

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2018-11-25 through 2018-12-01



Cameroon

Event Two priests and a religious student were abducted

Fr Jude Thaddeus Langeh Basebang CMF

Fr Placide Muntong CMF

Date: November 24, 2018

Location: on the road to Muyenge

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/65157->

[AFRICA CAMEROON Three Claretian religious abducted in the Anglophone region of the south west](http://www.fides.org/en/news/65157-)

Fr Cosmas Omboto Ondari MHM (aged about 30, Kenyan citizen, **shot dead** outside his church by a military patrol)

Bishop Andrew Nkea (later said "I visited Kembong Parish on Thursday the 22nd of November, and I personally counted 21 bullet holes made on the Church building of Kembong where at the time, the priest, the Catechist and many Christians were carrying out various activities in the Mission compound. The blood of the murdered priest was still clearly seen on the cemented entrance to the Church just at the door...Father Cosmas died right in the house of God and it is our prayer that the God whom he served so well will welcome him into his eternal kingdom. While we mourn with the Mill Hill Family and the natural family of Fr. Ondari, we trust that he died doing what he had offered his life for...The forces of evil are on a rampage against the Church of God, but as Christians, we believe in the promise of Christ that the gates of the underworld will never prevail over the Church [Mtt.16:18]. At the same time we must remain vigilant, because the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for someone to eat, stand up to him strong in faith...The value of human life is diminishing and the human person is wasted away for any flimsy reason")

Date: November 21, 2018

Location: Kembong

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/65135->

[AFRICA CAMEROON A missionary of Kenyan origin was killed in the English speaking South West region](http://www.fides.org/en/news/65135-)

and [http://www.fides.org/en/news/65151-AFRICA CAMEROON The Bishop of Mamfe An investigation into the murder of Fr Ondari let us remain united in prayer](http://www.fides.org/en/news/65151-AFRICA_CAMEROON_The_Bishop_of_Mamfe_An_investigation_into_the_murder_of_Fr_Ondari_let_us_remain_united_in_prayer)



Central African Republic

Bishop Desire Nongo Aziagbia SMA (reported: “Following the incidents which led to the destruction of camps for displaced persons, private homes in the districts of Tarabanda and Yabende as well as the Catholic presbytery in the parish of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception in Batangafo, from 12 to 16 November 2018, I went on a fact finding mission to assess the situation, assisted by the Joint Protection Team [JPT] of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic [MINUSCA], 8 members of which come from the Office of Bossangoa and 6 from headquarters in Bangui...Despite efforts on the part of our local Church to promote peace and fraternal relations, despite our total solidarity with those in need regardless of beliefs or political conviction, we have been targeted. Priests killed, church buildings torched or desacralized, sacred objects stolen or destroyed. These actions can be interpreted as a method used by countless enemies to plunge us into a religious crisis...”)

Date reported: December 1, 2018

Location: Bossangoa

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/65190-AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA Local Church denounces episodes of violence in past two months](http://www.fides.org/en/news/65190-AFRICA_CENTRAL_AFRICA_Local_Church_denounces_episodes_of_violence_in_past_two_months)



China

Pastor Chen Shixin (husband of Wang Hong, arrested in [Lieshan District, Huaibei, Anhui province](#) on [April 12, 2017](#) and charged with 'damaging forestry resources'; arrest formalized on [May 18, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment)

Date: April 16, 2018

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/11/church-warned-not-to-allow-children-in.html>

Cardinal Emeritus Joseph Zen Ze-Kium SDB (aged 86; **UPDATE**: presided at a Mass in memory of Fr Wei Heping [aka Fr Pedro Yu Heping], who was found dead in a river in Taiyuan, Shanxi province on November 8, 2015, said Fr Wei was a martyr and saint who "led many people to be priests, became integrated with church members and went to very poor places to be with the most loyal people of God, and those people are the most simple as the seeds enter their heart immediately blooming and bearing fruit...People who know him will never believe he would commit suicide because a hero will not commit suicide")

Charles Tsang (said Chinese authorities had not given a proper account of Father Wei's death so "we can hardly believe that the Chinese government will treat the religious freedom guaranteed by the constitution in good faith")

Maria Lee (said of Father Wei's death "It is a terrible thing", said of the lack of Vatican interest in his death: "This kind of silence...helps the wicked perpetuate wicked deeds. How can the Chinese government respect our beliefs? I hope they will act to show us they defend the values of faith and freedom of religion")

Date: November 15, 2018

Location: Kowloon, Hong Kong

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/catholics-hold-memorial-for-hero-chinese-priest/83891>

Pastor Huang Xiaoning (**UPDATE**: detained for 5 days, fasted and prayed)

Fr Francis Liu (reported on the detention of Pastor Huang Xiaoning)

Date: November 10, 2018

Location: Guangzhou, Guangdong province

Source: <https://www.persecution.org/2018/11/13/pastor-guangzhou-house-church-detained/>

Pastor Fang Xiaojun (church raided by police, given notice of administrative punishment)

Minister Ma Ben (church raided by police, given notice of administrative punishment)

