

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2018-05-20 through 2018-05-27



Cameroon

Archbishop Samuel Kleda (**UPDATE**: object of an apparent assassination attempt when gunshots were fired into his residence)

Msgr Alan Nibile (threw himself on the floor after bullets were fired into his room, uninjured)

Msgr Dieudonne Bayemeg (said “Projectiles were shot at the Archdiocese of Douala headquarters, breaking its windows. There were no human injuries, and the police arrived immediately, accompanied by the Archbishop, cathedral rector and household guards”)

Date reported: May 14, 2018

Location: Douala

Source: <http://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/05/14/cameroon-archbishop-survives-gun-attack-after-criticising-government/>



Central African Republic

Fr Albert Toungoumale-Baba (**killed along with at least 24 worshippers** during a gun and grenade attack on a Mass, dozens were injured)

Fr Frederico Trincheri OCD (**UPDATE**: said that Fr Albert Toungoumale-Baba was “well known, esteemed and loved by the people” and that he had sheltered large numbers of refugees of various faiths at his church during the recent conflict)

Cardinal Dieudonne Nzapalainga (**UPDATE**: spoke after mourners attempted to carry the body of Fr Albert Toungoumale-Baba to the presidential palace and burned down a mosque “The whole Christian community, not just in our country, has been plunged into mourning, after brothers and sisters who came here for Mass encountered suffering, injury and death instead. It’s at most difficult moments like this that true heroes arise and find the strength to propose an alternative, saying no to the evil of violence, barbarism and destruction, and choosing the good of love, forgiveness and reconciliation...behind these events, I ask myself if there’s also manipulation and instrumentalization, a wish to divide the country and a hidden agenda”)

Date: May 1, 2018

Location: Bangui

Source: <http://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/05/06/dont-seek-revenge-for-church-massacre-urges-cardinal/>



China

Event: Police raided a Christian kindergarten for three days

Zhu Bin (teacher, said “I wanted to enter the kindergarten...but they turned me away. Several security guards sat in front of the gate all night long. [Officers] observed the scene from a few cars parked around the kindergarten. Some security guards patrolled in the school. The parents and teachers were outside the kindergarten, trying to retrieve their personal belongings, but the security guards did not let them in”)

Pastor Joseph Cui (held in a patrol car for half an hour)

Dates: March 28-31

Location: Beijing

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/04/beijing-authorities-raid-christian.html>

Pastor Wang Yi (husband of Jiang Rong; **UPDATE:** visited at home by police on the night prior to a planned memorial service for earthquake victims, ordered to cancel the service, replied “Then come tomorrow and do whatever you are going to do according to the law. We will still meet tomorrow. Feel free to arrest us or do whatever. We will safeguard our legal rights according to the law, apply for petitions and administrative review, and file lawsuits”, detained)

Li Yingqiang (detained)

Date: May 11, 2018

Location: Chengdu, Sichuan province

Pastor Wang Yi (husband of Jiang Rong; **UPDATE:** released from detention, while detained over 200 parishioners including 11 children were detained for attending the memorial service for earthquake victims, most were released, 15,600 Bibles and 930 DVDs seized)

Li Yingqiang (**UPDATE:** released)

Date: May 12, 2018

Location: Chengdu, Sichuan province

Source: www.chinaaid.org/2018/05/hundreds-seized-for-churchs-earthquake.html

Peter (reported on a government order to diocesan media "If the pro-government *Faith Weekly* cannot report pilgrimages, it might be regarded as a warning that religious policy applied to Hebei will be tightened after recent suppression against churches in Zhejiang and Henan provinces...If the large Christian provinces are suppressed, the small ones are easier to handle")

Date reported: May 25, 2018

Location: Hebei province

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/hebei-bans-pilgrimage-reports-as-china-steps-up-repression/82412>



East Timor

Bishop Virgilio do Carma da Silva (received credible death threats from Islamic militants, security increased at churches)

Date reported: May 24, 2018

Location: Dili

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/terrorist-fears-spread-to-timor-leste-as-bishop-threatened/82396>



