

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*



## Libya

Abanoub Ayyad Ateyya (Egyptian citizen, abducted in [Sirte](#) on [January 3, 2015](#);

reported on [February 15, 2015](#) to have been **beheaded** by ISIL, the men could be head in the video calling on Jesus Christ as they died)

Fr Abdel Motagalli Thabet (on [March 10, 2014](#) called on the Egyptian government to help pay for the medical costs of Salama Fawzi Tobia)

Abraham Naizghi (teen boy, Eritrean citizen, captured on [March 3, 2015](#) and later forced to watch the execution of the 30 Ethiopians by ISIL, escaped on [April 7, 2015](#))

Adel Sadiki Hakim (cousin of Jamal Matta Hakim, Rafat Matta Hakim, and Romani Matta Hakim, Egyptian citizen, abducted on [August 26, 2014](#) near [Sirte](#), Muslim friends released;

still missing as of [September 13, 2014](#);

still missing as of [December 21, 2014](#))

Adeola Ibrahim (Nigerian citizen, abducted by ISIL in [Sirte](#) on [July 10, 2015](#))

Fr Allan Arcebuche (said on [August 6, 2014](#) in [Tripoli](#) "People are frightened — there's no visible law and order, and absolutely no police or military protection for our churches. But we're resolved to stay, along with our bishops, as long as there are still Christians here")

Fr Amado Baranquel (said in [Tripoli](#) on [July 26, 2014](#) that a 50 year old Filipino construction worker was murdered "for not being a Muslim", added that 13,000 Filipinos are panicking due to anarchy and the destruction of airports and seaports, requested prayers; said on [September 9, 2014](#) in [Tripoli](#) that most Christians were afraid to leave their homes because they feared abduction "There's much lawlessness now, and we have no protection or security. Most Masses are having to be celebrated in private houses and apartments like in ancient times...Everyone is asking what will happen. But there are now two governments, so we don't know who's running the country and don't see any way out. For now, we're trapped and helpless here and needing help from someone who can intervene and negotiate for us. But who are they supposed to speak to? Until we know, all we can do is pray")

Aman Shishay (teen boy, Eritrean citizen, captured on [March 3, 2015](#) and later forced to watch the execution of the 30 Ethiopians by ISIL, escaped on [April 7, 2015](#))

Amgad Atiya (reported on [March 6, 2015](#) on the murder of his cousin Emad Youssef Rizk)

Amgad Makar Zaki (aged 26, described on [March 15, 2013](#) being humiliated and insulted during his detention in [Benghazi](#) by Supporters of Sharia)

Anita Smith (widow of Ronald Smith)

Anwi Bibawi (brother of Talaat Sadeek Bibawi)

Ashraf Samy Adly (aged 26, married and wife expecting their first child in 3 months, **killed** in the [December 29, 2012](#) bombing of a Coptic church in [Misrata](#))

Aster (widow, Eritrean refugee from religious persecution and poverty, tried to enter Europe in [early August 2013](#), rescued by the Italian Coast Guard and returned, put into a detention camp near [Tripoli](#), sexually assaulted)

Atef Nadi Habib (aged 33, detained before [March 15, 2013](#) by Supporters of Sharia in [Benghazi](#), beaten and tortured)

Atif Kamel (aged 32, arrested in [Benghazi](#) with 47 others in [February 2013](#) for having Christian icons in his place of business, locked together in a small room, subjected to electric shocks, cross tatoos on his wrists burned off with acid, deported back to Egypt)

Ayoub Sabri Tawfik (Egyptian citizen, abducted on [February 23, 2014](#) by Islamists after finding the cross tattoo common on Copts' wrists, later **shot dead** on a beach in the [Grotha area near Benghazi](#))

Badar Samir (father of Essam Baddar Samir in Egypt)

Balcha Belete (Ethiopian citizen, brother of Tesfaye Wolde, electrician, **executed** by ISIL on or before [April 19, 2015](#))

Bekhit Nageh Efrank Ebeid (aged 21, Egyptian citizen, captured by ISIL in [Noufliyah. Cyrenaica](#) on [July 19, 2015](#) along with a Nigerian and a Ghanaian Christian)

