

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2018-01-28 through 2018-02-03



Australia

Bishop Robert McGuckin (spoke before a parliamentary committee regarding an anti-foreign espionage bill that would criminalize activities of Catholics: “I want to be clear in rejecting the characterization of the Catholic Church found in the explanatory memorandum. It seems that every Catholic involved in advocacy may need to register and report. We don’t believe that is the intention of the bill...Catholics are followers of Jesus Christ, we are not agents of a foreign government”)

Date: January 30, 2018

Location: Canberra

Source: <http://www.catholicerald.co.uk/news/2018/01/30/proposed-new-australian-law-could-label-priests-agents-of-the-vatican/>



Austria

Hassan Amer (alias, Iraqi refugee, asylum request rejected, appeal underway, said “I’m not the only one whose asylum request was rejected by Austria. There are dozens like me, maybe more. I hope the reports are not accurate, and if it truly was, I’d hope these decisions are not taken into force”)

Date reported: January 28, 2018

Source: <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/01/iraq-refugees-asylum-seekers-europe.html#ixzz55WVINu00>



China

Ying Fuk-tsang (divinity school director, described ways in which Christians can oppose the new anti-religious regulations)

Date reported: January 29, 2018

Location: Hong Kong

Paul (said that local government officials asked churches for feedback on the new voluminous regulations but few have studied them or responded "Everyone was just sleeping")

Date reported: January 29, 2018

Location: northern China

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/christians-urged-to-defend-rights-in-china/81351>

Pastor Su Tianfu (issued an administrative penalty on [May 19, 2017](#) for failure to pay a fine of over 7 million yuan [one million dollars]; reported on [a June 9, 2017](#) court hearing his church called to dispute a US\$1 million fine; administrative review application accepted on [August 24, 2017](#); appeal reported on [January 17, 2018](#) to have been denied;

UPDATE: the government has begun to confiscate church property)

Date: January 21, 2018

Location: Guiyang, Guizhou province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/01/guiyangs-largest-house-church-forcibly.html>

Pastor Wang Yi (**UPDATE:** published a critique of the new government regulations on religion, wrote "These regulations go even further down the road of violating the constitution. It is an illegal law that opposes the freedom of religion and freedom of conscience of millions of citizens...These regulations as a whole are an infringement upon and negation of citizens' religious freedom in the constitution. It turns its back on public law and international law's common definition of 'religious freedom'...For house churches that have not entered the 'Three-Self Patriotic Movement organization', the new regulations register them in the Religious Affairs Bureau as 'temporary sites of religious activity'. This leaves some room, but is nevertheless unacceptable...These new regulations do not provide the slightest help in solving millions of religious citizens' religious freedom and legal status. It does not solve the half-century long standoff between house churches and the official Three-Self system. We do not have the strength to bear either more deeply entrenched 'People's Government at all levels' or greater church-state conflict...As the pastor of a house church, I intend to peacefully reject the legitimacy and execution of these regulations")

Date: January 30, 2018

Source: https://www.chinasource.org/blog/posts/why-christians-in-china-must-prepare-themselves-for-the-new-regulations-on-religious-affairs?utm_medium=feed&utm_source=feedpress.me&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+chinesechurchvoices



Egypt

Awad Zaki (aged 55, blacksmith, uncle of Sameh Mansour, accused of trying to assault the wife of a business client when he went to their home to collect a debt of US\$17, arrested,

beaten, a 'customary reconciliation meeting' the following night ordered him to be expelled from the village and fined the remaining Christians US\$2,800)

Sameh Mansour (nephew of Awad Zaki, arrested despite his absence from the alleged crime scene, beaten, said "My uncle Awad is an old man and he could not do that. Mohammed Sobhi and his family live in a family house. How could my uncle attack a woman in a family home with her children? This doesn't make sense... He is a married and very religious man and has worked for years without doing anything immoral")

Medhat Gamil (reported on the arrest of Awad Zaki "They tried to hold him in one of the rooms, accusing him of trying to assault Mohammed's wife, but Awad managed to escape", said that Zaki's arrest was followed by anti-Christian rioting "They threw stones and bricks, breaking the windows of three homes and destroying some of their contents. They destroyed a glass shop and book shop owned by Copts, and injured five Copts, including one woman. Some of them threw petrol bombs on roofs of houses, trying to set them on fire, but the owners put them out")

