

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Weekly Report – 2018-10-14 through 2018-10-20



### Burkina Faso

Dr Ken Elliot (aged 84, husband of Jocelyn Elliot, Australian citizen, missionary, abducted by al-Qaeda linked militants in Ouagadougou on January 15, 2016; **UPDATE**: still in captivity)

Date: October 16, 2018

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/10/1000-days-since-kidnap-of-84-year-old-doctor-in-burkina-faso-family-plea-for-freedom>



### Cameroon

Gerard Anjiangwe (aged 19, seminarian, only child of Stephen Akiata and Comfort Akiata, **shot dead** by soldiers inside a church while praying the rosary in prostration)

Stephen Akiata (husband of Comfort Akiata, father of Gerard Anjiangwe)

Comfort Akiata (wife of Stephen Akiata, mother of Gerard Anjiangwe)

Archbishop Cornelius Fontem Esua (issued a statement on the murder of seminarian Gerard Anjiangwe: "[While parishioners] were in front of the church, a military truck arrived from Ndop and stopped at the beginning of the road leading to the church. Some soldiers got out of the vehicle and started shooting...The military tried in vain to open the door [to the sacristy where parishioners had taken refuge], then they approached Gerard lying on the floor and ordered him to get up, which he did hesitantly. [After interrogating him] they shot him three times in the neck and he died instantly")

Date: October 4, 2018

Location: Santa Teresa of Bamessing village, near Ndop, Ngo-Ketunjia department

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/64929->

[AFRICA CAMEROON A young seminarian killed in the English speaking region](#)



## Central African Republic

Bishop Tadeusz Kusy (criticized UN refugee policies: "[The UN says they are encouraging people to stay in their communities] but at the same time they are building structures 3 kilometers from their houses, and they are told: 'You can stay here' therefore where is it? the truth? There is no truth in these programs", also criticized the lack of UN policing that empowered Seleka guerrillas and Sudanese and Chadian mercenaries: "I had planned a pastoral visit to that area [between Ndele and Kaga-Bandoro] in December 2017, but I managed to only do it in May 2018")

Date: October 15, 2018

Location: Kaga-Bandoro

Source: [www.fides.org/en/news/64920-](http://www.fides.org/en/news/64920-)

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA Strong insecurity in the diocese while the UN send s contradictory messages denounces the Bishop of Kaga Bandoro](http://www.fides.org/en/news/64920-)



## Egypt

Bishoy Nady (aged 18, farmer, disappeared)

Date: September 27, 2018

Location: near Samalut, Al Minya province

Simon Mahros (aged 17, disappeared while on her way to school)

Date: October 2, 2018

Location: Abu-Hashem village, Beni-Sweef province

Source: <https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2018/10/08/from-egypt-a-list-of-recently-reported-assaults-on-coptic-christians/>

Eid Attiya (owner of a building in Waslin village, Atfieh, Giza used as a church that was attacked and contents destroyed by a mob on December 22, 2017; detained for four days beginning on December 24, 2017; convicted of erecting a building without a license in January 2018, sentenced to one year's imprisonment and fined EGP360,000, sentence suspended; **UPDATE**: sentence overturned on appeal)

Date: October 15, 2018

Location: Giza

Source: <https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2018/10/15/alleged-offenders-and-victim-aquitted-in-attack-against-etfeh-church/>



## India

**Event: The Center of Policy Analysis, a RSS paramilitary think tank, issued an [October 10, 2018](#) report that called for the abolishment of church sponsored schools**

Archbishop Thomas D'Souza (**UPDATE**: criticized the report "In effect, they are asking to change the Indian constitution...All Indians, particularly religious minorities, should be afraid about such demands")

Joseph Dias (**UPDATE**: criticized the report "Catholic institutions keep a high standard...And, a huge majority of students in them are non-Christians. So doing away with such institutions will hit the majority community more than minorities")

Date reported: [October 16, 2018](#)

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/church-schools-in-india-among-those-that-should-not-exist/83634>



## Indonesia

Flo Renshy ("young" Sunday school teacher, **died after a wall collapsed on her following an earthquake**, had attempted to hold the wall up with her body in a successful attempt to allow her students to escape the room)

Date: [September 28, 2018](#)

Location: Palu, Sulawesi

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/us/news/sunday-school-teacher-dies-saving-children-from-indonesian-earthquake>



## Iran

Ebrahim Firouzi (convert, aged 36, welder, disappeared on the way to work on [March 7, 2013](#) in Robat-Karim, apparently arrested by plain-clothes police; reported on [May 1, 2015](#) to have been sentenced to five additional years' imprisonment for "action against national security through collusion and gathering", the gathering in question was a meeting where he met with friends to say goodbye before the beginning of his original prison term; **UPDATE**: has suffered from a toothache that has 'spread throughout his jaw and face', denied medical treatment, unable to eat, request for a furlough refused, mother has been unable to visit him in prison due to visual impairment and cancer)

Date: [October 16, 2018](#)

Location: Evin Prison, Tehran

Source: <http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=4107>



## Mexico

Fr Icaro Arturo Orta (disappeared on [October 11, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: **found dead** with hands and feet bound and with signs of violence)

Date: [October 13, 2018](#)

Location: Ley del Servicio Civil area, Tijuana, Baja California

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/64918->

[AMERICA MEXICO Lifeless body of the parish priest who died three days ago has been found](#)



