

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom



Syria

"A" (relative of Mikhael and Antoun Taalab and Sarkis el Zakhm, wounded by rebels on [September 7, 2013](#) in [Maalula](#) after she refused to convert to Islam, hospitalized)

Dr Abd Almasseh Enwea (son of Maream Gawreh, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#);

reported on [October 14, 2015](#) to have been **shot dead**)

Fr Abdallah Amaz (as of [June 12, 2012](#) worked toward reconciliation despite personal exposure to gunfire in [Homs](#);

stated "The [new [June 20, 2012](#)] truce gives us hope, we now appeal to all so that we can start the long-awaited release [from [Homs](#)] of civilians, including women, children under ten in need of care";

as of [June 27, 2012](#) is working to aid Christian families trapped in [Homs](#) while the army is beginning true urban counter- guerilla warfare around them)

Archbishop Abdo Arish (abducted in [Maloula](#) on [January 12, 2014](#))

Abdo Hassib Al-Khoury (aged 42, reported on [April 17, 2016](#) to have been **killed** by ISIL in [Qaryatain](#))

Abdo Mirza (father of Mariana Mirza, brother of Bobo Mirza, released from ISIL captivity on [March 1, 2015](#), daughter not released, sister stayed with his daughter, told to return from [Hasaka](#) with money for his daughter's release)

Abed (as of [October 9, 2014](#) has decided to stay in his hometown to help)

Abeer Esber Karmo (widow of Emil Adel Daboura, mother of George and Fadi, destitute as of [October 11, 2013](#))

Abou Fadel (son and other family members abducted on [September 25, 2012](#) by armed gangs in [Rableh](#))

Aboud Hagiki (**killed** on [December 30, 2015](#) along with 15 others by ISIL suicide bombings on three Christian-owned restaurants in [Qamishli](#))

Abrs Darmo (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Abu Bessam (aged 71, fled persecution in Syria, celebrated the Pascha [Easter] in [2014](#) in [Roselle, Illinois](#) in the U.S., and feared for the relatives and friends left behind)

Abu Elias (husband, father of six, described the 2015 ISIL takeover of [Tel Tamer](#) and their abduction including his 12 year old daughter Carolyn who never returned, said "I am, of course, praying that my daughter is still alive somewhere")

Adam Kako (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Addonia Yokhanna (husband of Elissa Ismaiel, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Adeeb Esho Gureel (aged 2, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#); released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other Christians)

Adel Astefan (aged 14, daughter of Eva Astefan, resident of [Izraa](#), reported on [November 22, 2014](#) to have been **shot dead** in 2012 by a sniper)

Adnan Nasrallah (aged 62, on or before [September 24, 2013](#) saw a neighbor in [Maalula](#) recite the words to convert to Islam with a pistol held to his head)

Adnane Mansour (handicapped son of Elias Mansour, whereabouts unknown after the [October 30, 2012](#) murder of his father in Homs)

Adul Ahad Nissan (aged 48, accountant and music composer, fled his village during an ISIL attack, a close friend and his wife were captured, said in [Qamishi](#) on [February 26, 2015](#) "I used to call them every other day. Now their mobile is off. I tried and tried. It's so painful not to see your friends again")

Adwar Kako (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Afaf Azam (aged 52, said on [November 22, 2014](#) as artillery shook his church in [Izraa](#) during the Divine Liturgy "I have been coming to this church since I was born. But now the situation is very bad. Everyone is afraid. Jihadists control villages around us")

Afram Youkhanna Melhem (husband of Ronia Youkhanna, father of Rami Afram Melhem, Merla Afram Melhem, and Jezela Afram Melhem, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Mother Agnes-Mariam de la Croix (St. James Monastery, described how in [April 2012](#) rebels forced Christian and Alawi hostages into a building in [Khalidiya](#) and then blew up the building with explosives to make the deaths appear to have been caused by the Syrian army; stated that St. James Monastery in [Qara](#) bombed by a helicopter on [August 22, 2012](#); reported on the [January 1, 2013](#) murder of Andrei Arbashe)

Fr Ahmed (reported on [March 7, 2016](#) to have said after the Syrian government forced al-Nusra fighters to leave [Maaloula](#) "Look they came even here, look what they have done to our church. All smashed, burned. They have stolen valuable icons and have burned those which have no value. Even the bowl of holy water and clothes of priests were burned, even the stones were broken")

Akram al-Bunni (aged 58, brother of Anwar al-Bunni, arrested in [Damascus](#) on [February 22, 2014](#) by the government)

Dr Akram Lazar (husband of Ghada Moshe Baram, father of Maria Akram Lazar, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Fr Alaa (as of [June 12, 2012](#) worked toward reconciliation despite personal exposure to gunfire in [Homs](#))

Albir Anton Boza (son of Merjane Mame, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-](#)

Shameran village)

Aleksandar Shamoun (aged 11, daughter of Samih Shamoun and Layla Odicho Odicho, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#);

released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other Christians)

Alexander Haddad (stated on or before [August 10, 2012](#) in [Maalula](#) "Jesus was from just to the south. St. Paul came to Maalula. Christianity is very strong here.")

