

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2018-05-27 through 2018-06-02



Cameroon

Fr Ludovic Lado SJ (commented on continued human rights violations in the English speaking provinces "The situation is dramatic: law enforcement agencies continue to kill civilians, thousands of people seek refuge abroad or in other provinces of the country")

Date: May 29, 2018

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/64251->

[AFRICA CAMEROON A Jesuit serious violations of human rights in the English speaking provinces](http://www.fides.org/en/news/64251-AFRICA_CAMEROON_A_Jesuit_serious_violations_of_human_rights_in_the_English-speaking_provinces)



China

Song Enguang (husband of Feng Xiaojing, theology student, detained after he attempted to attend a church memorial service for earthquake victims, beaten, released)

Feng Xiaojing (wife of Song Enguang, detained, released)

Zhu Hong (detained, released)

Date: May 12, 2018

Location: Chengdu, Sichuan province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/05/christian-writes-letter-describing.html>

Event: Several Christians who had been detained on May 12, 2018 during a church memorial service for earthquake victims were again detained when they attempted to file a legal complaint against the police

Pastor Wang Yi (husband of Jiang Rong; **UPDATE**: detained)

Rev Li Yongqiang

Deacon Tan Defu

Ding Dao-er

Ye Yin

Zhang Qi

Date: May 28, 2018

Location: Chengdu, Sichuan province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/05/christians-detained-while-submitting.html>

Event: Police raided an underground seminary

Pastor Fang (detained, released)

Pastor Wang (detained, released)

Date: May 23, 2018

Location: Xuzhou, Jiangsu province

Pastor Yang Xibo (locked out of his church by the landlord under government pressure, led children in prayer outside the building)

Date: May 15, 2018

Location: Xiamen, Fujian province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/05/officials-interrupt-seminary-arrest.html>

Pastor Qian Rou (arrested along with six other Christians for 'setting up religious venues and organizing religious activities without permission', all were released)

Date: May 27, 2018

Location: Lanzhou, Gansu province

Source: www.chinaaid.org/2018/05/armed-officials-disrupt-church-seize.html



Congo, Democratic Republic

Fr Lucien Ambunga (contracted Ebola from a dying patient to whom he had ministered, in isolation)

Date reported: May 31, 2018

Source: <http://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/05/31/dramatic-photo-shows-bishop-blessing-priest-in-ebola-quarantine/>



Egypt

Mariam Girges (abducted, jewelry stolen, escaped)

Date reported: May 30, 2018

Location: Sharabia neighborhood, Cairo

Source: www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=2160&A=34994

Fr Rafael Sami (**UPDATE**: said that several Coptic girls have disappeared due to collaboration between Islamic groups and corrupt government officials who support them)

Date reported: May 30, 2018

Source: www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=2160&A=35016

Fr Aghabius Mounir (church attacked by a mob incited by a local mosque's loudspeakers, automobile destroyed, nine Christians were later arrested despite no involvement with the attack in an attempt to pressure him to drop charges against the eleven Muslims who were arrested)

Mina Maher (motorcycle destroyed)

Wahid Fahim (said "A large Muslim mob then gathered in the front of the church building and began pelting it with Molotov cocktails, bricks and stones, while shouting 'Allahu akbar' [God is the greatest] and chanting slogans against the church. They burnt down the main wooden gate of the church building and another door, and broke some windows...They then pelted the Coptic houses next to the church with stones and bricks. Seven Copts received minor injuries")

Wagih Moussa (said "Despite everything that happened to us, we have still received threats from some Muslims in our village. They have threatened us, telling us, 'We will purify the village of you, oh kafir [infidel]'"")

Date: May 26, 2018

Location: Abou El-Shuqaf, Beheira province

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/05/copts-persuaded-to-drop-charges-against-mob-who-attacked-their-church/>



