

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2016-05-01 through 2016-05-07



Australia

Kerry Mellor (aged 75, cited by police for illegal protest outside an abortion clinic for praying the rosary, said “We do not believe we are protesting. We are praying, which is directed exclusively to almighty God and his Blessed Mother. It’s not a protest, it’s a petition that God will act to change the hearts and minds of people”, said he will not pay the \$750 [US\$562] fine and that he has made a formal request that the charge be withdrawn "on the basis that our quiet prayer cannot possibly be interpreted as any of the types of ‘prohibited behavior’ in the legislation. I’m awaiting the outcome”)

Date reported: May 3, 2016

Location: Canberra

Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/fined-for-praying-rosary-elderly-aussie-pro-lifers-will-fight-new-buffer-zo>



China

Pastor Wen Xiaowu (husband of Xiang Lihua, father of Wen "Eden" Yidian, criminally detained along with his wife and son, the detentions were likely in response for their meetings with U.S. Consulate officials in Shanghai)

Xiang Lihua (wife of Pastor Wen Xiaowu, mother of Wen "Eden" Yidian, criminally detained along with her husband and son, the detentions were likely in response for their meetings with U.S. Consulate officials in Shanghai)

Wen "Eden" Yidian (son of Pastor Wen Xiaowu and Xiang Lihua, criminally detained along with his parents after being charged with interfering in their arrests)

Date: April 25, 2016

Location: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/05/christian-today-christian-pastor.html>
and <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/05/son-speaks-out-about-incarceration-of.html>

Bishop Thaddeus Ma Daqin (ordained as bishop in Shanghai on July 7, 2012, then disappeared after stating in his first homily that he would resign from the state-sponsored church;

UPDATE: still under house arrest, his Weibo social media account with 50,000 followers has been suspended)

Date reported: May 3, 2016

Location: Sheshan Seminary, Shanghai

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/chinese-bishops-weibo-account-blocked-movement-restricted/75927>

Pastor Han Chung-Reol (aged 49, husband, father of a son and daughter, Chinese citizen of Korean ancestry, pastor of a government sanctioned church, **stabbed and beaten to death** by likely North Korean agents)

Date: April 30, 2016

Location: Changbai, Changbai Korean Autonomous County, Jilin province

Source: <http://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2016/may/murdered-by-north-korea-martyred-chinese-pastor-served-refugees>



India

Moses Annel (described the beating of six families of Christians after they refused to give up Christianity, six individuals hospitalized; homes demolished and threatened with death, all fled the village)

Dates: April 25 & 29, 2016

Location: Katodi village, Kanker district, Chhattisgarh state

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/tribal-christians-flee-indian-village-following-threat/75917>

Nirmal Raymind Nigam (accused along with his brother of desecrating Hindu flags that had been installed in front of his church, arrest warrant issued)

Pastor Emmanuel Ariel (said that the Hindu flags "were probably torn because of the wind...RSS [paramilitary] activists, the BJP and Bajrang Dal [the RSS youth wing] led by former district chief, threw stones at members of the community, attacked our women and broke the church lamps...all this happened before the eyes of the police officers, who stood by as silent spectators")

Date: May 5, 2016

Location: Jabat, Madhya Pradesh state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Madhya-Pradesh,-Hindu-extremists-stone-Protestant-church-37406.html>



Iraq

Ibrahim Shaba Lalo (refugee, said of life in a camp "If we were not believers, half of us would be suicidal")

Date reported: May 1, 2016

Location: Erbil, Kurdistan

Source: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/why-iraq-wasnt-what-i-thought-96458/>

Rita (aged early 20's, described the ISIL attack on her town "My village was under the control of the Kurdish Peshmerga fighters until two days ago. ISIS drove in using a booby-trapped digger truck. In order to get through the fortified defenses, the digger first removed what blocked its path and then it just blew up, killing lots of Peshmerga fighters. My relatives were slightly injured in the blast", ISIL then flooded the town with 20 explosive-laden automobiles and fighters with suicide vests, and were attacked by American and Kurdish forces: "They fought for two days to win back our village and succeeded but what they found was a village in ruins...I can't sleep well. I have nightmares about ISIL. I keep thinking 'what if they manage to get to us while we sleep'. I feel the pain won't go away and that I'll never feel safe")

Date: May 3, 2016

Location: Telskuf

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20160506161217.htm>



Jamaica

Harold Nichols (aged 53, husband of Teri, missionary, **murdered**, body found the next day)

Randy Hentzel (aged 48, missionary, **murdered**)