Alexey (aged 50, relative of Sawsan Karapetyan, escaped from ISIL control in [Raqqa](#) on [August 8, 2017](#), said "We used to celebrate our holidays in secret, spending them at home in fear," said Alexey, 50. "We would light a bit of incense just to feel that it was a religious holiday. We all left Raqqa and all of our things stayed behind. It's a painful feeling. We tried to stay but we couldn't take it anymore")

Alexi Chamoun (Syriac Military Council member, said on [August 8, 2017](#) "ISIL are using civilians as human shields inside the city [[Raqqa](#)]")

Ali Salim (reported on [August 11, 2015](#) to have returned to his home after rebel forces left [Homs](#), churches aided him with rebuilding)

Alice Adam Adam (aged 62, wife of Nimrud Yako Gureel, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#);

released [November 7, 2015](#))

Alice Assaf (said of the events of [2014](#) in [Adra al-Ummaliya, outside Damascus](#) "So, they broke into the house like crazy and arrested my son. They told him they would not kill him if he abandoned his religion. But, he said to them, 'I will never abandon my religion.' So, they started to beat him in the guest room. They took him to backyard and shot him. And they killed him...The army buried him in a mass grave because there were many people dead. Yes, many were killed. I continued to search for my son in hospitals for two months, hoping to find him among the corpses. I went over and over again to look for him and I did not give up hope until they confirmed his death a while ago. My wish was to find his body and bury him myself", also claimed that ISIL murdered 250 girls, most of whom were Christian, by putting them in an industrial dough kneader, the oldest was 4 years old, 50 more were beheaded in front of their parents)

Pastor Alim (alias, said in [Aleppo](#) on or before [November 9, 2016](#) "The situation in Aleppo has been unstable for a long time now. Ceasefires only last for a short time. As soon as the people catch breath, the fighting starts again...Many women and children from the other part have come to our area. Our church is able to help a total of 2,000 families, I think half of them are Muslims...We help some of them pay their rent and offer towards their medical needs. Our church has dug a well to provide clean drinking water...The other day, as we finished our meeting on Friday, a bomb exploded next to the church, killing a young girl and her brother. On Sunday, when we were getting ready for church, bombs exploded around our house. I couldn't send my children to school. We had high expectations of a ceasefire, but they didn't last. People get really depressed, they feel there is no hope...We used to live on the fourth floor, very close to the frontline, the so-called 'red line'. We moved further away to my parents' house. Shortly after, a rocket hit very close to our apartment. One of our relatives died, shrapnel hit our house and broke through the walls...Every day we hear of someone who has died, every day we are surrounded by

death. We feel the pain, but for those who died we cannot do anything. We can make a difference for the living, we can help them..."

Almas Youkhanna (daughter of Saied Youkhanna and Amena Elesha, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Als Yousef (daughter of Lazar Yousef and Sherene Warda Yonan, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Fr Amar Kassar (severely wounded in an [August 2013](#) mortar attack in [Qatana, Damascus](#))

Ameleo Gureel (aged 4, son of Monna Markus, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#);

released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other Christians)

Amena Elesha (wife of Saied Youkhanna, mother of Elias, Louis, and Almas Youkhanna, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Amir Rouel Welson (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Amira Elesha (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Amme Mnashe Esho (sister of Rimon Mnashe Esho, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Andrei Arbashe (aged 38, **beheaded** on [January 1, 2013](#) in [Ras Al-Ayn](#) after his brother criticized the rebels)

Fr Andrzej Halemba (stated on [March 29, 2013](#) that the civil war is an "incredible tragedy" for Syria and particularly for the country's Christian minority;

visited Aid to the Church in Need 'project sites' sites' in recent days, reported on [June 11, 2015](#) to have said "Four million people have already left Syria. Fifteen thousand doctors alone have left. Half of the schools are closed. Things are especially hard for the seriously ill. It has been estimated that more people have died in this war from a lack of health care than through fighting. Some church people say that this has been the cause of more than 350,000 deaths. Compare that with the 220,000 victims of the war. However, the worst thing for me was to hear that more children than women have been killed in the conflict. This is often done deliberately to take the last hope away from the parents. This shows just how demonic this conflict really is")

Angel (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Angel Ammo (daughter of Martin Hanna Ammo and Ramma Aslan, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Sr Annie Demerjian (said in [Aleppo](#) on or before [August 1, 2016](#) "It is painful to see people without food and water. In them, Jesus is hungry and thirsty. What gives me joy is when I can help them and see the relief and happiness on their faces")

Sr Anne-Francoise OCD (French national, one of six nuns in her convent outside [Aleppo](#), said on [August 6, 2016](#) "When the Syrian army attempts to prevent the opposition and other groups from entering the city, the bombing and shelling is really close to us. Thank God, they haven't hit us yet, but we are constantly hearing the shells pass over our heads...The bombs are falling all around us, but we are not going to leave the people in their suffering. The

people here are suffering and dying...By now it is only the poorest of the people who are still left here in Aleppo. So many Christians have left the city during these years of war...The diplomatic solutions have not worked. We simply pray to the Lord that this war may stop. Please take pity on these thousands of lives, torn apart by war. Please don't forget us. We need your prayers and your practical help!")