Date: August 26, 2018

Location: Xuzhou, Jiangsu province

Pastor Fang Xiaojun (church raided by police on [August 26, 2018](#), given notice of administrative punishment; **UPDATE**: hearing held on administrative punishment, hearing later invalidated)

Date: September 26, 2018

Location: Xuzhou, Jiangsu province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/11/jiangsu-church-releases-prayer-letter.html>

Bishop Peter Shao Zhumin (underground bishop; abducted by police on [November 9, 2018](#) reportedly for "10 or 15" days of interrogation and indoctrination; **UPDATE**: released)

Date: November 23, 2018

Location: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Fr Lu Danhua (taken away by Religious Affairs Bureau agents on [December 29, 2017](#), reportedly taken to study the new regulations of religion; **UPDATE**: released, had been kept in a luxury hotel under guard just a five minute walk from where he had been taken)

Date: November 22, 2018

Location: Qingtian, Zhejiang province

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/bishop-shao-freed-by-chinese-authorities/84000>



Congo, Democratic Republic

Events: Christians were targeted and killed by Muslim 'Allied Democratic Forces' militants

Rev Kausa Kaule Yosua (father of Masika, **shot dead**, grandchild missing)

Masika (aged 27, daughter of Rev Kausa Kaule Yosua, hacked with machetes and then **shot dead**)

Date: November 10, 2018

Location: Mayimoya

Pastor Josias Kapanga Katembo (aged 44, husband of Rebecca, father of four, abducted along with five other Christians including two of his children, later **found dead**)

Rebecca (aged 34, wife of Pastor Josias Kapanga Katembo, attempted to flee during the attack, **killed**)

Date: November 11, 2018

Location: Boyikene

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/11/two-pastors-among-seven-killed-by-islamist-militants-in-eastern-drc/>



Egypt

Event: A Muslim described as mentally ill entered a church and beat two Christians with an iron rod while shouting 'God is greater'

Ehad (said “The media uses words which don’t reveal the truth. Now we have discovered that that this was a young man, not an old one. Also, he was holding a Koran and sharp tool [while] injuring some people on their heads. The media’s role is to reveal the reality and not to hide information to make the Copt calm down”)

Majeed (said “It’s too awful. I can’t imagine that we should adapt to these incidents. Lies and lies and lies...I’m sure that this criminal will not be punished”)

Hani (said “Mentally ill, what?! How the media manipulates us!”)

Date: November 11, 2018

Location: Cairo

Source: <https://www.persecution.org/2018/11/15/violent-intruder-disrupts-cairo-church-injuring-two/>



India

John Allen Chau (aged 26, U.S. citizen, missionary, **killed by native tribesmen** after illegally making contact with them)

Date: November 16, 2018

Location: North Sentinel Island, South Andaman district, Andaman and Nicobar Islands territory

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-46286215>

Pastor John Lakra (convert, husband, father of three, attacked by hundreds of Hindu extremists while taking his 18 month old son to the hospital emergency room, the extremists were motivated by a derogatory message about a Hindu goddess that had been sent from his cell phone, automobile windows smashed, said "There were so many people that we could not even try get out there. We could not even see through the windows. My children and wife were crying. I did not know what to do. Soon, they pulled me out of the car, slapped and beat me black and blue. They ripped off my clothes. Not a single part of my body was left unstruck", was dragged to an idol of the goddess, forced to kneel, and told he would be sacrificed: "Then they poured a gallon of petrol [gasoline] on me. Right there, I was praying in my heart. I said, 'Lord! I submit myself to you. May this bring Glory only to you.' While I was praying, I was so moved by the Holy Spirit. There was so much pain that I have not done enough, that I must share about my Lord's love to so many, my journey is not over yet. These words rumbled in my heart. After they poured petrol on me, miraculously there was a [power] blackout. And within minutes, police reached the spot and rescued me", charged with 'promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion' and 'criminal intimidation' after RSS paramilitaries complained to police, denied bail, found his wife and children had been rescued from the mob by hospital personnel and his ill son received treatment)

Date: October 23, 2018

Location: Odisha state

Pastor John Lakra (convert, husband, father of three, attacked by hundreds of Hindu extremists while taking his 18 month old son to the hospital emergency room on **October 23, 2018**; **UPDATE**: released on bail after the Central Bureau of Investigation found evidence that his cell phone and social media account had been hacked)

Date: November 1, 2018

Location: Odisha state

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2018/11/hindu-extremist-mob-tries-to-burn-pastor-alive-in-odisha-state-india/>

Fr Vineet Vincent Pereira (aged 43, elderly residents of his ashram attacked by Hindu Yuva Vahini [youth force] members, said "When I objected, they beat me. One pulled me down holding my hair and dragged out. Then they hit me left and right", arrested by police when an attacker charged him with rioting and disturbing the peace, released on bail)

Fr John Abraham (said that Fr Vineet Vincent Pereira was very popular with 1,500 Christ Bhaktas [devotees of Christ]: "None of them have become Christians, but they follow Christian spiritual values")

Date: November 15, 2018

Location: Gohana town, Mau district, Uttar Pradesh state

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/hermit-priests-popularity-brings-attack-from-hindu-hardliners/83892>

