

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Weekly Report – 2017-02-26 through 2017-03-04



### China

**Event: Five Christians arrested in June 2016 for buying and selling “officially forbidden Christian devotional books” have been convicted and sentenced to prison**

Pastor Li Dongzhe (sentenced to seven years' imprisonment)

Piao Shunnan (sentenced to seven years' imprisonment)

Zhao Chunxia (sentenced to five years' imprisonment)

Li Yuan (sentenced to five years' imprisonment)

Shi Jinyan (sentenced to three years' imprisonment)

Date: February 22, 2017

Location: Liaoyang, Liaoning province

Source: [http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/02/christians-sentenced-for-buying-and\\_26.html](http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/02/christians-sentenced-for-buying-and_26.html)

Pastor Jin Tianming (as of September 21, 2012 has been fighting the police suppression of the Shouwang Church, which cannot obtain a meeting place and whose congregants have been arrested more than 1600 times including 22 this past Sunday and lost more than 60 jobs; **UPDATE:** still under house arrest, church still without a meeting place)

Date: February 24, 2017

Location: Beijing

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/02/pastor-under-extreme-surveillance.html>

Pastor Huang Yizi (aged 43, **UPDATE:** ordered to appear at a police station for questioning, messaged “Please pray for me. I will not return if they want me to do something that contradicts the law, the truth, my belief, or my conscience. If I am really sentenced during the New Year, sisters and brothers, please believe that I always have a clear conscience toward God and my fellow men”, released after 5 PM that day, reported that the 'issue' was not resolved)

Date: February 3, 2017

Location: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/02/police-summon-wenzhou-pastor-after-his.html>

Kong Lingrong (home invaded by police during a worship service, taken to a police station, questioned)

Mei Yunhua (home invaded by police, no one was home, told to stop meeting, utilities turned off)

Date: February 19, 2017

Location: Korla, Xinjiang province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/03/officials-raid-house-churches-ask.html>

Li Hongmin (husband of Xu Lei, criminally detained on [June 6, 2016](#) on 'illegal business operations' charges for printing religious literature; **UPDATE**: forced in court to increase the assessed value of his confiscated literature, may have another year added to his sentence as a result)

Date reported: March 1, 2017

Location: Guangzhou, Guangdong province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/03/wife-fears-lengthened-prison-sentence.html>



## Egypt

Kamel Youssef (aged 40, plumber, **shot dead** in front of his wife and children, home set on fire)

Youssef Tawfiq (son of Gamal Tawfiq [who was shot dead on [February 16, 2017](#)], said "I feel like I am carrying a mountain over my shoulders. We loved our country but our country doesn't love us")

Date: February 23, 2017

Location: el-Arish, Sinai

Mina Thabet (**UPDATE**: said that about 75 Christian families totaling hundreds of persons have fled the Sinai following the recent murders of several Christians, some had received phoned death threats from Islamic militants)

Date: February 24, 2017

Location: Ismailia

Source:

[http://staging.hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML\\_EGYPT?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-02-24-02-52-34](http://staging.hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML_EGYPT?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2017-02-24-02-52-34)

and <https://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2017/02/24/Egyptian-Coptic-Christian-killed-house-torched.html>

Attia Shehata ("officer", husband of Angele Attia, father, **killed** in the bombing of a checkpoint)

Date: January 2017

Location: el-Arish, Sinai

Mina Magdy (Sinai University dentistry school student, has been living in a Coptic church with 70 other Christian students after the recent increase in the murder of Christians began, said "They [university officials] kept reassuring us that the situation is safe and ignoring our demands [to transfer]. Now, we're too scared to go. What are we supposed to do? I

only have one semester to go, but others still have two or three years left until graduation. What are they going to do?")