Ankido Gureel aged 6, son of Monna Markus, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#);

released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other Christians)

Anton Hormez Issac (husband of Wardia, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Anton Joseph (**killed** on [December 30, 2015](#) along with 15 others by ISIL suicide bombings on three Christian-owned restaurants in [Qamishli](#))

Antoine (aged 47, physician, commented on [May 2, 2013](#) in [Damascus](#) on the kidnapped bishops Boulos Yazigi and Yuhanna Ibrahim "[the] atmosphere is sad. For the third year we will be celebrating Easter with sadness, because the country is bleeding...We will pray for their return...We believe in the Resurrection and also that of Syria")

Archbishop Antoine Audo SJ (commented on the attempted car bombing of a Franciscan elementary school: "The people we are helping are very afraid";

has been working from [Aleppo](#) as of [June 24, 2012](#) to care for thousands who have had their lives disrupted by the civil conflict;

stated on [July 23, 2012](#) in [Aleppo](#): "What we need is your prayers for all of us. This is a very dangerous time. People are very fearful.";

stated on [October 18, 2012](#) of the civil war "Aleppo, the city I love so much and where I have been bishop this past 20 years, is now devastated -- much of it in ruins.";

described on [April 4, 2013](#) the displacement of hundreds of Christian families in [Cheikh Maksoud, Aleppo](#) by anti-government forces;

on [May 24, 2013](#) led a retreat of prayer and reflection in [Aleppo](#) for the release of Bishop Boulos al-Yazigi and Bishop Yuhanna Ibrahim from rebel captivity;

said on [November 8, 2013](#) that the center of [Aleppo](#) has had no electricity for three days and that there has been fighting around the power plant and the international airport: "...now we do not understand who is fighting whom. There is the government army, and then there are the Kurdish brigades, Islamists, gangs of outlaws, those who call themselves 'Free Syrian Army', all factions fighting each other. In the city we hear the sounds of fighting and explosions, but we do not know what is really happening...";

spoke of attacks on Christmas Day - [December 25, 2013](#) - which killed over 500 people in [Aleppo](#);

on [March 9, 2014](#) wrote "Today, the first Sunday of Lent, will see churches crowded across the globe. But here in Syria, where St Paul found his faith, many churches stand empty, targets for bombardment and desecration. Aleppo, where I have been bishop for 25 years, is devastated. We have become accustomed to the daily dose of death and destruction, but living in such uncertainty and fear exhausts the body and the mind...We

hear the thunder of bombs and the rattle of gunfire, but we don't always know what is happening. It's hard to describe how chaotic, terrifying and psychologically difficult it is when you have no idea what will happen next, or where the next rocket will fall. Many Christians cope with the tension by being fatalistic: that whatever happens is God's will...Until the war began, Syria was one of the last remaining strongholds for Christianity in the Middle East. We have 45 churches in Aleppo. But now our faith is under mortal threat, in danger of being driven into extinction...";

wrote from [Aleppo](#) on [December 23, 2014](#) "I will do my best to spread hope in Aleppo this Christmas, but it is hard to celebrate when your city is in ruins...It is desperately cold this winter, with no heating or electricity across the city. Every evening it gets dark early. Here in my bishopric, we light a stove, using chairs for firewood, chopping up and burning one per night. When I go to bed, it is often so cold that I struggle to sleep. But even as I lie shivering under my blankets, I remember how lucky I am compared with my brothers and sisters who have nowhere safe to rest: so many of them are in desperate need of food, health care and shelter...What gives me hope this Christmas? The compassion of people who take care of each other. The small signs of humanity as people share what little they have. The solidarity of my brothers and sisters around the world. Most of all, what gives me hope is my faith. I say prayers in the morning, and read the Word of God, and it gives me the conviction that we can carry on...";

said on [May 8, 2015](#) in [Aleppo](#) "We are under bombs every day. I think many Christians will flee from Aleppo and seek shelter in the coastal area, but they will do it when schools and universities close, after the exams. In the disaster in which we live, even this year schools and universities remained open in the central districts of Aleppo. Many still believe that studying is important for the future although one lives in a city that seems to have no future";

spoke on [June 26, 2015](#) on the latest ISIL attack in [Hassake](#) "The militiamen of Daesh [aka ISIL] bombed in the night between Wednesday and Thursday all areas of the city. Then, in the early morning of Thursday, [June] 25, the mass exodus began, which also involved hundreds of Christian families. Only among the Chaldeans, at least sixty families have moved to Qamishli along with pastor Nidal, while ten other families reached the parish of al-Malikiyah";

said in [Aleppo](#) on [October 5, 2015](#) "People have become destitute; many are sick. There is no money to buy food; everything is expensive...[Militants] issue their messages, to show that they are powerful and have the means to instill fear. And the West is in danger against these extremist groups";

said in [Aleppo](#) on [July 11, 2016](#) "We are again under bombs. We do not know what is about to happen. Even last night we could not sleep, and this morning an artillery shell also fell in the street of our cathedral, resulting in one death and three injuries. Also for this reason we have decided not to reopen the Caritas offices, which had been closed for a few days during the Muslim feast for the end of Ramadan...we are all heartbroken by what is happening, on the other side there are many that in this state meet to celebrate the sacraments, pray, share a spirit of hope and mercy. I have just been called by the participants in a spiritual retreat organized on the mountains by the Focolare members. There were two hundred people, with ten priests. From next Thursday we will meet in Tartus with 175 operators and Caritas volunteers from all over Syria, for a few days of formation and meetings. It is a mysterious and wonderful paradox: on one hand there is the

desolation of war, and on the other there is the consolation of God";

said in [Aleppo](#) on [October 6, 2016](#) "For weeks we are again in a situation of general terror, even though we try to keep public institutions such as universities open. The neighborhoods controlled by the rebels are hit by sophisticated weapons, which spread death, although the rebels have no planes. Among the Christians alone, in the past two weeks, there have been over twenty deaths. But Western media does not talk about what happens to us. For all of us who are here, all the global media system appears maneuvered by geopolitical interests that manipulate information. Everything becomes an excuse for propaganda. And the role and operations implemented by countries such as Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia continue to be hidden";

reported from [Aleppo](#) on [January 31, 2017](#) to have criticized any change in U.S. immigration policy that would give precedence to Christians over Muslims "We Christians of Syria and the Middle East do not like any speeches that make differences between us and Muslims when justice, peace and aid to those in need are at stake. Who makes these differences, feeds fanaticism and extremism";

commented after an [April 4, 2017](#) nerve gas attack on civilians in [Khan Shaykun, Idlib province](#) "In this fragmented situation, with many interests and actors involved, it is difficult to be sure one hundred percent of the way things are. But what we know based on our experience, I just cannot imagine that the Syrian government is so naive and ignorant to be able to do such 'errors'"