Pastor Bangali Das (father of Sunil Kumar, beaten for holding an open air religious service, said "Through my preaching, many men and women from the Manjhi caste accepted Jesus and they offered me an open place to conduct worship. We built a 'mutt' [a thatched hut without any walls] and started worshipping under the neem trees. Our fellowship grew to 200 and more people. The Manjhis migrate to work in the brick kilns on a seasonal basis in October and November months. So the strength of the church varies from time to time. The fanatics didn't like this open place worship, so they attacked and beat me...Two men caught me and began to rain blows on me with their hands. I got hurt in my chest very badly and my arm was injured. They threw me on the ground and beat me until I became unconscious", hospitalized for three days, has suffered from a severe headache)

Sunil Kumar (son of Pastor Bangali Das, said his father would resume his ministry once he had recovered from his beating)

Date: November 4, 2018

Location: Tetua, Bihar state

Source: <https://www.persecution.org/2018/11/27/pastor-brutally-beaten-leading-open-air-worship-services-india/>

Pastor U Kristudasu (father of S Hanok, beaten by over 100 Hindu radicals while clearing an area to build a house, hospitalized for 3 days, said "I doubted if we would survive with the kind of brutality I have seen and experienced. When my son came to my rescue, the attention was shifted onto him and he was brutally attacked with punches and beatings. He is still not normal with all the internal pains and bruises even after more than two weeks since the incident. We will continue to stay and serve God as long as God enables us. We are so shattered as a family, but honored to suffer for the Jesus. Please pray for us")

S Hanok (son of Pastor U Kristudasu, beaten, hospitalized for 3 days)

Date: November 9, 2018

Location: Gandhari village, Kamareddy district, Telangana state

Source: <https://www.persecution.org/2018/11/26/pastor-son-brutally-attacked-mob-indias-telangana-state/>

Pastor Samu Singh (aged 45, husband of Archana, father of two, arrested for 'an inquiry' on September 26, 2017; **UPDATE**: released on bail)

Archana (wife of Pastor Samu Singh, mother of two, said "I had no idea of any inquiry, I was waiting for my husband to come home that day and it took almost six months for him to come back to us. Myself, along with my two kids, were shattered. Those six months were difficult months for us as a family...Even now we are pulling on hard as we face new challenges with the case. The radicals charged my husband falsely that he was involved in conversions by force and inducement because several new families started to attend our church. He was charged and sent to jail just because he is a pastor")

Date: February 6, 2018

Location: Hazaribagh, Jharkhand state

Pastor Amandeep Bodra (aged 34, said "...the Hindu radicals turned the church into a Sarna Bhavan [Sarna Community Hall] on October 20. They destroyed the cross on church building and erased every trace of Christian faith on the building. This included the name of the church that [was] written and Bible verses inside the church. The intention of the Hindu radicals was not about the land on which the church was built. The land belongs to a Christian who donated the it for the church building. He regularly attends the church. The intention is clear that they do not want a church or Christians in the village. As long as the police and the government are on their side, we have been suffering silently")

Date: October 20, 2018

Location: Gadkatanga village, Jharkhand state

Source: <https://www.persecution.org/2018/11/21/wave-persecution-jharkhand-state-sees-christians-targeted-multiple-fronts/>

Event: Four pastors were beaten and arrested after Hindu radicals invaded their prayer meeting and ripped up pictures of Hindu deities to create false evidence of desecration, all were denied bail, a fifth Christian was also beaten

Pastor Lalji

Pastor Radheshyam

Pastor Munna

Pastor Ramsukh

Date: November 14, 2018

Location: Chaphar village, Uttar Pradesh state

Source: <https://www.persecution.org/2018/11/18/four-pastor-uttar-pradesh-assaulted-framed-village-radicals/>

Archbishop Leo Cornelio (**UPDATE**: one of hundreds of Christians who were turned away from voting in the state election, said "I'm sure my name was deliberately deleted from the voter list, which is unjust and not a good sign for the democracy. This is a stern message to the Christian community that they are no more in the reckoning. The message is subtly conveyed through deletion of names of senior community leaders")

Indira Iyengar (aged 78, former State Minorities Commission president, **UPDATE**: one of hundreds of Christians who were turned away from voting in the state election, said "It is a well known fact that I am a member of the Congress Party and my vote will never go to any other party. Therefore, my name was struck out. It is a ploy of the Hindu [BJP] party")

Saji Abraham (demanded an investigation into the voter list purge of Christians)

Date: November 28, 2018

Location: Madhya Pradesh state

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/christians-denied-vote-in-indian-state-election/83987>



Indonesia

Grace Natalie (aged 36, politician, former television journalist, accused of blasphemy after criticizing laws that prohibited socializing with persons of the opposite sex)

Petrus Selestinus (attorney; **UPDATE**: defended Grace Natalie)

Date: November 16, 2018

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/christian-politician-in-indonesia-accused-of-blasphemy/83914>

Fr Neles Tebay (Papuan Peace Network coordinator, criticized the arrest of more than 100 peaceful pro-independence protestors "I would have thought such an assembly would have been fine so long as they didn't pose a threat to security")

