

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2018-06-17 through 2018-06-23



Central African Republic

Fr Aurelio Gazzera OCD (**UPDATE:** said "The security problems in our area are concentrated in the border area with Cameroon mainly due to the arrival of Peuls nomadic peoples, who are protected by Seleka rebels...several strong African men, heads of State and government, generals, entrepreneurs, invest part of their fortunes in thousands of cattle who rely on the Peuls. Therefore, behind these massive movements of herds carried out by the Peuls, there are strong economic interests...The hottest areas of the country remain those of Bambari and Bria where several gangs are competing for the control of diamond mines or simply of road check points in order to extort money. They too have no interest in re-establishing the state and order")

Date: June 21, 2018

Location: Bozoum

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/64389->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA There are powerful economic interests that want to leave Central Africa in chaos](http://www.fides.org/en/news/64389-)

Aurora Mele (Jesuit Relief Service, said "...here is a mix of fighters. The Anti Balakas are located on the left bank of the river, the former Seleka on the right. The two groups then generate criminal gangs that exploit the chaos to get rich by looting")

Jean Francois Alain Ospital (Jesuit Relief Service national director, said "JRS was heavily attacked and looted in the early days of the conflict. Our base has been looted completely and we no longer have the material opportunity to send staff to the site, partly because of the continuous situation of insecurity. We therefore had to reorganize the activities...A good part of the religious have remained there, but continued to receive threats. A community of nuns has remained and continues to run a school. The leaders of the diocese have remained and continue the activities at the Michel Maitre school. The diocesan Caritas continues the humanitarian actions [distribution of food to displaced persons], water services, hygiene and latrines [on sites and schools]. ECAC [Enseignement Catholique Associe] continues the educational activities)

Date: June 20, 2018

Location: Bambari

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/64385->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBBIC The militias are raging NGOs and U N troops are also attacked](http://www.fides.org/en/news/64385-)



China

Pastor Li Guozhi aka Yang Hua (husband of Wang Hongwu, detained on [December 9, 2015](#) for 'illegally holding state secrets'; formally charged on [January 22, 2016](#) with 'obstructing justice' and 'gathering a crowd to disturb social order'; sentenced in [Guiyang, Guizhou province](#) on [January 5, 2017](#) to two and a half years imprisonment; **UPDATE**: released, sang worship songs as he left prison)

Date: June 19, 2018

Source: www.chinaaid.org/2018/06/cbn-news-chinese-pastor-tortured-in.html

Wei Jindang (church raided by police on [May 22, 2018](#), several members arrested; **UPDATE**: filed an application for administrative review with the local government after to protest the banning of his church)

Date: June 8, 2018

Location: Zhengzhou, Henan province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/06/christians-in-custody-after-henan.html>



India

Pastor Dependra Prakash Maleywar (aged 58, father of Ritika and Rohin Maleywar, attacked by Bajrang Dal [the Hindu nationalist youth organization] members on court premises when he attempted to notarize affidavits from 16 Christians testifying that their conversions were not forced, arrested on forced conversion charges, denied bail due to political pressure)

Ritika Maleywar (daughter of Pastor Dependra Prakash Maleywar, said "The members of the Bajrang Dal went door-to-door and met all the 16 families and spoke to them" to pressure them to not convert)

Pastor Nirmal Jacob (aged 39, said that Bajrang Dal members have exerted severe pressure on all the converting families: "The head of the village, along with Bajrang Dal members, went to the homes of these believers and threatened them with dire consequences. They said that they would be boycotted from the village, asked to leave, their educational certificates would be confiscated and their entitlement to government benefits would be withdrawn if they profess their faith in Jesus Christ", said that two days later local and national television media interviewed him and many families from his church and then edited the video to disparage them, added that he has received death threats: "I do not know where to find help in a situation like this. The police, media and judiciary are biased, I do not feel safe any longer")

Alwan Masih (synod general secretary, said “As citizens of our country, we have rights and we will execute our rights, but at places people have suffered for their faith”)

Bishop Prem Prakash Habil (reported on the arrest of Pastor Dependra Prakash Maleywar)

Date: June 18, 2018

Location: Sardhana, Uttar Pradesh state

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2018/06/pastor-in-india-arrested-while-securing-affidavits-on-converts-faith/>



Nigeria

Harold Wilson (reported on Fulani Muslim attacks in which at least 15 Christians were killed, said “About 400 armed Fulani herdsmen carried out the attacks”)

Date: May 2, 2018

Locations: Bang, Nyanga, Bonki and Nzomosu villages, Adamawa state

Omayan Tambaya Dilli (reported on a [January 2018](#) Fulani Muslim attack in [Gwamba village](#) in which one Christian was killed; **UPDATE**: reported on a Fulani Muslim attack in which 20 Christians were killed and 23 wounded. said “The attack occurred about 8 a.m. and lasted three hours. The Fulani herdsmen drove into Gwamba in four trucks and many motorbikes to carry out the attack”)

Date: February 27, 2018

Location: Gwamba village, Adamawa state

Mary Amos (reported on a Fulani Muslim attack in which 3 Christians were killed, said “They invaded our community at about 2 a.m., burning down houses and destroying farmlands”)

