

Today's Martyrs
2015-02-08 through 2015-02-14



Azerbaijan

Kamran Shikhaliyev (inducted into a military unit in October 2013 despite his declaration of conscientious objection, subjected to physical abuse, verbal humiliation, psychological pressure, four months confinement, then charged with "fraudulently evading military service"; convicted on April 16 2014, sentenced to one year in a disciplinary military unit on May 6 2014; **UPDATE**: has completed one year in captivity but has been transferred to a new military unit)

Date: February 12, 2015

Location: Salyan

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2037



China

Event: The operators of a church based kindergarten are facing trial for illegal business operations for having printed kindergarten textbooks without identification numbers, the book printer has also been charged; **UPDATE: trial begun, defense attorneys illegally denied access to the trial transcript, their protests led to their expulsion from the courtroom, the judge has ordered the trial to proceed without the defense attorneys**

Cheng Jie (wife of Pastor Du Hongbo, mother of two young children, kindergarten director, detained on February 18, 2014)

Li Jiatao (wife of Ma Jiawen, mother of two, kindergarten teacher, detained on June 24, 2014 by police)

Huang Qiurui (church elder)

Fang Bin (book printer)

Date: February 9, 2015

Location: Liunan district, Liuzhou city, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/02/5-lawyers-expelled-from-hualin.html>



Egypt

Bola Samir (aged 15, **burned to death** in a Muslim Brotherhood attack on a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant)

Date: February 5, 2015

Location: Monofeya

Source [with photos]: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59449>

Mary Nabil Atia (aged 18, disappeared)

Date: January 29, 2015

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1309&A=17531>

Abdel Shaheed Tawfik (aged 50, home burned after an attempt on his life)

Abanob Girgis (reported on the attack on Abdel Shaheed Tawfik)

Date: February 12, 2015

Location: Samaran district, El-Arish, Sinai

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59549>

Michael Monir Bishay (aged 26, brother of Lucy Monir Bishay, arrested on **February 1, 2015** on contempt of Islam charges after he shared a video on YouTube of a Muslim scholar;
UPDATE: the judge and prosecutor have illegally denied the defense attorney access to case files)

Date: February 12, 2015

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=59550>

Mina Agib (aged 21, 'handicapped', **found dead with multiple injuries**)

Date: February 12, 2015

Location: Minya

Source [warning - graphic]: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1313&A=17606>



India

Dr John Dayal (**UPDATE:** spoke on the police action against Christians protesting Hindu extremist violence “The brutalizing of the Christian youth, women and men, many of them nuns and priests, by the Delhi police is symptomatic both of the bigotry and the sadism that seems so seeped into the system. The current political dispensation abets it and uses it. It is important to remember that the Christian community had not even started their proposed protest march when the police swooped on them in a pre-emptive strike to stifle their voice...The Hindu, hyper-nationalist, fundamentalist groups that carry out the violence are encouraged by the government’s silence. Politically they believe that [Prime Minister Narendra] Modi has come into power because of their hard work in the run-up

to the elections in 2014, and that he is beholden to them and will not take any action against them”)

Rev Vijayesh Lal (**UPDATE:** said of Fr Dominic Emmanuel ““He is one of the most recognized faces from the Christian community, and he was dragged badly and pushed onto a bus in a brutal manner. He later told me that the attack from the police had left him in a lot of pain”)

Fr Savarimuthu Sankar (**UPDATE:** said “The way the police manhandled elderly nuns, priests and people showed the sheer brutality of the Delhi police, and I witnessed every bit of it”)

Date: February 5, 2015

Location: Delhi

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2015/02/police-in-india-manhandle-detain-protestors-against-anti-christian-attacks/>

Event: Christians respond to the defeat of the Hindu nationalist BJP party in the National Capital Territory elections by the AAP anti-corruption party

Sajan K George (**UPDATE:** said "Millions of people voted against the BJP out of disgust for the actions of violent radical nationalist forces and their distortion of history and science...is a triumph of our democratic system, the consequence of growing intolerance toward minorities, the desecration and vandalism against five churches in Delhi, and the complicit silence of the federal government in the face of violence against the Christian community")

Fr Ajaya Kumar Singh (said "With AAP's win in Delhi, Hindutva fascist forces will now be checked")