Date: January 17, 2018

Location: El Dawwar village, Beheira province

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/01/egypt-copt-thrown-village-fined-attack-denies/>



Eritrea

Shiden (aged 35, alias, convert, brother of John, arrested and imprisoned for 13 years, tortured, released, currently requires mental health services)

John (alias, convert, older brother of Shiben, said "I was so proud of him for not denying his faith through all of those years. But I could not believe the terrible suffering he had been put through...Since his release we have slowly seen him change in front of our eyes. He has fallen into deep depression and there are times when he is completely irrational. We have to watch him all the time, even at night, to make sure that he does not harm himself. It is very upsetting...I dream of the day that Shiden will be healed and find hope again")

Date reported: January 16, 2018

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/01/eritrea-mental-health-challenges-for-christian-man-freed-after-13-years-in-prison/>



India

Event: Four priests have been charged with crimes for preventing Hindu extremists from bulldozing land owned by their hospital for 40 years, no arrests have been made

Fr Antony Nirappel (diocesan spokesman, accused, said "...soon we were informed that police have charged four of us with rioting and criminal intimidation...[It is] just another instance of harassment...We do not know how an owner has suddenly come to claim public [use] land...[we] only want a competent authority to certify its rightful owner")

Fr Anthony Pulickamandapam (hospital director, accused, said the hospital has ownership documents and receipts for "every inch of land we possess")

Date: January 27, 2018

Location: Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh state

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-police-charge-four-catholic-priests-with-rioting/81422>



Iraq

Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP (aged 72, wrote concerning the experiences of nuns who have returned to Mosul: "They are seen as prey, particularly by young Muslims from south of Iraq who have never seen a woman not wearing a hijab. Their assumption is that the sisters are immoral [despite their habits]", added that their neighbors tell them that by 2050 Christianity will be gone and Islam will rule the world)

Date reported: February 1, 2018

Location: Oxford, United Kingdom

Source: <http://illinoistimes.com/article-19634-what%E2%80%99s-next-for-iraq-christians-.html>



Israel

Albert Knoester (Messianic congregation elder, husband of Esther Knoester, meeting center shut by authorities on [May 4, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: questioned by rabbis during a confrontational meeting in his home, said of another event "As I told you before, some windows were broken and some damage was done to our house. And because we bent down at the right moment we were not hit by stones thrown at us. But apart from this damage there was also psychological trauma to one of the families in Dimona. Due to the demonstrations and also because their house was damaged by stones. But also through bullying etc., their two young daughters were traumatized by what had happened and they needed psychological help")

Esther Knoester (wife of Albert Knoester, questioned by rabbis during a confrontational meeting in her home)

Date: January 23, 2018

Location: Dimona

Source: <http://kehilaneews.com/2018/01/23/center-run-by-believers-under-attack-again-in-dimona/>



Kyrgyzstan

Ulam Kaliyev (aged 48, convert, **died of kidney failure** the previous day, burial in the local state-owned cemetery denied by local Muslims, Christians present at the family home were threatened, buried the following day in a Christian cemetery 35 miles away)

Date November 24, 2017

Location Barskoon

Source http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2349



Malaysia

Rev Dr Hermen Shastri (**UPDATE**: described an attack on a church with an explosive device that injured 3 Christians)

Date: January 1, 2018

Location: Petaling Jaya, Kuala Lumpur

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/01/malaysia-church-attacks-highlight-growth-of-islamic-extremism/>

Pastor Goo Siew Lai (church attacked, said "The suspects broke the third floor window")

Date: January 3, 2018

Location: Kota Bharu

Pastor Goo Siew Lai (**UPDATE**: described an attack on his church with a Molotov cocktail in the second attack against this month.)