Date: January 21, 2018

Location: Kikon village, Numan local government area, Adamawa state

Thomas Ayuba (reported on a Fulani Muslim attack “The attacks by the Fulani herdsmen occurred at about 4 a.m. They destroyed our houses completely, forcing those of us who survived to flee”)

Date: January 7, 2018

Location: Suwa and Burukutu villages, Adamawa state

Christopher Ahmadu (reported on a Fulani Muslim attack in which 15 Christians were killed, said “The herdsmen attacked these farmers while they were working on their farms”)

Date: January 6, 2018

Location: Luru village, Adamawa state

Archbishop Musa Panti Filibus (said “It is most saddening that the senseless killings and attacks on our people continues unabated. We are disturbed by the monstrous acts of our attackers and killers, who raid, ransack, and set ablaze our villages and towns sometimes in broad daylight...I call us to continue to put pressure on our government at all levels to

rise to their responsibility of protecting citizens from internal and external aggression. We will continue to condemn in strongest terms possible the brutal and gruesome killings of innocent citizens”)

Date: May 29, 2018

Event: Five Christians were sentenced to death by hanging by a Muslim judge after rejecting their argument that they had acted in self defense when they killed a Muslim

Alex Amos

Alheri Phaniel

Holy Boniface

Jerry Gideon

Jari Sabagi

Zidon Love (texted “These five Christians will die if nothing is urgently done to assist them”)

Rev Samson Ayokunle (Christian Association of Nigeria president; **UPDATE:** later wrote a condemnation of the death sentence of the five Christians in the face of a lack of prosecutions of Muslim killers: “CAN is not supporting jungle justice or any criminality. But hundreds of our members [Christians] in southern Kaduna, Benue, Taraba and Plateau states in the north-central geo-political zones, and a state like Enugu in the south, have been killed. Citizens stood helpless at the massacre of their peaceful fellow Nigerians, the international community watched in anguish how government security agencies could not bring perpetrators of these heinous killings to book...We are shocked at the speed of light deployed by security and judicial officers in sentencing the alleged killers of the herdsman in Adamawa state...Why did the court discharge the alleged killers of Madam Bridget Agbahime on the orders of the Kano state government? Why have security officials not arrested those behind the killings of Christians in southern Kaduna? Why did Nigeria Police set free those arrested for the murder of Mrs Eunice Elisha Olawale in Kubwa, Abuja? In view of this, CAN is calling on President Buhari to intervene in the death sentence passed on these Christian youths in Adamawa”)

Bishop Emmah Isong (later wrote a condemnation of the death sentence of the five Christians: “It looks as if it is vengeance for a Yola court to condemn five Christians to death for allegedly killing herdsman when herdsmen are rampaging everywhere killing and maiming innocent Christians and going free...It is high time the federal government had to intervene and to ensure that those Christians are not killed to forestall further religious conflict within that axis. Instead of killing people for herdsmen, the Nigerian federal government should rather find a way to curtail their activities and provide adequate security to all Nigerians”)

Date: June 11, 2018

Location: Yola, Adamawa state

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2018/06/christian-death-toll-from-herdsmen-attacks-mounts-in-adamawa-state-nigeria/>

Event: Christians were attacked by Fulani Muslims as they returned home from church

Ibrahim Weyi (aged 45, **hacked to death**)

Larry More (aged 53, **hacked to death**)

Samuel Weyi (aged 23, wounded, hospitalized)

Lawrence Zango (reported on the attack, said “Fulani herdsmen have continued to kill innocent Christians in our villages, yet the Nigerian government has not taken proactive measures to end the onslaught”)

Date: June 10, 2018

Location: Kwall village, Bassa area, Plateau state

Adam Sunday (aged 38, **killed**)

Jatau Akus (aged 39, **killed**)

Chohu Awarhai (**killed**)

Marcus Mali (aged 22, **killed**)

Rev Sunday Zibeh (described the attack “The four victims were construction workers working on site when they were attacked...The sad reality is that the Nigerian government headed by President Muhammadu Buhari, himself a Muslim and a Fulani man, has not acted in any way to end these attacks”)

Date: April 18, 2018

Location: Jebbu-Miango village, Plateau state

Lumumbah Chayi (aged 17, secondary school student, **killed**)

Date: March 12, 2018

Location: Kwall village, Plateau state

Joseph Alli (aged 23, **beheaded**)

Date: March 15, 2018

Location: Rotsu village, Plateau state

John Esije (aged 32, **killed**)

Monday Nzwe (aged 38, **killed**)

Saku Giyeri (aged 41, **killed**)

Sunday Bala (aged 33, wounded)

Gudu Gara (aged 25, wounded)

Date: February 2018

Location: Zanwra village, Plateau state

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2018/06/two-christians-ambushed-killed-in-central-nigeria/>

Today's Martyrs

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

or write to

**2490 Black Rock Turnpike #455
Fairfield CT 06825-2400**

Permission is granted to copy, disseminate and forward this document without charge or fee, provided no changes are made and full attribution is made to Today's Martyrs