Beshoy Estafanous Kamel (Egyptian citizen, abducted in [Sirte](#) on [January 3, 2015](#), had told his family that 100 Copts had contacted the Egyptian embassy for help to escape the country but received no response;

reported on [February 15, 2015](#) to have been **beheaded** by ISIL, the men could be head in the video calling on Jesus Christ as they died)

Bishoy Adel Khalaf (Egyptian citizen, abducted in [Sirte](#) on [January 3, 2015](#);

reported on [February 15, 2015](#) to have been **beheaded** by ISIL, the men could be head in the video calling on Jesus Christ as they died)

Bushra (detained before [March 15, 2013](#) by Supporters of Sharia in [Benghazi](#), beaten severely despite old age)

Catherine Magdy (aged 18, daughter of Dr Magdy Sobhi Tawfik, abducted in [Sirte](#) on [December 23, 2014](#) after her parents were murdered, **found dead**)

Sr Celeste Biasolo (automobile stolen in [August 2012](#) in [Derna](#))

Charles (Nigerian citizen, abducted in [Zuwara](#) in [October 2014](#) when caught with a Bible, tortured for two days, escaped out a window)

Edward Nashed Boles (Egyptian citizen, abducted on [February 23, 2014](#) by Islamists after finding the cross tattoo common on Copts' wrists, later **shot dead** on a beach in the [Grotha area near Benghazi](#))

Effat Hakim Atallah (brother of Ezzat Hakim Atallah)

Eliyas Teshane (aged 27, son of Ato Teshane, Ethiopian citizen, **executed** by ISIL [on or before April 19, 2015](#))

Emad Youssef Rizk (cousin of Amgad Atiya, reported on [March 6, 2015](#) to have been tortured and **killed** while attempting to return to Egypt)

Essam Baddar Samir (Egyptian citizen, abducted on [December 30, 2014](#) near [al-Mawarda](#);  
reported on [February 15, 2015](#) to have been **beheaded** by ISIL, the men could be head in the video calling on Jesus Christ as they died)

Eyasu Yekuneamelak (Ethiopian citizen, son of Ahaza Kassaye, **executed** by ISIL on or before [April 19, 2015](#))

Ezzat Bushra Nassif (Egyptian citizen, abducted on [December 30, 2014](#) near [al-Mawarda](#);  
reported on [February 15, 2015](#) to have been **beheaded** by ISIL, the men could be head in the video calling on Jesus Christ as they died)

Ezzat Hakim Atallah (**died from torture** at the hands of Preventive Security on [March 6, 2013](#) in [Benghazi](#) after being arrested without charge when his phone number was found in the cell phone of Sherif Ramses)

Fahmy Bakhit Gad Mikhail (aged 27, husband, Egyptian citizen, brother of Wasfy and Sabry, construction worker, reported on the [November 9, 2015](#) murder of his brothers in the [Wadi Kiam area near Al Khums](#))

Fardoos Salib (mother of Atif Kamel, said "When the residents of the village told me that he was imprisoned, I embraced his sons and told them they would not see their father again. I prayed in the church, until God responded and he was released, as God knows our conditions.")

Fathi Fawzi Sadeek (Egyptian citizen, abducted on [February 23, 2014](#) by Islamists after finding the cross tattoo common on Copts' wrists, later **shot dead** on a beach in the [Grotha area near Benghazi](#))

Gaber Mounir Adly (Egyptian citizen, abducted on [December 30, 2014](#) near [al-Mawarda](#);  
reported on [February 15, 2015](#) to have been **beheaded** by ISIL, the men could be head in the video calling on Jesus Christ as they died)

Gad Abdel Messiah Abdel Malak (cousin of Salama Fawzi Tobia, **shot dead** on [March 29, 2014](#) while unloading vegetables for a [Benghazi](#) market)

Girguis Milad Sinewt (Egyptian citizen, abducted in [Sirte](#) on [January 3, 2015](#);  
reported on [February 15, 2015](#) to have been **beheaded** by ISIL, the men could be head in the video calling on Jesus Christ as they died)

