

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Weekly Report – 2018-12-02 through 2018-12-08



### Central African Republic

Cardinal Dieudonne Nzapalainga (**UPDATE:** later reported on the attack that killed more than 60 including two priests and the destruction of the cathedral: “it was the start of a war for positioning. In the talks with the armed groups those with the most men will have the control of a higher number of areas and therefore be able to ask for ministries, money...Alindao is completely under the control of the UPC. The attack was planned, organized. I think these are moves to take position in view of dialogue with the state and the international community...The Bishop of Alindao said that in the most recent group of aggressors there were men who did not speak Sango, the official language, or French. This means they are mercenaries who come to steal diamonds, gold or livestock, anything that can be sacked...[people fled to Ndakoto], a village of only 15 homes, 7 km away. The villagers were not able to provide shelter for 26,000 people. After a week people were dying of starvation. On 23 November the World Food Program sent four trucks. You should have seen how the people threw themselves on the food. In the first few days I saw people scratching the ground for a grain of rice...We have become the soft belly of the region and I fear we will end up being its garbage dump”)

Date: November 15, 2018

Location: Alindao

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/65196->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA Alindao Massacre At least 60 killed but who knows how many more lie dead in the undergrowth says Cardinal Nzapalainga](http://www.fides.org/en/news/65196-)



### India

**Event: Christians demonstrated at a peace rally against the closure of hundreds of house churches**

Rev David (said “[Varanasi] is the spiritual and religious capital of India. Most of the cases of persecution have taken place around the district of Varanasi. In the main city of Varanasi one of the very old Methodist churches was also attacked by right wing Hindus. Churches are being attacked because high caste Brahmins think that the all scheduled castes and

other backward communities will be converted. They look at it as a threat. Because then they cannot take advantage of these communities”)

Rev P S Nehemiah Christie (**UPDATE**: said the peace rally “was successful. [Christians] came out to speak up against the oppression and violence [with] more than 1,100 people attending”)

Date: December 1, 2018

Location: Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh state

Source: [www.asianews.it/news-en/Christians-stage-peace-rally-in-Varanasi-against-forced-church-closures-45641.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christians-stage-peace-rally-in-Varanasi-against-forced-church-closures-45641.html)



## Niger

Fr Pierluigi Maccalli SMA (Italian national, abducted in [Bomoanga](#) on [September 18, 2018](#) by jihadists, probably taken over the border into Burkina Faso; **UPDATE**: still in captivity)

Bishop Djalwana Laurent Lompo (**UPDATE**: reported that information had been received that Fr Pierluigi Maccalli was alive and well)

Date: December 4, 2018

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/65198-AFRICA\\_NIGER\\_Bishop\\_of\\_Niamey\\_Fr\\_Maccalli\\_is\\_alive\\_and\\_well\\_we\\_continue\\_to\\_pray\\_for\\_his\\_release](http://www.fides.org/en/news/65198-AFRICA_NIGER_Bishop_of_Niamey_Fr_Maccalli_is_alive_and_well_we_continue_to_pray_for_his_release)



## Pakistan

Farhan Aziz (aged 26, brother of Amir Aziz, arrested on blasphemy charges on [August 1, 2018](#) after an ex-girlfriend sent a text message from his phone to a Muslim radical; **UPDATE**: still jailed despite the arrest of his ex-girlfriend and her brother)

Date: December 4, 2018

Location: Muslim Town, Gujranwala district, Punjab province

Source: <https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/gujranwala-decelerated-justice-leaves-christian-youth-accused-of-blasphemy-in-limbo/>



## Philippines

Bishop Antonio Ablon (**UPDATE**: protested the continuation of martial law in Mindanao which would "terrorize people in cities and in the countryside...The future of [the people of Mindanao] is dark and murderous under [President] Duterte's martial law")

Date: December 4, 2018

Location: Manila

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/filipino-protestant-prelate-leads-anti-martial-law-protest/84021>



## Ukraine

Archpriest Alexander Bakhov (head of the Ukrainian Church [Moscow Patriarchate]'s legal department; **UPDATE**: responded to the summoning of questioning of over 20 priests by Ukrainian counterintelligence: "Given the systematic nature, the simultaneity, and the mass character, these actions are aimed at the bishops with the purpose of pressuring and forcing them to participate in the 'unification council'")

Archpriest Ivan Savchuk (summoned by Ukrainian counterintelligence, said "I called a lawyer and together we drove up to the office, the summons was given, but not charges were pronounced. At this point, I still don't understand what is going on")

Archpriest Vasily Nachev (summoned by Ukrainian counterintelligence, said "I was trying to figure out why I was summoned, but to no avail. Am I surprised? No, such actions are expected in light of recent Church events. In fact, this is the beginning of what the Holy Fathers warned about")

Date: December 3, 2018

Location: Rivne province

Source: <http://orthochristian.com/117624.html>

## Today's Martyrs

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

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