India

Mrs Tehmina Arora (attorney, **UPDATE:** spoke at a human rights conference "we are bound to live according to the dictates of the divisive forces seen to enjoy the approval of the ruling government...I see this program [i.e., the conference] as a positive step ahead because at least now people from all faiths are ready to talk and can come to one platform and express their grievances")

Date reported: May 30, 2018

Location: New Delhi

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/modis-four-years-have-weakened-indias-tolerance/82441>

Richard James (**UPDATE:** condemned a Hindu nationalist leader who called in a social media video for all Christians to be expelled from India)

Auxiliary Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas SFX (**UPDATE:** said "The video is an aberration and not expected")

Date: May 25, 2018

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/popes-image-trampled-amid-call-to-make-india-christian-free/82448>



Nicaragua

Fr. Jose Alberto Idiaquez SJ (University of Central America rector, denounced a mortar attack on the university campus "...this cowardly night attack by para-police forces that, protected by the impunity guaranteed by the current [government], have been using the hours of the night to intimidate and kill innocent citizens in the neighborhoods of the capital and other cities...Although they did not succeed in wounding or killing any of our guards, that was the intent, because of the charge of gunpowder used and because of the closeness of the shot")

Date: May 27, 2018

Location: Managua

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/priest-condemns-latest-attack-on-jesuit-university-in-nicaragua-as-cowardly-40112>



Nigeria

Fr Cornelius Kobah (shot in the leg during an attack on his seminary by Fulani Muslims)

Fr Stephen Bakari (beaten)

Fr. Emmanuel Atsue (seminary rector, issued the statement "...I, Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Atsue want to announce and inform Nigerians and the international community that our diocesan's Sacred Heart Minor Seminary was attacked in the early hours of this morning at about 12.30am by armed Fulani herdsmen...They shot at my residence, broke window glasses in the process, live bullets were collected by police, broke the windscreen of one of the vehicles belonging to one of the priests. They shot and injured one of the priests, Rev Fr Cornelius Kobah, in the leg and beat up Fr Stephen Bakari...From their conversation, we were able to understand that their grievance against us is that the security men in the seminary have been challenging their decision to graze right inside the seminary: around classes and football field...")

Bishop Charles Hammawa (said that Fr Cornelius Koba was "badly wounded")

Date: May 28, 2018

Location: Jalingo, Taraba state

Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/bomber-kills-four-suspected-herders-attack-catholic-seminary/> and <http://mattersindia.com/2018/05/nigeria-catholic-seminary-attacked-priests-injured/>



Pakistan

Razia Bibi (aged 12, alias, daughter of Razaq Masih, abducted, forced into an Islamic marriage)

Razaq Masih (aged 55, alias, father of Razia Bibi)

Date: April 9, 2018

Location: Fateh Sher, near Sahiwal city

Source: <https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/12-yr-old-pakistani-christian-girl-forcibly-married-to-a-disabled-muslim-man/>

Tariq Masih Gill (Member of the Provincial Parliament, called a 'churha' ["sweeper", a derogatory term for Christians] by a Muslim Member of Parliament)

Date: May 21, 2018

Location: Lahore

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6859>

Asma Yaqoub (aged 25, subjected to an acid attack in Sialkot on April 18, 2018 after she resisted being forced into an Islamic marriage, hospitalized; **UPDATE: died of her injuries**)

Date: April 22, 2018

Location: Lahore

Source [warning - graphic]: <https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/the-cecil-iris-foundation-demands-justice-for-asma-yaqoob/>



Philippines

Sr Patricia Fox (aged 71, Australian citizen; visa revoked on April 23, 2018; appeal to reinstate her visa denied on May 23, 2018, facing imminent deportation; **UPDATE: deportation delayed**)

Date: May 25, 2018

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/deadline-extended-for-australian-nun-to-leave-the-philippines/82430>



Russia

Artemy (Uzbekistani national, **killed** in an Islamic attack on a church)

Vladimir Gorskov (church security guard, wounded, hospitalized, was baptized in the hospital)

