

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2018-01-14 through 2018-01-20



China

Pastor Lou Yuanqi (detained for 10 hours on [December 25, 2015](#) after neighbors complained of his church's festivities the night before; **UPDATE**: church ordered closed)

Date: [December 31, 2017](#)

Location: [Yining, Xinjiang province](#)

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/01/authorities-ban-church-forcing.html>



Egypt

Bassem Shehata Haraz (aged 27, brother of Usama, **shot dead** after he admitted he was a Christian)

Usama (brother of Bassem Shehata Haraz, witnessed his brother's murder)

Archbishop Michael Antoun (reported on the death of Bassem Shehata Haraz)

Date: [January 13, 2018](#)

Location: [Souq al-Khamis area, El-Arish, Sinai](#)

Source: <https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2018/01/14/%D9%82%D8%AA%D9%84-%D9%82%D8%A8%D8%B7%D9%8A-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B4-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%87%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%A9/> - with translation

and <https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2018/01/14/%D9%82%D8%AA%D9%84-%D9%82%D8%A8%D8%B7%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B4-%D8%A8%D8%B9%D8%AF-%D8%B1%D8%A4%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A8-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D9%8A%D8%AF/> - with translation



India

Fr Maria Stephen (**UPDATE**: responded to Hindu nationalists allegations that a Catholic school suspended 20 students for citing a patriotic slogan: “The charge is totally baseless and false. The school has not rusticated [suspended] anyone”, added that the students were corrected for mocking a national song, the school has sought police protection)

Date reported: January 14, 2018

Location: Namli, Ratlam, district, Madhya Pradesh state

Source: <http://mattersindia.com/2018/01/catholic-school-seeks-police-protection-in-mp/>



Iran

Shamiram Isavi (wife of Pastor Victor Beth Tarmez, mother of Ram-eil, bodily searched during the [December 26, 2014](#) police raid on her home; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment on national security charges, appeal underway)

Date: January 6, 2018

Location: Tehran

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6755>



Kazakhstan

Teymur Sultan ogly Akhmedov (aged 61, husband, father of three sons, arrested on [January 18, 2017](#) for sharing his religious beliefs with KNB secret police informants, held in pre-trial detention, denied cancer treatment; motion to terminate his case denied on [March 1, 2017](#), reportedly has been beaten in prison, can barely walk; sentenced on [May 2, 2017](#) to 5 years' imprisonment followed by 3 years' prohibition on preaching; appeal denied on [June 20, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: Supreme Court appeal denied, still denied medical treatment)

Date: December 4, 2017

Location: Astana

Yuri Bekker (arrested in [Arkalyk, Kostanai region](#) on [September 10, 2015](#) for distributing religious literature, released after 5 hours of questioning, literature seized; charged by police on [September 11, 2015](#) after distributing more religious material; fined US\$252 on [March 24, 2016](#); convicted in [Zhaksy, Akmola region](#) on [October 31, 2017](#) on a criminal charge for refusing to pay his fine, sentenced to one year imprisonment, sentence

suspended, may be imprisoned or have his home seized if he continues to refuse to pay the fine; **UPDATE:** appeal denied)

Date: December 13, 2017

Location: Akmola

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2345



Pakistan

Aleeza Ashraf (aged 18 months, daughter of Ashraf Masih and Shamim Bibi, injured with shrapnel in her abdomen and left foot during the [December 17, 2017 Quetta, Balochistan church attack](#); as of [January 7, 2018](#) had developed multiple gangrene infections, left foot amputated, transferred to a hospital in Karachi, in danger of death; **UPDATE:** received several surgeries to remove infected tissue including a colostomy, condition now stable)

Date: January 13, 2018

Location: Karachi

Source: <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/child-survivor-of-quetta-church-bomb-attack-aleeza-is-in-a-more-stable-position-but-requires-prosthe>

Sidhra (aged 20, wife of Sunny Masih, mother of Maryam, daughter of Sajjida Bibi, abducted on [October 29, 2017](#) by 3 men in front of her mother's home; **UPDATE:** found by her mother and family unconscious, bound and gagged in a chair in a Muslim neighbor's home, rescued by her family, showed signs of having been drugged and raped, abandoned by her husband, in hiding, said "I am totally distraught, a visit to my mother has become a day of ruin for me. I have suffered a brutal kidnap and rape by disgusting men with no shame. I have lost my husband and now my daughter and I will have to survive on our own and my elderly parents have had to endure so much pain for me. The thought of what the men done to me makes me shudder, I have nightmares and feel like my whole world has collapsed. I am terrified of walking on the streets at night and am finding it hard to cope with a deep depression that has consumed me. I had a happy life and that has been taken away from me, but the cruel men who stole my joy will soon be released to threaten me and to attack other women like me. There is no justice in this country")

Sunny Masih (aged 22, husband of Sidhra, father of Maryam, abandoned his family after his wife's abduction and rape, has been counseled to return to his family)

Maryam (aged 2, daughter of Sidhra and Sunny Masih)

Boota Masih (father of Sunny Masih, father-in-law of Sidhra)

Sajjida Bibi (mother of Sidhra, informed by a domestic worker that her daughter had been seen tied and gagged in a chair in a Muslim neighbor's home, led her daughter's rescue)

Date: October 30, 2017

Location: Talwinda Musa Khan, Gujranwala

Source: <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/christian-woman-gang-raped-and-brutalized-by-three-men-for-two-days-escapes-kidnap>



Ukraine

Metropolitan Pavel Lebed (monastery abbot, monastery disrupted by 30 nationalists with fireworks, met with the nationalists at the gate, joined by seminarians who sang Christmas songs, the nationalists left, later said "The young men came in balaclavas and masks, with video cameras and political posters, in order to provoke disorder and fights, hoping for a violent response. But I came out to them and they apparently didn't expect this, supposing that the monks are scared by their aggressive actions. I came up to them and invited them to come to church and pray on that holy Christmas day. Of course they refused, although several of them were taken aback")

Date: January 8, 2018

Location: Monastery of the Kiev Caves

Source: <http://orthochristian.com/109872.html>

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

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