Date February 27, 2017

Location: el-Arish, Sinai

Sefein Morkos (aged 89, fled his home after receiving death threats, said: "What a shame. After 55 years in Arish, I leave it fleeing with nothing but the clothes on my back and my cane. I can't believe it. I can't believe it...I lived in Arish for 12 years under Israeli occupation. They never did anything to us. Now this is happening to us, and the government is silent and unable to protect us! I have been through a lot in my lifetime, and I fought for Egypt. But what I'm experiencing at the end of my life is unfair. I can't live anywhere but Arish. It is my land")

Angele Attia (widow of Attia Shehata, mother, fled her home in el-Arish after receiving death threats)

Said Sameh Adel Fawzy (aged 35, plumbing supply salesman, nephew of Saad Hanam, described his uncle's and cousin's murder)

Wafaa Fawzy (sister-in-law of Saad Hanam, said "They're thirsty for the blood of any Christian. They were pretty clear when they said they won't leave any Christian in peace. They want an Islamic state")

Maher Fayeze (nephew of Saad Hanam, said "My uncle and cousin were killed in their house. After they killed them, they burned the house and left. All of these killings occurred in 10 days, and the targeting of Copts is constant. We want to be able to live. The country is shutting us up so that the government doesn't look bad and seems to be in control. Any talk of security control is lies...At first, they [the police] would say that they [the Islamists] are outside of the city. How were these extremists, most of whom are young men in their 20s, able to enter the heart of the city which is studded with military, police and intelligence? And how are the weapons passed to them?")

Sameh Mansour (civil servant, son-in-law of Saad Hanam, fled his home in el-Arish after receiving death threats, said "Now that the killing has become daily, the media has taken notice...Since the January 25 revolution, we've been dying slowly. We can't go to our jobs or live a normal life with our kids. We can't sleep or eat", told that his request for a transfer to a less dangerous location would not be approved by the government)

Nermeen (aged 9, sister of Nancy, relative of Saad Hanam, fled her home with her mother)

Nancy (aged 7, sister of Nermeen, relative of Saad Hanam, fled her home with her mother)

Awatef (said to a priest "No, your holiness. This suffering is too much and we are tired. Which god would allow this torture? Enough with the talk that doesn't mend the wounds! Our children and men are being killed in front of us. We fled our homes and you're still repeating that God is consoling us, and then you return to your homes and your churches away from us....Where is the [Coptic] Pope? And where is our Bishop Kosman [the bishop of the North Sinai dioceses] who shut the door of the cathedral on our faces when we asked to hide there or at least put our children there. We see Syria and Iraq on television, but we see no coverage of Sinai, except for lies")

Ezzat Yacoub Ishak (blacksmith, fled with his two sons, said “The security forces, they’re all hiding and scared for their lives, scared to confront those people. There is no security. Yes, there are military and police at the check points, but for my protection as a human there is nothing”)

Mina Misak (aged 20, son of Misak Nasrallah Misak, father shot dead in 2016 as he left his hospital, said “It tore me to pieces when I found out, and now it’s even worse - there’s no reason to stay. It’s difficult to do anything. Most of my friends and family have left. And Muslims are scared too, of course”)

Nabil (fled his home, said “In el-Arish, there are seven checkpoint buildings lining the road to town, but inside, you hardly see a soldier. Whenever there’s an attack they come after we telephone them, sometimes days later, and ask for descriptions of the killers. But that’s all”)

Reda (parent, grandparent, civil servant, said: “I don’t want to stay there and die as a casualty in the war that has hit el-Arish. If they allow us we will stay here until the terrorism is over and the government makes peace”)

Fayez (shop owner, fled his home, said “Hopefully we’ll find a home and be able to stay here, but I don’t know how I would move my business. Daily life looks normal in el-Arish, until you hear about terrorists shooting people in their own homes”)

Nabil Shukrallah (church worker, said that more than 100 Christian families have fled the Sinai, said “They’re exhausted, with urgent needs for food and children’s clothing. They’re terrified of the violence and brutality”)

Date February 27, 2017

Location: Ismailia

Source: <http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2017/02/27/egypts-christians-flee-terror-in-north-sinai-security-void-2/>

and <http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2017/02/27/egypts-christians-flee-terror-in-north-sinai-security-void/>

Michel Antoune (church leader, said in response to Sinai Christians fleeing killings “The state allowed hate speech to flourish, and over time that has turned into action. This the natural result of state indifference”)

Date February 25, 2017

Location: Ismailia

Source: <http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2017/02/25/targeted-by-isis-egyptian-christians-flee-violence/>

Fr Kirillus Ibrahim (confirmed that more than 100 Coptic families have fled the Sinai due to recent killings)

Date: February 27, 2017

Location: Ishmailia

Source: <https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201702281051098231-egyptian-christians-flee-sinai/>

