

**Today's Martyrs**  
**2015-09-27 through 2015-10-03**



**Australia**

Troy Newman (U.S. citizen, prolife activist, visa revoked after pro-abortion activists falsely claimed that he advocated violence against abortion providers)

Date: September 29, 2015

Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/breaking-australian-gvmt-denies-us-pro-life-leader-entry-after-smear-campai>



**Bangladesh**

Cesare Tavella (aged 50, Italian citizen, foreign aid worker, **assassinated** by ISIL agents using silenced firearms)

Date: September 28, 2015

Location: Dhaka

Source: <http://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/2716/0/fears-for-christians-as-isis-kills-aid-worker-in-bangladesh>  
and [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/30/world/asia/-isis-bangladesh-cesare-tavella.html?smid=tw-nytimesworld&smtyp=cur&\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/30/world/asia/-isis-bangladesh-cesare-tavella.html?smid=tw-nytimesworld&smtyp=cur&_r=1)



**Belarus**

Archbishop Sviatoslav aka Viachaslav Lohin (leader of the Belarusian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, Ukrainian citizen, U.S. legal resident, denied entry into the country, no reason given)

Archpriest Leonid Akalovich (reported on the government's refusal to allow Archbishop Sviatoslav Lohin entry into the country on a pastoral visit)

Date: late July 2015

Location: Minsk

Source: [http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2104](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2104)



## Central African Republic

Rev Nicolas Guerekoyame-Gbangou (**UPDATE**: targeted for assassination by rioting Muslims after a Muslim youth was killed in a 'Christian' neighborhood, Muslims responded by killing a dozen in that neighborhood, assassins missed finding him due to a prior commitment, home looted, son threatened with death, two refugees in the church compound were killed, family now in hiding, and the anti-balaka militia then responded by destroying a Muslim radio station, a Catholic church was also looted)

Pastor Vincent (daughter and son-in-law murdered in their home by rioting Muslims, "cries his eyes out")

Date: September 26, 2015

Location: Bangui

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/38563-AFRICA\\_CENTRAL\\_AFRICA\\_REPUBLIC\\_Bangui\\_in\\_chaos\\_the\\_reconstruction\\_of\\_the\\_accidents\\_towards\\_an\\_uncertain\\_future#.VgtRjsLlsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38563-AFRICA_CENTRAL_AFRICA_REPUBLIC_Bangui_in_chaos_the_reconstruction_of_the_accidents_towards_an_uncertain_future#.VgtRjsLlsfg)

and: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Anti-Christian-violence-in-Central-African-Republic-creates-carnage>

and [with photo]: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4035895/>



## China

Gao Zhisheng (aged 51, Christian human rights attorney; released from prison on [August 7, 2014](#); has been described by his attorney on [August 15, 2014](#) as "utterly destroyed" by his captivity - he is unintelligible and speaks only in single words, shows no emotion, and lost almost all of his teeth due to malnutrition; **UPDATE**: detained after accounts of torture while in prison became public, released but under house arrest, denied medical access)

Date: September 24, 2015

Location: Yulin, Shaanxi province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/09/china-aid-learns-gao-zhisheng-is-back.html>

Pastor Liu Peng (filed an appeal against the local government ban on his church meeting, summoned to the Religious Affairs Bureau and questioned on his church activities)

Date: September 8, 2015

Location: Dongguan, Guangdong province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/09/guangdong-pastor-appeals-official.html>

Hu Shigen (church elder; **UPDATE**: disappeared)

Date: July 10, 2015

Location: Beijing

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/09/beijing-church-elder-missing-for-nearly.html>



## Germany

Said (Iranian refugee, said "In Iran, the Revolutionary Guards have arrested my brother in a house church. I fled the Iranian secret police, because I thought in Germany I can finally freely live by my religion. But in the home for asylum seekers, I can't even openly admit that I am a Christian. [Muslim Syrian refugees] wake me before dawn during Ramadan and say that I should eat before the sun comes up. If I refuse, they say, I'm a kuffar, an unbeliever. They spit at me. They treat me like an animal. And threaten to kill me", the Security Service would not help him because "They are also all Muslims")

Date reported: October 3, 2015

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20151002233049.htm>



## India

**Event: Hindu nationalists seized land owned by a religious order, built a temple on it with police assistance**

Fr Wilfred Fernandes SDB (said that the mob threatened to attack "our people" if the land was developed by Christians)