Date: January 7, 2018

Location: Kota Bharu

Source: <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2018/01/07/objects-thrown-at-church-and-temple-in-kota-baru-believed-to-be-petrol-bombs/>



Mali

Sr Gloria Cecilia Narvaez Argoti (Colombian citizen, abducted in [Koutiala](#) on [February 7, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: appeared in a recently recorded video, pleaded that Pope Francis assist with her release)

Bishop Jean Baptiste Tiama (**UPDATE**: said "We have seen the video and we are happy to know she is alive and this urges us to continue our prayers and efforts for her release...It comforted us to see that Sister Gloria appears in good condition and the fact that she referred to the Pope's trip to Chile and Peru makes us think that the video is recent. And this gives us much hope...next week, a year after the abduction of Sister Gloria, we will hold a prayer vigil. The entire diocesan community will go to the place of the abduction to pray and ask for the release of the religious")

Date: January 30, 2018

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/reported-message-from-kidnapped-nun-calls-on-pope-for-help-45126>

and <http://www.fides.org/en/news/63664->

[AFRICA MALI A new video of the kidnapped Colombian nun An encouraging sign says the Bishop of Sikasso](#)



Niger

Rev Samaila Labo (church and home destroyed in the [January 17, 2015](#) rioting; **UPDATE**: church rebuild, said "The Lord has torn up what is old and has given us something new. Those who destroyed our buildings may have been expecting to silence the voice of Christians, but they have failed. Perhaps by doing so, they wanted to send a strong signal to the Church, that Christians are not wanted")

Pastor Sabo Batchiri (said "The Niger of today is no longer tolerant. It has become a country where everyone speaks only of religion. Despair has created hatred in the hearts and drives many to find refuge in religion. These people who preach hate are more dangerous than terrorists. Because terrorism is only an epiphenomenon, the fruit of what has been sown in people's hearts...It's sad to notice that three years after the attacks, none of the victims has received any compensation from the government. Though we've forgiven, and we as an organization rejected the government's paltry offer of funds, the right of individuals to receive compensation from the government remains intact...Those victims have lost all their savings and belongings. Personally I've lost my church and my house, including my pastoral library containing more than 800 books...If nothing is done, these victims will keep for a long time the trauma of this situation. Still, the victims are filled with a deep sense of injustice, with some saying if some mosques were attacked, or if these victims were Muslims, the treatment would certainly have been different...As it's written in the Bible, 'God has risen beauty from ashes'. It's a great encouragement for the people of God that the majority of the destroyed churches have been rebuilt. New buildings, more beautiful and more visible, have been erected for the glory of God...These sad events also confirm that Jesus is the Lord and nothing could prevent us

from serving him. Our faith has been reinforced. It has also showed that the church is not limited to the buildings, but it's formed by all of us, the people of God")

Jacques Kagninde (Esprit Bible College, church destroyed in the [January 17, 2015](#) rioting; **UPDATE:** said "Those who preach hate are well known. The media that broadcasts this speech are also known, but no action is taken to stop them. We are afraid because we are a minority without any defense, and anything can happen to us at any time. Our eyes are turned to God")

Date reported: January 24, 2018

Location: Niamey

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/01/27834/>



Nigeria

Peter Zion (aged 31, father of two, government security task force member, cut across the face and torso by cutlass wielding Fulani Muslims, shot, hospitalized, said "They killed some of my colleagues and the neighbors that were there all died")

Date: January 2, 2018

Location: Guma district, Benue state

Source: <https://www.charismanews.com/world/69336-scores-of-christians-brutally-murdered-in-the-last-month>

Nabila Umar Sanda (aged 19, convert from Islam, university student, arrested for her conversion, whereabouts unknown)

Simput Dafup (aged 33, son of Lydia, arrested for helping Nabila Umar Sanda leave Islam, whereabouts unknown)

Jeremiah Datim (church leader, helped Nabila Umar Sanda after her conversion, said "Knowing the sensitive nature of conversion from Islam to Christianity...there is a working understanding, or protocol, that where such issues or situations arise", after following the protocol DSSS detectives "stormed my house, assaulted my wife, daughter and eight-month-old baby, and took Nabila away")