Fr Sergei Abasov (church rector, said of Artemy “He was sitting in church all day, reading Holy Scripture, praying on his prayer rope. His prayer rope was in his hand when they killed him... He departed to the Lord with the name of Christ on his lips”)

Date: May 19, 2018

Location: Grozny, Chechnia

Source: <http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/3-killed-in-muslim-terrorist-attack-on-chechen-church/>



Sweden

Fr Ingvar Fogelqvist (church denied the right to ring bells 15 years ago, said he will reopen the application after a nearby mosque was granted the right to use 110 decibel loudspeakers)

Date: May 14, 2018

Location: Vaxjo

Source: <https://sputniknews.com/europe/201805141064430526-sweden-mosque-loud-prayer-calls/>



Turkey

Kuryakos Ergun (member of the Mor Gabriel Monastery; **UPDATE:** commented on the return of the monastery deeds by the government "This is the first time our property deeds have been returned. These returned deeds have created great joy here among the Syriac Christians in Mardin and those who live abroad. At the same time, this also means the return of our minority rights, as birthed in the Lausanne Treaty...We still have a legal dispute over ownership of [additional] lands belonging to the community")

Mor Timotheus Samuel Aktash (leader of the Mor Gabriel Monastery; **UPDATE:** received the returned deeds)

Date: May 22, 2018

Location: Tur Abdin

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/06/turkey-returns-confiscated-syriac-church-property-deeds/>



United States - Ohio

Fr Demetrios Gardikes (church vandalized, over \$100,000 in damages incurred)

Date: May 26, 2018

Location: Columbus

Source: <http://orthochristian.com/113456.html>

United States - Rhode Island

Michael Smalanskas (aged 22, college dormitory resident advisor at Providence College, former seminarian, reported on [March 19, 2018](#) to have been threatened and harassed after having posted a defense of traditional Christian marriage on a bulletin board, moved by campus security to a secure undisclosed location, threatened with homosexual rape, fiancée threatened; **UPDATE**: threatened with death during his senior prom by two students, later asked the college to ban the two from graduation but was told their disciplinary hearing was scheduled for after graduation)

Date: May 17, 2018

Michael Smalanskas (aged 22, college dormitory resident advisor at Providence College, former seminarian; **UPDATE**: subjected to a restraining order and told he would be banned from graduation after he publicly complained of the school's inaction after it received notice of the death threats against him [the administrator claimed to have been 'threatened' by his complaint], the college said the banishment from graduation would be lifted if he apologized which he refused, the ban was later rescinded but the restraining order remained in effect)

Date: May 19, 2018

Source: <https://www.crisismagazine.com/2018/threats-murder-go-unpunished-providence-college>



Venezuela

Fr Jose Juan Flores (church seized by people claiming affiliation with the local government, forced to remove his personal property, said parishioners had been threatened prior to the seizure)

Auxiliary Bishop Luis Enrique Rojas Ruiz (said of the church seizure perpetrators “They have insulted the faith on many occasions, scratching highly offensive graffiti on the parish buildings. They want to damage the image of the priests and the diocese and so they damage beautiful works of art with expletives and major insults...We call on the authorities in charge of this case to answer for physical integrity and safety of the parish priests as well as that all of the people who are there”)

Date: May 28, 2018

Location: Ejido

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/church-building-in-venezuela-seized-by-local-government-group-74084>



Vietnam

Br Stanislas Tran Minh Vong OSB (aged 81; **UPDATE**: complained of arson attacks on his monastery's forested land)

Fr Louis Gonzaga Dang Hung Tan OSB (said that there have been four arson attacks in 2018 so far" "After examining the scene, we confirm that these fires were caused by people. All fires aimed to cause disorder to the monks' life and religious activities")

Date reported: May 29, 2018

Location: Thien An, Thua Thien Hue province

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/benedictine-monks-see-red-over-vietnam-forest-fires/82435>

Today's Martyrs

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

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