Br Pilar Eusebio Miranda (church newspaper editor, said "The entire episode against the Salesians is stage managed. We had predicted before the elections that if the BJP comes to power, this will be the fate [of us]")

Date: late August 2015

Location: Nerul village, North Goa district

Source: <http://www.ucanindia.in/news/temple-in-church-property-threatens-goas-peace/30155/daily>

Sajan K George (**UPDATE**: reported on attempts by the Hindu nationalist group Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP] to ban the sale of beef in Jharkhand state - the slaughter of beef is already prohibited "Banning beef in BJP ruled states is an ominous sign of growing intolerance and communal division. Since the BJP's landmark victory under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the aspirations and actions by Hindu majority groups and organizations that support the idea of a Hindu state have gained prominence...The beef ban is specifically aimed at minorities, many of their members would be deprived of their livelihood as well as staple food")

Date: September 29, 2015

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hindu-extremists-plan-more-attacks-if-beef-ban-not-enforced-35447.html>

Bingu Baghel (aged 50, said "We are living in a panic situation. We are harassed. We do not know what will happen and when. We don't do any harm to anybody, but we are constantly threatened by Hindu militant groups in the village")

Rev Bhupendra Khora (**UPDATE:** said "We are overwhelmed with this crisis situation. At times, nobody dares to visit the victims when there is an assault on the Christians. The victimized Christians are so vulnerable that they don't dare to report it anywhere. Mostly, they silently suffer")

Date reported: September 29, 2015

Location: Karmeri village, Baster district, Chhattisgarh state

Source: <http://www.persecution.org/2015/09/29/democracy-derailed-religious-freedom-denied-to-chhattisgarhs-christians/>

Auxiliary Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas (**UPDATE:** condemned the murder of a Muslim man and the near-deadly beating of his son by Hindu radicals for allegedly eating beef in his home "What is happening in our beloved country is really distressing. Divisive forces seem to be taking the upper hand")

Date: September 28, 2015

Location: Bisara village, Uttar Pradesh state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Man-beaten-to-death-by-mob,-who-suspected-him-of-having-eaten-beef-35453.html>

Bishop Peter Machado (**UPDATE:** condemned an attack on a Christian cemetery, some of the dead had to be reburied)

Date reported: September 30, 2015

Location: Belgaum, Karnataka state

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/38575-ASIA\\_INDIA\\_Catholic\\_cemetery\\_vandalized\\_and\\_violence\\_against\\_the\\_faithful#.VgyYYcLlsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38575-ASIA_INDIA_Catholic_cemetery_vandalized_and_violence_against_the_faithful#.VgyYYcLlsfg)



## Indonesia

**Event: A church has been prohibited from using its church building since 2008, has completed its 100th service in front of the presidential residence**

Adhi Nugroho Chandra (said "I'm worshipping here in front of our presidential palace because the GKI Yasmin church in Bogor cannot worship on Sundays")

Dwiati Novita Rini (**UPDATE:** said "It's very hard to be a minority in Indonesia, and we have to fight for our rights. It's not easy but it will not affect my faith...The mayor, who, I think, is the key person who can decide what happens in Bogor, still has people around him

who are intolerant...the leader of the group GARIS, which protested against our church, is in jail, and the protests against us are now getting lower and lower”)

Pastor Chandra Juliar (said "I think the problem remains because the president did not dare to take action. The leader should have the courage to take action and enforce the law. We can't afford, as a nation, to let this problem remain if we want peace in Indonesia...We are often asked how long we will struggle. We have to carry on until we get justice. Yes, we are very tired and our hope at times starts to fade, but as believers, we won't give up. Our struggle is not only for our needs, but also for others who deserve peace. So we will achieve our goal to build our beloved Indonesia to be a peaceful country”)

Date reported: September 24, 2015

Location: Jakarta, West Java

Source: <http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4027630/>



## Iran

Pastor Saeed Abedini (aged 35, convert, US citizen, husband of Naghmeh Shariat Panahi Abedini, father of Rebekka and Jacob, convicted on [January 27, 2013](#) of undermining the government by spreading Christianity and sentenced to eight years in prison; **UPDATE:** beaten, tased, and threatened with new charges including contact with anti-government groups)

Date: September 22, 2015

Location: Rajai Shahr prison

Naghmeh Shariat Panahi Abedini (**UPDATE:** released a statement after the President of Iran said the release of several Iranians in prison for nuclear activities would "perhaps" result in "the right atmosphere" for her husband's release: "President Rouhani's demand that America release 19 criminals in exchange for his consideration of releasing individuals like my husband, imprisoned solely for his faith, demonstrates that the Iran of today is no different than the Iran who took Americans hostages during the Iranian revolution")