Archbishop Giovanni Innocenzo Martinelli (stated on [January 31, 2013](#) "On February 20, large-scale demonstrations throughout Cyrenaica are expected so the Apostolic Vicar of Benghazi has been warned to leave the church from 13 February to take shelter...In past days the Congregation of the Holy Family of Spoleto who had been there for nearly 100 years were forced to abandon Derna, and a Polish Salesian priest, who was abused by some fundamentalists. In Beida another women's religious community was forced to escape even if in this case, for internal reasons. In Barce the Franciscan Sisters of the Child Jesus will leave their home in coming days...As a Church we will take our precautions, but we cannot abandon the Christians who remain here. Two religious communities will remain in Benghazi, a small community in Tobruk and finally another small community of Indian sisters in Beida";

described the [May 17, 2013](#) bombing of the Church of the Immaculate Conception in [Benghazi](#);

said on [August 4, 2014](#) in [Tripoli](#) "in Cyrenaica there are no nuns while the majority of Filipinos are leaving the region, who are the heart of the Christian community in Libya. In Tripoli, there is still a good presence of Filipinos but even here many of them are leaving...Fighting seems to have ended, but the situation remains precarious. The airport is closed and people start boarding ships. Even the journey overland to the Tunisian border has become impossible...I cannot leave the few remaining Christians";

said in [Tripoli](#) on [February 17, 2015](#) "Only a few of us remain, just a good group of Filipinos and it is for them that I have stayed. They are mainly nursing staff, nearly all women, who have opted to stay to tend to the growing healthcare needs of the people...At the moment the situation is calm, but no one knows what will happen next. However as I have often said, even if there were only one Christian here, I too would remain. It will all go according to the will of God";

said in [Tripoli](#) on [March 17, 2015](#) "I know that my life is in danger. What can I do? I can trust only God. If it is his will that the church grows in the Islamic world, I will do everything to defend it")

Guirguis Isaac Khalil (beaten and tortured - including listening to the screams of a man apparently being beheaded - by the group Sharia Supporters, escaped to Egypt by [March 13, 2013](#))

Hani Gaber (detained before [March 15, 2013](#) by Supporters of Sharia in [Benghazi](#), beaten and tortured, threatened with death)

Hani Habib Girgis (brother of Ndha Habib Girgis, Egyptian citizen, abducted on [February 23, 2014](#) by Islamists after finding the cross tattoo common on Copts' wrists, later **shot dead** on a beach in the [Grotha area near Benghazi](#))

Hanna (Eritrean refugee from religious persecution and poverty, tried to enter Europe in [early August 2013](#), rescued by the Italian Coast Guard and returned, put into a detention camp near [Tripoli](#), sexually assaulted)

Hanna Aziz (Egyptian citizen, described the [January 3, 2015](#) abduction of 13 Egyptian Christian workers from their apartments in [Sirte](#) "They were 15 armed and masked men who came in four vehicles. They had a list of full names of Christians in the building. While checking IDs, Muslims were left aside while Christians were grabbed... I heard my friends screaming but they were quickly shushed at gunpoint. After that, we heard nothing. I am still in my room waiting for them to take me. I want to die with them", three relatives were among those taken)

Heshmat Luka (reported on [March 25, 2014](#) that Christians in [Benghazi](#) are being subjected to murder, beating, dragging, and persecution)

Hany Abdel-Messeih Saleeb (Egyptian citizen, abducted in [Sirte](#) on [January 3, 2015](#);

reported on [February 15, 2015](#) to have been **beheaded** by ISIL, the men could be head in the video calling on Jesus Christ as they died)

Jamal Matta Hakim (brother of Rafat Matta Hakim and Romani Matta Hakim, cousin of Adel Sadiki Hakim, Egyptian citizen, abducted on [August 26, 2014](#) near [Sirte](#), Muslim friends released;

still missing as of [September 13, 2014](#);

still missing as of [December 21, 2014](#))

Kamal Ramzi (brother-in-law of Ezzat Hakim Atallah)

Khidr Adli (cousin of Paula Samir Naguib, reported on his cousin's [November 11, 2014](#) murder in [Benghazi](#))

Kirollos Beshry Fawzy (Egyptian citizen, abducted in [Sirte](#) on [January 3, 2015](#);

reported on [February 15, 2015](#) to have been **beheaded** by ISIL, the men could be head in the video calling on Jesus Christ as they died)

