

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Weekly Report – 2017-10-22 through 2017-10-28



### China

Yan Xiaojie (detained in a 'black' jail in [Longwan district, Zhejiang province](#) as of [October 29, 2015](#); released on [February 2, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: wrote of his treatment since his release “What kind of crime did I commit? In this period, Wenzhou authorities keep harassing me, asking me to report to the police station every day and coming to my home daily. They seriously disturb my family’s life — especially that of my two elderly [parents] — my life, and my work...In the end, I don’t know why?...[In 2015], they captured me for no reason, and I was shut for half a year in a small, black room. Inside, I was constantly hurt and attacked. I have not exposed them to the world, because they do not allow me to tell about the things that happened inside the prison. I have not yet started to protest and complain...Do we Chinese people have human rights at all?”)

Date: [October 13, 2017](#)

Location: [Wenzhou, Zhejiang province](#)

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/10/pastor-missionary-faces-persecution.html>

Zheng Shaoyun (home invaded by police, worship service interrupted, 20 Christians identified, Christian materials seized, son threatened with denial of a civil service position)

Date: [October 25, 2017](#)

Location: [Taishan, Guangdong province](#)

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/10/house-church-raided-leader-summoned-by.html>

Pastor Li Guozhi aka Yang Hua (husband of Wang Hongwu; detained on [December 9, 2015](#); sentenced on [January 5, 2017](#) to two and a half years imprisonment; **UPDATE**: has brought a civil suit against the local government for their recent actions against him and his church)

Date: [October 10, 2017](#)

Location: [Guiyang, Guizhou province](#)

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/10/imprisoned-pastor-sues-government.html>

Ding Shuqi (detained at the airport while travelling to Hong Kong for a church conference, released later that day)

Ran Yunfei (detained at his home while travelling to Hong Kong, released later that day)

Date: [October 16, 2017](#)

Location: [Chengdu, Sichuan province](#)

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/10/two-chinese-christians-held-for-24.html>



## India

### **Event: Two Christians were arrested at a railway station on forced conversion charges of minors**

Anita Joseph (aged 50)

Amrit Kumar (aged 51)

Date: October 23, 2017

Location: Indore, Madhya Pradesh state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Two-Christians-arrested-in-Madhya-Pradesh-for-%E2%80%9Cforced-conversions%E2%80%9D-of-minors-42137.html>

Anil Sathe (led a protest against government inaction on expansion of a Christian cemetery)

Date: October 23, 2017

Location: Nagpur

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/christians-take-to-streets-demand-land-for-cemetery/articleshow/61192273.cms>

Pastor Abhay Sagar (aged 37, husband of Francisca Gill, father of two aged 7 and 3, abducted from a worship service by 25 Hindu radicals, taken to a RSS paramilitary organization school, beaten, stripped, tortured, the radicals forced police to file criminal charges against him, taken to the hospital in extreme pain but not admitted under police pressure, lost hearing in his left ear, fled from his residence)

Francisca Gill (wife of Pastor Abhay Sagar, mother of two aged 7 and 3, private secondary school administrator, criminal charges filed against her, school supervisors told her to leave their home for at least a year, said “Biswan is not safe for my husband and my kids at the moment. Whatever savings I have made, I spent on his treatment. He lost hearing in his left ear. We need to start life from scratch. Our kids are 7 and 3, they need admission in a new school now, and honestly, I have nothing to provide them – all our hope is in the Lord. Only He can pave a way and lead us by His hand”)

Deenanath Jaiswar (said “The cases of assault of pastors have been on the rise. That night Bajrang Dal [the RSS youth wing] and Vishwa Hindu Parishad activists were thronging to the police station to check if the pastor was in custody”)

Date: September 24, 2017

Location: Biswan town, Sitapur district, Uttar Pradesh state

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2017/10/torture-pastor-india-ruins-livelihood-hearing-not-faith/>



## Indonesia

Pastor Stephen Tong Eng Tjong (**UPDATE**: forced to cancel an open-air prayer service to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation after the stadium venue received threats by Islamic radicals)

Date: prior to October 20, 2017

Location: Yogyakarta

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/muslim-protests-force-cancelation-of-protestant-celebration/80600>