**Event: Christians continue to flee el-Arish and the Sinai**

Issaf Sameh (aged 10, grandson of Saad Hana, described how his grandfather and uncle were killed, also said “They stole from the flat and set fire to it”)

Kirollos (maintenance man, said “In the past we used to try to reassure ourselves, but we started to be terrified since last week, when they began to kill people inside their homes. I don’t know when we can go home, and I can’t be sure if I go back that they won’t return”)

Mary (civil servant, said “I am scared they will rob and burn my home. It represents my work for 30 years and that of my father before me. If it were up to me I would go back because they don’t kill women, but I am afraid for my two sons”)

Date: March 1, 2017

Location: Ismailia

Source: <http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2017/03/01/jihadis-target-copts-triggering-fears-of-broader-assaults-against-religious-minority/>

Nabila Fawzi Hana (aged 65, widow of Saad Hana, mother of Medhat Saad Hakim Hana and Abeer, witnessed the murder of her husband and son, said “At about 10.30 pm, when we were falling asleep, I heard a loud knocking at the door. It made me tense. My son, Medhat, left his room to see who was there. He opened it and two masked men came into the hall. Without asking any questions, one of them shot my son in the head, instantly killing him. When I heard the gunshots I rushed out of my room barefoot and found him lying on the ground, bleeding from his forehead and nose. I screamed, asking them why they shot him. They told me to leave the house and pulled me outside, telling me to not to speak to anyone or go back inside. I noticed another two masked men were waiting inside a grey car near our house...The men went back inside to find my husband. I heard him plead, ‘I’m a sick old man,’ but they didn’t respond. They shot him twice in the head. Then they came out and asked me if I am a Christian. I said I was, then they asked me what my relationship was to the two men. ‘They are my son and husband,’ I told them. They asked their names and I answered. One of them was holding a list of many names and when I gave their names, he looked at the list and ticked them off with a pen...They looted the house and put the stolen things in their car before setting the house on fire. They took about 40 minutes. We’re the only Christian family on the street. I was alone - none of the neighbors helped me - they heard the gunshots but were afraid to come out. I didn’t know what to do. I went back inside and saw the bodies of my son and husband. It was horrific...There isn’t a security plan to protect Christians. The men took 45 minutes. Where were the police while they did this? And the vet, Bahgat William Zakhar, who was killed in front of people during the busy hours of the day, while those who killed him walked 300 meters down the street shouting ‘Allahu akbar’ [Allah is the greatest]. Where was the security? The security failure in North Sinai made those militants target us”)

Date: February 22, 2017

Location: el-Arish, Sinai

Abeer (daughter of Saad Hana and Nabila Fawzi Hana, husband and children escaped their home hours before ISIL gunmen appeared)

Date: February 23, 2017

Location: el-Arish, Sinai

Fr Mikhail Anton (**UPDATE**: said that bus and taxi drivers have been threatened with death if they help Christians escape from ISIL)

Date: March 2, 2017

Location: el-Arish, Sinai

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/5029259/>

Adel Munir (father of Munir Munir and Dimiana, civil servant, found his name on an ISIL execution list, sprayed with acid by neighbors, fled his home in el-Arish)

Munir Munir (son of Adel Munir, said "The police and army cannot do anything; they cannot even protect themselves. Of course we won't go back to Arish. Go back to die?")

Dimiana (daughter of Adel Munir, said "Our neighbors took our land because we are Christian. They tried to attack me and my sister and when my father came to defend us they sprayed his face with acid")

Sameh Kamel (husband, father of two, fled his home in el-Arish an hour before ISIL gunmen arrived at his home, said "They're knocking on doors, and if they find a Christian, they kill him")

Ishaq Ibrahim (**UPDATE**: said "What we are seeing here [in Sinai] is new. There has always been violence against Christians, but it was usually for a 'reason' like land disputes. Now Christians are killed just for being Christians. Militants are sending the government a message, saying they can change part of the country's demographics. This is a dangerous precedent.. .And who knows if it will be replicated in Upper Egypt or elsewhere")

Date: March 3, 2017

Location: Ismailia

Source: <http://www.charismanews.com/world/63416-christian-families-flee-for-their-lives-as-islamic-neighbors-attack>

Adel Shawqy (aged 57, laborer, **shot dead**)

Date: February 13, 2017

Location: el-Arish, Sinai

Source: <http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2017/03/03/coptic-exodus-from-al-arish/>



