

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*



## Papua New Guinea

Benedict (Eucharistic minister, **murdered** on [May 4, 2014](#) in the [Kunimaipa Valley](#), possibly in inter-tribal violence)

Fr Casmiro Kito MSC (said of Fr Gerry Maria Inau "He was a priest of great faith. He had a big heart for his people and served them with love. May his death be a sacrifice for peace between the tribes of the [Kunimaipa Valley](#) ")

Doug Tennent (New Zealand citizen, missionary, attorney, diocesan administrator in [Rabaul](#), expelled from the country on [June 12, 2017](#))

Archbishop Francesco Panfilo SDB (as of [May 8, 2012](#) has refused to follow a government decree that requires condom use education in Christian schools;

said "Doug Tennent received a decree of expulsion [on [June 12, 2017](#)] on the grounds that he was 'involved in sensitive issues concerning land owners'. We know the meaning of these words: they refer to the native peoples in the area of West Pomio, in the territory of our archdiocese. In 2012 a group of land owners in that area stipulated an agreement with a Malay multinational, the Rimbunan Hijau, which grants land for the exploitation of timber and the production of palm oil. But the contract was not sufficiently examined. As the years passed the natives witnessed progressive deforesting and serious environmental devastation. Therefore, rightly concerned, they demanded fairer conditions and guarantees of protection for the area, and asked for my direct involvement in the matter, as Archbishop and a Catholic representative. We examined the question and, thanks also to the competent assistance of Mr. Tennent, we started the process of requesting a re-negotiation of the contract...The land rental agreement is clearly unfair towards the owners of the land, the rent conceded for the land is inadequate and what is more the multinational company for the past two years has been in arrears, coercive means were used to obtain the signatures of the land owners and consent for the area conceded; the local people were not properly informed...The event has caused clamor and indignation in politics and in the media. Our request to the government is to immediately recall Tennent, whose assistance is important for the administration of our local Church. We hope the Foreign Ministry will intervene and reconsider the decision taken. We wait and hope. We are ready even to go to Court")

Fr George Licini PIME (reported on the [May 4, 2014](#) murder of Fr Gerry Maria Inau and Eucharistic minister Benedict)

Fr Gerry Maria Inau (**murdered** on [May 4, 2014](#) in the [Kunimaipa Valley](#), possibly in inter-tribal violence)

Gregory Nimagale (acting diocesan education secretary, house in [Alotau](#) burned by drunken police

on September 1, 2019, arrested on [September 4, 2019](#) after Bishop Rolando Crisostomo Santos reported the police attack on Facebook, released)

James Ume (secondary school principal, on [May 8, 2012](#) questioned the implications to students of condom education)

Fr John Paul Aihi (aged 36, injured in a [September 20, 2014](#) airplane crash hired for parish work in [Goilala](#))

Joseph Michael (**killed** in a [September 20, 2014](#) airplane crash hired for parish work in [Goilala](#))

Fr Paul Jennings (St. Joseph International College in [Boroko](#), stated on [May 8, 2012](#) that the government's condom policy ignores the role of parents in the education of their children)

Pio Mark (**killed** in a [September 20, 2014](#) airplane crash hired for parish work in [Goilala](#))

Bishop Rolando Crisostomo Santos (aged 70, Filipino citizen, arrested on [September 4, 2019](#) after he reported on Facebook that drunken police had burned 19 homes in [Alotau](#), released;

described a [March 19, 2021](#) criminal attack on a priests' residence in [Alotau](#): "After having broken the side door of the house they attacked 7 of our priests, they entered their rooms and stole their laptops, cell phones, cash and other valuables. They took away a new outboard motor, solar panels, projector and a TV. As a result of continuous blows to the head, a Filipino missionary lost a lot of blood. Taken to hospital, he is now in stable conditions. Another young local priest was stabbed, yet another was severely beaten up. The others were slightly injured")