Luqa Nagati (aged 27, Egyptian citizen, abducted on [December 30, 2014](#) near [al-Mawarda](#);

reported on [February 15, 2015](#) to have been **beheaded** by ISIL, the men could be head in the video calling on Jesus Christ as they died)

Dr Magdy Sobhi Tawfik (Egyptian citizen, **handcuffed and killed** along with his wife Dr Sahar in [Sirte](#) on [December 23, 2014](#), 18 year old daughter Catherine abducted and later killed, two younger girls left behind, valuables and cash left behind on a table)

Maged Solaiman Shehata (Egyptian citizen, abducted in [Sirte](#) on [January 3, 2015](#);

reported on [February 15, 2015](#) to have been **beheaded** by ISIL, the men could be head in the video calling on Jesus Christ as they died)

Malak Farag Ibrahim (Egyptian citizen, abducted on [December 30, 2014](#) near [al-Mawarda](#);

reported on [February 15, 2015](#) to have been **beheaded** by ISIL, the men could be head in the video calling on Jesus Christ as they died)

Malak Ibrahim Sinewt (Egyptian citizen, abducted in [Sirte](#) on [January 3, 2015](#);

reported on [February 15, 2015](#) to have been **beheaded** by ISIL, the men could be head in the video calling on Jesus Christ as they died)

Mansour Saad Awad (poultry worker, found **beheaded** on [March 3, 2015](#) in [Mechili, Cyrenaica](#))

Fr Marcus Zaghloul (pastor of the [Misrata](#) church that was bombed on [December 29, 2012](#))

Matta Younan (beaten and threatened with death in detention in [Benghazi](#) before [March 15, 2013](#) when he refused to say "Pope Shenouda was despicable")

Medhat Khamis (detained before [March 15, 2013](#) by Supporters of Sharia in [Benghazi](#), beaten and tortured)

Mila Ishak (aged 27, described the [January 3, 2015](#) abduction of his friends by ISIL terrorists in [Sirte](#) "[My friend in a nearby apartment building] called me again and with fear and a low voice told me that they were able to break the door of the room beside his room, and had abducted all their six friends who were inside the room...[They came to my building.] I was hearing everything. One of the seven residents of the room...awoke and opened the iron door of the room. They entered the room and abducted all of them too...[They came to my room and tried to enter then one said] 'leave them. That is enough. Let's go'", fled the country and returned to Egypt)

Milad Makeen Zaky (Egyptian citizen, abducted in [Sirte](#) on [January 3, 2015](#);

reported on [February 15, 2015](#) to have been **beheaded** by ISIL, the men could be head in the video calling on Jesus Christ as they died)

Milad Mina (described his [March 9, 2013](#) detention at a camp in [el-Hamam, Beida](#) with 400 other Coptic Christians who were being tortured or to engage in heavy work with little food, released and deported)

Mina F (Egyptian citizen, construction worker, reported on [November 28, 2015](#) to have said "We are 16 Christians in [Abu Shaalh, Misrata](#). We hope to return home to Egypt, but there isn't any safe way to return. None of us can travel to Egypt by the road because ISIL have controlled Sirte and they can take us captive during our trip by microbus. There isn't any flight from Misrata to Egypt, the only flight is from Tripoli only and the way from Misrata to Tripoli is very hazardous also. After the killing of the two Christian brother, we are afraid to go out to our work. and there is a situation of fear among all of us. Pray for us")

Mina Fayeaz Aziz (Egyptian citizen, abducted in [Sirte](#) on [January 3, 2015](#);

reported on [February 15, 2015](#) to have been **beheaded** by ISIL, the men could be head in the video calling on Jesus Christ as they died)

Mina Philip (reported on [March 10, 2014](#) that 'several' Copts tried to cross the border into Egypt on two trucks but turned back when they saw a 'large number' of armed masked men waiting for them)

Mina Salah (detained before [March 15, 2013](#) by Supporters of Sharia in [Benghazi](#), beaten and tortured)

Nael Goitom (aged 16, Eritrean citizen, captured on [March 3, 2015](#) and later forced to watch the execution of the 30 Ethiopians by ISIL, escaped on [April 7, 2015](#), said "I'm starting to process it now. Until a few days ago it was just a matter of survival. Now I have a lot of nightmares, I keep seeing people being slaughtered and shot one by one")