## India

Avnish (wedding to a Hindu by the name of Anukampa was interrupted by Hindu radicals who invaded her church, police refused to intervene, Anukampa's statements that he was not converting to Christianity were ignored, agreed to move her wedding to a Vedic temple at a later date)

Sajan K George (**UPDATE**: said "With this [current anti-conversion] law the fascist forces oppress and humiliate the tiny Christian population, even during a special event such as marriage...What is more serious is that the police are saffronized and collaborate with Hindu extremists")

Date: February 28, 2017

Location: Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Madhya-Pradesh,-Hindu-radicals-interrupt-a-mixed-marriage-in-a-church-40079.html>



## Indonesia

Archbishop Ignatius Suharyo Hardjoatmodjo (**UPDATE:** issued a pastoral letter that condemned growing Muslim intolerance, rampant violence, human trafficking, and an unwillingness to work toward the common good)

Date reported: March 1, 2017

Location: Jakarta

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/jakarta-archbishop-voices-militancy-concerns/78527>



## Iran

Robert Biglarian (Member of Parliament, said “Recently, a group of extremist Muslims destroyed an Armenian church in Sava near Marivan County. Armenians have voiced their concern over this issue and officials are investigating to find those responsible”)

Date reported: February 27, 2017

Source: <http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3365>



## Israel

Tesfabrhan (Eritrean refugee, said “I left Eritrea because of religious persecution. I have been in Israel for over five years. I am now persecuted by two governments that have failed to protect me: the Eritrean government that forced me to leave my country and my family, and the Israeli government that ignores my asylum request and treats me like a criminal by putting me in Holot...I am a Sunday school teacher and preacher. I preach in the prison. But it is difficult, I am continuously treated unfairly by the prison guards”, Christian religious practice and prayer gatherings are prohibited in the camp)

Date reported: February 24, 2017

Location: Holot refugee camp, Negev desert

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Holot-A-forgotten-persecution>



## Malaysia

Pastor Raymond Koh Keng Joo (aged 62, husband of Susanna, father of Jonathan Koh, questioned in 2011 for converting Muslims to Christianity, case dropped for lack of evidence; abducted by 5 armed and masked men in [Petaling Jaya](#) on [February 13, 2017](#), police initially refused to file a report despite witness accounts of the abduction; **UPDATE**: no word of his whereabouts)

Susanna (aged 61, wife of Raymond Koh Keng Joo, mother of Jonathan Koh, said “I don’t know what is happening. I appeal to whoever has taken him not to harm him. He is a good husband, father and pastor, who helps the poor. My husband has been involved in Harapan Komuniti, a community work project which he set up more than 10 years ago and which involves giving free tuition classes to children and English lessons to adults...My children and I are very anxious ... But I am very thankful and overwhelmed by the love and generosity of God's people. So many messages of support and encouragement have come in. God is good. He is faithful. Please continue to pray for his early release in a safe condition. Pray also pray for my and my children's safety. Let us persevere in prayer for the prayers of the righteous avails much. Let us continue to love God and do good to our neighbors. Raymond would be very happy today if he knows not only Malaysia is praying for him but also the whole world”)

Rev Dr Eu Hong Seng (**UPDATE**: wrote “Members of the community pray the authorities would be able to locate Koh... We ask the authorities to conduct a quick and thorough investigation into this incident and bring to justice its perpetrators. We pray for the success of law enforcement and investigating officers to locate the missing pastor and bring him to safety. The work of people of faith in such communities must be free from threats of violence and intimidation”)

Date: [February 27, 2017](#)

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/02/4943875/>

Jonathan Koh (son of Pastor Raymond Koh Keng Joo and Susanna, said that he believes his father was murdered after his [February 13, 2017](#) abduction)

Date: [March 2, 2017](#)

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/02/4943875/>



## Niger

Jeffery Woodke (aged 55, husband, missionary, U.S. citizen, abducted on [October 14, 2016](#) from [Arcata](#) by armed men who forced him to strip to his underwear, guard and housekeeper killed; **UPDATE**: still in captivity)

Date: February 27, 2017

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4688386/>



## Nigeria

Josephine (aged 35, mother of Nathaniel, **killed** by Fulani insurgents)

Nathaniel (aged 5, son of Josephine, **killed** by Fulani insurgents)

