

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*



## Rwanda

Grace Umutesi (aged 35, mother of four, church elder in [Bannyahe, Kigali](#), reported on [September 10, 2018](#) to have said “I’m very disappointed by the decision of the government to close our church. But we cannot stop to pray and praise God because our church has been closed. God is everywhere and he listens to our prayers”)

Esther Umohoza (walks nine miles every Sunday to worship in [Nyamirambo, Kigali](#), reported on [September 10, 2018](#) to have said “Life has become hard, especially for Christians in this country. You have to travel for a distance to seek God. But we are not going to give up on seeking God. I pray that the government revises these rules. We need churches to be everywhere so that people can pray freely...We are praying God to change the government’s mind so that they don’t completely shut down churches. We believe no leader can go against God, and if he does so, our country will be cursed”)

Bishop Evalister Mugabo (reported on [July 12, 2018](#) to have taken steps to ally his Bible school with a university in Tanzania after the government closed over 700 churches and introduced legislation that would require all clergy to have four year college degrees, said “We made this plan because we can’t afford to take many pastors out of the country for study at once. We do not have enough resources, so we decided to adopt mass training from within...Most of the pastors have certificates from local Bible schools. Global missions must look at this as an emergency”)

Jean Bosco Nsabimana (reported on [July 12, 2018](#) to have asked why the government was not closing bars and nightclubs after it closed over 700 churches and introduced legislation that would require all clergy to have four year college degrees)

Archbishop Thaddee Ntihinyurwa (preached in [Cyangugu](#) against the massacres of Tutsis on [April 10, 1994](#);

arrived in [Nyamasheke](#) on [April 13, 1994](#) after receiving a call from Fr Ubald Rugirangoga that his parish was under attack;

tried to evacuate three religious brothers from [Nyamasheke](#) on [April 14, 1994](#) and then tried to stop their murder by throwing himself between them and their killers, forced to watch their murders, clothing bloodied;

resignation in [Kigali](#) due to age accepted on [November 19, 2018](#))

Fr Ubald Rugirangoga (fled his seminary in [Nyundo](#) in [February 1973](#) when it was attacked by Hutus including fellow seminarians;

approached the local police on [April 10, 1994](#) for protection and for food and water for the 10,000 refugees at his parish in [Nyamasheke](#), given 4 officers;

parish church attacked by the Hutu militia on [April 13, 1994](#), falsely accused of being a killer after the police shot a militia member, expelled from the parish and forced to travel to Bishop Thaddee Ntihinyurwa's residence in [Cyangugu](#);

informed by a weeping Bishop Thaddee Ntihinyurwa on [April 14, 1994](#) that the remaining Tutsi religious brothers at his parish had been killed, saw the Bishop's bloodied clothing;

informed on [April 17, 1994](#) that all the refugees at his parish had been killed, and his entire family remaining in his home village including his mother had been killed;

fled the country to [Zaire](#) with the help of Hutu Christians on [May 27, 1994](#) by bribing the Hutu militia, would later return to the country to establish a popular ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation that included his becoming the foster parent of the children of his mother's killer;

**died of a Sars-Cov-2 infection** in [Salt Lake City, Utah, United States](#), had spent nearly 3 months in intensive care)