## Iran

Abdol-Ali Pourmand (convert, arrested, called home a few days later to say he would be released soon)

Date: October 19, 2017

Location: Dezful, Khuzestan province

Source: <http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3774>

Mohammad Ali Torabi (convert, detained on October 10, 2017 by security agents while in his office; **UPDATE**: still missing)

Date: October 23, 2017

Location: Dezful, Khuzestan province

Source: [http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3772&utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=twitter](http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3772&utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)



## Kenya

Fr Evans Juma Oduor (found unconscious in a sugar cane field with severe head injuries, died in the hospital, two weeks earlier had appealed to the government to stop the killing of the Luo ethnic group)

Date: October 22, 2017

Location: Muhoroni

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/63121-AFRICA\\_KENYA\\_Catholic\\_priest\\_killed\\_tension\\_increases\\_on\\_the\\_eve\\_of\\_the\\_presidential\\_vote#.We9FxVtSyM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/63121-AFRICA_KENYA_Catholic_priest_killed_tension_increases_on_the_eve_of_the_presidential_vote#.We9FxVtSyM8)



## Myanmar

**Event: Two Christians who disappeared on December 24, 2016 after reporting on the destruction of a church were convicted of defaming the military and of connection with outlawed groups**

Assistant Pastor Dom Dawng Nawng Latt (aged 64, cousin of La Jaw Gam Hseng; **UPDATE:** sentenced to 4 years' and three months' imprisonment)

La Jaw Gam Hseng (aged 35, cousin of Dom Dawng Nawng, church youth leader; **UPDATE:** sentenced to 2 years' and three months' imprisonment)

Date: October 27, 2017

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Two-Kachin-clergymens-conviction-is-punishment-for-telling-the-truth,-Catholic-activist-says-42171.html>



## Nepal

Pastor Tanka Subedi (**UPDATE:** said of a new law that prohibits religious conversions and 'hurting religious sentiment': "We are deeply saddened that this Bill is now law. Our appeals to the president and other policy makers to amend this have been ignored. Nepali government have taken a regressive step as this law severely restricts our freedom of expression and our freedom of religion or belief")

Date: October 16, 2017

Source: <http://www.christiantimes.com/article/nepals-president-approves-legislation-that-limits-religious-conversion/73071.htm>



## Nigeria

Dauda Samuel Kadiya (aged 38, church elder, described the Muslim Fulani attack on his village "Every one of us ran to save his life. I was shot at, but the bullet only bruised my hand...All Christians in villages around here have been displaced, and worship buildings have been abandoned. Some of the church buildings were destroyed by the attackers")

Agado Aura (aged 63, said "Myself and my wife were still sitting in front of my house chatting at about 11 p.m. in front of my house when the attackers came. We could not go to bed early, because the previous night a village near ours, Tafigana, was attacked by the herdsmen. Suddenly, we heard gunshots from the eastern part of the village. We ran into some of the nearby rocks close to my house and hid there. They broke the doors to our

rooms and then set fire on my house. Having set fire on my house, they went to the next house and did the same. They continued burning houses until they were done, before they left”)

Date: October 13, 2017

Location: Zanwrua village, Plateau state

Arivure (aged 2, **killed**)

John Audu (aged 25, **killed**)

Kure Dah (aged 31, **killed**)

Sunday Vire (aged 22, **killed**)

Voh Te (aged 20, **killed**)

Garba (aged 28, **killed**)

Zhu (aged 41, **killed**)

Jerry Simon (aged 34, **killed**)

Tegwi Mba (aged 30, **killed**)

Wura Hwei (aged 27, **killed**)

Dates: October 8-17, 2017

Locations: Nzherenvi, Nzherivo, and Aribakwa villages, Plateau state

Solomon Elisha ('young man', **killed**)

Date: October 10, 2017

Location: Kpachudu village, Plateau state

Sunday Abdu (**UPDATE**: said “We have continually woken up to news of attacks each day leaving tears, sorrow, despair and apprehension...It is painful to note that all these happened despite useful, timely information provided to security personnel, regarding movement and mode of operation of the assailants”)