Enoch Andong (found the body of Josephine while searching for survivors “Apparently Josephine had escaped from the village and sought safety in the grass. The attackers then set the grass ablaze and left her for dead”)

Most Reverend Nicholas Oko (called for the disarming of the Fulani)

Date: February 20, 2017

Location: Zilan village, Kaura local government area, Kaduna state

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/02/4956331/>



## Pakistan

Mary Ashma Javed (wife of Javed Sahotra, teacher with 28 years' seniority, accused in **November 2015** by one parent of teaching Christianity to Muslim students and beating them when they did not agree, denied the charges; **UPDATE**: object of an attempt by fellow Muslim teachers to force her from the school, the teachers said “She is non-Muslim and non-Muslims are Satan, Satan and Satan” and “let us kick this Christian teacher from the school because we are all Muslim teachers and she is Christian Satan teacher”)

Date: February 14, 2017

Location: Pakpattan district, Punjab province

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6332>

Mehwish Masih (aged 15, daughter of Babar Masih and Ruqiya Bibi, domestic worker, arrested on **December 8, 2016** on allegations of theft of her employer's property after she took unauthorized time off from work for appendicitis, held in house arrest at her employer's home; **UPDATE**: released on bail, returned home, trial pending)

Babar Masih (aged 48, husband of Ruqiya Bibi, father of Mehwish Masih, arrested on **December 8, 2016** on allegations of theft of his daughter's employer's property; **UPDATE**: released on bail, trial pending)

Shahid Anwar, diocesan coordinator for Justice and Peace, said “Very often this kind of allegations is levelled against Christian domestic workers by rich home owners because

they belong to minorities and marginalized groups. Most of the time, the charges are unfounded. Employers do not want their employees to free themselves from their bondage. The daughter was held at the Tariq home and her father was kept behind bars for many days without due process. This family is innocent and very poor. We are providing them with legal aid, and managed to get interim bail at the High Court in Lahore, but we hope that on March 6 the bail will be confirmed. We stand by these poor victims and shall fight until justice is done")

Date: February 2017

Location: Faisalabad

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/-Christian-father-and-daughter-arrested-on-false-charges-of-theft-in-Faisalabad-40089.html>



## **Palestine**

Fr Mario da Silva (Brazilian citizen, pastor of the only Latin-rite Catholic church in Gaza, said of his 350 families "The situation in Gaza is hard. After the [2014] war, we received international aid. However, six months later they forgot about us, as if everything had been resolved. Instead, problems remain, like the lack of jobs, gas, water, and electricity. On some days, there is electricity only for three hours. It's cold here and people do not know how to heat their homes. We have no drinking water because what comes out [of the tap] is salty, hence, we have to buy bottled water...People here are starting to think seriously that it would be better to get into another war because then at least there would be aid. It is a sad and terrible thought but it shows how tragic things are. The world pays attention to us only when there is a war...The young people who were authorized to visit the holy sites in Jerusalem and Bethlehem last Easter did not return. They remained in the city where Jesus was born and found a job, laying the foundations for a new life. That is why, here, people want to leave...Christians live mainly with debts, buying on credit from the supermarket and promising to pay later. Christian charities help out by paying off the debts. The jobless are forced to beg and count on the generosity of others...Preserving the Christian faith is the foundation of our social work. We have to give them a decent life. Our attention goes to the sick, the suffering, those in difficulty with this spirit...preserving the integrity of the faith, defending it, and teaching Christians how to live amid hardships and a Muslim majority...upholding Christian values like forgiveness, charity, and fraternal love is hard. That is why Christians here are heroes. They know how to keep the faith in a hostile environment and stand more and more as an example for those, even in the West, who experience dimly and superficially their Christian faith")

Date: February 28, 2017

Location: Gaza

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Gaza-priest,-a-forgotten-people-sees-hope-in-war-to-receive-aid-40063.html>



## Philippines

Senator Leila de Lima (aged 57, former human rights attorney, accused President Duterte of being a "sociopathic serial killer" on [February 21, 2017](#); arrest warrant on drug trafficking charges issued on [February 23, 2017](#), took refuge in her Senate office; **UPDATE**: surrendered to police, said "It is my honor to be imprisoned for the things I am fighting for. Please pray for me...As I have been saying all along, I am innocent. There is no truth to the charges I benefited from the drug trade, that I received money and that I coddled drug convicts. The truth will come out at the right time. They will not be able to silence me and stop me from fighting for the truth and justice and against the daily killings and repression by the Duterte regime")