Fr Antoine Boutros (aged 50, husband, father of a daughter, missing on [July 12, 2015](#) near [Shahba, Sweida](#) with his Muslim driver;

freed on [August 15, 2015](#), his driver is still missing)

Antoun Belatos Boza (son of Merjane Mame, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Antoun Taalab (cousin of Mikhael Taalab, **killed** by rebels on [September 7, 2013](#) in [Maalula](#) after he refused to convert to Islam)

Anwar al-Bunni (human rights attorney, brother of Akram al-Bunni)

Anwar George Simon (aged 21, brother of Michel George Simon, Salesian Cooperator, **killed** along with his mother Minerva in an [April 10, 2015](#) rocket attack in the [Sulaymaniyah district, Aleppo](#))

Anwar Talia Talia (husband of Mariam Mnashe, father of Jimmy Anwar Talia, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Archbishop Aprem Nathniel (confirmed that 72 Christian families numbering at least 200 were taken by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) in [Tel Shamiran, Tel Baz, Tel Goran, Tel Jezirah and Tel Hormizd villages, Hassaka province](#))

Aramean Saliba (aged 20, abducted in [Qamishli](#) on [January 19, 2018](#) by the Kurdish YPG militia for military service)

Ashorina Walid Sawa (aged 7, daughter of Walid Franso Sawa and Hannan Youkhna, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#);

released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other Christians)

Ashour Fedor Ebrahim (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#);
reported on [October 14, 2015](#) to have been **shot dead**)

Ashtar Elias Youkhanna (aged 7, daughter of Elias Aweshalem Youkhanna and Lena Youkhanna,
abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#);
released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other
Christians)

Ashtar Ismaiel (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Ashur Francis (aged 9, son of Athur Ishak, as of [April 15, 2015](#) has refused to leave his mother,
told her "I want to die with you in our town")

Atef (fiance of Rasha, **throat slit** by Islamists rebels on [September 24, 2013](#) in [Maalula](#) after he
refused to convert to Islam)

Athur Ishak (aged 32, mother of Ashur Francis, as of [April 15, 2015](#) has refused to leave her
village of [Tel Tamer](#) despite ISIL attacks, has prepared food and coffee for the Christians
and Kurds who defend it)

Austin Bennett Tice (aged 31, U.S. journalist, abducted in August 2012 in [Daraya](#), reportedly as of
[June 5, 2013](#) is still in captivity)

Awad Nadim Atallah (aged 53, reported on [April 17, 2016](#) to have been **killed** by ISIL in
[Qaryatain](#))

Awea Yoknea Malek Hormez (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Qaber-Shameh
village](#))

Aweshalem Denkha (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Awia Ismaiel Youkhanna (husband of Samira Shmony, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#)
from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Awiyeh Hermes (brother of Andre Hermes, refused to leave his home, whereabouts unknown,
likely abducted by ISIL in [February 2015](#))

Ayman Akhras (brother of Zeinat Akhras, home in Homs invaded by rebels on 30 occasions,
threatened with death, food taken, as of [May 13, 2014](#) has survived the entire siege of
Homs on leaves from a tree in a cemetery)

Aziz Mirza (Syriac Cultural Association, said on [February 25, 2015](#) that 350-400 people are
missing from [Tel Shamiran](#), [Tel Baz](#), [Tel Goran](#), [Tel Jezirah](#) and [Tel Hormizd villages](#),
[Hassaka province](#) and that the numbers are hard to verify because when the peoples are
called on their mobile phones they are answered by ISIL fighters)

Babel Sarkis (literature student, said on [November 8, 2014](#) in [Tel Tamr, al-Hasaka](#) "I am used to
the simple life, which is more beautiful than anywhere outside Syria. I only miss my
friends. I talk to them every day [on the Internet]. No one is happy outside Syria. Most of
them want to come back despite the luxury and enticement of the west")

Barsoun Barsoun (opposed the current government of Syria, is working to distribute aid, said on
[February 7, 2014](#) in [Qamishli](#) "We have lots of problems [with the government].
Kidnappings, arrests... We had two members taken, one in June, still missing, and another
who they said had died in custody. But they've never shown us the body")

Bashar (child of Josef Yoshea Lazar and Marganta Adam, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#))

from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Bashar Abdelkarim Al-Sattah (aged 34, reported on [April 17, 2016](#) to have been **killed** by ISIL in [Qaryatain](#))

Basil Isaac (professor of agronomy, **shot dead** near [Hassake](#) on or before [July 21, 2017](#) possibly by Kurdish PYO militants)

Fr Basilios Nassar (**shot dead** in [January 2012](#) while helping evacuate the wounded from [Hama](#))

Bassam Ghaith (reported on [October 1, 2014](#) to have been **tortured to death** by military intelligence in [Damascus](#), body not returned to his family)

Bassam Gureel (son of Regina Marwan, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Bassam Michael Issa (son of Gourget Malki, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#);

reported on [October 14, 2015](#) to have been **shot dead**)

