

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Weekly Report – 2016-11-06 through 2016-11-12



### Algeria

Amar (aged 70, convert, **died of natural causes**, denied a Christian burial)

Date: October 31, 2016

Location: a village outside Tizi-Ouzou, Kabylie region

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/11/4710188/>



### Canada

Bishop Ronald Peter Fabbro CSB (criticized the legal requirement that Christian doctors must refer patients to doctors who will perform euthanasia after one Catholic and four Evangelical doctors came under 'extremely aggressive cross-examination' about their religious beliefs by the College of Physicians and Surgeons, which could revoke their medical licenses)

Date: November 8, 2016

Location: London, Ontario

Archbishop J Michael Miller (wrote against government pressure to force Catholic hospitals to perform euthanasia)

Date: November 8, 2016

Location: Vancouver, British Columbia

Michael Shea (president of the Catholic Alliance for Canada, defended Catholic hospitals from attempts to force them to euthanize patients "Life is sacred and the dignity of the person is important. These organizations neither prolong dying nor hasten death, and that's a pretty fundamental value for them")

Date: November 8, 2016

Source: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/in-canada-assisted-suicide-could-also-kill-catholic-healthcare-64033/>



## Bangladesh

**Event: Police along with local Muslims attempted to arrest 300 Christian tribal people as part of a land dispute, three were killed and dozens injured, many fled, some fought back with bows and arrows, homes were looted**

Nirmal Rozario (general secretary of the Bangladesh Christian Association: **UPDATE:** said "We saw police attack minority Christians. Since they are tribal, police thought they were weak and struck them hard. We condemn this indecent act and demand an investigation")

Fr Samson Marandy (brother of murder victim Ovidio Marandy; **UPDATE:** said that the people who had their homes looted now have no food, added "After 1962, the government bought 774,000 hectares of land that belonged to the Santal, where they grow sugar cane. The agreement provided that the land would be used only for this type of crop. If another crop was introduced, the land would go back to the original owners. In 2003, the local government suspended sugarcane production and so local Tribals asked for their land...These people have been living in absolute fear since the attacks; they don't have food, can't get medical treatment and don't have an income. We have been in touch with Caritas and the nuns for support. Some of them have also taken shelter in church buildings. But we can't do anything openly because the issue is so political")

Bishop Sebastian Tudu (**UPDATE:** said "I am very concerned by the incident, some people are also missing...Our people live in fear and cannot leave their homes for security reasons...I think that the attack was carried out because the victims are a minority and Christian. I call on the government to ensure the security of our people")

Emmanuel Baskey (father of three, said "We can't walk out of the village to find work. We have no food and no money, so we have been starving since the eviction on Sunday night. We are trying to survive on a few kilograms of rice, oil, lentils and few scraps of clothing. Besides burning my house, the attackers have looted my cows, goats, power tiller and water irrigation pump. I don't know how to recover from the great loss", added that 30 men are missing "We don't know what happened to them. Maybe they were killed or forcibly disappeared. We are ready to die but we won't give up our movement to claim our ancestral land")

Date: November 6, 2016

Location: Gaibandha district

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Attack-on-Santal-Christians-in-Gaibandha-was-premeditated-39108.html>

and <http://www.ucanews.com/news/evicted-tribal-people-face-food-crisis-in-bangladesh/77602>



## China

Dai (husband of Li, arrested with his wife and a visitor, released)

Li (wife of Dai, arrested with her husband and a visitor, still in custody along with the visitor)

Date reported: October 27, 2016

Location: Xinjiang province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/10/christian-today-china-three-arrested.html>

Zhao (church leader, ordered by the local government to close her church, said “If we don’t move they said they will throw away our materials, seats, and quite a lot of our other things.”)