Date: [February 24, 2017](#)

Location: [Quezon City](#)

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Duterte%E2%80%99s-harsh-critic-Leila-De-Lima-arrested-40029.html>



## Russia

Pastor Victor-Immanuel Mani (husband, father of a 12 month old son, Indian citizen, convicted of illegal missionary activity on [December 20, 2016](#) only 2 hours after prosecutors filed their case and so was illegally denied legal representation, fined US\$488; **UPDATE**: deported in violation of a 2013 Supreme Court ruling that prohibited the deportation of spouses and parents of Russian citizens after his conviction was upheld by the Tartarstan Supreme Court, said he will continue to appeal his case)

Date: [January 25, 2017](#)

Location: [Naberezhny Chelny](#)

Hegumena Kseniya Chernega (Russian Orthodox Church legal department, complained of government destruction of confiscated Salvation Army Bibles, prosecutors agreed and asked the court to rescind its order)

Date: [December 30, 2016](#)

Location: [Vladivostok](#)

Source: [http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2261](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2261)



## Sudan

Petr Jasek (aged 53, husband of Wanda, Czech citizen, arrested in [Khartoum](#) in [December 2015](#) for making a video for Voice of the Martyrs on Christian persecution and financially aiding a wounded Christian; convicted in [Khartoum](#) on [January 29, 2017](#) of 'waging war against the state, violating restrictions in military areas, spreading rumors to defame the state, and inciting strife between communities', sentenced to 23 and a half years' imprisonment; **UPDATE:** pardoned by President Omar Bashir during a visit from the Czech Foreign Minister, returned to Prague aboard the Foreign Minister's aircraft)

Date: [February 26, 2017](#)

Location: [Khartoum](#)

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/01/4874643/>

Petr Jasek (aged 53; **UPDATE:** spoke about his experiences after his arrest “The first two months were probably the most severe for me because I was placed in a cell together with members of the Islamic State, who humiliated me as a Christian. It then escalated into humiliation and physical beatings, and psychological torture and humiliation”, had been moved five times between "terrible" prisons, once was placed in a refrigerated cell)

Date: [February 27, 2017](#)

Location: [Prague, Czech Republic](#)

Abdulmonem Abdumawla Issa Abdumawla (convert; **UPDATE:** still in captivity despite his conviction as an accomplice of the now-pardoned Petr Jasek)

Rev Hassan Abdelrahim Tawor (husband; **UPDATE:** still in captivity despite his conviction as an accomplice of the now-pardoned Petr Jasek)

Date: [February 27, 2017](#)

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/02/4944112/>

**Event: Four Christians were arrested when a Muslim businessman called police and claimed ownership of his school property and that they had destroyed a sign he had erected, released on bail**

Rev Sidik Abdalla Anglo

Himeda Kandr (church elder)

Daud Musa (teacher)

Majdi Juma (teacher)

Dates: [February 20-21, 2017](#)

Location: [Omdurman](#)

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2017/02/christians-sudan-arrested-tussle-evangelical-school-omdurman/>

Rev Yat Michael (**UPDATE:** said "In 2014, I travelled back to Khartoum to take up a new assignment with the South Sudan Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Little did I know that Sudan had declared war against Christians. So, I was arrested the second day after preaching in a certain church in Khartoum. That is when I was put in jail that lasted me nine months...[the government fears] that they [Christian ministers] can easily reach out to the Muslims and win them to Christ. They do not allow pastors to reach out to

Muslims in Khartoum, Darfur and the Nuba mountains. These are strictly Muslim dominated areas")

Date: February 28, 2017

Location: Juba, South Sudan

Source: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/sudan-fears-muslims-will-be-led-jesus-declares-war-against-christians-pastor-176175/>



## Uganda

Hassan Muwanguzi (convert; **UPDATE**: arrested on abduction and human sacrifice charges after a convert from Islam [Namusisi Budadu Birye] took refuge with him in 2015 after her father beat her, said “I brought Namusisi into my house after receiving messages that she was badly beaten, and that she needed support due to her newly founded faith in Christ. But now I am falsely charged and being threatened by many Muslims who want to kill me because of the message that has gone all over that I am kidnapping and sacrificing people’s lives in the name of converting them to Christianity”, still in custody despite the appearance of Namusisi Budadu Birye before police, expects to be released soon)