Date: November 19, 2018

Location: Jayapura, West Papua

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/over-100-pro-independence-activists-arrested-in-papua/83911>



Iraq

Fr Behnam Benoka (church occupied by Iraqi military forces for several hours on [July 12, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: verbally abused and threatened by Iraqi military personnel who blocked access to the church while claiming to use the service of a neighboring photo studio for wedding photography and who fired automatic weapons into the air for 30 minutes)

Date: December 1, 2018

Location: Bartella

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20181130191449.htm>

Event: Christians rebuilt their church and homes with foreign help

Lloyd Najim (engineer, said "Of course, this church is one of the cultural landmarks, and we're preserving it. We must rebuild it in order to encourage the people to return. It's necessary to keep these cultural landmarks in Tel Skuf")

Selima Loqa (said "I'm tired of having to leave and then having to return again and again. We all got tired and we are getting old. We went to Al Qosh, we went to Enishki (Duhok), we went to ...I mean we have suffered, and we went to Lebanon. Every time we leave and then return, we buy houses over and over again. What can we do? Situations like this must end")

Date reported: November 30, 2018

Location: Tel Skuf

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20181130144903.htm>

Event: Christians described the outcome of the ISIL occupation of the Nineveh plain

Fr Albert (said "ISIL's capture of Mosul and the Nineveh Plains was more than just an occupation for Christians. It's related to trust. ISIS broke the community and Christians will not be able to mix within the general community anymore. Half of the civilians in Mosul joined ISIL. Christians saw many movies on social media of how civilians welcomed ISIL in June 2014. How can they trust those people anymore?")

Date reported: November 29, 2018

Location: Bagdad

Samer (said "The mindset [about] ISIL is that it was not something born in 2014. It was kind of like a result of a mindset that existed in Mosul. Christians say that their neighbors took everything from their houses. ISIL took the big things, the big establishment. But the Muslim neighbors took and stole the Christian houses. These wounds are not going to heal in the Christian community")

Nadia (aged 22, has refused to return to live in Mosul but does visit, said "Mosul will never go back as it was, we are ready all the time to flee. The city looks pale", said she might return to get a university degree: "That is the sacrifice, going to Mosul. Kurdistan didn't offer us anything, still the private college is available and need a lot of money...The level of education is too low at Mosul university, because we attend only three days a week", has been harassed at checkpoints: "Checkpoints are good with us unless there are Arabs with us at Kurdish check points, and vice versa")

Akram (has refused to return to live in Mosul but does visit, said "We as Christians don't have a future in Iraq...I think West Mosul [has] two concerning points. First is the destruction, second is security. The government doesn't admit that ISIL is still there")

Date reported: November 29, 2018

Location: Mosul

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20181129182730.htm>

Naser al-Shimary (attacked after arriving in the country, alleged he had been deported from the United States under coercion and false pretenses, had been a refugee in the U.S. since age 2, fears that his U.S. history will be discovered)

Date reported: November 28, 2018

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20181128180429.htm>

Archbishop Bashar Matti Warda CSSR (**UPDATE**: spoke in [Washington DC](#) on Red Wednesday "Since 2003, 61 churches and shrines were burned, destroyed, or harmed. Over 55,000 homes seized, 150,000 Christians were displaced in 2015. Countless Christians have been kidnapped or murdered...The Church in Iraq is a martyr Church. Our persecution continues to make us a church of peace and reconciliation, transforming us into an apostolic, missionary church. Persecution brings us closer to Jesus...We are called upon to remain faithful to the Gospel [through] an invitation to the cross...We must not hide from suffering when it comes. We must firmly address it in faith, love, and prayer")

Date: November 28, 2018

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/we-must-not-hide-from-suffering-iraqi-archbishop-says-on-red-wednesday-64940>



Ireland

Carol Nolan (aged 40, Member of the Dail [Parliament], former teacher and principal, suspended in [March 2018](#) from the Sinn Fein party for voting against the referendum to remove the prohibition of abortion from the Constitution; **UPDATE**: attacked by fellow parliamentarians as 'sinister, inducing 'trauma, fear and shock, trying to 'inject shock tactics and US nonsense', that her comments 'display[ed] no compassion' and were 'dripping with judgement, dripping with a kind of visceral hatred of women' when she unsuccessfully attempted to amend the new abortion bill that would require government funding of all costs of abortions - nearly all other medical procedures carry some kind of cost sharing, said in response: "Unfortunately, many Pro-Life have been bullied into silence, but I won't allow my views on the issue to be silenced, it appears that democracy in Dail Eireann only exists if you hold a liberal and pro-choice view – so much for equality and respect. My sole motivation at all times has been a concern for the welfare of women and their unborn babies...I am not accustomed to describing the abortion procedure in detail but when colleagues in the Dail won't even support an amendment to provide pain relief for an unborn baby during a late-term abortion then I think it is reasonable to challenge them on what they are doing")

Danny Healy Rae (aged 64, Member of the Dail [Parliament], objected to the rush to pass the abortion bill and the lack of a conscientious objection clause for health care providers)

Date: [November 27, 2018](#)

Location: [Dublin](#)

Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/pro-life-irish-politician-accused-of-hating-women-for-fighting-taxpayer-fun>
and <https://www.rte.ie/news/politics/2018/1127/1013780-dail-debate-abortion-bill/>



Kosovo

Br M S (Serbian citizen, denied a temporary residency renewal after having been told he had been approved, appeal underway)

Date: [November 8, 2018](#)

Location: [Pristina](#)

Source: <http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/kosovo-institutions-threaten-serbian-monks-and-nuns-with-deportation/>



Malaysia

Event: Four citizens of Finland were arrested on November 20, 2018 for handing out items with a Christian message; UPDATE freed, deported

Timo Valtonen (said "All we did was share pens with the text 'Jesus is the way, the truth and the life' [John 14]. I did not understand that this was illegal. We were mocked for our faith...We weren't given enough to drink, suffered from dehydration, and had to sleep on a hard cement floor riddled with cockroaches. At night, we heard screams from other prisoners who were beaten with bamboo poles...God heard our prayers, that's why we were released")

Date: November 28, 2018

Location: Langawi Island

Source: <http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/christian-missionaries-from-finland-allege-torture-in-muslim-prison/>

and <https://www.persecution.org/2018/11/28/finnish-nationals-arrested-malaysia-distributed-christian-pamphlets/>



Myanmar

Rev Lazarus (**UPDATE:** reported that 17 male Bible students had escaped from the United Wa State Army: "Some them did not have food for several days. Some are suffering health problems and some now have psychological problems. They can't go back to their homes in the Wa hills, so we are arranging them to continue attending Bible school elsewhere. We are concerned for the remaining [24] students, especially the [20] women, and we are continuing to call for their release through different channels")

Date: November 13, 2018

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/bible-students-escape-from-china-backed-militia-in-myanmar/83861>

Rev Lazarus (**UPDATE:** reported that the last four male Bible students forcibly conscripted by the separatist United Wa State Army had successfully escaped: "When they arrived initially, they had some psychological problems. But they are coping with it as they now feel safe taking refuge in the church", the 20 female students are still in captivity)

Date: November 30, 2018

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/more-bible-students-escape-myanmar-militia/84001>



Nepal

Pastor Tufani Bhar (aged 53, forced to end his ministry after Hindu leaders forced the closure of his church and prohibited him from visiting private homes, said “I was too disappointed to see the Christians scared and thus did not go last week, on November 10 [2018]. The Hindu-Brahmins are resorting to every method possible to scare us, threaten us and not let us meet...Before there was no persecution, but [Hindu extremist group] Shiv Sena from India has been working among the Nepalese people and radicalizing them. They want Nepal to become a Hindu nation, but we have all religions in our country, and not just Hinduism”)

Date reported: November 16, 2018

Location: Palpa

Event: Four Christians were arrested for distributing Christian literature

Sweta Manandhar

Shreejan Manandhar

Tej Bahadur Shahi

Dal Bahadur Taruna

Katiya Graham (Australian citizen, sent to Kathmandu for deportation)

Pastor Hari Prasad Regmi (reported on the arrests)

Date: November 12, 2018

Location: Gulariya, Bardiya district

Event: Four Christians were arrested for distributing Christian literature

Yasura Owa (Japanese citizen, deported)

Makihikula (Japanese citizen, deported)

Pushpa Ghimire

Tirthamaya Ghale

Date: November 4, 2018

Location: Butwal

Event: Four Christians were arrested on [November 4, 2018](#) for distributing Christian literature;
UPDATE: the two not deported were released

Pushpa Ghimire

Tirthamaya Ghale

Date: November 8, 2018

Location: Butwal

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2018/11/church-in-nepal-forced-to-shut-down/>



Niger

Jeffery Woodke (aged 57, missionary, U.S. citizen, abducted on [October 14, 2016](#) from [Arcata](#) by armed men who forced him to strip to his underwear, guard and housekeeper killed; **UPDATE:** still in captivity)

Date: [November 13, 2018](#)

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/11/nigeriens-call-for-jeff-woodkes-release-2-years-after-his-abduction/>



Nigeria

Pastor George Lifted (**beheaded** along with his driver)

Date: [November 24, 2018](#)

Location: [Adim, Ebom, Abi local government area, Cross River state](#)

Source: <http://dailypost.ng/2018/11/26/pastor-commercial-motorcyclist-beheaded-renewed-communal-clash-cross-river/>

Event: Christian leaders met with President Muhammadu Buhari to report that the military has been aiding the Fulani Muslim attacks on Christians