Benita Istifan (aged 18 months, daughter of Giorgio and Miriam Istifan, separated from her father due to the fighting as of [December 22, 2014](#))

Beronea Samo (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Patriarch Beshara Boutros al-Rai (aged 75, met with the other four Christian patriarchs of Antioch in [Damascus](#) on [June 8, 2015](#) and issued a statement pleading with Christians to remain in the Middle East "We do not condemn those that choose to leave, but we remind Christians that steadfastness in faith often entails a great deal of tribulation. We call on everyone who claims to have an interest in our fate to help us to remain")

Fr Bimal Kerketta SJ (Indian citizen serving in [Minya, Egypt](#), on [April 8, 2014](#) eulogized his friend Fr Frans van der Lugt and said "As for me, I am ready to go to Syria and work there, at any time. I am talking to my superiors. God save Syria")

Bobo Mirza (sister of Abdo Mirza, aunt of Mariana Mirza, released from ISIL captivity on [March 3, 2015](#))

Bolous Badal Yousef (husband of Soria Mechael Marco, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Bishop Boulous al-Yazigi (brother of Patriarch Youhanna X, abducted at gunpoint by rebels on [April 22, 2013](#) near [Kfar Dael, Aleppo](#), the deacon who was driving was shot dead;

[April 23, 2013](#) news of release untrue, reportedly held by Chechen fighters;

still in rebel captivity as of [May 22, 2013](#);

fear is growing as of [August 7, 2013](#) that he is dead;

Turkish intelligence reports that he is still alive as of [September 26, 2013](#);

as of [April 22, 2014](#) has now been in captivity for one year;

reportedly as of [June 7, 2014](#) is being held in [Raqqqa](#) by the al-Qaeda affiliated Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)

Boutros (**killed** in [February 2013](#) when his bus was hit by a rocket outside [Qamishli](#))

Deacon Boutros (held captive by ISIL as of [November 19, 2015](#))

Fr Boutros Al Jamal (by [June 18, 2012](#) failed to negotiate the release of the hostages in [Homs](#))

Fr Boutros Al Zein (described on [June 18, 2012](#) the rebel kidnappings of hundreds of civilians in [Homs](#): "among them there are about 400 Christian civilians, mostly elderly and women, victims of authentic kidnapping, blocked in the streets of Al Bustan Diwan and Hamidiyyeh. Civilians were collected and directed towards the border of these two streets, becoming human shields to prevent the attack of regular Syrian forces.")

Deacon Boutros Hanna (possibly abducted in [Homs](#) on [May 18, 2015](#), unconfirmed)

Metropolitan Boutros Marayati (stated on [January 30, 2013](#) in [Aleppo](#) "The effect of the condition in which we have been living for more than a year is that we are now addicted to horror everyday. There is always new news of massacres, there is the constant noise of bombing, one lives in a state of tension and fear day and night, there is a struggle to survive in a daily life in which there is not even water to drink and fuel to heat homes. As we are overwhelmed by all this, there is not almost time to become aware of the terrible things in which we are immersed. The massacre at the University a few days ago, where we lost poor Sister Rima, already seems a distant thing"

appealed to the rebels on [February 10, 2013](#) for the release of Fr Michel Kayyal and Fr Maher Mahfouz;

described an [April 27, 2014](#) rebel mortar attack on [Aleppo](#) in which 21 civilians were killed;

on [June 17, 2014](#) described the reopening of ancient church wells after water was cut off from [Aleppo](#);

reported at a [September 5, 2014](#) church synod in [Beirut, Lebanon](#) that "Beside the usual day to day difficulties regarding supplies of water, electricity and food, in Aleppo fear is growing. The militants of the Islamic State [ISIL] are only 40 kilometres away. No one knows if or when they will decide to attack. So, as soon as they can, many, many people continue to abandon Aleppo";

commented on [December 22, 2017](#) on the removal of explosives from churches "There's absolutely nothing planned in Raqa. The church is in ruins. Christians are going to visit, but there is no one living there")

Bishop Boutros Melki (said on [September 20, 2013](#) in [Jerusalem](#) that foreign jihadists in the civil war are targeting Christians)

Butrus (aged 15, said in [Maaloula](#) on [December 25, 2017](#) "We are all waiting for the evening - we will meet again here, we will sing Christmas carols, light candles, and then go for a walk with friends. It is my favorite holiday")

Caroline (arrested for distributing chocolate Easter eggs in [April 2012](#) in [Damascus](#))

Carolyn (aged 14, daughter of Abu Elias, reported on [October 24, 2017](#) to have been taken by ISIL fighters from [Tel Tamer](#) in 2015 [at age 12] for an unspecified 'duty', forced to convert to Islam, whereabouts unknown)

Chamoun Michael Lazar ("old man", husband, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Fr Charbel (witnessed the [February 10, 2013](#) abduction of Fr Michel Kayyal and Fr Maher Mahfouz)

Charbel Moussa (said on [November 8, 2014](#) in [Tel Tamr, al-Hasaka](#) "The war taught us that only weapons could protect us. We carry them today to defend our families and children from harm and protect our land and property from the threat of takfiris")

Charmaine Hedding (described on or before [March 23, 2018](#) concerning the plight of Christian converts from Islam while the Turkish military continued operations against the Kurds in and around [Afrin](#) "[Christians] should pray for their safety. They should pray for these families to stay together because in these chronically desperate situations where masses of people are fleeing families can get lost and little ones can get hurt so we need to pray for these families that they can stay together and find a safe place outside of the bombing and outside of the war that's happening in the takeover of Afrin...We know from statements from what they have made that they want to get rid of the people in this area and bring in other people from Syria that have got nothing to do with this area and don't have any connection to this part of the country so it's a population displacement and moving in other groups")

