

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom



Myanmar

Pastor Bawi Cung Lian (led a prayer meeting in [Hakha Town](#) on [June 16, 2014](#) in opposition to the government's new anti-conversion bill)

Cardinal Charles Maung Bo SDB (aged 68, opposed in [Yangon](#) on [April 11, 2014](#) a proposed law that limits interfaith marriages and religious conversions;

called on the government to return schools to the church that were nationalized in 1965, said in [Yangon](#) on [November 9, 2016](#) "The church is ready to contribute once again")

Pastor Chyauchyi Tanggun (on or before [March 14, 2014](#) described the ongoing persecution of Christians by the government, now lives and ministers in a refugee camp)

Assistant Pastor Dom Dawng Nawng Latt (aged 63, cousin of La Jaw Gam Hseng, disappeared on [December 24, 2016](#), had told media of the [December 3, 2016](#) bombing of the church in [Mongkoe township](#), last seen near a military base;

as of [January 26, 2017](#) reportedly will be tried for 'illegal association';

health failing as of [June 20, 2017](#);

sentenced on [October 27, 2017](#) to 4 years' and three months' imprisonment)

Bishop Francis Daw Tang (reported on [May 17, 2018](#) that over 7,000 Kachin Christians have fled their homes "In early April, the Burmese army began to attack the region on the border with China. Many villages were attacked and the population started to flee. Many have been trapped in the jungle for at least three weeks, without food and without freedom to move, because they are suspected of being rebel collaborators...The refugees have come to the parish of Tanghphe. At the moment there are 243 families in the parish territory, a total of 1,200 people. Another 600 displaced people have arrived in Palana, in a Baptist church complex, and other groups have found shelter in other churches")

JP Biak Tin Sang (threatened on [January 29, 2015](#) with up to 2 years' imprisonment for harvesting trees for lumber and using it to erect a cross in [Chin state](#) without permits, was the owner of the harvested trees)

Fr John Sau Luk (church in [Kutkai township, Shan state](#) damaged in shelling on [February 24, 2015](#), shrapnel just missed the assistant pastor, **UPDATE**: six church employees detained by government military forces on [February 25, 2015](#), interrogated and beaten)

Kareng Kaw Ja (on or before [March 14, 2014](#) prayed for peace and prosperity)

Khon Ja Labang (former member of the Kachin Peace Network, called for an independent investigation into the [January 19, 2015](#) murder of the two teachers;

as of [June 9, 2015](#) has been raising money to support 120,000 Christian Kachin refugees who have been displaced by the military)

Ko Nhkum Naw San (aged 30, found **shot dead** on [March 8, 2018](#) in [Kachin state](#) six weeks after

he was reported missing, had apparently been executed)

La Jaw Gam Hseng (aged 34, cousin of Dom Dawng Nawng, church youth leader, disappeared on [December 24, 2016](#), had told media of the [December 3, 2016](#) bombing of the church in Mongkoe township, last seen near a military base;

as of [January 26, 2017](#) reportedly will be tried for 'illegal association';

sentenced on [October 27, 2017](#) to 2 years' and three months' imprisonment)

Labya Htu (along with 1000 other Kachin refugees was forced by the Chinese government on [August 24, 2012](#) back into Burma's [Man Wing county](#), despite the still ongoing conflict there)

Rev Lama Yaw (described the new [November 15, 2015](#) government offensive against Christian tribes in [Kachin state](#) "They dare not go to sleep at home as they fear unexpected attacks, because the Burma Army has done these kinds of attacks and abuses before. Some nearby villagers have gone to sleep at churches in Mohnyin town, as they fear random attacks by the Burma Army...I feel like they intentionally launched the attacks on the day when Christians held worship...As soon as we heard civilians fled for safety [to Mohnyin], we held prayer and pray to God to protect them. We are weak, and what we can do is keep praying and relying on God. We believe that God is capable to protect our people")

Mai Mai (aid worker, said that soldiers used a church in [Mongkoe township, Shan state](#) during a battle before destroying it on [December 3, 2016](#) "They used the church to get protection. They could have been based somewhere else, but they chose the church to mix themselves with civilians...It is painful to see the church that was bombed. I am hurt to see they destroyed the church. This church is something that we highly admire and respect. In fact, it is not a forgivable act, but God teaches us to forgive and not to take revenge. So only God will punish them...Local residents are still afraid of going home. Some went back to stay in the day time and returned to the China border in the night time, because they dare not to sleep over night in the town")

Maran Lu Ra (aged 20, volunteer church teacher, tortured, raped, and **killed** apparently by army soldiers on [January 19, 2015](#) in [Shabuk-Kaunghka village, Kachin state](#))

Maran Zau Ja (**shot dead** by the army without provocation)

Pastor Muan (on or before [July 5, 2014](#) had recounted continuing persecution of the heavily Christian Chin tribe)

Naw Lah Say Wah Ku (teacher, reported on [May 18, 2015](#) to have said of government forces continuing attacks while ceasefire talks continue "They burn our churches and all our houses" in [Karen state](#))

