

**Today's Martyrs**  
**2015-07-12 through 2015-07-18**



**Azerbaijan**

Fr Demetre aka Levan Tetrushvili (Georgian citizen, denied permission to re-enter the country, no reason given, parishioners now denied the Divine Liturgy and other mysteries [sacraments])

Date: June 21, 2015

Location: Balakan

Source: [http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2080](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2080)



**China**

Peter Hahn (aged 74, U.S. citizen, operator of a Christian NGO specializing in aid to North Koreans, arrested on [November 20, 2014](#) on charges of embezzlement and counterfeiting invoices; **UPDATE**: trial scheduled for July 28, 2015, health has improved in prison as the weather has warmed, all charges except counterfeiting receipts have been withdrawn)

Date reported: July 14, 2015

Location: Tumen, Jilin province

Source: <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/china-set-to-try-jailed-u/1983626.html>

Zhuang Daohe (attorney and Zhejiang University professor, sent a letter to the governor of Guizhou province asking for the release of his Christian clients from detention for cult activities, particularly the ones who were visiting from outside the province and who need to return to work)

Xu Guotao (**UPDATE**: still detained)

Kang Chengju (**UPDATE**: still detained)

Dai Xiaoqiang (government employee, **UPDATE**: has completed detention, police have requested an arrest warrant)

Date: July 12, 2015

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/07/lawyer-for-zhejiang-christian-detained.html>



## Colombia

Fr Luis Alfonso Leon Pereira (Spanish national, **killed** when he interrupted a burglary by a homeless man in the church sacristy just prior to Mass, neck injured with a broken bottle)

Date: July 15, 2015

Location: Barrio Sucre, Monteria

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/38194->

[AMERICA COLOMBIA Priest murdered in the sacristy as he was about to celebrate mass#.Vah0lcLJAfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38194-AMERICA_COLOMBIA_Priest_murdered_in_the_sacristy_as_he_was_about_to_celebrate_mass#.Vah0lcLJAfg)



## Egypt

Fr Abdel Quddus (reported on the attack on a nun "An unknown person stalked a sister in the diocese of Fashn, Beni Suef, and attacked her last week with a bladed weapon while she was outside her residence. He then hit her head against the wall and fled")

Date reported: July 14, 2015

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63660>

Fawzi Osama (arrested with two other Christians for distributing food and Christian literature to Muslims during Ramadan)

Date: July 2015

Location: Alexandria

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63669>

Christine Essam (aged 19, disappeared on her way to work, phone turned off)

Date reported: July 17, 2015

Location: Wasty

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1423&A=19550>



## Guatemala

Ángel Ariel Escalante Perez (aged 12, thrown from a bridge by six gang members after he refused to kill a bus driver, **died** after 15 days in intensive care)

Date: June 18 and July 3, 2015

Location: Guatemala City

Source {with photos}: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/this-guatemalan-boy-chose-to-die-rather-than-kill-48091/>



## India

Suganti Kacchap (one of several new Christians beaten, dragged for nearly a kilometer, suffered severe head injuries and has had continuing pain for months, fled the village with her family for good)

Date: March 27, 2015

Location: Kullu village, Chanho block, Ranchi district, Jharkhand state

**Event: Five Christian families forced to flee their village along with their pastor by tribal people directed by Hindu extremists, families later returned but their homes were pelted with stones the following day**

Pastor Moosa Minj (forced to flee his village after having his possessions thrown from his house, received death threats, said “The Christians in the village have been discriminated and threatened for a long time, but the banishment started in the first week of June, when five Christian families were threatened and banished”)

Gossner Ekka (family forced to flee their village)

Vardhan Kujur (family forced to flee their village)

Premchand Kujur (family forced to flee their village)

Masihcharan Kujur (family forced to flee their village)

Premchand Ekka (family forced to flee their village)

Date: June 10 and 22-23, 2015

Location: Kullu village, Chanho block, Ranchi district, Jharkhand state

Rev Vijayesh Lal (Religious Liberty Commission national director; **UPDATE**: described an attack by BJP and RSS members on a Christian prayer service “The attack took place without any provocation. The attackers targeted not only the 200 worshippers but also the pastor present. Shouting anti-Christian slogans, they broke the furniture, musical instruments, fans and scattered the lunch kept for the church members...The attackers even misbehaved with a physically challenged man who was seated on a chair during the attack. They pushed him and asked him to get up and go away. Many Christians were manhandled during this attack on religious freedom. Even the police acknowledge this”)