Date: September 28, 2015

Location: New York City, United States

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2015/09/u-s-iranian-pastor-abedinis-ordeal-in-iran-tests-builds-faith-of-wife-children/>



## Iraq

Fr Behnam Benoka (aged 37, **UPDATE:** has been operating two clinics out of tents for refugees, reported on a shortage of medicines)

Date reported: September 26, 2015

Location: Erbil, Kurdistan

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20150925205851.htm>

Saad Salioh Namaat (killed)

Date: September 27, 2015

Location: Bagdad

Source [with photo]: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64515>



## Pakistan

Aftab Masih (aged 40, father of five including Akash and Adnan, accused of blasphemy after he demanded that a local Muslim stop trying to convert his sons to Islam “I only defended my Christian faith but it was taken as blasphemy. Whenever my children went outside, Zain told them to convert to Islam. We draw our drinking water from the nearby mosque. Zain told my children that they could not take water until they convert to Islam; otherwise, they were defiling the taps. But respectable Muslims said that there was no other place for them, so they could fill up with water from here”, the local mosque leader agreed that he had not committed blasphemy after a Muslim witness testified in his behalf, a mob of 300 then surrounded his home, has had to leave his home for another city)

Akash (aged 12, son of Aftab Masih, object of repeated attempts to convert him to Islam)

Adnan (aged 5, son of Aftab Masih, object of repeated attempts to convert him to Islam)

Dates: June 29, July 1 & 2, 2015

Location: Wazirabad

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4032430/>

**Event UPDATE: The Muslim attorney of four Christians accused of blasphemy stated that the court's refusal to provide an escort for their upcoming court appearance - scheduled for October 16, 2015 - is intended to allow vigilantes the opportunity to lynch them**

Pastor Aftab Gill

Unatan Gill

Date: October 1, 2015

Location: Lahore, Punjab province

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/38581->

[ASIA\\_PAKISTAN\\_Christians\\_imprisoned\\_for\\_blasphemy\\_fear\\_an\\_extrajudicial\\_murder#.Vg9T\\_8Llsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38581-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Christians_imprisoned_for_blasphemy_fear_an_extrajudicial_murder#.Vg9T_8Llsfg)



## **Palestine**

Sobhy Makhoul (condemned the arson attack on St Charbel Maronite Monastery)

Date: September 27, 2015

Location: Bethlehem

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Arson-attack-at-Bethlehem's-St-Charbel-Monastery,-probably-the-work-of-Islamic-fundamentalists,-says-Maronite-leader-35435.html>



## **Philippines**

Fr Antonio Magalso (aged 44, **stabbed to death**, attacker was reportedly mentally ill)

Fr Nathaniel B Gomez (reported on the murder of Fr Antonio Magalso)

Bishop Julito Cortes (consoled the parishioners of Fr Antonio Magalso after his murder)

Date: September 29, 2015

Location: Tanjay, Negros Island

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/38576-ASIA\\_PHILIPPINES\\_Priest\\_stabbed\\_to\\_death\\_in\\_central\\_Philippines#.VgyXLcLlsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38576-ASIA_PHILIPPINES_Priest_stabbed_to_death_in_central_Philippines#.VgyXLcLlsfg)



## **Tanzania**

Rev Vedasto Athanas (Living Waters church destroyed by arson, said "What is worrying us is that the burning of the three churches happened within a span of two hours. What is even more worrying is that we have been receiving threats from Muslim extremists that they want churches reduced in this area")

Rev Emmanuel Narsis (Buyekera Pentacostal church destroyed by arson)

Date: September 23, 2015

Location: Bukoba region

Rev Kabonaki (Evangelical Assemblies of God church destroyed by arson)

Date: September 23, 2015

Location: Kibeta, Bukoba region

Rev Innocent Mzinduki (church destroyed by arson)

Date: early 2013

Pastor Joyce (church destroyed by arson)

Date: July 2013

Annette (Bukoba Pastors Fellowship secretary, said “Since 2013 we have had over 13 churches torched here in Kagera and no one has been held accountable. This is not acceptable”)

Date reported: September 30, 2015

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4034845/>

and <http://morningstarnews.org/2015/09/three-church-buildings-torched-in-tanzania/>

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