Rev Dachollom Datiri (**UPDATE:** said that 646 Christians in Plateau state alone had been killed and 38,000 displaced from March through October 2018, added “The narrative has been that these people are killed by unknown gunmen, or suspected herdsmen, or that there have been farmer-herders clashes. All these are deceptive narratives deliberately framed to conceal the truth and continue to perpetrate the evil. After the attacks, it is the Fulani herdsmen that settle and graze their cattle on the farms of the victims. The proficiency and mode of operation in all of these attacks, as testified by the surviving victims, leaves us in no doubt of the complicity of the military being used as hired mercenaries by the Fulani militias. On this, we are disappointed, and sadly so, that the government has not delivered on her constitutional responsibility of protecting lives and property. Are we to believe that the armed forces sent to keep peace go with the instructions to protect them? The implication is that they protect the aggressors and leave the victims mercilessly helpless...Your excellency, in the last 18 years, COCIN [Church of Christ in Nigeria] as a denomination has suffered destruction of lives and property more than any church or any community. The devastation in terms of massacre of lives and destruction of property is unimaginable. Pastors and members in their thousands have been killed in cold blood, either shot dead or slaughtered like animals or burned to death. Houses and businesses have been burned or looted and farmlands have been destroyed. And yet, despite the huge government intervention in that area, very little relief has come to COCIN and her members, if any. We are aware that a lot of government intervention in terms of relief

material has gone to the northeast. Unfortunately, our members in that zone have been left out of the distribution. We have also suffered heavy losses in Taraba, Benue, Nasarawa, Kaduna states. Even on the day you visited Jos in March and launched the Peace Roadmap, your excellency, lives were being massacred in Bokkos and Bassa local government areas. And in June [2018], over 300 people, about 350, were massacred, slaughtered in cold blood over a period of three days in Barkin Ladi and Riyom local government areas. Since then, almost on a daily basis, people are either ambushed and shot dead or attacked in their homes and killed in cold blood or killed on their farms”)

Date: November 6, 2018

Location: Abuja

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2018/11/in-meeting-with-president-pastors-in-nigeria-say-military-complicit-in-attacks-on-christians/>

Event: Church leaders spoke out against human traffickers

Archbishop Augustine Obiora Akubeze (**UPDATE:** said “Our collaboration with the government must supply financial, spiritual and legal assistance for the victims...pursuing those responsible for the crime of human trafficking is also a way to restore the dignity of the victims. Our laws must ensure that those directly responsible for human trafficking are brought to justice”)

Cardinal John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan (**UPDATE:** denounced “the most atrocious form of human trafficking, sexual exploitation of children and minors, activities controlled by criminal gangs which make enormous profits to the detriment of helpless victims”)

Archbishop Matthew Manoso Ndagoso (**UPDATE:** said “no few members of the nation’s security forces compromise with traffickers in committing this ferocious crime against fellow Nigerians”)

Date: November 29, 2018

Location: Abuja

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/65178-AFRICA_NIGERIA_Bishops_tell_government_We_must_unite_to_fight_people_traffic_king



Pakistan

Rev Javed Johnson (complained to authorities on or before [November 8, 2018](#) about businesses seizing part of a Christian cemetery; **UPDATE:** led a public protest against the continued occupation of the cemetery)

Date: November 25, 2018

Location: Fateh Jang Chowk, Attock

Source: <https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/attock-christians-protest-against-encroachment-on-graveyard-land/>



Philippines

Event: Church leaders responded to President Duterte's call for people to stop attending church

Bishop Pablo Virgilio David (**UPDATE**: said "people who are sick sometimes do not know what they are talking about")

Bishop Arturo Bastes (**UPDATE**: said "Every Filipino with the right mind should only ignore this nonsense. I don't want to comment on this crazy idea. I am tired of his stupid remarks")

Bishop Ruperto Santos (**UPDATE**: said the president's statement was "very irresponsible and heartless")

Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Soncuaco Pabillo (**UPDATE**: said the president's statement "will have no effect")

Date: November 22, 2018

Bishop Pablo Virgilio David (**UPDATE**: alleged by President Duterte that he used drugs, which could make him a target of death squads)

Date: November 26, 2018

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/duterte-tells-filipinos-to-stop-going-to-church/83979>

Senator Antonio Trillanes (presidential opponent; **UPDATE**: responded to President Duterte's announcement that extrajudicial killings were now official policy)

Date: November 27, 2018

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/duterte-plans-to-deploy-death-squads-against-rebels/83976>

Bishop Cerilo Casicas (directed his priests to attend training on human rights abuses)

Fr Ariel Destora (helped organize training on human rights abuses)

Date reported: November 26, 2018

Location: Marbel

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/drug-killings-bring-rights-drive-in-philippine-diocese/83955>

Event: Nineteen people including a current member and a former member of Congress were arrested on child trafficking charges after rescuing 14 children from a tribal school that had been attacked by a paramilitary group

Pastor Edgar Ugal (arrested)

Pastor Ryan Magpayo (arrested)

Pastor Jurie Jaime (arrested)

Pastor Eller Ordeza (arrested)

Jeffrey Lozano CSSR (missionary, said "We came to aid the children and teachers who walked for five hours in heavy rain because the military attacked their school and tried to lock it down")

Michael Salem (church spokesman, said "This is very alarming and a call to all Christian churches to act...[The church has secured counsel] to determine the proper legal actions that we should take")

Date: November 29, 2018

Location: Talaingod, Davao del Norte province, Mindanao

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/pastors-arrested-during-bid-to-rescue-tribal-students/83997>