Dr John Dayal (**UPDATE**: said “Also, for all its well-earned reputation of being a place of co-existence of various religions, the RSS and the BJP have made a serious efforts the last 25 years to penetrate Kerala and poison its communal harmony. The RSS continues to try to polarize people whichever the government in the state and this attack is a direct result of the polarization”)

Date: June 14, 2015

Location: Attingal, Kerala state

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2015/07/hindu-extremists-instigate-tribal-people-against-christians-in-jharkhand-india/>

Christopher Joseph (journalist, wrote "It is 25 years since the Indian media reported what they then called the first rape case involving Catholic nuns in Independent India. No one has yet been punished for the crime. Police did arrest four men in connection with the July 13, 1990 rape of two nuns in their convent in Gajraula, near Delhi. However, the trial proved farcical when it was determined they were in jail when the crime was committed...Between 1990 and 1995, New Delhi's Theological Research and Communication Institute recorded 20 more cases of murder, rape and assault on Catholic clergy and nuns in India. Since then the number of incidents has grown with about 100 attacks being recorded in recent years. In the last year the figure has doubled to more than 200, since Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party came to power...It remains a fact that not a single Hindu Brahmakumaris nun has been sexually attacked in all these years")

Date: July 10, 2015

Location: Kochi

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/twenty-five-years-of-violating-indian-nuns-with-impunity/73909>

**Event: Two security guards at a Christian school killed by robbers, US\$315 taken**

Sunil Kumar (aged 36, brother of Anil Kumar, former student, **killed**)

Anil Kumar (aged 32, brother of Sunil Kumar, former student, **killed**)

Pushpa Devi (aunt of Sunil and Anil Kumar)

Darwin Prashad (school principal, said "It raises serious security concerns for us. I don't rule out a communal [i.e. religious sectarian] angle to the incident")

Date: July 15, 2016

Location: New Delhi

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/two-security-guards-found-murdered-in-indian-christian-school/73938>



**Iran**

Pastor Behnam Irani (husband of Kristina Irani; **UPDATE**: granted a 15 day leave from prison, his first since his arrest in 2010)

Date: July 11, 2015

Source: <http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=2369>



## Iraq

Christina Khidr Ebada (aged 4, daughter of Khader and Ayda Ebada, abducted on [August 22, 2014](#) from her mother's lap by ISIL militants in [Qaraqosh](#); **UPDATE**: still missing)

Date: July 17, 2015

Source [with photo]: [https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/07/article\\_3937106.html](https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/07/article_3937106.html)



## Nigeria

Fr Gideon Obasogie (**UPDATE**: said "I passed through this road to Maiduguri from Jos on Wednesday July 15. A lot of cars were intercepted and burnt down. A good number of the residents of most villages along the Maiduguri - Damaturu highway had fled their communities for fear of further attacks. ...The rate of the Boko Haram attacks in the past few weeks have become worrisome and dangerous. This remains the only route linking Maiduguri city with the other parts of the world. One can only imagine, what it would look like, if the terrorists succeed in cutting us off from the other part of Nigeria...The group has also planted landmines on the roads, killing several travelers")

Date: July 16, 2015

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/38196-AFRICA\\_NIGERIA\\_If\\_Boko\\_Haram\\_succeed\\_in\\_cutting\\_us\\_off\\_from\\_the\\_other\\_part\\_of\\_Nigeria\\_Maiduguri\\_is\\_doomed#.Vahq4cLJAfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38196-AFRICA_NIGERIA_If_Boko_Haram_succeed_in_cutting_us_off_from_the_other_part_of_Nigeria_Maiduguri_is_doomed#.Vahq4cLJAfg)



## Pakistan

Waqar Peter Gill (spokesman for a group newly founded to provide churches with security from terror attacks)

Date: July 12, 2015

Source:

[http://www.christiantoday.com/article/young\\_christians\\_in\\_pakistan\\_form\\_group\\_to\\_protect\\_their\\_churches\\_from\\_terrorist\\_attacks/58777.htm](http://www.christiantoday.com/article/young_christians_in_pakistan_form_group_to_protect_their_churches_from_terrorist_attacks/58777.htm)

**Event: Nine more Christians have been released from jail, all were arrested following the March 15, 2015 riot in Youhanabad that was triggered by the attempted suicide bombing of two churches, all reported that police tortured them and attempted to get them to incriminate church leaders in the riots or to convert to Islam**