Chirien Darmo (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Chlimon Safar Geliana (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Hormez village](#))

Christine (aged 15, student, wounded in a [January 24, 2018](#) mortar attack in [Damascus](#), leg amputated)

Christy (child of Josef Yoshea Lazar and Marganta Adam, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Constantine Junan (aged 75, forced to flee his [Ras Al-Ayn](#) residence with his son on [January 27, 2013](#) by the rebels who proceeded to desecrate the local churches, this desecration was documented after Kurdish forces drove away the rebels)

Bishop Constantine Kayal (on [August 4, 2015](#) described threats to a convent in [Ma'loula](#) by militants)

Fr Dajad Hagopian (aged 68, as of [December 21, 2014](#) has refused to leave [Derike](#) which has lost two-thirds of its people)

Fr Daniel Maes (aged 74, under threat by anti-government Islamists as of [July 4, 2013](#), is staying in St James monastery in [Qara](#);

as of [August 29, 2013](#) has begun a perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament due to the threat of widening war)

Daniella Zaya Gureel (daughter of Nofa Talia, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Danny Hanna (**killed** on [December 30, 2015](#) along with 15 others by ISIL suicide bombings on three Christian-owned restaurants in [Qamishli](#))

Daoud Koresh Talia (husband of Khanna Zaya Hefo, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Fr David Fernandez (on [May 11, 2013](#) described how Christians in [Aleppo](#) rescued 90 disabled Muslims from crossfire between pro- and anti-government forces, but that everyone now suffers from a chronic lack of water and many are sick)

David Yako Gureel (husband of Sorma Issac, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Dawoud (alias, forced from his [Damascus](#) home due to mortar attacks, said on or before [October 23, 2013](#) that he refuses to leave the country while "my people" are suffering)

Debra Tice (mother of Austin Tice)

Dewane Rehna Yakoub (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Fieda village](#))

Fr Dhiya Azziz OFM (aged 40, Iraqi citizen, slightly injured when a missile hit his monastery on [July 20, 2014](#) in [Yacubiyah](#), room destroyed in the explosion;

abducted in [Yakubiyah village, Jisr ash-Shugur district, Idlib province](#) on [July 4, 2015](#) possibly by Al-Nusra;

released on [July 10, 2015](#);

abducted on [December 23, 2015](#) by persons unknown [on the road between Lattakia and Yacubiyah](#) while returning from visiting his parents who are refugees in Turkey, all other persons in his taxi also missing;

released on [January 4, 2016](#))

Diana Yaqco (said on [April 25, 2016](#) concerning the [Suleymaniye and Ashrafiyah districts, Aleppo](#) "All I can say on this situation, that it is incredibly sad and it's not a surprise either. We are being hunted all the time, not just for being a minority people but for our religion also...This week was the commemoration 101 years since the genocide of Armenians, Assyrians at the hands of Ottoman Empire. This genocide I feel will continue to follow us, world leaders can recognize it, stamp it onto papers, but what's the use when we are still being killed for the same reasons we were being killed 101 years ago?")

Metropolitan Dionysius Jean Kawak (stated on [May 5, 2013](#) in [Damascus](#) that he hopes that the Turkish government will assist in the release of Bishops Gregorios Yuhanna Ibrahim and Boulos al-Yazigi from their kidnappers;

said on [October 24, 2013](#) in [Damascus](#) that he fears Christians may not be able to return to the country after the war ends;

said in [Homs](#) on [January 28, 2014](#) "At the beginning of the Syrian crisis we didn't have a real problem against Christians, but nowadays because of the growing radical groups, Christians are being targeted";

said on [September 5, 2015](#) that the 270 Christians abducted by ISIL have been allowed to return to their homes in [Al-Qaryatain](#) "The church knows everyone is alive and are back in their homes. We can also confirm the agreement, according to the Sharia law, that they are forcing a tax on our people, four golden dinars per person a year, about 17 grams of gold [US\$614] per adult. They are also preventing our people from building churches and monasteries in and around the town. We are not supposed to pray in public and if we are praying in the house we can not let anyone hear. Twenty out of the 270 were able to flee and leave the village and this is what they told us. They are in Homs and they spoke to the church")

Donna Jean Jacob (**killed** in an [April 10, 2015](#) rocket attack in the [Sulaymaniyah district, Aleppo](#))

Edeette Chukro (aged 51, sister of Mikhael Chukro, fled persecution in Syria, celebrated the Pascha [Easter] in [2014](#) in [Roselle, Illinois](#) in the U.S., and feared for the relatives and friends left behind)

Edward Adam (reported on [March 5, 2015](#) to have survived an ISIL attack in [Al-Hasakah province](#)

in which homes were burned and crosses broken)

Eli Kaspo (killed on [December 30, 2015](#) along with 15 others by ISIL suicide bombings on three Christian-owned restaurants in [Qamishli](#))

Eliamo Malke (killed on [December 30, 2015](#) along with 15 others by ISIL suicide bombings on three Christian-owned restaurants in [Qamishli](#))

Elian ("child", son of Josef Yokhanna and Frial Warda Gabriel, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Fr Elias (reported on [July 2, 2013](#) on the torture and murder of Mariam in [Qusair](#))

Elias (university teacher, said on [November 8, 2014](#) "The situation in Tel Tamr is worrisome. It is not easy to live next to roads leading to a group that sees you as an infidel and wants to kill you. Despite this, we remained, because the land is ours")