Date: October 25, 2017

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2017/10/christians-recount-terror-herdsmens-nine-day-massacre-plateau-state-nigeria/>



## Pakistan

Jamshaid Masih (husband of Uzma Jamshaid, sanitary worker, seized by police during a 3:15 AM raid on his home, beaten, whereabouts unknown)

Uzma Jamshaid (wife of Jamshaid Masih, sanitary worker, filed a police request for the return of her husband)

Date reported: October 21, 2017

Location: Karachi

Source: <https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/christian-sanitary-worker-brutally-injured-and-abducted-by-police-in-karachi/>

**Event: Muslim neighbors filed a police report demanding the closure of a church after threatening parishioners with guns and disrupting services**

Pastor Patris Salamat

James Allah Dita

Javed Youhana (parishioner, described by Pastor Patris Salamat: “he used to attend the Sunday services since 1999 but he feels himself insecure while going to church since the Muslim in the neighborhood have threatened the Christians”)

Basharat Khokher (parishioner, activist, said “I live nearby but attend the service on regular bases with my family, since the attack on church has created sense of insecurity in me and many others. We live under constant traumatized since the attacks begun on Pakistan on worship places by the extremists. For the most time, when I go to church I fear anything can happen anytime and I feel whether I will go back home or not”)

Date: September 22, 2017

Location: Rawalpindi

Source: <https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/christians-fear-of-attending-sunday-service-due-to-the-threats-of-muslims-living-in-the-neighborhood/>

Meshal (aged 12, abducted, raped by 3 men, burnt with cigarettes, police refused to file a report or take any other action)

Date reported: October 24, 2017

Location: Sheikhpura, Punjab province

Source: <https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/another-christian-teenager-girl-kidnapped-and-raped/>



## **Philippines**

Sam Mangumpit (student, taken hostage by Islamic militants in May 2017, reported to have been **killed**)

Date reported: October 25, 2017

Location: Marawi, Mindanao

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/63129-ASIA PHILIPPINES The Bishop We mourn for two Catholic students but Marawi will be re\\_built#.WfDoPVtSyM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/63129-ASIA_PHILIPPINES_The_Bishop_We_mourn_for_two_Catholic_students_but_Marawi_will_be_re_built#.WfDoPVtSyM8)



## Sudan

**Events: Five church leaders were arrested after refusing a police order to stop a worship service, all were released that evening; UPDATE: all were summoned to court and charged with noise pollution**

Pastor Ayoub Tilian

Rev Ali Haakim Al Aam

Pastor Ambrator Hammad

Evangelist Habill Ibrahim

Elder Abdul Bagi Tutu

Date: October 22 and 26, 2017

Location: Omdurman

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/10/sudanese-church-christ-leaders-charged-sound-pollution-noisy-services/>  
and <http://morningstarnews.org/2017/10/five-church-leaders-sudan-arrested-refusing-cancel-worship-service/>



## Syria

Carolyn (aged 14, daughter of Abu Elias, taken by ISIL fighters in 2015 [at age 12] for an unspecified 'duty', forced to convert to Islam, whereabouts unknown)

Abu Elias (husband, father of six, described the 2015 ISIL takeover of his town and their abduction, said "I am, of course, praying that my daughter is still alive somewhere")

Date reported: October 24, 2017

Location: Tel Tamer

Source: <https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2017/10/24/syrias-christians-driven-to-the-edge/>



## Tajikistan

Daniil Islamov (aged 18, conscientious objector, forcibly conscripted in April 2017 despite serious health issues; **UPDATE:** sentenced to six months' imprisonment, appeal underway)

Date: October 13, 2017

Location: Qurghonteppa, Khatlon region

Source: [http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2327](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2327)



## Tanzania

Pastor Yahana Madai (church service in Zanzibar disrupted by a 9 year old Muslim girl on [November 10, 2014](#); arrested on [November 11, 2014](#) after the girl's father alleged that he had touched her breast and removed her veil when he stopped her disruptions the previous night, released the next day, case closed a few days later due to lack of evidence; charges refiled in [early March 2017](#); charges dismissed on [April 6, 2017](#), rearrested on unspecified charges while leaving the courthouse; **UPDATE**: judge failed to attend a hearing on the molestation charges, said “The court is dragging this case out, which is really becoming costly and hurting the church. Why should a hearing be called off at the last minute? I am hurt by the alleged assault labeled against me, which is stressing my family members as well as the church. Some of my members have left the church due to bad soil that the Muslims have smeared on me”)

