious denominations. If this situation is upset, everything could collapse...In the past three years, the presence of refugees has led to spike in stealing, kidnapping, and violence. So many of them attack people, or want to steal...In recent years, the crime rate rose from 15 to 60 per cent...We cannot guarantee peace to one country and let the others sink into war. There must be a path towards peace for everyone. Without such a perspective, there will always be conflicts, dragging from year to the next, from one generation to another...But why should Lebanon have to solve this

problem alone? Why is it that money to buy and make weapons is always found, but there is none to feed refugees?")

Date: December 9, 2014

Location: Beirut

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Caritas-Lebanon's-director,-Syrian-refugees-are-a-humanitarian-and-international-crisis-32912.html>



Malaysia

Event: Government religious authorities returned seized Bibles but desecrated them with a stamp reading 'Strictly for non-Muslims usage only and shall not be published or used in any part of the state of Selangor pursuant to section 9 [1] Non-Islamic Religions [Control of Propagation Amongst Muslims] Enactment 1988'

Pastor Graman Ujang (said "It showed they were not sincere in wanting to return them. They did so because they were pressured to. But why on earth did they do that, stamping the Bibles? It also shows they just don't have any respect for other religions")

Bishop Datuk Ng Moon Hing (president of the Bible Society of Malaysia, said "The Christian minority in this country has been made to suffer at the hands of religious zealots and extremists working within the government", demanded an apology from the religious authorities)

Rev Dr Justin Wan (said that the government's attempt to restrict the Bibles to one state belied the "high mobility" of people between the states)

Date: December 7, 2014

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/christians-push-back-after-muslim-leaders-stamp-malaysian-bibles-with-warning/72571>



Nigeria

Rev Enoch Mark (a daughter and a niece among the over 200 abducted schoolgirls from Chibok, Borno state, alleged on May 12, 2014 that they were held in a camp only 30 kilometers away for 11 days; **UPDATE:** reported on the Boko Haram takeover of the town, said "We have all fled. They are now in control of the town, having overpowered the soldiers and the vigilantes")

Date: December 6, 2014

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2014/12/boko-haram-kills-more-christians-as-it-expands-caliphate-in-nigeria/>

Daniel Ibrahim (escaped a Boko Haram massacre of 11 people, said “They abducted more than 20 girls from our town and killed many people, mostly old men and women. They burnt almost half of the town before they left. Those of us who were lucky fled, but they massacred aged ones and younger men they could catch“)

Date: December 3, 2014

Location: Lassa, Borno state

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/nigeria-boko-haram-attacks-a-christian-city-killing-more-christians-abducting-20-girls/#sthash.CqdhgP7l.dpuf>



Pakistan

Pastor Arif Masih (**UPDATE**: name included on a list of nine Christians which was found attached to burnt Quran pages, said "I don't know who has done this heinous act, but I am sure that the perpetrator is very much against the Christian community")

Date: November 20, 2014

Location: Islamabad

Bashir Masih (aged 70, hired to whitewash the exterior wall of a mosque, beaten by Muslims from a different Sunni sect and accused of blasphemy for overpainting sacred words)

Date: October 1, 2014

Location: Sargodha

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/12/3539002/>

Prof Anjum James Paul (**UPDATE**: condemned the demolition of the homes of 13 Christian families who are now homeless)

Date: December 10, 2014

Location: Chak No.216 GB, Samundri

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5091>



Philippines

Daniel Jaquith (missionary, husband of Colleen Jaquith, shot in the arm during an attempted robbery, a Filipino pastor was also shot in the foot, both recovered)

Colleen Jaquith (missionary, wife of Daniel Jaquith, saw her husband shot)

Date: March 4, 2014

Source: <http://blog.godreports.com/2014/12/american-missionaries-survived-shooting-in-philippines-prayed-throughout-ordeal/>



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; **UPDATE:** left the country and arrived in Los Angeles

Matthew Huang (father of Josiah aged 8 and Emmanuel aged 11)

Grace Huang (mother of Josiah aged 8 and Emmanuel aged 11)

Date: December 7, 2014

Location: Doha

Source [with photo]: <http://www.charismanews.com/world/46381-u-s-couple-released-by-qatar-in-child-s-death-celebrate-their-return>



Russia

Pastor Alexei Kolyasnikov (prayer service in a rented coffee shop room raided by FSB agents, detained, fined US\$563; fine overturned on appeal)

Dates: September 28, 2014 and December 2, 2014

Location: Khostinsky district, near Sochi

Source: <http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue25597.html>



United Kingdom

Br Damon Jonah Kelly (arrested for publishing leaflets defending traditional Christian morality)

Date: December 8, 2014

Location: Cambridgeshire, Scotland

Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/scottish-monk-arrested-for-distributing-leaflets-promoting-sexual-morality>



United States - Georgia

Joseph Lawhorn (United States Army Chaplain, sent a Letter of Concern from his commanding officer that accused him of "advocating one system of beliefs over another" at a suicide prevention class for having provided both Christian and non-Christian literature)

Date: November 20, 2014

Location: Fort Benning

Source: <http://www.charismanews.com/opinion/46402-army-chaplain-punished-for-sharing-faith-in-suicide-prevention-class>

United States - Illinois

Fr Anthony Brankin (church creche vandalized, statues of Mary and Joseph decapitated)

Date: December 7, 2014

Location: Chicago

Source: <http://www.charismanews.com/us/46400-you-won-t-believe-what-vandals-did-to-mary-and-joseph-statues>

United States - Massachusetts

Pastor Scott Lively (sued by a homosexual group for allegedly inciting incidents of persecution against homosexuals in Uganda over the past decade, he denies the charges, a Federal judge has ruled on August 28, 2013 that the trial may proceed; **UPDATE**: petition for dismissal denied by a three judge panel of the Federal First Circuit Court)

Date: December 5, 2014

Location: Boston

Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/u.s.-pastor-faces-crimes-against-humanity-charges-for-opposing-gay-agenda-a>

United States - Pennsylvania

Fr Charles Engelhardt OSFS (aged 67, **died from an untreated coronary condition**, had served 2 years of a 6 to 12 year sentence for child molestation, trial is now under investigation for prosecutorial misconduct and wrongful conviction)

Date: November 15, 2014

Location: Danville

Source [with photo]: <http://www.bigtrial.net/2014/11/father-engelhardt-dead.html>

United States - Texas

Jacob Herrera (eighth grade student, slammed to the ground by police for wearing rosary beads given him by his deceased brother, arrested and held overnight, had permission from the school principal to bring them to school)

Date: October 29, 2014

Location: Amarillo

Source: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/texas-8th-grader-arrested-repeatedly-slammed-to-the-ground-by-police-after-refusing-to-remove-rosary-beads-at-football-game-130866/>



Vietnam

Fr Nguyen Van Ly (imprisoned since 2001 for advocating religious freedom, democracy, and human rights and for opposing a U.S.-Vietnam trade treaty)

Date: December 10, 2014

Source: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/prisoners-of-conscience-remembered-on-human-rights-day-49496/>

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