Date: August 24, 2016

Location: Zhengzhou, Henan

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/10/henan-house-church-continues-meeting.html>



## Indonesia

Basuki Tjahaja Purnama aka Ahok (governor, reported on [October 12, 2016](#) to have been accused of blasphemy after he stated that the Quran should not be used for political purposes, apologized, forgiven by some Muslims; **UPDATE**: object of a demonstration by 150,000 Muslims with banners reading "Arrest Asok for insulting Islam" and "Kill Asok")

Date: November 4, 2016

Location: Jakarta

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/jakartas-christian-governor-under-blasphemy-attack-again/77550>

### **Event: Christians from 11 churches that were demolished in 2015 continue to worship, some in tents in the woods**

Noldi (said many Christians remain fearful of attack “The perpetrators live in the neighborhood and they always watch my church members’ activities”)

Boru Manik (said “I’m sad that we have to worship in tents in the middle of a palm-oil plantation. But we’re keeping our spirits high”)

Natanael ‘Wahed’ Tumangger (convicted of killing a Muslim in the 2015 clashes despite the only evidence being the color of his clothes and having been denied legal representation, appeal underway, repeatedly beaten in prison, said “There’s nothing to worry about me here. But what about my wife and our four children? How are they going to survive in my absence?”)

Date reported: November 10, 2016

Location: Aceh province

Berutu (said of attempts to rebuild the demolished churches, including her own “The government is afraid of pressures from Muslim clerics and extremists. When they gave instructions to

knock down our church, they were no longer our protectors”, added that Christians were under pressure to support Muslims in the election who had persecuted them “Vote wisely for your leaders – our fate for the next five years depends on it”)

Date reported: November 10, 2016

Location: Pertabas village, Aceh province

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/11/4721193/>



## Iran

Four Christians - three Azeris and one Iranian - were detained in a June 24, 2016 police raid on an engagement party; **UPDATE: released on bail**

Bahram Nasibov (aged 37, Azeri citizen, husband, father; **UPDATE:** left the country)

Eldar Gurbanov (aged 48, Azeri citizen, husband, father; **UPDATE:** left the country)

Naser Navar Gol-Tapeh (aged 45, convert)

Yusif Farhadov (aged 51, Azeri citizen, husband, father; **UPDATE:** left the country)

Dates: October 29 and November 6, 2016

Location: Tehran

Source: <http://www.meconcern.org/2016/11/07/iran-azerbaijan-christians-conditionally-released-from-prison/>



## Iraq

Umm Al'aa (aged 40, alias, widow of Mohammed, refused to abort the baby conceived when she was raped by an ISIL fighter, said "He's my son; he's not the son of ISIL", named him Mohammed)

Date reported: November 11, 2016

Location: Gogjali

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20161110204849.htm>



## Myanmar

Cardinal Charles Maung Bo SDB (aged 68, **UPDATE**: called on the government to return schools to the church that were nationalized in 1965, said "The church is ready to contribute once again")

Date: November 9, 2016

Location: Yangon

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/cardinal-bo-wants-return-of-nationalized-church-run-schools/77582>



## Nigeria

Maryam Ali Maiyanga (schoolgirl, abducted on [April 14, 2014](#) in [Chibok, Borno state](#) by Boko Haram gunmen; **UPDATE**: escaped along with her 10 month old son, found by an army unit)

Date: November 5, 2016

Location: Pulka, Borno state

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4678875/>

Dauda Maidawa (aged 34, husband of Grace Alheri Dauda, father of four aged 3 to 14, brother of Sunday Maidawa, **killed** by Fulani Muslim herdsmen)

Grace Alheri Dauda (aged 30, widow of Dauda Maidawa, mother of four aged 3 to 14, abducted by Fulani Muslim herdsmen)

Sunday Maidawa (aged 44, brother of Dauda Maidawa, later said "It has been very tough for me taking care of these children in addition to mine, but I thank God for His sustainable grace. Our concern at the moment is the fate of their mother, Grace, is she still alive, or killed and buried by the herdsmen? We do not know. However, we have not lost hope about her, as we believe that if she's still alive, one day God through his mercies can make it possible for her rescue")

Pastor Emmanuel Yahaya (later said "Dauda was the leader of a fellowship group known as Alheri Fellowship in my church. His wife, Grace was a deaconess and a member of the Women's Fellowship Group of our church. The death of her husband and her abduction is a painful experience for us all in our church...[they were a couple] graced in humility and burning with the desire to serve God")

