

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*



## Ivory Coast

Fr Armand Zanou (described the [March 13, 2016](#) beachside terror attack in [Grand-Bassam](#) "We had started a procession outside our church around noon. At about 1pm we heard the first shots of firearms and soon after we saw several people run away from the beach and come towards us. We asked them what was happening and they told us that gunmen were firing on people. While the noise of the shooting intensified, the number of those who sought refuge at the Cathedral increased. Later, after about an hour, the special military forces arrived and brought about fifty hostages who were freed from the attacked resort. They protected us until the area was declared safe, at around 7:30 pm...The shooting of the terrorists followed by the clash with the army lasted about 45 minutes, maybe an hour. The exchange of gunfire was very violent. All the people who sought refuge in the presbytery of the church threw themselves on the floor. We had three groups of people who sought refuge in the presbytery: the parishioners who were there for our activities and were blocked by the events, the first wave of holidaymakers who escaped from the terrorists and the third group, made up of hostages freed by special forces who were brought in the church. In total about one hundred people including Ivorians, French, Belgian, Lebanese and other nationalities. There were also several children")

Fr Bernardin Brou (aged 41, [shot in a roadside robbery attempt](#) in [Nianda](#) on [April 23, 2018](#), hospitalized, [died](#))

Faustine Brou N'Guessan (aged 60, church secretary, mother, [stabbed](#) in her parish office in [Sainte-Cecile du Vallon parish](#) on [August 10, 2019](#), hospitalized, [died](#))

Kouassi Privat Kacou (brother of Raphael Aka Kouame, crucified on [May 29, 2011](#) in [Binkro](#), hospitalized, recovered)

Raphael Aka Kouame (brother of Kouassi Privat Kacou, [died from crucifixion](#) on [May 29, 2011](#) in [Binkro](#))

Fr Theophile Ahi (witnessed the [April 23, 2018](#) shooting of Fr Bernardin Brou in [Nianda](#))