Archbishop Anil Joseph Thomas Couto (**UPDATE:** said "the result is a vote for change. Even after eight months, the Modi government has failed to act well, nor has it fulfilled its promises. The people of Delhi are disappointed and that's why they wanted to give Arwind Kejriwal a chance as the new chief minister [governor]. Moreover, the majority of the population here is well educated and come from all over the country. People have the pulse of the situation, on their States: their vote also shows the frustration of the people of India about the central government's behavior")

Fr Savarimuthu Sankar (**UPDATE:** said "We are convinced that violence in Delhi had an impact on the vote: This result proves that the campaign of hatred does not pay and that those who use religion for political purposes is a loser. I believe this vote is also a message to the central government of India")

Date: February 10, 2015

Location: Delhi

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Indian-Christians-view-Delhi-elections-as-a-victory-over-fascism-33425.html>

and <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Archbishop-of-Delhi:-The-people-voted-against-Modi-and-the-political-use-of-religion-33421.html>

and <http://www.fides.org/en/news/37253->

[ASIA INDIA Elections in Delhi nationalists collapse for the Church it is a new beginning#.VNrhlcJTE5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37253-)

Fr Cedric Prakash SJ (director of the Prashant Center for Human Rights, Justice and Peace; **UPDATE:** criticized the erection of a Hindu temple dedicated to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, including an idol in his likeness "This is a deplorable initiative for a secular country like India...Hinduism does not turn human beings into gods. What is certain is that sad things are happening in our country and they are threatening its secular nature...I don't think it is a good sign. It is yet another bad step in the wrong direction...", Mr Modi tweeted that he was "appalled" by the temple and the attempt to declare him a god and forced the cancellation of government sponsorship of its inauguration)

Date: February 12, 2015

Location: Ahmedabad, Gujarat state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hindu-temple-dedicated-to-Narendra-Modi-is-a-threat-to-secular-India-33444.html>

Sajan K George (**UPDATE:** described the vandalism of a parochial school, said "The public security situation is getting worse")

Date: February 13, 2015

Location: Vasant Vihar, south Delhi

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Delhi,-more-attacks-on-the-Church-as-Catholic-school-targeted-33453.html>



Iraq

Archbishop Bashar Matti Warda (**UPDATE:** spoke before members of the British Parliament "We don't have much time left as Christians in this region. As a Catholic I find it hard to say, but I want military action, there is no other way now")

Date: February 10, 2015

Location: London, United Kingdom

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20150210133617.htm>
and <http://www.aina.org/news/20150210140004.htm>



Jordan

Fr Rifat Bader (**UPDATE:** complained of the importation and sale of hookahs with immodest depictions of Jesus)

Date: February 10, 2015

Location: Amman

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/37250->

[ASIA_JORDAN_CCSM denounces offensive drawings of Lord Jesus Christ on hoos#VNriHsJTE5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37250-ASIA_JORDAN_CCSM_denounces_offensive_drawings_of_Lord_Jesus_Christ_on_hoos#VNriHsJTE5s)



Kenya

Frederick (injured in the leg with a grenade explosion, shot in the chest, stomach, and hand, seven others injured, attack believed to have been perpetrated by the Al Shabaab Islamist group)

Date: February 11, 2015

Location: Mandera

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2015/02/eight-people-injured-in-grenade-attack-in-northern-kenya/>



Lebanon

Antoine Tanus (newly hired director of the College of Business Administration, students have demanded his removal due to his religion)

Date: February 3, 2015

Location: Tripoli

Source: <http://www.raymondibrahim.com/from-the-arab-world/lebanon-university-students-protest-appointment-of-christian-director/>



Niger

Fr Mauro Armanino SMA (missionary; **UPDATE:** said "There is a growing feeling of anti-Christianity in Niger...The extremist group Boko Haram attacked the city of Diffa yesterday. The attack comes as Niger's lawmakers are due to vote on a plan to send troops in the operations against Boko Haram in Nigeria...We know that many people are fleeing from Diffa to head towards Zinder to then presumably go to the capital Niamey...Indeed, there is growing concern in people. The attacks carried out by Boko Haram creates a feeling of growing impatience towards any presence which is not a form of Islam")

Date: February 10, 2015

Location: Niamey

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/37252->

[AFRICA NIGER A missionary There is a growing feeling of anti Christianity in Niger#.VNrjQMJTE5s](#)