Namusisi Budadu Birye (aged 22, beaten by her father after converting on November 12, 2015 to Christianity from Islam, rescued by her neighbors in Nandere village, Kadama sub-county, Kibuku district; **UPDATE**: found by police, testified “My father mistreated me when I converted to Christianity. I was beaten badly and then sent away from home, and Hassan Muwanguzi housed me”)

Date: February 26, 2017

Location: Kabuna village, Budaka district

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2017/03/evangelist-uganda-arrested-on-false-kidnapping-human-sacrifice-claims-he-says/>

Hassan Muwanguzi (convert, arrested on abduction and human sacrifice charges in Kabuna village, Budaka district on February 26, 2017 after a convert from Islam [Namusisi Budadu Birye] took refuge with him in 2015 after her father beat her; still in custody as of March 1, 2017 despite the February 27, 2017 appearance of Namusisi Budadu Birye before police; **UPDATE**: released on bail, received death threats)

Date: March 3, 2017

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2017/03/sheikh-uganda-incites-muslim-villagers-evangelist-released-bail/>



## Ukraine

Fr Vitaly Gurev (described how his parishioners stayed overnight in their church to prevent it from seizure by members of another church)

Date: February 25, 2017

Location: Kynakhivtsi village, Ternopil region

Source: <http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/101456.htm>



## United Kingdom

Shahriar Ashrafkhorasani (aged 33, convert from Islam, graduate student in theology, Church of England ordinand, prohibited from asking questions during a university lecture on Islam, said "The lecture was at best a very poor Islamic apologetic, and at worst academically dishonest and misleading. While the government is rightly concerned about Islamophobia, there is no concern whatsoever for Christianophobia", has filed a complaint with the university)

Date reported: February 26, 2017

Location: Oxford

Source: <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/christian-accuses-oxford-of-bias-g8mss9w02>  
and <http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/apostate-accuses-oxford-university-of-islamic-bias>

**Event: Two street preachers arrested on July 6, 2016 were convicted of public order offences, the prosecutor stated "To say to someone that Jesus is the only God is not a matter of truth. To the extent that they are saying that the only way to God is through Jesus, that cannot be a truth", the judge stated that quoting parts of the King James Bible in the context of modern British society "must be considered to be abusive and is a criminal matter"**

Michael Overd (**UPDATE:** fined £2016 - US\$2495)

Michael Stockwell (fined £2016 - US\$2495)

Date: February 28, 2017

Location: Bristol

Adrian Clark (charges dismissed)

Date: February 25, 2017

Location: Bristol

Source: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/freedom-of-speech/street-preachers-convicted-for-quoting-bible-in-modern-day-heresy-tri>



## United States - Louisiana

Michael Sprague (state chaplain, booed during his opening prayer at a town hall meeting, a veteran who led the Pledge of Allegiance was also booed, said “I’ve never been shouted down throughout a time of prayer like that. I’ve never been in a situation like that. It’s sad there wasn’t honor and respect for God...People ask me all the time if I am mad at the people seemingly speaking out against God and Jesus. My answer is that I’m not mad, but I am sad that it has come to this in our country...We need to remember that Jesus has been booed many, many times and He will be booed again”)

Date: February 22, 2017

Location: Metairie

Source: <http://christiannews.net/2017/02/28/unhinged-town-hall-attendees-shout-down-louisiana-chaplain-praying-in-the-name-of-jesus/>

## United States - Ohio

Elizabeth Johnson (mother of 10, suspended from Facebook on February 9, 2017 after posting Biblical passages on homosexuality; **UPDATE**: reinstated)

Date: February 23, 2017

Source: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/facebook-apologizes-for-suspending-christian-mom-over-post-on-homosexuality-175779/>



## Vietnam

**Event: Two ministers were abducted at the airport by undercover security men, stripped, beaten, robbed**

Rev Nguyen Trung Ton (arrested in 2011; **UPDATE**)

Rev Nguyen Viet Tu

Date: late February 2017

Location: Ba Đon, Quang Binh province

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Two-Protestant-clergymen-abducted-and-beaten-40098.html>

## Today's Martyrs

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

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