Date: June 21, 2014

Location: Angwan Mallam Chung, Kaduna state

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/11/kidnapped-womans-fate-still-unknown-two-years-after-herdsmen-in-nigeria-kill-husband/>



## Pakistan

Monica (aged 12, abducted and forced into an Islamic marriage on [August 11, 2016](#); father threatened with harassment charges by police after he challenged the legality of the marriage certificate on [August 15, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: father died following a telephone conversation with her abductor, had said – likely under coercion – that she did not want to return to her family)

Date reported: November 4, 2016

Location: Lahore

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Father-of-Pakistani-girl-kidnapped-and-married-to-Muslim-man-dies>

Naeem Nazir (aged 26, applied for a school office assistant position in [March 2010](#) but was hired as a custodian, filed a religious discrimination lawsuit; **UPDATE**: the court ruled in his favor)

Date: October 26, 2016

Location: Kasur

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/kasur-christian-wins-religious-discrimination-case-against-education-department/>

Rt Rev Sarfarz Humphrey Peters (**UPDATE**: called on the government to work to stop anti-Christian blasphemies from being propagated on social media)

Date: November 7, 2016

Location: Peshawar

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/peshawar-christians-exasperated-over-blasphemous-posts-on-social-media/>



## Switzerland

Pirmin Muller (filed a petition to prevent the removal of crosses in public spaces: “Our state should be religiously neutral. But public space is not the same as the state: it can and should be the mirror of our history which is steeped in Christianity, our identity and our culture, our traditions and our values”)

Date: November 4, 2016

Source: <http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/25000-swiss-citizens-sign-petition-asking-not-to-remove-crucifixes-from-public-places/>



## Syria

Archbishop Joseph Tobij (wrote concerning the continued fighting "Some civilians wanted to leave, but this was not possible...mortar shells also hit schools. The inhabitants are again terrified. Those who live in Hamadaniye and Halab al Jadida areas have left their homes. The latest attacks have forced thousands of families to flee to safer areas")

Date: November 5, 2016

Location: Aleppo

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/61112-ASIA\\_SYRIA\\_The\\_Maronite\\_Archbishop\\_of\\_Aleppo\\_truce\\_has\\_failed\\_Firing\\_on\\_civilians\\_who\\_wanted\\_to\\_flee\\_the\\_rebel\\_held\\_neighborhoods#.WCE-F8KQw5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/61112-ASIA_SYRIA_The_Maronite_Archbishop_of_Aleppo_truce_has_failed_Firing_on_civilians_who_wanted_to_flee_the_rebel_held_neighborhoods#.WCE-F8KQw5s)

Bishop Raban Boutros Kassis (shot twice in the shoulder, hospitalized, said "I thank God who protected and kept me alive. I thank God because in this condition and in this experience I can share the cross with so many people that today suffer in Syria, especially in Aleppo. Every day we suffer assaults and bombings, every day people are wounded and die. I am happy to taste the bitterness of the cross, in communion with Christ and with so many innocent people who suffer. We have the certainty that death is not the last word, but that the end is Resurrection")

Date: November 6, 2016

Location: on the road between Aleppo and Homs

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/61135-ASIA\\_SYRIA\\_Syrian\\_Orthodox\\_Patriarchal\\_Vicar\\_of\\_Aleppo\\_wounded\\_by\\_a\\_gunman\\_I\\_share\\_the\\_cross\\_of\\_those\\_who\\_suffer#.WCP2BsKQw5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/61135-ASIA_SYRIA_Syrian_Orthodox_Patriarchal_Vicar_of_Aleppo_wounded_by_a_gunman_I_share_the_cross_of_those_who_suffer#.WCP2BsKQw5s)