Date: April 30, 2016

Location: Boscobel

Source [with photos]: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/american-missionaries-found-brutally-murdered-jamaica-163181/>



Nicaragua

Bishop Rolando Jose Alvarez Lagos (announced his opposition to the purchase of 112 tanks by the government "Nicaragua is not at war, Nicaragua does not want war, Nicaragua does not need war, nor heavy combat weapons...We recognize the participation of the army in Nicaragua in humanitarian work, as the fact of protecting agricultural production, cattle raising and even to bring medical assistance to the population, but the militarization of some rural communities has caused fear and panic among the rural population, which is why the announced purchase of tanks is totally contrary to the national reality")

Date: May 1, 2016

Location: Matagalpa

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/59937->

[AMERICA NICARAGUA Mgr Alvarez Lagos Nicaragua is not at war Buying tanks is contrary to our reality#.Vyf7q8IUUfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/59937-AMERICA_NICARAGUA_Mgr_Alvarez_Lagos_Nicaragua_is_not_at_war_Buying_tanks_is_contrary_to_our_reality#.Vyf7q8IUUfg)



Nigeria

Cardinal John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan (aged 72; **UPDATE**: automobile damaged by gunfire while travelling, escaped thanks to his driver, motive of the gunmen unknown)

Date: April 29, 2016

Location: Edo state

Source: <http://www.catholicerald.co.uk/news/2016/05/02/nigerian-cardinal-unhurt-after-being-shot-at-by-gunmen/>

Bishop Godfrey Igwebuike Onah (issued a pastoral letter entitled *Stop This Madness!* concerning the [April 25, 2016](#) attack by Fulani gunmen in [Nimbo](#), wrote "...The news of the attack was soon followed by a flood of human beings fleeing their homes and emptying into the urban center of Nsukka, many of them scantily clad women clutching only their babies. Wailing filled the air as vans brought in lifeless bodies of persons who were slaughtered like animals for the crime of having been found in their homes or on the way to their farms...They burnt the house of one Pastor and from there headed straight to the residence of the Catholic Priest, where they attempted to burn the house but could not, since they did not find any petrol in the car and a motorcycle parked there, in the generator, and in the containers. When their attempt to break into the house also failed, they fired gunshots into the rooms, in an attempt to kill all those whom they suspected were hiding inside. And we are forced to ask: If these men were only herdsmen, why did they particularly single out Churches for their attack?...")

Date: April 29, 2016

Location: Nsukka, Enugu state

Source [including the full letter]: <http://nsukkacatholicdiocese.org/stop-this-madness.html>

Event: The Kaduna state government has proposed a law that would ban 'offensive' homilies, require state licensing of preachers, and ban street preaching under penalty of 2 years' imprisonment

Bishop George Jonathan Dodo (**UPDATE**: said "The proposed law is in contravention of the Nigerian Constitution and shall inhibit the preaching of the gospel when it becomes operational. We have reservations over the bill and believe that it will curtail religious freedom of the people, particularly, Christians")

Solomon Musa (**UPDATE**: said that the government needs to stop the incessant attacks on Christians by armed Muslims instead of passing an anti-Christian law)

Date: May 4, 2016

Location: Kaduna state

Mr Daniel (**shot dead** by suspected Fulani gunmen)

Date: March 24, 2016

Location: Ancha Gida, Ancha district, Ninzo chiefdom, Kaduna state

Fr Evaristus Basse (UPDATE: said “The danger in Nigeria is the manipulation of structures and institutions by strong individuals. Thus, the fear is that even if the proposed bill contains good aims, the proposed restrictions would play into the hands of officials of state who have a hegemonic mentality and would allow them the freedom to persecute one religion in favor of another...Gov El-Rufai, who is quite dogged in the pursuit of anything, given this tool, would pursue ardently both what is good and what may be divisive. We advise that Kaduna state rely on existing laws and existing state instruments of law enforcement to maintain religious harmony in Kaduna state, instead of reinventing the wheel...[separation of church and state would be] severely battered if this bill is pursued in the way it is”)

Date: April 19, 2016

Location: Abuja

Rev Johnson Suleman (in a YouTube video accused Gov El-Rufai of using the bill to intimidate Christians)

Date: March 13, 2016

Location: Auchi

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/05/bill-in-kaduna-state-nigeria-would-criminalize-street-evangelism-offensive-preaching-clergy-say/>



North Korea

Pastor Kim Dong Chul (aged 62, U.S. citizen, reported on January 12, 2016 to have been detained on espionage charges; UPDATE: pled guilty, sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment at hard labor)