Nashaat Mina (detained before [March 15, 2013](#) by Supporters of Sharia in [Benghazi](#), beaten and tortured)

Nashat Bibawi (son of Talaat Sadeek Bibawi, Egyptian citizen, escaped abduction on [February 23, 2014](#) by Islamists in [Benghazi](#);

said "The Christians who come here for work are always subjected to persecution from the Ansar al-Sharia groups" and that the walls near his apartment building are written with "Those who guide us to a Christian will receive a reward of 10,000 Libyan Dinar [\$8,000 USD]"

Nash'at Shenouda Ishaq (aged 27, Egyptian Copt, robbed and beaten, **shot** when he refused to convert to Islam, hospitalized but **later died** in the [Derna district](#) on [September 25, 2013](#))

Ndha Habib Girgis (brother of Hani Habib Girgis, Egyptian citizen, abducted on [February 23, 2014](#) by Islamists after finding the cross tattoo common on Copts' wrists, later **shot dead** on a beach in the [Grotha area near Benghazi](#))

Fr Paul Isaac (assaulted by gunmen along with his assistant in a [February 3, 2013](#) attack on their Coptic church in [Benghazi](#))

Fr Paula (held in detention and tortured in [Benghazi](#) before [March 15, 2013](#))

Paula Samir Naguib (son of Samir Naguib, **killed** by Islamists while driving a microbus in [Benghazi](#) on [November 11, 2014](#))

Fr Piotr Borkowski OFM (Polish citizen, said in [Beida, Cyrenaica](#) on [February 20, 2014](#) "...the people and the country is always more divided between different cabilas, tribes and



militias. It is even difficult to understand who to turn to for help. Dialogue would solve many problems, but how do you talk to who only wants to use weapons?”)

Rafat Matta Hakim (brother of Jamal Matta Hakim and Romani Matta Hakim, cousin of Adel Sadiki Hakim, Egyptian citizen, abducted on [August 26, 2014](#) near [Sirte](#), Muslim friends released;

still missing as of [September 13, 2014](#);

still missing as of [December 21, 2014](#))

Romani Matta Hakim (brother of Jamal Matta Hakim and Rafat Matta Hakim, cousin of Adel Sadiki Hakim, Egyptian citizen, abducted on [August 26, 2014](#) near [Sirte](#), Muslim friends released;

still missing as of [September 13, 2014](#);

still missing as of [December 21, 2014](#))

Ronald Smith II (aged 33, chemistry teacher, husband and father, **shot dead** on [December 6, 2013](#) in [Benghazi](#), had likely been engaged in proselytism)

Sabry Bakhit Gad Mikhail (aged 31, husband, father of one son, brother of Wasfy and Fahmy, Egyptian citizen, construction worker, abducted in [Abu Shaalh, Misrata](#) on [November 6, 2015](#), **shot dead** in the [Wadi Kiam area near Al Khums](#) on [November 9, 2015](#))

Dr Sahar (wife of Dr Magdy Sobhi Tawfik, mother of Catherine, **killed** in [Sirte](#) on [December 23, 2014](#))

Salama Fawzi Tobia (aged 24, cousin of Gad Abdel Messiah Abdel Malak, shot in the head on [March 2, 2014](#) in [Benghazi](#), in intensive care;

has been brought to Egypt, as of [March 10, 2014](#) is reportedly near death;

**died from his injury** on [March 15, 2014](#))

Sameh Salah Farouq (Egyptian citizen, abducted on [December 30, 2014](#) near [al-Mawarda](#);

reported on [February 15, 2015](#) to have been **beheaded** by ISIL, the men could be head in the video calling on Jesus Christ as they died)

Sameh Tawfik Roman (Egyptian citizen, abducted on [February 23, 2014](#) by Islamists after finding the cross tattoo common on Copts' wrists, later **shot dead** on a beach in the [Grotha area near Benghazi](#))

Samir Naguib (father of Paula Samir Naguib)

Dr Samir Sobhi (uncle of Catherine Magdy, described the [December 23, 2014](#) murder in [Sirte](#) of his niece and her parents Dr Magdy Sobhi Tawfik and his wife)