Elias (aged 5, son of Riad Sargi and Rouba Farah, brother of Leila and Michael)

Fr Elias (said on [December 25, 2017](#) "The monastery is being restored, as well as all of Maaloula and the life that was going on there for centuries. We have restored the church, where our main relic is located. We have managed to return the stolen bells. Russia has helped us a lot. And even now, the Russians are restoring a number of icons important to us")

Elias Abdel Nour (killed in fighting on [October 19, 2012](#) in [Aleppo](#))

Elias Abiad (aged 22, church humanitarian volunteer, killed by mortar shells in [Aleppo](#) on [February 13, 2016](#))

Elias Aweshalem Youkhanna (husband of Lena Youkhanna, father of Ninos Elias, Ashtar Elias, and Jouny, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Elias Darmo Oda (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Hormez village](#))

Fr Elias el-Baba (identified the body of Fr Fadi Jamil Haddad)

Fr Elias Ganji (said on [August 18, 2015](#) that the 2 week cutoff of water to the city of [Aleppo](#) is especially harming children and the elderly)

Fr Elias Hanout (aged 38, presided over the Divine Liturgy on [November 22, 2014](#) as artillery shook his church in [Izraa](#), later said "It's simple. If the West wants Syria to remain a country for Christian people, then help us to stay here: stop arming terrorists")

Elias Mansour (aged 84, refused to leave his home in [Homs](#) due to his handicapped son Adnane, killed on [October 30, 2012](#))

Elias Naguib (aged 83, father of Nael Elias, executed by the Ahrar al-Sham Islamic movement on [March 28, 2015](#) in [Idlib](#), probably for owning a liquor store)

Elias Shamoun ("child", son of Khalil Shamoun and Najat Youkhanna, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Fr Elias Sharbak (stabbed by a man during a [November 27, 2015](#) church celebration in [Lattakia](#) when he attempted to prevent the man from throwing a grenade, a 5 year old child died and over 30 people were injured from the grenade explosion)

Elias Tahch Semaan (father of 4, as of [August 22, 2012](#) shot dead by sniper in [Rableh](#) where 12,000 Christians trapped by encircling rebels, food and medicine declining)

Elias Youkhanna ("child", son of Saied Youkhanna and Amena Elesha, abducted by ISIL on

February 23, 2015 from Tal-Jazera village)

Elina Rouel (abducted by ISIL on February 23, 2015 from Tal-Jazera village)

Elissa Ismaiel (wife of Addonia Yokhanna, abducted by ISIL on February 23, 2015 from Tal-Jazera village)

Elzabith Kheo (wife of Shedrakh Khaoshaba, abducted by ISIL on February 23, 2015 from Tal-Jazera village)

Emad Husni (teacher, reported on August 11, 2015 to have returned to his home after rebel forces left Homs, churches aided him with rebuilding, said "I have returned home since the city was liberated from the rebels. Debris and rubble as well as barriers, which were made of pieces of refrigerators and washing machines, were everywhere")

Emama Kako (abducted by ISIL on February 23, 2015 from Tal-Jazera village)

Archdeacon Emanuel Youkhana (in Brussels, Belgium on October 2, 2013 reported on the abduction of Fr Paolo Dall'Oglio SJ, stated that he is likely still alive)

Archimandrite Emanuel Youkhana (described a February 23, 2015 ISIL attack on Tel Shamiran, Tel Baz, Tel Goran, Tel Jezirah and Tel Hormizd villages in which five Christians were killed, over 90 captured - including women and children, and 3,000 forced to flee their homes, 15 Christians were rescued by Sunni Muslim neighbors, said that due to ISIL's "barbaric record with the captured, the destiny of these families is a major concern to us"; reported in Hassakah on February 26, 2015 that 15 young Assyrians have been martyred by ISIL and that members of a mosque have been called to attend a mass killing of infidels on Friday)

Emil Adel Daboura (husband of Abeer Esber Karmo, father of George and Fadi, shot dead on or before October 11, 2013)

Ener Warda Abdal (abducted by ISIL on February 23, 2015 from Qaber-Shameh village)

Esho Yako Gureel (abducted by ISIL on February 23, 2015 from Tal-Shameran village)

Archbishop Eustathius Matta Roham (expressed fear of a general war between Syria and Turkey on November 12, 2012 from Hassake;

appealed on November 22, 2012 to the civil war belligerents to not attack the cities of Kamishly and Hassake because they are filled with refugees and residents totaling 800,000 of whom 160,000 are Christians;

on January 31, 2013 described the destruction of Syrian Orthodox Church of St. Mary and the Christian school of Al-Wahda in Deir Ezzor, Mesopotamia in the crossfire between government and rebel forces)

Eva Astefan (aged 43, mother of Adel Astefan, aunt of Joseph Haroun, resident of Izraa, as of November 22, 2014 has applied for UN asylum after her daughter was shot dead by a sniper in 2012)

Fr F H (described on November 25, 2013 the overrunning of Deir Atieh by Islamist fighters who are taking Christians as hostages and human shields)

Fadi (aged 4, son of Abeer Esber Karmo, father shot dead, destitute as of October 11, 2013)

Fadi (aged 16, class XI student, son of Njala, brother of Ramin, died after being thrown down a well in Sadad by anti-government rebels on or just after October 21, 2013)

Fr Fadi Jamil Haddad (kidnapped along with 2 others in [Qatana suburb, Damascus](#) on [October 21, 2012](#);

found dead on [October 25, 2012](#), had been tortured;

funeral subjected to a bomb attack on [October 26, 2012](#) which killed two civilians and several soldiers)