Date: [October 16, 2017](#)

Location: Zanzibar

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2017/10/muslims-target-pastor-criminal-accusation-zanzibar-tanzania/>



## Ukraine

Archpriest Vasily Kobelsky (**UPDATE**: Divine Liturgy disrupted and parishioners attacked by Greek Catholics in the continuing church dispute)

Date: [October 22, 2017](#)

Location: Kolomiya, Transkarpatya region

Source: <http://orthochristian.com/107474.html>

Archpriest Igor Margita (home seized by members of a competing Orthodox church)

Archpriest Oleg Tochinsky (reported on the illegal eviction of Archpriest Igor Margita and his family)

Date: [October 26, 2017](#)

Location: Hrybovytsia village, Ivanychi region, Volhynia province

Source: <http://orthochristian.com/107587.html>





## United Kingdom

Wayne Harris (national director of CrossTeach, which has been banned from a Church of England primary school after non-Christian parents discovered materials that mentioned sin and social media comments by Crossteach volunteers which mentioned "Christ's saving blood", the parents called these views "extremists")

Dan Turvey (school headmaster, wrote to the parents that CrossTeach would no longer participate in school assemblies but would still assist with a school club, also wrote "The main thrust of the argument has been that by inviting a Christian charity called CrossTeach and individuals from St John's Church to deliver assemblies/collective worship, we have knowingly allowed your children to be exposed to extremist beliefs and that as a result some children have been upset and disturbed emotionally...I do not believe CrossTeach has done anything wrong. They do not deserve the tarnishing of their good name and allegations of extremism that have taken place over the last few months")

Rev Dick Farr (said parents needed to remember the school was a church school)

Date reported: October 17, 2017

Location: Tunbridge Wells

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2017/10/17/church-england-headteacher-hits-parents-forced-extremist-christian/>  
and <https://youtu.be/NLScafJwyd8?t=879>

Tajamal Amar (aged 45, food delivery driver, immigrant from Pakistan after being shot there, beaten into unconsciousness outside a restaurant by a Muslim gang, nose broken, hospitalized, later said "Several times local Pakistani people in Derby have taken offense from the fact that I am Christian, when they first find out many stop talking to me. My wife and I have often been shunned...On the day of my attack the visible display of a cross in my car and two poppies just below the front bonnet, triggered the violence against me. I know this, because for a few days before the attack the same men, glared at me after they notice my Christian paraphernalia...I fled from Pakistan to escape violence such as this, but more and more the same violence is coming into Britain. Freedom of religion should be the right of any British citizen but today I feel unsafe, even then nothing will stop me going to church. I will pray for my attackers and hope they will change their hard-line approach to faith which is very dangerous for our society")

Date: October 20, 2017

Location: Littleover, Derbyshire

Source: <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/pakistani-christian-hospitalized-by-muslims-for-displaying-cross-in-vehicle>

Richard Page (aged 71, Justice of the Peace in Kent, disciplined on January 16, 2015 after he admitted that his Christian faith influenced his adoption rulings; reported on March 10, 2016 to have been removed from his position as a National Health Service financial director one month before retirement after giving a January 2015 interview in which he said that there was not enough evidence to show that adoption by same sex couples was

in a child's interest, the interview was for a documentary on Christians being forced out of public life; **UPDATE:** case against his former employer dismissed by the Employment Tribunal, said “I am very disappointed by this outcome but I am determined to appeal. This case is much bigger than me now. It is about how ordinary folk, just like me, are becoming increasingly fearful to speak out against the homosexual agenda. They bully, intimidate and force you out of your job. It is time for this to stop”)