India

Archbishop Anil Joseph Thomas Couto (**UPDATE**: accused by RSS paramilitary and BJP party leaders of undermining the country on Vatican orders after he began a prayer campaign for the preservation of pluralistic democracy)

Fr Savarimuthu Shankar (spokesperson of the Archdiocese of Delhi, **UPDATE**: said of the attacks on Archbishop Couto "prayers are part of Christian life and it has nothing to do with politics. [The archbishop] of course mentioned the background. Media reports are enough to understand how violently people were attacked [for their faith...The RSS and BJP reactions] means that either they are afraid of our prayers or they are promoted by their own guilt")

Date reported: May 24, 2018

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/vatican-game-seen-in-indian-archbishops-prayer-campaign/82391>

Sarah (wife of Subash, sister of Rajini, arrested at her church on allegations of illegal conversion on [April 29, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: released on bail)

Rajini (sister of Sarah, arrested at her church on allegations of illegal conversion on [April 29, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: released on bail)

Date: May 22, 2018

Location: Bihar state

Subash (husband of Sarah, arrested at his church on allegations of illegal conversion on [April 29, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: released on bail)

Date: May 25, 2018

Location: Bihar state

Source: <https://persecutionrelief.org/update-bro-subash-released-after-26-days-in-jail-bihar/>

Event: Three evangelists were attacked by a mob on [May 22, 2018](#) for handing out Bible tracts, arrested; **UPDATE: denied bail under mob pressure**

Kanshiram

Sahiram

Vijender Singh

Date: [May 23, 2018](#)

Location: 14 Bd village, Khajuwala Tehsil, Bikaner district, Rajasthan state

Source: <https://persecutionrelief.org/brethren-evangelists-arrested-rajasthan/>



Iraq

Patriarch Louis Raphael I Sako (aged 69, **UPDATE:** named to the College of Cardinals by Pope Francis)

Date: [May 20, 2018](#)

Source: www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/05/22/who-are-the-14-new-cardinals/



Mexico

Fr Moises Fabila Reyes (aged 83, abducted in [Cuernavaca, Morelos state](#) on [April 3, 2018](#); **UPDATE: found dead of an apparent heart attack**)

Date reported: [April 26, 2018](#)

Fr Juan Miguel Contreras (**shot dead** while seated in a confessional)

Date: [April 20, 2018](#)

Location: Guadalajara

Fr Ruben Alcantara (**stabbed to death**)

Date: [April 19, 2018](#)

Location: Cautitlan Izalli

Source: <https://cruxnow.com/global-church/2018/04/26/for-the-third-time-in-a-week-a-priest-is-found-dead-in-mexico/>



Nigeria

Event: Muslim Fulani gunmen attacked a church during Mass, killing 19, then burned 50 homes

Fr Joseph Gor (**killed**)

Fr Felix Tyolaha (**killed**)

Date: April 24, 2018

Location: Ukpok-Mbalom, Benue state

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/nigerias-bishops-call-for-processions-to-honor-those-killed-in-church-attack-16760>



Pakistan

Archbishop Joseph Coutts (aged 72, **UPDATE**: named to the College of Cardinals by Pope Francis)

Date: May 20, 2018

Source: www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/05/22/who-are-the-14-new-cardinals/



Philippines

Sr Patricia Fox (aged 71, Australian citizen; arrested in [Quezon City](#) on [April 16, 2018](#) for 'illegal political activity'; released on [April 17, 2018](#) after a prosecutor found no probable cause for the arrest; visa revoked on [April 23, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: appeal to reinstate her visa denied, facing imminent deportation)

Date: May 23, 2018

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/philippine-authorities-arrest-71-year-old-australian-nun/82076>

and <https://www.ucanews.com/news/australian-nun-defies-philippine-order-to-leave/82402>



United Kingdom

Event: The BBC posted an 'anti-homophobia' video on Facebook that said '[Jesus] saved a lot of time when he died for our crimes, that he would've wasted teaching small minds that love is no sin' and said of women receiving Communion 'But under all that din, it tastes like cardboard and smells like hate'