Naw Nilar San (said on or about [December 25, 2017](#) after Christians were allowed to publicly celebrate Christmas in [Yangon](#) for the first time in 50 years: "in 50 years I have never experienced this kind of Christmas feast, many Christian singers sang Christmas hymns, and Christians offered food and drink to the people of Yangon, without any discrimination, bringing everyone a greeting and a wish for peace")

Archbishop Paul Zingtung Grawng ([Mandalay](#);

spoke on or before [October 27, 2016](#) on the ongoing conflict in which nearly 1.7 million Christians are at risk "Some of parishes have no villagers left, they are all in the camps for five years. There is no privacy. It creates all sorts of problems. There is a hopelessness. And the children's education is suffering...For a long time, Karuna-Caritas was not allowed into some places, but finally some food was able to be sent. It is the army who is in control

of the situation – the army doesn't want peace, and so the fighting goes on. They have used planes to bomb some areas")

Fr Peter Nlam Tu (church and home in [Kamaing Kawng Ra village, Hpakant township, Kachin state](#) damaged from military gunfire on [May 30, 2018](#), said "The next day, the military came and took the unexploded shell. They didn't question me about the attack nor talk about who did it")

Bishop Philip Lasap Za Hawng (expressed dismay over the [December 3, 2016](#) military airstrike that destroyed a church in [Mongkoe township, Shan state](#) "We are yet to know detailed facts but I will write a letter to the authorities, the military commander and chief minister of Shan State once I know everything...We need all the armed groups to participate in peace talks", all parishioners had already fled across the nearby border into China)

Pohla Win (church lay leader, said in [April 2012](#) "I and my family will be killed on the way if we attempt to go back to our village" despite the January 2012 cease-fire due to the government's 'shoot-on-sight' orders)

Rev Ram Mai (on [October 15, 2013](#) described the army occupation of his village which began in mid-September 2013, three men including an assistant pastor were killed, eight men including a pastor were tortured, fourteen are being denied needed medical care, no one is allowed to leave, food is becoming short, is concerned that the 53 villagers are being used as human shields)

Bishop Raymond Sumlut Gam (as of [March 14, 2014](#) has been trying to see if the government will help rebuild destroyed churches)

Rev Sai Naw (said in [Mai Khaung village, Kachin state](#) "Peace negotiations are taking place at high level but exchange of fire are still taking place at the foot soldiers' level and I wonder why this is happening" after new fighting erupted on [October 30, 2013](#))

Saw Hser Pweh Moo (rebel fighter in [Karen state](#), reported on [May 18, 2015](#) to have said "I saw Burmese army men persecuting civilians in my village. So I wanted to join the KNDO [Karen National Defense Organization], but I was below 18 years at the time. I waited, and joined the ethnic army once I became an adult...We believe in Christianity, but we also have to act. So, I, as a Christian, am holding a gun to protect my people. We won't be able to survive by only believing")

Bishop Saw Stylo (reported on [April 26, 2016](#) to have called on Christians to not hold grudges after Buddhists seized church land in [Hlaingbwe township, Karen state](#) and built a pagoda on it)

Tang Lung (catechist, said "We informed the village administrator, police and firefighters about the unexploded shell [which landed next to the church in [Kamaing Kawng Ra village, Hpakant township, Kachin state](#) on [May 30, 2018](#)] and then they talked to the military, who came and took it the next day")

Tangbau Khawn Nan Zin (aged 21, volunteer church teacher, tortured, raped, and **killed** apparently by army soldiers on [January 19, 2015](#) in [Shabuk-Kaunghka village, Kachin state](#))

Than Htoi (social worker, said on [May 17, 2018](#) that a Christian school complex was destroyed in a bombing raid: "It is an invisible war")

Fr Thet Tin (said on or about [December 25, 2017](#) after Christians were allowed to publicly celebrate Christmas in [Yangon](#) for the first time in 50 years: "This year is very significant in the history of Burma because Christians were allowed to celebrate Christmas publicly with the people of the city. This Christmas Festival in the city was intended to promote social cohesion, interreligious understanding and friendship among citizens")

Tial Cem (as of [January 29, 2015](#) may be facing a two year prison term for having 'illegally' erected a 16 meter tall cross in [Hakha, Chin state](#), had not applied for a permit because he knew it would not be granted;

said "We will have to face whatever it takes. If the authorities say I have to go to jail, I am not afraid; I am ready to go to jail for this case")

Toe Toe (said on or about [December 25, 2017](#) after Christians were allowed to publicly celebrate Christmas in [Yangon](#) for the first time in 50 years: "Christmas means showing and giving the love of Christ for humanity")

U Hpaugan Yaw (aged 60, found **shot dead** on [March 8, 2018](#) in [Kachin state](#) six weeks after he was reported missing, had apparently been executed)

Zahkung Lum Hkawng (aged 45, tortured and **shot dead** by army soldiers on [June 14, 2013](#) in [Mung Ya Hka Zup village](#))

Zaw Win Aung (joint chairman of the Christian Association Council, in [Mandalay](#) on [June 10, 2012](#) condemned a draft bill that if passed would require government approval for each religious conversion)