Syria

Bishop George Abu Khazen OFM (**UPDATE**: witnessed a rebel chemical attack that injured over a hundred, later said "For us the attack was a real surprise. It was about 10 pm and we heard the usual loud explosions. Shortly thereafter, however, we saw yellow smoke rise, different from the black and dense columns of dust and debris that follow a normal bombardment. Within a few minutes sirens could be heard as ambulances carried injured people. No fighting is taking place right now in the area. We are talking about civilian areas with unarmed residents. They bombed a sector not far from our vicariate, only later did we learn that it was chlorine bombs...We hope that it will remain an isolated case, but the fear is so great that it can start a new battle. Episodes like this one have been used as a pretext by Western powers to attack again in Syria. These rebel groups have lost the battle and now try by every means to hinder the return to peace, to normal life...for a long time Russia and the Syrian government have warned of the risk of attack with chemical weapons by rebel groups, which possess this type of weapons and are very scary...[This raises a] big question mark about our future. We hope the situation does not get worse. The Turks had promised to guarantee respect for the truce, instead they allow these attacks")

Date: November 24, 2018

Location: Aleppo

Source: <http://asianews.it/news-en/Rebel-surprise-chemical-attack-raises-fears,-says-Vicar-of-Aleppo-45576.html>



Tanzania

Sr Rohini Pradhan CSST (aged 44, missionary, Indian citizen, **killed in a vehicular road accident**)

Date: November 27, 2018

Source: <http://mattersindia.com/2018/11/indian-nun-dies-in-tanzania-in-road-accident/>



Uganda

Juma Hassan (convert, father of Rehema, beaten by his family for his conversion, fled to Kenya, **died from his injuries**)

Rehema (orphan daughter of Juma Hassan, mother disappeared after her father's murder, later said "I miss my father so much. I also want to become a Christian, but I fear my grandmother and other family members. I don't know where my mama is and I hope that she is fine and she will come back home soon")

Date: May 2018

Source: <https://www.persecution.org/2018/11/16/young-girl-orphaned-uganda-father-converts-christianity/>

Event: Police under pressure from a Muslim mob arrested six pastors on November 24, 2018 for stating that the Biblical account of Jesus was correct and the Quranic account was in error; UPDATE: released, all received threatening messages

Pastor Moses Wangaia (convert from Islam, popular apologist, received a text message stating 'Know that disrespecting the Quran means a punishable crime, which is death')

Pastor Mwanje

Pastor Anthony

Pastor Palapande Tom

Pastor Jowashi

Pastor Grace

Date: November 27, 2018

Location: Sironko

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2018/11/muslim-mob-incites-police-to-arrest-six-pastors-in-uganda/>



Ukraine

Sergei Viktorovich Filatov (aged 46, criminal case opened by the Russian FSB for membership in an illegal religious organization, could face a 10 year sentence if convicted)

Date: November 14, 2018

Location: Dzhankoi. Crimea

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2432

Metropolitan Pavel Lebed (abbot at [Monastery of the Kiev Caves](#); reported on [September 26, 2018](#) that his name had been added to the web site of a Ukrainian nationalist group as an enemy of the state, some who have been listed in the past have been killed; **UPDATE**: monastery relics inventoried by a government commission, stated "Today there are many questions about whether the actions of our state authority in relation to the church are legitimate. To a certain extent they are illegal. There is a pressure on me personally, threats are being heard, all sorts of attacks not only on me, but also on other bishops and priests. For what reason I do not know. But for me the main thing is that peace would reign in our country and that the truth would prevail in our country")

Date: November 29, 2018

Location: Voronki, Kiev oblast

Source: <http://orthochristian.com/117583.html>

Metropolitan Pavel Lebed (abbot at [Monastery of the Kiev Caves](#); **UPDATE**: residence raided by police investigating charges of sectarian hatred, one book seized)

Date: November 30, 2018

Location: Voronki, Kiev oblast

Source: <http://orthochristian.com/117589.html>



United Kingdom

Rev Melvin Tinker (banned from speaking at Derby Cathedral for his orthodox Christian views, said "I guess the implication was that I was going to say something rather dodgy or bring the cathedral into disrepute, but I think they've done a good job of that themselves, with some of the films they've been showing over the summer, which are rather dubious, and blocking me an Anglican priest in the church of England...It seems that basically the progressive agenda is one that is being bought into, and if you don't buy into that, then by default you are excluded....I'm saddened and not surprised, because this is part of a bigger trend. With all the talk of radical inclusion in the Church of England by two Archbishops, it seems increasingly the only people not being included are orthodox or particularly evangelicals")

Date reported: November 27, 2018

Location: Derby

Source: <https://www.premierchristianradio.com/News/UK/Cathedral-denies-banning-vicar-from-preaching-at-carol-service>

and <https://ashenden.org/2018/11/29/the-abuse-of-sex-money-and-power-in-the-c-of-e-radical-inclusion-played-out-in-derby-cathedral/>



United States - Colorado

Archbishop Samuel Aquila (defied by administrators at Regis University after writing their “guidance is not in conformity with the Catholic faith, despite the attempts made to justify it as rooted in Jesuit values. On the contrary, Pope Francis has repeatedly decried the promotion of gender fluidity as a type of ideological colonization...Why is Regis University promoting and teaching an ideology that is contrary to what we know from the Scriptures?”)