Date reported: May 2, 2016

Location: Pyongyang

Source:

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/christian.missionary.sentenced.to.10.years.hard.labor.in.north.korea/85194.htm>



Syria

Fr Ibrahim Alsabagh OFM (aged 44; **UPDATE**: said jihadist groups such as al-Nusra and ISIL "have launched heavy attacks, dragging in the other rebel groups" and need to be repelled with force "because with them you can not dialogue...My city is a ghost town...without water, without electricity, where there is no work and where bombs fall everywhere. It is inhuman...schools are closed, children stay at home, shops have lowered their shutters, [everyone] avoids having to go out, although this does not mean that homes are safer, because the bombs can strike anywhere", the Church has been working to "stem the emergency, providing food boxes, meeting people, listening to their stories of suffering, giving them words of hope and comfort", if their homes have been destroyed "we try to find new accommodation, we suffer with them, we too are under fire")

Date: April 30, 2016

Location: Aleppo

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Pastor-of-Aleppo:-My-city-is-a-ghost-town.-Our-Lady,-bring-us-peace!-37367.html>

Fr Ibrahim Alsabagh OFM (aged 44; **UPDATE**: wrote of missile attacks on a hospital in which 17 children were killed in the obstetrics department and on a mosque with many refugees inside "Yesterday we experienced the worst day of the week, with heavy bombardment... The way we are being forced to live is a real crime against humanity, because targeting children, infants, women in childbirth, college students...call it revenge or terrorism, are truly horrific acts. We ask for compassion and mercy for these innocent victims. We must all be close to all those who suffer, for those who have experienced violence...for infants, the elderly, the desperate. As a Church we are close not only to Christians, but to anyone who has been struck in his dignity by this violence. This is why I renew my appeal to all of you for your prayers and thank you for the solidarity, your closeness to us, your good will")

Date: May 4, 2016

Location: Aleppo

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Pastor-of-Aleppo:-Missiles-on-hospitals,-schools-and-mosques.-Call-for-Masses-for-peace-worldwide-37403.html>



Tanzania

Paulina Nkuba (aged 67, said of the arson attack on her church "I live near the church. While I was sleeping, [my grandson], studying at the Kimiza Primary School, told me that the church was on fire. I went to the church and started to put water on the fire, but I could not manage to put it out")

Jackie Mrina (tried to put out the fire at the church)

Sabas Kafuba (church chairman, said the arson attack on his church destroyed furniture, documents, books, and generators)

Fr Fortunatus Bijura (said "Those who think that destroying our church means we won't pray, they are wrong...we have a big tree near the church and will continue meeting there for prayers")

Bishop Almachius Vicent Rweyongeza (appealed for calm and requested that people cooperate with police following the church arson attack)

Date: May 2, 2016

Location: Kagera area

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/05/4447080/>



Uganda

Samson Mukama (aged 40, **strangled and beaten to death** by an iman and two other Muslims, 22 year old daughter later beaten and raped by three men after she testified in court against the iman)

Date: January 28, 2016

Location: Kanyumu village, Pallisa district

Samuel Kijali (church lay leader, pigs killed by Muslim neighbors on April 10, 2016, had received a text message which read "Let this be known to your church members that pigs are extremely unholy and an abomination before Allah, very outrageous and shameful. They are haram [forbidden] and unlawful as our holy Quran does prohibit them"; church destroyed by Muslim neighbors on **April 12, 2016**, musical instruments and 500 plastic chairs lost; **UPDATE**: assaulted, wrist broken, threatened with death)

Date: April 18, 2015

Location: Nalugondo village, Mayuge district

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/04/woman-in-uganda-says-muslims-beat-raped-her-for-accusing-imam-of-killing-her-father/>



United Kingdom

Nissar Hussain (convert from Islam, husband of Kubra, victim of multiple attacks from Muslims; **UPDATE**: commented on his interactions with Member of Parliament Naz Shah and her aide Mohammed Shabbir following their suspension from the Labour Party for online anti-Semitic posts, including their attempts to hide the religious motives of his attackers and Shabbir's emailed defense of his attackers)

Date: May 3, 2016

Location: Bradford

Source: <http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/labours-anti-semitic-revelations-only-the-tip-of-the-iceberg-says-nissar-hussain-a-christian-convert>

Today's Martyrs

For more information please visit our web site at: <http://todaysmartyrs.org/>

or write to:

**2490 Black Rock Turnpike #455
Fairfield CT 06825-2400 USA**

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