Riaz Masih (aged 24, son of Javed Masih)  
Nazir Masih (aged 33, son of Javed Masih)  
Arshad Masih (aged 22, son of Javed Masih)  
Tariq Masih (aged 26, son of Naseem Hayat)  
Naeem Bhatti (son of Naseem Hayat)

Date: July 15, 2015

Tariq Masih (aged 26, son of Javed Masih)  
Asif Masih (aged 27, son of Javed Masih)  
Ishafaq Masih (aged 20, son of Javed Masih)  
Yousaf (son of Mashooq)

Date: July 16, 2015

Location: Youhanabad, Lahore, Punjab province

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenews.php?hnewsid=5479>



### **Russia**

Nikolai Neuimin (described the desecration of the cross that marks the site of the remains of two of the Romanov family “This is now the third time that the memorial cross has been vandalized. The damage this time will not permit us to place it back in the ground, so we had to tie and nail it to a nearby tree”)

Date: July 9, 2015

Location: Ekaterinburg

Source: <http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/80639.htm>



### **South Africa**

Zizipho Pae (student, removed as acting president of the Student Representative Council after posting a comment on her personal Facebook account 'regretting' the U.S. Supreme Court's decision legalizing same-sex marriage, shared office vandalized - scriptural quotes on the wall were ripped down, said "Being an SRC member in my view does not mean that you need to abandon your Christian convictions and your faith. Christ in my life comes before all political positions or political thoughts, so I definitely won't be retracting what I said")

Date reported: July 14, 2015

Location: University of Capetown

Source [with photo]: <http://www.charismanews.com/world/50540-christian-student-threatened-for-opposing-gay-marriage-on-facebook>



## Spain

Fr Carlos Martinez Perez (aged 75, **stabbed to death** after Mass by his former brother-in-law)

Date: July 16, 2015

Location: Serville

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/38198-EUROPE\\_SPAIN\\_Priest\\_stabbed\\_to\\_death\\_on\\_the\\_doorstep#.VanJOcLJAfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38198-EUROPE_SPAIN_Priest_stabbed_to_death_on_the_doorstep#.VanJOcLJAfg)



## Sweden

Shahrzad Sakiani (convert, wife of Mahmoud Mohammadi, arrested after her asylum request was rejected, scheduled for deportation to Iran on July 15, 2015, had previously been arrested in 2010 at a house church in Iran and fled the country while on bail)

Mahmoud Mohammadi (convert, husband of Shahrzad Sakiani, reported on his wife's arrest after her asylum request was rejected and on her scheduled deportation to Iran on July 15, 2015, had previously been arrested in 2010 at a house church in Iran and fled the country while on bail)

Date arrested: June 23, 2015

Date reported: July 14, 2015

Location: Stockholm

Source: <http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=2390>



## Syria

Fr Dhiya Azziz OFM (abducted in **Yakubiyah village**, Jisr ash-Shugur district, Idlib province on July 4, 2015 possibly by Al-Nusra; **UPDATE**: released)

Date: July 10, 2015

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Syria-Franciscan-priest-Dhiya-Azziz-released-34746.html>

Archbishop Jean Clement Jeanbart (**UPDATE**: said "A major attack is being carried out by jihadists on the province through intense shelling as if all means are used to frighten people and urge them to leave")

Date: July 11, 2015

Location: Aleppo

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63633>

Fr Antoine Boutros (aged 50, husband, father of one daughter, missing with his driver Saud Alabdon)

Saud Alabdon (driver for Fr Antoine Boutros, missing)

Date: July 12, 2015

Location: Shahba, Sweida

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63676>



## **Ukraine**

Archpriest George Tsyganov (reported on the attack in which a church was hit by a shell during an [August 23, 2014](#) vigil service, the church was destroyed, 3 killed, and 7 seriously injured; **UPDATE**: said "We mostly give food to the people who cannot take care of themselves...These are very different people: some of them were left by their relatives, others are simply very old, lonely and feeble people. We only bring food to some of them and they cook it themselves. Among them there are even several former 'big bosses' who once were mine superintendents, but now they are aged and needed by nobody. There is one old woman who during the World War II went through three concentration camps. All in all, we are helping everyone...We cook food at home and our volunteers deliver it to the houses of the most needy. Thus we provide over 50 people with food, and more than 20 people take regular meals in our dining-room. Our food is adequate. For those who are bedridden we even cook meals of milk and meat products. The 'Favor' charitable foundation has provided us with food, but our real problem is medicines. The pharmacies are near-empty, and what they have is extremely expensive")

Date: July 9, 2015

Location: Kirovskoe, Donetsk region

Source: <http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/80630.htm>

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