Lydia (mother of Simput Dafup, later said: "The men who stormed my son's premises, heavily armed, in five Hilux vehicles, blocked everywhere and assaulted even passers-by. It has become so worrisome for me to let you know about this, because, as I speak with you now, I don't know where my son is. Nobody has contacted me or any member of the family as to his whereabouts...I however know as a fact that some of the people that were found in the premises of his house, and who were also assaulted and brutalized along with my son, were taken to the Plateau State Command of the DSS in Jos. But these people said they did not see my son there. The DSS men who whisked my son away put a mask on him and the others they took with him...As a mother and a widow, I am worried about the safety of my son")

Date: January 8, 2018

Location: Karu, Nasarawa state

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/01/nigerian-student-arrested-converting-islam-christianity/>

James Nengwe (aged 60, father, church elder, **shot dead** by Fulani Muslims while a few hundred meters from the military camp to which he was fleeing)

Date: January 24, 2018

Location: Zanwra village, Jebu-Miango, Plateau state

Patience Moses (aged 30, said three Christians “the driver, the conductor, and one other Christian” were killed in an attack on a minibus, said "Soldiers who were trying to repel the attackers ran out of bullets, and so the attackers succeeded in burning down houses”)

Danlami (**killed** in an attack on a minibus)

Emmanuel Audu (**killed** in an attack on a minibus)

Rev. Sunday Gado Biri (aged 54, home destroyed by arson along with 50 others, church partially burned, 8 Christians killed, said “A critical look at these attacks has revealed that it is not only the herdsmen who are attacking Christian communities, as there are terrorists collaborating with them to carry out these attacks...It is unfortunate that the soldiers brought here are not taking decisive actions against the herdsmen. When the herdsmen were burning down houses, the soldiers could not stop them”)

Dauda Babuje (home destroyed)

Jonathan Davou (home destroyed)

John Huyep (home destroyed)

Danladi Sunday (home destroyed)

Sunday Ragwa (home destroyed)

Yakubu A A (home destroyed)

Morris Ragwa (home destroyed)

Joro Sunday (home destroyed)

Adamu Hunye (home destroyed)

Timothy Audu (home destroyed)

Audu Hunye (home destroyed)

David Saku (home destroyed)

Luka Adamu (home destroyed)

Infor Aji (home destroyed)

Demi Sunday (home destroyed)

Damjuma Gah (home destroyed)

Maley (home destroyed)

Monday (home destroyed)
Joshua Audu (home destroyed)
Saku Leh (home destroyed)
Musa Akwa (home destroyed)
Paseh (home destroyed)
Audu (home destroyed)
Shehu Audu (home destroyed)
Danlami Gyah (home destroyed)
Monday Njwe (home destroyed)
Friday Monday (home destroyed)
Igya Danlami (home destroyed)
Monday Gyah (home destroyed)
Uwah Audu (home destroyed)
Gbah Gyah (home destroyed)
Kuku Gbah (home destroyed)
Adeh Njweh (home destroyed)
Jonathan Ndeh (home destroyed)
Musa Njweh (home destroyed)
Ishon Njwe (home destroyed)
Yakubu Njweh (home destroyed)
Ishaya Barry (home destroyed)
Fidelis Barry (home destroyed)
Monday Ishaya (home destroyed)
Musa Dahro (home destroyed)
Christopher Musa (home destroyed)
Joshua Musa (home destroyed)
Guba Bitrus (home destroyed)
Friday Saku (home destroyed)

Date: January 25, 2018

Location: Zanwra village, Jebu-Miango, Plateau state

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2018/02/muslim-herdsmen-terrorists-kill-eight-christians-central-nigeria-sources-say/>

Dawson K Tufano (retired court judge, spoke on a Muslim attack on his village “As we got early information of the Fulanis’ imminent attack, we alerted the authorities, who responded by

sending mobile policemen to secure the area. But before the arrival of the attackers, the security forces withdrew from the area, with no reason, paving the way for to the Fulani herdsmen. While our local vigilantes were in a fierce battle with the herdsmen, aircraft came from nowhere and started throwing bombs on our villages, abetting the herdsmen to kill several people, while many others were injured as houses and properties were completely razed due to the Air Force bombings...The whole thing was a calculated attempt to destroy us. If not, then why is it that the Air Force were only bombarding our people, while leaving alone the large number of well-armed herdsmen, who were twice the number of our population? Where I was hiding during the attack, I saw the herdsmen carrying sophisticated weapons, which I believed these herdsmen could not afford. We are now living in fear. At every loud sound, our people will start running, thinking that the herdsmen have returned to fulfil their promise to kill the survivors”)