Nigeria

Joshua Dariye (Federal Senator, 80+ year old father abducted by Boko Haram, US\$10 million ransom demanded)

Date: February 7, 2015

Location: Mushere, Bokkos local government area, Plateau state

Source: <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2015/02/gunmen-kidnap-plateau-ex-govs-father-dariye/>

Dorcas Aiden (aged 20, held captive by Boko Haram for two weeks, denied Christ to survive, escaped)

Date: September 2014

Fr Maurice Kwairanga (has been working with girls who have escaped Boko Haram captivity "...some of them it's very painful for them to go through this process of even telling what happened to them. But gradually, they are able to open up and to talk freely, to feel accepted and to feel that the world has not turned its back on them")

Date: February 12, 2015

Source: <http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2015/February/Girls-Who-Escaped-from-Boko-Haram-Speak-Out/>

Monica Sunday (aged 20, abducted by Boko Haram along with her infant son Abraham John from Kiva village, met 24 of the abducted Chibok schoolgirls, saw another woman beaten to death for refusing to convert to Islam, escaped, baby died during her several day hike without food, was unable to bury him)

Abraham John (infant son of Monica Sunday, **died** during their escape from Boko Haram)

Date reported: February 13, 2015

Location: Sambisa forest

Source [with photo]: <http://thenationonlineng.net/new/met-24-chibok-schoolgirls/>



Pakistan

Event: Two churches raided by police, pastors arrested, sound systems seized

Pastor Imran Maqbool (arrested, spent the night in jail, said “The authorities had to come up with an explanation for the raids. Four microphones, two sets of speakers, a music mixer, a harmonium, and other electric accessories were damaged and later taken away by the police”)

Salik Morris (church member, said “All the worshipers were almost held hostage by the police. The women and children started praying, but stopped when they were threatened by the Station House Officer. The officer ordered the congregation not to come to the church for prayers anymore”)

Pastor Javaid Austin (said “The local police have violated our right to religious freedom. They entered into the church forcefully, as attackers, and misbehaved with the pastoral team and the worshipers”)

Azeem Javaid (prayer leader, arrested, spent the night in jail, said “There were around 200 worshipers in both churches. The police, led by Imran Qureshi, the local Station House Officer, entered into the church forcefully with arms bared. They harassed the women and children. The loud speakers were not even in use due to a power cut...I am more energetic for my pastoral work”)

Tasneem Akhtar (church member, said “It was an act of terrorism and an attack on peaceful worshipers which should be condemned by all rights groups. We will continue praying and worshipping in the same church in the same spirit. The Station House Officer should be arrested for his criminal act and he must come up with an apology for this!”)

Date: February 8, 2015

Location: Lahore

Source: <http://www.persecution.org/2015/02/09/police-raid-two-sunday-worship-services-in-lahore-pakistan/>

Event: Christians have continued to live in a makeshift slum after fleeing Islamic violence following the 2012 blasphemy accusations against Rimsha Bibi

Pastor Orangzaib Maseeh (has run a literacy program at his open air church, said "I wish to save my people by providing them faith and some education. I want them to have a life of a normal person. They used to have one")

Dunya Yacoub (aged 24, celebrated her wedding in a dark concrete block house, said "Since I was a little girl, I dreamed of the day I would get married and put on a nice dress and have a nice party with a lot of people. But today, my dream didn't turn the way I imagined it, but there is nothing I can do about it. This is how our lives look like today, and we have to adapt")

Date: February 11, 2015

Location: Christian Colony [ghetto], Islamabad

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/ap-photos-christians-pakistan-slum-amid-blasphemy-cases-28880845>

Sehrish (aged 18, daughter of Ilyas Masih, abducted and gang raped, told by her attackers that hers was the fate of 'poor Christian girls'; **UPDATE:** two men on motorcycles demanded that her family drop the criminal charges against her attackers, fired repeated shots into her home and took deliberate aim at her 12 year old brother but missed, after exhausting

their bullets they spent 20 minutes threatening her with another gang rape and other atrocities, family fled her home and is living with her pastor, said "I am too afraid to go back home. This was once my local community but all I have now is bad memories")