Date: November 16, 2018

Location: Denver

Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/catholic-university-defends-drag-show-transgender-policies-in-defiance-of-a>

United States - Illinois

Ryan Bomberger (Radiance Foundation, attacked in an email by student government leaders as having caused an ‘unsafe’ environment after giving a presentation entitled “Black Lives Matter In and Out of the Womb”)

Date: November 14, 2018

Location: Wheaton College

Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/christian-college-students-claim-black-pro-lifers-talk-made-people-of-color>

United States - Ohio

Deacon Dennis Lucak (aged 72, husband of Helen Lucak, **shot dead** in his home, son charged)

Helen Lucak (aged 72, wife of Deacon Dennis Lucak, **shot dead** in her home)

Date: November 11, 2018

Location: North Royalton

Source: <https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/oh-cuyahoga/son-charged-in-connection-with-the-death-of-his-parents-inside-north-royalton-home>

United States - Texas

Jeff Younger (father of James Younger [aged 6], prohibited by court order from telling his son about Christian beliefs on sex and gender, charged by his ex-wife as a child abuser for not affirming their son's alleged transgenderism)

James Younger (aged 6, identified by his pediatrician mother and a gender therapist as transgendered, is slated to begin hormone therapy in 2 years)

Walt Heyer (former transgendered, wrote "The criteria for a diagnosis of childhood gender dysphoria are that a child be persistent, consistent, and insistent about being the opposite sex. James [Younger]’s mom is 'all in' on the diagnosis of gender dysphoria and assisting with social transition. She used the name Luna to enroll him as a girl in first grade, and provides only female clothes. Meanwhile, Dad [Jeff Younger] isn’t seeing signs of gender dysphoria. In the father’s home, James appears to be a normal boy and doesn’t

identify as a girl. He has a choice of boy's or girl's clothes there, and he chooses to dress as a boy. The fact that James changes gender identity depending on which parent is present makes the diagnosis of gender dysphoria both dubious and harmful. The transition therapist has observed that James is not consistent, insistent, or persistent in the desire to become 'Luna'...When the appointment only included his mother, James selected Luna, the name and gender he uses at his mother's home and in his first-grade classroom. When the appointment was only with his father, however, James pointed to the boy name James, not the girl name...The glaring disparity between a child's preferred identity when in the presence of one parent versus the other should cause a therapist to reassess, perhaps nullify the diagnosis of gender dysphoria, and terminate any steps toward transition. But in the case of James, this hasn't happened...A questionable diagnosis locks a vulnerable child into an alternate gender identity long before they can understand what is happening or where it might lead. It's up to the adults to observe the child carefully, consider and question the grey areas, and ultimately guard innocent children against hasty diagnoses and conclusions about something so fundamental as their gender identity")

Date reported: November 26, 2018

Location: Dallas

Source: <http://thefederalist.com/2018/11/26/mom-dresses-six-year-old-son-girl-threatens-dad-losing-son-disagreeing/>



Uzbekistan

Ravshan Yunusov (arrested along with six others during a police raid on a home during a meal and Bible study, Bibles, computers, and other materials seized, released the next morning)

Date: November 19, 2018

Location: Namangan region

Event: Forty Christians were arrested for attending a retreat on September 30, 2018 in the Tashkent region; UPDATE: thirty one of the Christians were tried, convicted, fined, and some were deported

Nargiza Ashurova (fined US\$447)

Berdimurad Parpiyev (fined US\$336)

Sukhrob Jurayev (fined US\$336)

Shakhnoza Umarova (fined US\$224)

Nigina Bozorova (fined US\$224)

Miyassar Mirsagatova (fined US\$224)

Rita Kogai (fined US\$224)

Azizali Sagindikov (fined US\$224)

Khakim Nurkhanov (fined US\$224)
Dilafroz Shadiyeva (fined US\$224)
Makhmudjon Zakirov (fined US\$224)
Mirzakhmed Akramov (brother of Saidakhmad Akramov, fined US\$224)
Saidakhmad Akramov (brother of Mirzakhmed Akramov, fined US\$224)
Sahobiddin Umarov (fined US\$224)
Mavjuda Tursunova (fined US\$224)
Ortik Jurayev (fined US\$224)
Nazirjon Abdurasulov (fined US\$224)
Nigora Kurbonova (fined US\$112)
Zukhra Khaitova (fined US\$112)
Nodira Mukhsinova (fined US\$112)
Mansur Sultonov (fined US\$112)
Omadbek Kodyrov (fined US\$112)
Valentina Zakirova (fined US\$112)
Mekhrinisso Nurkhanova (fined US\$112)
Sunnat Alimov (fined US\$112)
Karomat Yuliyeva (fined US\$112)
Nadezhda Pak (fined US\$112)
Park Gibong (South Korean citizen, ordered deported, had already left the country)
Chong Khengsu (South Korean citizen, ordered deported, had already left the country)
Park Yong Sook (South Korean citizen, ordered deported)
Choi Chung Sub (South Korean citizen, ordered deported)

Date: October 30, 2018

Location: Kibrai, Tashkent region

Muborak Abdurakhmanova (summoned to a police station, found with religious material on her cell phone, charged)

Date: May 26, 2018

Location: Jizak region

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2431

Today's Martyrs

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

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