Pastor Alim (alias, said "The situation in Aleppo has been unstable for a long time now. Ceasefires only last for a short time. As soon as the people catch breath, the fighting starts again...Many women and children from the other part have come to our area. Our church is able to help a total of 2,000 families, I think half of them are Muslims...We help some of them pay their rent and offer towards their medical needs. Our church has dug a well to provide clean drinking water...The other day, as we finished our meeting on Friday, a bomb exploded next to the church, killing a young girl and her brother. On Sunday, when we were getting ready for church, bombs exploded around our house. I couldn't send my children to school. We had high expectations of a ceasefire, but they didn't last. People get really depressed, they feel there is no hope...We used to live on the fourth floor, very close to the frontline, the so-called 'red line'. We moved further away to my parents' house. Shortly after, a rocket hit very close to our apartment. One of our relatives died, shrapnel hit our house and broke through the walls...Every day we hear of someone who has died, every day we are surrounded by death. We feel the pain, but for those who died we cannot do anything. We can make a difference for the living, we can help them")

Date: November 9, 2016

Location: Aleppo

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/11/4719070/>



## United Kingdom

Nissar Hussain (convert from Islam, husband of Kubra, as of [October 2, 2015](#) has fled his home after more attacks and police inaction; attacked by two masked men when he left his home on [November 17, 2015](#), beaten with the shaft of a pickaxe, suffered fractures in his left kneecap and left hand, underwent surgery to insert pins in the fractured bones; **UPDATE:** warned by police of an imminent threat to his life, moved to a safe house, allowed to return to his home with a large police escort to remove personal items, said "My family and I have suffered greatly we have been under the cosh for so many years and the persecution has now reached epic levels. We simply have found the threat to our lives an untenable situation and in recent months in discussion with the British Pakistani Christian Association we have decided to move to a place of safety. Despite the hatred we have received we hold no animosity towards Muslims quite conversely we continue to have Muslim friends and pray for those who persecute us hoping one day they will recognize the commonality we share through our humanity")

Date: [November 4, 2016](#)

Location: [Branford](#)

Source: <http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/uk-convert-from-islam-to-christianity-forced-to-flee-his-home-after-police-warn-of-serious-threats-t>

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns; **UPDATE:** defended an unnamed Christian couple who have been denied to opportunity to adopt their foster children due to their traditional Christian beliefs, said "This couple's viewpoint is lawful and mainstream. The expression of a view that a child needs a mother and a father cannot justify a refusal to even consider a married couple's application to adopt. The separation of this couple from the children at this time is unthinkable....We warned Parliament that the so-called equality developments would damage freedom for Christians to live and speak out their faith – and engage fully with social needs in the nation. This is another in a long line of examples of the results of this ill-thought-through legislation, resulting in the potential heart-breaking separation of young children from the foster parents in whose care they are thriving, and where they feel love and security")

Date: [November 9, 2016](#)

Source: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/adoption/foster-parents-prevented-from-adoption-because-they-believe-a-child-should-hav>

Margaret Dehqani-Tafti (aged 85, widow of Bishop Hassan Barnaba Dehqani-Tafti, mother of Bahram and three daughters, shot at in [October 1979](#) while in her bed in [Tehran](#) by likely by Iranian government agents, injured in her hand; son Bahram shot dead in [May 1980](#) most likely by Iranian government agents while returning home from the university in [Tehran](#); **UPDATE:** **died of natural causes**, buried in Winchester Cathedral alongside her husband, eulogized: "Throughout their life together, Margaret was a constant support to Hassan and as the mother of a martyr, an uncompromising witness to truth. The events of our time remind Christians that the history of their faith is inseparable from the sacrifices and examples that people like the Dehqani-Tafti family set, representing the eternal challenge that believers witness in this fallen world. Their lives have influenced the way we think about faith in God, justice, social engagement and what it means to be the

follower of Christ, and stand as testimony to the vast violence that we experience in the present age")

Date: October 22, 2016

Location: Winchester

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/11/4722465/>



### **United States - Mississippi**

Rev Carilyn F Hudson (church heavily damaged in an arson attack with political overtones, said "Our hearts are broken, but we are not angry. We are saddened, but we do know that all things work together for good to those that love the Lord")

Date: November 2, 2016

Location: Greenville

Source: <http://www.clarionledger.com/story/news/2016/11/02/vote-trump-painted-burned-black-church-ms/93161132/>

## **Today's Martyrs**

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

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