

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Weekly Report – 2018-10-21 through 2018-10-27



### China

Pastor Chen Xihe (commented on government imposition of a 'Christian Sinicization Center' and bookstore in his church: “The purpose of establishing the center and bookstore is to advance Christianity’s Sinicization and guild religion to fit into socialist society”)

Date: October 16, 2018

Location: Guiyang, Guizhou province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/10/guizhou-targets-three-churches-for.html>

Pastor Wang Yi (**UPDATE**: described on WeChat social media how more than 20 parishioners were detained by police for evangelizing in a public park: “The Gospel has been proclaimed. We gave out all the leaflets. Those brothers and sisters who were waiting at the police station brought more and distributed them all...We encountered another police station and got to know a group of people who believe in Christ. May the Lord’s love be with these law enforcement officers”)

Date: October 20, 2018

Location: Sichuan province

Pastor Huang Xiaoning (**UPDATE**: refused to allow plainclothed officials access to his home for a fire inspection, more than 30 parishioners outside his home were harassed)

Date: October 21, 2018

Location: Guangzhou, Guangdong province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/10/more-than-20-christians-detained-for.html>

Pastor Li Wanhua (**UPDATE**: interrogated by national security agents for almost 2 hours, passport confiscated, released)

Date: October 12, 2018

Location: Jiangmen, Guangdong province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/10/officials-question-pastor-on-church.html>  
and <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/10/more-than-20-christians-detained-for.html>

Pastor Ma Ke (church closed by authorities)

Date: October 16, 2018

Location: Guangzhou, Guangdong province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/10/guangfu-church-shut-down.html>

Cardinal Emeritus Joseph Zen Ze-Kium SDB (aged 86; **UPDATE:** wrote "The faithful in China are suffering and are now coming under increasing pressure. Early this year, the government tightened regulations on the practice of religion. Priests in the underground on the mainland tell me that they are discouraging parishioners from coming to Mass to avoid arrest...And yet, to the underground bishops and priests of China, I can only say this: Please don't start a revolution. They take away your churches? You can no longer officiate? Go home, and pray with your family. Till the soil. Wait for better times. Go back to the catacombs. Communism isn't eternal")

Date: October 24, 2018

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/24/opinion/pope-china-vatican-church-catholics-bishops.html>



### **Kyrgyzstan**

Eldos (aged 25, convert from Islam, severely beaten by three men in an attempt to force him to say the shahada, suffered a severe concussion, jaw fracture, lost teeth, eye injury, and suspected brain hemorrhage, forced by police to sign a document stating he was attacked for playing loud music before they would allow him to be transported to a hospital)

Date: October 17, 2018

Location: Tamchi village, Issyk-Kul

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/us/news/young-kyrgyz-christian-convert-fighting-for-his-life-after-severe-beating-by-muslims>



### **Malta**

Matthew Grech (convert, singer, former active homosexual, video of his conversion testimony removed from the Facebook and Twitter sites of a television talent contest show, activists said that the contest judges should have criticized his religious conversion as a violation of gay conversion therapy laws)

Date: October 26, 2018

Source: <https://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/freedom/x-factor-malta-silences-ex-gay-singers-christian-testimony>



### **Mexico**

Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera (home attacked by armed men in an apparent robbery attempt, an auxiliary police officer was killed)

Date: October 21, 2018

Location: Mexico City

Source: <http://www.catholicerald.co.uk/news/2018/10/23/cardinals-home-attacked-security-guard-shot-dead/>



## Turkey

David Byle (aged 48, Canadian-U.S. citizen, husband of Ulrike, father of five, arrested on [April 25, 2007](#); released on [April 25, 2007](#); detained along with other street evangelizers on [November 1, 2009](#), released; detained on [March 9, 2010](#) by two police officers with a deportation order; detained without charge in [Istanbul](#) on [April 6, 2016](#) for 30 days pending deportation, labelled 'a danger to public order' by the Interior Ministry; released from detention on [April 15, 2016](#), deportation still pending; deportation stopped by the Constitutional Court on [February 13, 2017](#) pending evidence justifying the deportation; **UPDATE:** arrested by anti-terrorism police 'days after' the October 12, 2018 release of Pastor Andrew Brunson, released the following day with an order to leave the country within 15 days)

Date reported: October 22, 2018

Location: Ankara

Source: [https://www.assistnews.net/evangelist-david-byle-arrested-in-turkey/?ct=t\(RSS\\_EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\)&mc\\_cid=6f9eaced9a&mc\\_eid=ae42b16c5d](https://www.assistnews.net/evangelist-david-byle-arrested-in-turkey/?ct=t(RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN)&mc_cid=6f9eaced9a&mc_eid=ae42b16c5d)

## Today's Martyrs

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

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