Samuel Estafanous Kamel (Egyptian citizen, abducted in [Sirte](#) on [January 3, 2015](#), had told his family that 100 Copts had contacted the Egyptian embassy for help to escape the country but received no response;

reported on [February 15, 2015](#) to have been **beheaded** by ISIL, the men could be head in the video calling on Jesus Christ as they died)

Samuel Wilson (aged 32, Egyptian citizen, plumber, abducted on [December 30, 2014](#) near [al-Mawarda](#);

reported on [February 15, 2015](#) to have been **beheaded** by ISIL, the men could be head in the video calling on Jesus Christ as they died)

Sekyere Kofi Frimpong (Ghanaian citizen, abducted by ISIL in [Sirte](#) on [July 10, 2015](#))

Sherif Ramses (arrested in [Benghazi](#) with six other Christians on charges of proselytism, as of [February 28, 2013](#) has been tortured)

Sherif Tawwab Nabil (aged 15, detained before [March 15, 2013](#) by Supporters of Sharia in [Benghazi](#) for four days after found to have a cross tattoo on his wrist, beaten, tortured, and forced to insult Pope Shenouda for food)

Subhi Andrawis (detained before [March 15, 2013](#) by Supporters of Sharia in [Benghazi](#), beaten and tortured)

Bishop Sylvester Carmel Magro (stated on [June 5, 2012](#) in [Benghazi](#) that life is returning to normal: "Today, for example, we celebrate the Novena of Our Lady of Salvation, to whom the Filipinos are very devout. On the occasion of the main Mass of the week, which is celebrated on Friday morning, the church is always crowded with worshipers. It is the sign we have resumed the pace as it was before the war of 2011. The faithful are all foreigners: Filipinos and a large number of Africans, many of whom are in search of work and in need of material assistance";

said in [Benghazi](#) on [September 9, 2014](#) "So far this week, it's been quiet, in a welcome respite from the earlier violence";

said in [Benghazi](#) on [October 15, 2014](#) "The population is locked in the house while they is ongoing fighting in the outlying areas of the city The bombings began in the early morning today. There are no clashes in the city center, which are concentrated in the suburbs. But we do not know how the situation will evolve. This is why we are all locked in the house. In these conditions, we do what we can. Please pray for us")

Talaat Sadeek Bibawi (father of Nashat Bibawi, Egyptian citizen, abducted on [February 23, 2014](#) by Islamists after finding the cross tattoo common on Copts' wrists, later **shot dead** on a beach in the [Grotha area near Benghazi](#))

Tawadros Yusuf Tawadros (aged 35, Egyptian citizen, abducted in [Sirte](#) on [January 3, 2015](#);

reported on [February 15, 2015](#) to have been **beheaded** by ISIL, the men could be head in the video calling on Jesus Christ as they died)

Thomas Ghiwet (teen boy, Eritrean citizen, captured on [March 3, 2015](#) and later forced to watch the execution of the 30 Ethiopians by ISIL, escaped on [April 7, 2015](#))

Fr Timothaeus Bishara Adly (condemned the [December 29, 2012](#) bombing of a [Misrata](#) church that killed two Egyptian Christians)

Wagdi Malak Hanna (aged 40, married with 3 young daughters, **killed** in the [December 29, 2012](#) bombing of a Coptic church in [Misrata](#))

Waleed Saad Shaker (aged 25, Egyptian Copt, robbed and beaten, **shot dead** when he refused to convert to Islam in the [Derna district](#) on [September 25, 2013](#))

Wasfy Bakhit Gad Mikhail (aged 37, husband, brother of Sabry and Fahmy, Egyptian citizen, construction worker, abducted in [Abu Shaalh, Misrata](#) on [November 6, 2015](#), **shot dead** in the [Wadi Kiam area near Al Khums](#) on [November 9, 2015](#))



Yohannes Mebrahtu (teen boy, Eritrean citizen, captured on [March 3, 2015](#) and later forced to watch the execution of the 30 Ethiopians by ISIL, escaped on [April 7, 2015](#))

Yusuf Shukry Yunan (Egyptian citizen, abducted in [Sirte](#) on [January 3, 2015](#); reported on [February 15, 2015](#) to have been **beheaded** by ISIL, the men could be head in the video calling on Jesus Christ as they died)