Bishop John Keenan (condemned the video “It is ridiculing and demeaning the faith of ordinary Catholics especially at a time when Catholics are experiencing more and more abuse and prejudice in Scotland...The BBC has to be careful. It has to ask itself if it has ceased to be a broadcaster in the public interest, and is just promoting particular interests. You cannot imagine it treating any other religion like this”)

Date: April 13, 2018

Location: Scotland

Source: <http://www.catholicerald.co.uk/news/2018/04/13/bbc-scotland-video-says-holy-communion-smells-like-hate/>

Jacob Rees-Mogg (aged 49, Member of Parliament; **UPDATE:** replied in a BBC interview to a question regarding whether his faith meant he 'had a problem' with a pregnant lesbian co-member “I make no criticism of any of my colleagues, but do you believe in religious tolerance? So why do you pick on this view of the Catholic Church?...You are saying that tolerance only goes so far and you should not be tolerant of the teaching of the Catholic Church, so isn't this stretching into religious bigotry?...The act of tolerance is to tolerate things you do not agree with not just ones you do agree with and the problem with liberal tolerance is it has got to the point of only tolerating what it likes”)

Bishop Mark Davies (**UPDATE:** commented on the BBC interview of Jacob Rees-Mogg “The hounding of a Member of Parliament like Jacob Rees-Mogg for simply sharing the faith of Catholic Church indicates that the BBC and its interviewers see Catholic teaching as being somehow beyond public tolerance. It is hard to see this treatment of Catholic politicians as being other than a new bigotry”)

Bishop John Keenan (**UPDATE:** commented that during the BBC interview of Jacob Rees-Mogg the interviewer had to “hide behind the old red-herrings of ‘other people say’, and ‘members of your own party say’. When that particular trick wasn't working, she had to lay her cards on the table and put to him the notion – as a serious question, can you believe! – that being a practicing Catholic should be a barrier to high public office. In short, that Catholics like Rees-Mogg simply can't be Prime Minister because it's just not British in this day and age. She openly wondered if it was a ‘problem’ to hold ordinary Catholic beliefs in high office, and seriously suggested that Catholics who were against the likes of abortion and same-sex marriage should be barred from decision-making in public life. Rees-Mogg was quite right to call this secular bigotry. What else is it?...[Rees-Mogg was right to] point out that this aggressive secularism has nothing liberal about it. He was right to call out the BBC for picking on the Catholic Church particularly, and to signal that it would not treat Muslims or Jews in anything like the same prejudicial way in which it now routinely and casually treats Catholics...Jo Coburn asked, in the end, if you can divorce your personal views from your politics. It is clear that there are elements in the BBC who find it quite impossible to make such a separation, and who find it quite acceptable to bring their own personal animus against the Catholic Church to the front and center of their work, in an aggressive propaganda

that runs ‘Pro-Choice-LGBT good, Catholics bad’. They peddle this idea without a care for its compromising effect on the best values of their own public service broadcasting mission. In that sense it is not just the Catholic Church that they offend but their own founding values of balance and fairness...I wonder, when the dust settles and this era moves on, if the BBC will be able to emerge with any reputation intact from having so boldly pinned its colors to the mast of a present but surely time-limited ideology whose worrying and deleterious effects on tolerance and on the common good are becoming plainer to see by the day”)

Date: May 23, 2018

Source: <http://www.catholicerald.co.uk/news/2018/05/23/bishops-accuse-bbc-of-bigotry-after-rees-mogg-interview/>



United States - Colorado

Event: Two affiliated pregnancy crisis centers have brought suit against a pro-abortion group for posting a video to Facebook which falsely stated that the centers did not employ medical professionals)

Jan McIntosh (vice president of a pregnancy crisis center)

Dede Chism (executive director of a pregnancy crisis center)

Date reported: May 24, 2018

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/pro-life-pregnancy-center-demands-removal-from-libelous-video-13368>

Today's Martyrs

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

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