Date: December 4, 2017

Location: Dong village, Adamawa state

Lamech Jalo (described a 3 hour attack on his village by Fulani Muslims)

James Mathew (described how troops arrived then left because they are outgunned by the Fulani Muslims, then arrested Christian youths who were patrolling their family farms with bows and arrows, said ”I don’t know what is happening in this country. If the security forces could arrest Christian youths armed with bows and arrows, who came out to defend their fathers’ lands, but leave the herdsmen, with sophisticated weapons, to move freely, then something is wrong somewhere”)

Date: January 5, 2018

Location: Tambo village, Girei local government area, Adamawa State

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/02/nigerian-air-force-complicit-in-massacre-of-christian-villagers-says-amnesty/>



Pakistan

Samuel Piyara (**UPDATE:** announced that the provincial government will issue weapons licenses to all 41 churches and will conduct training to church volunteers under the Civil Defense Directorate, said "This will further enable a special force of volunteers to assist local police when services are held. We will form a committee to monitor these developments and settle the problems of those affected")

Rev Saimon Bashir Masih (**UPDATE:** has continued to minister to victims of the December 17, 2017 Quetta church attack, said "We are literally running after patients in different hospitals. People, not buildings, are our priority at present. [Victims and families] are not satisfied with the treatment at government hospitals. At least four patients sustained injuries to their groins and require urgent surgery. One 30-year-old woman suffered amnesia due to a traumatic head injury...I have received calls from an embassy in Islamabad about a Christian lawmaker who is collecting funds in our name. However I

haven't recommended or authorized anyone to do this. Such acts of corruption in the name of those who are suffering is despicable")

Date: February 1, 2018

Location: Balochistan

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/churches-in-pakistan-province-to-get-weapon-licenses/81400>

Event UPDATE

Daim Masih (aged 6 or 7, son of Sheeba and Javaid Masih, brother of Carol and Kowal, nephew of Samuel Masih, Grandson of Younas Masih, raped by a Muslim while on his way home from school, strangled, attack stopped by his uncle and grandfather, taken to the hospital, released 5 days later)

Carol (aged 9, sister of Daim Masih, home from school with a fever)

Javaid Masih (aged 42, laborer, father of Daim Masih, has rejected payment from the attacker's family in return for dropping charges)

Sheeba (aged 36, mother of Daim Masih, has rejected payment from the attacker's family in return for dropping charges, said: "I have not slept since I discovered the attack on Daim. I cannot imagine the horror he felt as he realized he was going to be attacked or when he knew there was nothing he could do to stop the attack...I want to meet Shan so I can ask him why he attacked my son in this way, I want to know what made him do such an evil act that will scar my poor boy forever and has rocked our family. I want him to know and understand the pain he has inflicted on Daim and all those who love him...Shan needs to be punished, he needs to understand what he has done is wrong, so that he never ever hurts anyone the way he has hurt my son and our family")

Samuel Masih (aged 32, uncle of Daim Masih, rescued him from his attacker)

Younas Masih (aged 62, grandfather of Daim Masih, rescued him from his attacker)

Bishop Abraham (called the police)

Date: January 29, 2018

Location: Sahiwal village, Punjab province

Source: <https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/a-pakistani-christian-minor-boy-raped-by-a-muslim-adult/>

and <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/7-year-old-boy-sodomized-by-muslim-youth-who-offered-to-show-newborn-calves>



Sweden

Ivan Sahda Moshi (Iraqi refugee since 2007, went into hiding after a decree was issued to return him to Iraq)

Date: December 1, 2017

Location: Gothenburg

Source: <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/01/iraq-refugees-asylum-seekers-europe.html#ixzz55WVINu00>



Syria

Aramean Saliba (aged 20, abducted by the Kurdish YPG militia for military service)

Date: January 19, 2018

Location: Qamishli

Source: <https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/terrorists-use-abducted-syrian-christians-in-war-zone/>



Thailand

Event: Seven Pakistani refugee children were detained on immigration violations on [January 23, 2018](#); **UPDATE:** released