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns, **UPDATE:** wrote “The court claims that Mr Page was not being dismissed because of his views per se, but because of the expression of those views in the public space...this is a distinction without a difference, and amounts to a perverse attempt to silence Christian beliefs...There is no real difference between suppressing dissent and suppressing an expression of dissent. To split hairs in this way makes no sense...Each time someone takes part in a television debate or interview, personal beliefs are expressed. Yet most people do not lose their jobs for doing so. It seems that the NHS bosses and liberal judges cannot tolerate the expression of Christian views on morality – particularly on sexual morality. It is clear that appearing on TV would not, in itself, have led to Mr. Page being dismissed. Had he spoken about the weather, or the plight of the near-extinct white rhino, for example, he would not have found himself on the receiving end of the NHS’ wrath. He was not targeted for the expression of beliefs, but rather for the expression of certain beliefs – namely, belief in the traditional family...The Tribunal asserted that Mr Page’s actions 'were clearly in conflict with the protection of health'. It is ludicrous to suggest that people are not using NHS Kent [hospitals] now because of Mr Page appearing on Good Morning Britain, or to suggest that Mr Page’s expression of his views had any impact on the ability of NHS Kent to provide health services to the entire community...According to the European Court of Human Rights, bound up in the right to freedom of religion is the right to communicate a belief to others. This right is engaged regardless of the platform on which the belief is expressed. Indeed, without the right to communicate a belief, the individual cannot enjoy the full protection granted to freedom of religion...Yet in a remarkable comment, the Tribunal noted that 'Expressing his views in that context [in the press and on national TV] was not something that...was intimately linked to his religion or his beliefs'. In other words, Mr Page’s Christian views were inherently protected if stated during daily life, but could not be expressed on national television. By appearing on national television then, he inadvertently sacrificed his fundamental right to freedom of religion, as enshrined under domestic and international law. This is not what the drafters of the Convention on Human Rights intended. They would not have conceived of a forum in which the individual was beyond the scope of their right to religious freedom. If the tribunal is suggesting that there are places in which an individual does not enjoy the fundamental right to freedom of religious expression, this is a cause for concern and could have a chilling effect on freedom of belief and expression. This judgment makes a mockery of freedom of thought, freedom of speech, and the rule of law...Judgments like this do enormous damage to people’s confidence in the administration of justice. We will of course appeal this judgment which clearly contravenes Mr Page’s human rights, and we will appeal any number of times until we get justice”)

Date reported: October 24, 2017

Source: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/employment/employment-tribunal-allows-censorship-of-christian-beliefs>

Felix Ngole (aged 39, reported on [February 29, 2016](#) to have been expelled from graduate school at Sheffield University after he posted a defense of traditional Christian morality on Facebook; **UPDATE**: dismissal from graduate school upheld in court, the court ruled that the dismissal was extreme but the law gave him no protection, said “I am very disappointed by this ruling which supports the university’s decision to bar me from my chosen career because of my Biblical views on sexual ethics. I intend to appeal this decision which clearly intends to restrict me from expressing my Christian faith in public”)

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns; **UPDATE**: commented “The court has ruled that though Felix is entitled to hold his Biblical views on sexual ethics, he is not entitled to express them. But freedom to believe without freedom of expression is no freedom at all. Many views are frequently expressed by students on social media and in other contexts. It is the expression of Biblical morality that has been singled out for sanction by the university. The university, in investigating Felix's personal Facebook posts and disciplining him for them, is acting as if they are thought police”)

Date: [October 27, 2017](#)

Source: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/education/court-rules-student-can-be-expelled-for-quoting-bible-on-facebook>  
and [https://youtu.be/\\_Z1V7X-9Q\\_I?t=134](https://youtu.be/_Z1V7X-9Q_I?t=134)



## **Zimbabwe**

Sr Ruvadiki Plaxedes Kamundiya (aged 49, sexually assaulted and **killed** by a mentally ill man)

Date: [October 22, 2017](#)

Location: [Mutoko, Mashonaland East province](#)

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/63127-AFRICA ZIMBABWE A nun killed the murderer arrested a young man with mental disorders#.WfDr8ltSyM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/63127-<u>AFRICA ZIMBABWE A nun killed the murderer arrested a young man with mental disorders#.WfDr8ltSyM8</u>)

## **Today's Martyrs**

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

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