Farazana (aged 14, daughter of Ilyas Masih, abducted and gang raped, told by her attackers that hers was the fate of 'poor Christian girls'; **UPDATE**: two men on motorcycles demanded that her family drop the criminal charges against her attackers, fired repeated shots into her home and took deliberate aim at her 12 year old brother but missed, after exhausting their bullets they spent 20 minutes threatening her with another gang rape and other atrocities, family fled her home and is living with her pastor)

Ilyas Masih (father of Sehrish and Farazana; **UPDATE**: wept after the attempt to shoot his family, said "I wish never go back. We already paid a big cost of my daughters' honor, we can't afford the loss of any family member now")

Date: February 10, 2015

Location: Jaranwala district

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5184>

Dr Nazir S Bhatti (President of Pakistan Christian Congress; **UPDATE**: called on the UN and Western governments to help the more than 14,000 Pakistani refugees in Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand)

Date: February 13, 2015

Location: Karachi

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5185>



Syria

Kayla Mueller (aged 26, U.S. citizen, humanitarian aid worker, abducted from an Aleppo hospital by ISIL in August 2013, confirmed to have been **killed** while in ISIL captivity, had written "I remember mom always telling me that all in all in the end the only one you really have is God. I have come to a place in experience where, in every sense of the word, I have surrendered myself to our creator b/c literally there was no else... + by God + by your prayers I have felt tenderly cradled in freefall...Please be patient, give your pain to God...by God's will we will be together soon")

Date: February 10, 2015

Source [with photo]: <http://www.charismanews.com/world/48233-woman-held-hostage-by-isis-i-have-surrendered-myself-to-our-creator>



Sudan

Neima Abiad Idris (aged 49, known as the 'Peace Singer' for her Christian songs on forgiveness, wife, mother of six, **killed in an air force bombing raid**)

Date: November 6, 2014

Location: Kadir, Nubia

Source [with photo]:

http://www.persecution.com/public/newsroom.aspx?story_ID=%3d373339&featuredstory_ID=%3d343739

Naheed Saeed Komi (aged 25, wife, mother of a 3 year old boy, nine month's pregnant, **killed in an air force bombing raid**)

Date: February 6, 2015

Location: Tangali village, Dalami county, South Kordofan state

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2015/02/sudanese-air-force-bomb-kills-pregnant-christian-mother-in-nuba-mountains-sudan/>



United States - Florida

Suzanne Mazzola (aged 34, special education teacher, wife of Joseph, mother of Matteo, Ella, Luca, and Owen, **died from complications of pregnancy**, had been advised to abort Owen early in the pregnancy but had refused)

Date: February 2, 2015

Location: Tamarac

Source [with photos]: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/south-florida-mom-sacrifices-her-life-for-her-unborn-son>

United States - Wisconsin

Dr John McAdams (professor of political science at Marquette University, suspended on **December 16, 2014**, banned from campus, and under formal investigation for defending a student's defense of traditional Christian morality on his blog; **UPDATE**: the university has begun termination proceedings against him despite his tenure, has vowed to fight the university's actions)

Date reported: February 9, 2015

Location: Milwaukee

Source [with photo]: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/catholic-marquette-firing-tenured-prof.-who-defended-student-who-stood-up-f>

United States - West Virginia

Pastor Ronald Browning (aged 68, **beaten to death** in his home)

Date: February 9, 2015

Location: Beckley

Source: <http://www.charismanews.com/us/48246-elderly-pastor-murdered-in-west-virginia>



Uzbekistan

Tanzilya Karkayeva (home raided by police without warrant, religious books and literature seized, later fined one month's minimum wage)

Date: January 21, 2015

Location: Yakkasaray district, Tashkent

Event: Nine Christians fined for illegally teaching religious doctrine

Nailya Gapparova (fined 30 times the minimum monthly wage)

Zukhra Shoakbarova (fined 30 times the minimum monthly wage)

Nigora Shoakbarova (fined 30 times the minimum monthly wage)

Zulfiyya Shipova (fined 20 times the minimum monthly wage)

Tatyana Tenyayeva (fined 10 times the minimum monthly wage)

Elmira Adigamova (fined 10 times the minimum monthly wage)

Alena Shakirova (fined 10 times the minimum monthly wage)

Rita Mirzayeva (fined 10 times the minimum monthly wage)

Oksana Kotova (fined 10 times the minimum monthly wage)

Date: September 30, 2014

Location: Yashnobod district, Tashkent

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2036

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