Annya Farzan (aged 6, child of Farzan Joseph)

Sara Farzan (aged 10, child of Farzan Joseph)

Sayras Farzan (aged 12, child of Farzan Joseph)

Acriah (aged 8, child of Shoukat Mashih)

Aran Joy (aged 6, child of Shoukat Mashih)

Shahriaz (aged 9, child of Masih)

Zohaid (aged 7, child of Masih)

George Naz (**UPDATE:** assumed guarantorship for some of the children)

Maqsood Iqbal (**UPDATE:** assumed guarantorship for some of the children, said "It was hard to have to separate parents from their children there were so many tears and I felt myself being overwhelmed, but I agree with the parents the IDC [detention center] is no place for children they all end becoming so traumatized...I felt obligated to help and was awed by the trust the parents have for me, it is a great responsibility and I have sought God's guidance in prayer and He told me it was right to intervene and save these children from the mental trauma of incarceration...I ask that Christians pray for these children as we have no idea how long they will remain in our care, but we are aware that many of those in the IDC have been detained for over two years...We seek God in making away for these families to be reunited and for their safe asylum in a place a long way from

Pakistan where these victims fled and hold such a real fear of return that they refuse to go back to their previous nightmarish lives")

Date reported: January 26, 2018

Location: Bangkok

Source: <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/children-rescued-from-idc-by-bpca-volunteer>



Turkey

Petrus Karatay (detained, reason unknown but possibly related to his attempt to preserve his village, which was one of three to survive the Assyrian genocide)

Date reported: January 20, 2018

Location: Herbol village, Sirnak province

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20180119205611.htm>



Uganda

Munabi Abudallah (aged 37, convert, husband, father of four boys and three girls between the ages of 17 and 3, rejected by his family after his conversion, beaten by his father, in hiding)

Date: January 20, 2018

Location: in or near Kataka village, Tirinyi sub-county, Kibuku district

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2018/01/christian-convert-uganda-suffers-sudden-loss-father-wife-children/>

Regina Navatovu (aged 35, wife, mother of 4 day old twins, attacked by her Muslim husband with a machete for refusing to convert to Islam, lost her right hand and some fingers on her other hand, children killed)

Date: December 22, 2017

Location: Bumogolo village

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/01/uganda-refusal-to-convert-to-islam-ends-in-family-tragedy/>



United States - Kentucky

Kristan Hawkins (Students for Life of America president, condemned the vandalism of a pro-life display on a Catholic college campus)

Date January 29, 2018

Location Bellarmine University, Louisville

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/report-vandals-on-catholic-campus-target-pro-life-community-37844>

United States - New Jersey

Harry Pangemanan (husband of Yana Pangemanan, Indonesian citizen, asylum seeker, has of [December 25, 2012](#) been facing deportation; **UPDATE**: took 'refuge' from immigration officials in a church)

Arthur Jemmy (aged 40+, husband of Silfia Tobing, Indonesian citizen, asylum seeker facing deportation to Indonesia; **UPDATE**: had taken 'refuge' from immigration officials in a church)

Yohannes Tasik (Indonesian citizen, asylum seeker facing deportation to Indonesia, had taken 'refuge' from immigration officials in a church)

Date: January 25, 2018

Location: Highland Park

Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/fearing-deportation-indonesian-men-seek-sanctuary-church-n841921>



Venezuela

Archbishop Diego Rafael Padron Sanchez (**UPDATE**: condemned the government decision to postpone the next presidential election by 7 months, said “In any country in the world, democracy operates with clarity, with transparency. Instead, [this] is a midnight ambush...as a Venezuelan, it is my opinion that moving up the date for elections has no legal basis. [The National Constituent Assembly] is very discredited because it is fraudulent in its origin and how it is run”)

Date: January 24, 2018

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/venezuelan-archbishop-decries-plan-to-change-election-date-30429>



Vietnam

Fr Nguyen Dinh Thuc (ordered to not serve Mass by the local government)

Date: January 23, 2018

Location: Quynh Ngoc, Nghe An province

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mass-declared-illegal-in-Ngh%E1%BB%87-An-under-a-new-law-that-hinders-religious-activities-42957.html>

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