## Myanmar

**Event: Two priests, three nuns, and three lay teachers were expelled by the breakaway and Chinese supported United Wa State Army, churches seized**

Fr Raymond Than SDB (said "We are not problem-makers...We will continue to provide food and school expenses of the students")

Date: [October 12, 2018](#)

Location: Wa Hills

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/china-backed-militia-expels-more-clergy-in-northern-myanmar/83645>



## Nigeria

**Event UPDATE: Boko Haram announced that two Christian women in captivity would be "slaves for life" due to their refusal to convert to Islam, they also released a video of the execution of Muslim 24 year old midwife and health care student Hauwa Leman for apostasy, which they judged from her employment with the Red Cross Red Crescent**

Leah Nathan Sharibu (aged 15, student, abducted by Boko Haram on [February 19, 2018](#))

Alice Ngaddah (UNICEF worker)

Date: [October 16, 2018](#)

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2018/10/leah-sharibu-kept-as-slave-aid-worker-killed-as-apostate-in-nigeria-report-says/>



## Norway

Dr Katarzyna Jachimowicz (Polish citizen, fired from her job in [Sauherad](#) in [2016](#) after refusing to implant IUDs; an appellate court in [Skien](#) ruled on [November 24, 2017](#) that her termination was illegal; **UPDATE**: appeal upheld by the Supreme Court, attorney stated “Today’s Supreme Court decision marks an important step in the right direction, not only for doctors, but for people of faith in all professions. The ruling protects one of the most fundamental rights, the right to act in accordance with one’s deeply held beliefs. She vowed to protect life, and objected to having any part in taking it. The Court established today that she had every right to do so”)

Date: [October 11, 2018](#)

Location: [Oslo](#)

Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/doctor-wins-landmark-pro-life-conscience-rights-case-in-norway>



## Pakistan

Mehwish Bhatti (British Pakistani Christian Association officer; **UPDATE**: spoke on threats of violence against Christians by Islamic groups should the Supreme Court in its pending decision acquit Asia Bibi: "The on going protest in Pakistan by extremist groups with regards to Asia's possible release is a great concern for the whole Christian community in Pakistan. We all want Asia to be released and at the same time being a minority we want assurance of peace and security. I implore the Government of Pakistan to induce special measures to protect Christians in Pakistan. The past attacks on Christians have not been forgotten many from the communities of Rimsha Masih's village [[click here to read the Today's Martyr's biography of Rimsha Masih](#)], and Gojra are still homeless. Christians should not be seen as anything other than equal citizens and our quality of life should not be diminished by our choice of faith")

Date: [October 13, 2018](#)

Source: <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/militant-islamists-blackmail-justice-for-asia-bibi-as-christian-communities-seek-protectio>



## Syria

Souleman Yusph (journalist, disappeared in [Qamishli](#) on [September 30, 2018](#), believed to have been detained by the Asayish [the Kurdish security and intelligence service], had

extensively reported on Kurdish closure of Christian schools; **UPDATE:** released, in seclusion at home)

Archbishop Jacques Behnan Hindo (**UPDATE:** spoke on the release of Souleman Yusph: "It is understandable that he wants to keep a low profile, but I want to continue to speak out against the discriminatory campaign by Kurds against Christians in the north-eastern Syria. He was arrested simply for telling the truth, for denouncing the abuses...more targeted attacks and violent incident cannot be excluded. We can expect anything from the Kurdish authorities. They do not understand that they are pawns in the hands of the West and are used for political purposes", added information about an upcoming meeting he will have with a Kurdish delegation: "it will be a tense meeting...They know that I am against their way of doing and governing the region. The major problem is not the Syrian Kurds, but those who come from Turkey and Iraqi Kurdistan who want to annex ancient Mesopotamia to their territory")

Date reported: October 10, 2018

Location: Hasakah

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mgr-Hindo:-Despite-Christian-journalist's-release,-fears-of-more-Kurdish-abuses-remain-45173.html>



### **Thailand**

Iqbal (alias, Pakistani refugee, bail for immigration violations cancelled, told to report with his brother to the detention center, said "I don't know how long they will keep us there...People are being persecuted back home and now we are being persecuted here too. It's time [people in] the world woke up about what's happening")

Date: October 10, 2018

Location: Bangkok

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/pakistani-catholic-refugees-in-thailand-plead-for-vatican-help/83642>



### **United Kingdom**

Fr Cuthbert Madden OSB (brought suit almost two years after being cleared of sex abuse charges by both civil and church authorities because he had not yet been reinstated into his former positions)

Date: October 16, 2018

Location: Ampleforth Abbey and College

Source: <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/10/16/ampleforth-abbot-launches-legal-action-to-be-reinstated/>



### **United States - New Jersey**

Joan Simon (fired from her Catholic school after circulating a letter written by an orthodox Catholic theologian on the current sex abuse scandals)

Date: October 9, 2018

Location: Jersey City

Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/catholic-school-fires-teacher-after-she-handed-out-famed-evangelists-letter>

### **United States - Virginia**

**Event: An elderly couple was threatened with eviction from their retirement home for having conducted Bible Studies**

Kenneth Hauge (semi-retired minister)

Liv Hauge

Date: July 23, 2018

Location: Fredericksburg

Source: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/virginia-couple-threatened-eviction-holding-bible-study-file-complaint-hud-227921/>

## **Today's Martyrs**

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

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