Fadi Matanius Mattah (aged 34, **beheaded** by jihadists on [January 8, 2014](#) on the [road between Almshtaeih and Marmarita](#) for wearing a cross)

Fadi Michael Issa (aged 41, son of Gourget Malki, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#);

released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other Christians)

Fadi Moussa Maher (aged 45, reported on [April 17, 2016](#) to have been **killed** by ISIL in [Qaryatain](#))

Fadi Salim Atallah (aged 47, reported on [April 17, 2016](#) to have been **killed** by ISIL in [Qaryatain](#))

Fadi Samir Haddad (**killed in fighting** on [October 19, 2012](#) in [Aleppo](#))

Fady Haddad (aged 34, **killed** on [December 13, 2012](#) in the shelling of a Christian neighborhood in [Howache](#))

Faheed Yaacoub Khazaal (aged 66, reported on [April 17, 2016](#) to have been **killed** by ISIL in [Qaryatain](#))

Fala Bouls (mother of Ramina Habil Naje, Sabinna Habil Naje, and Louis Habil Naje, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Farid Nwea Badal (husband of Juliet Talia, father of Stilla Farid Badal and Tonny Farid Badal, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Farida Kako (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Faris Eramia Younan (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Deacon Fathallah Kabud (**shot dead** during the [April 22, 2013](#) abduction of Bishop Boulos al-Yazigi and Bishop Yuhanna Ibrahim)

Fawaz Yousef Tammo (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Qaber-Shameh village](#))

Fawzi al-Kaldani (**killed** in a [January 25, 2016](#) double suicide terror bombing in [Qamishli](#))

Fayez Farman (security guard, wounded by a suicide bomber dressed as a priest in [al-Wusta district, Qamishli](#) on [June 19, 2016](#))

Fr Feras Lufti (said on [July 24, 2014](#) in [Damascus](#) "I was in the home of a Christian lady who had died a little earlier. Her family and friends sent for me to pray with them. After the prayer, when I was about to leave, a man stopped me. From the way he expressed himself, I immediately understood he was a Muslim. He was very emotional and he cried. He told me that he had prayed for the soul of the departed with two suras from the Quran and asked me if God would accept his prayer for this good soul. I asked him, 'Why did you pray for her?' He replied that the deceased had taken care of his grandchildren and fed them. It turned out that this man's daughters, widowed because of the war, were refugees in Damascus and had not been able to find a place to live except in the Christian Quarter. There they found a solidarity among women that they had not expected. I saw him later in the church,

accompanied by his two daughters")

Firas Nader (aged 29, injured by jihadist gunfire on [January 8, 2014](#) on the [road between Almshtaeih and Marmarita](#) and mistaken for dead, escaped, hospitalized)

Fouad Banna (aged 13, brother of Rosy, **killed** by a [February 19, 2016](#) rebel rocket barrage on the Christian Quarter of [Aleppo](#), parents both in intensive care)

Fouad Oshana Yonan (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Hormez village](#))

Fr Francois Mourad (aged 49, **shot dead** during an Islamist assault on his monastery in [Ghassanieh village, Jisr al-Shughur district, Idlib province](#) on [June 23, 2013](#), possibly by a stray bullet)

Francois Sawa (aged 70, captured by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#), released on [June 17, 2015](#))

Fr Frans van der Lugt SJ (aged 75 [2014], as of [August 5, 2013](#) is stranded with 400,000 [Homs](#) civilians in need of food, medicine, and water;

wrote in [Homs](#) on [September 28, 2013](#) "No food has entered our besieged region for more than 15 months. For months we were able to rely on local warehouses, but these are now empty. We are surviving on what little food remains in our homes, but we will be reduced to soon only find bulgur wheat, and then soon that will be gone, too. We thank God that each and everyone one of use still gets 1 kilogram (2.2 pounds) of flour a week, but we do not know how long this supply will remain available...Disease has captured some of us and is knocking on the door of others";

posted a video on or before [January 27, 2014](#) to YouTube in which he said "Christians and Muslims are going through a difficult and painful time and we are faced with many problems. The greatest of these is hunger. People have nothing to eat. There is nothing more painful than watching mothers searching for food for their children in the streets...There are so many people here [in [Homs](#)] that need operations and or specialist medical treatment but have to wait a long time, and are forced to go through immense suffering";

said on [February 2, 2014](#) in [Homs](#) that hunger has begun "turning people insane...Some people are now suffering from mental illness; neurosis, panic attacks, psychotic and schizophrenic episodes and paranoia";

on [April 7, 2014](#) was pulled by armed men from the Jesuit residence in [Homs](#) and into its garden, beaten, **shot dead with two bullets in the head**;

posted on Facebook just days before his **assassination** "Our faith helps us a lot to overcome this critical situation, provides us with hope and patience...Starving is threatening our lives, we miss the basic elements to survive, food and elementary needs...But somehow we are surviving, and push life forward. Moreover, we experience the goodness of people who are in need. They find some lentils and bulgur [all they can eat after two years] in front of their doors. Now, when we are poor and in need, we rediscover the goodness of human beings, when we receive from our brothers and sisters. We see evil is trying to find his way among us, but it can't turn us blind before the goodness...We are preparing ourselves to Easter, reflecting on crossing from death to resurrection. We feel like we are in the valley of the shadows, but we can see that light far away, leading us to life again")

Franso Ismaiel Sawa ("old man", abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Franso Walid Sawa (aged 11, son of Walid Franso Sawa and Hannan Youkhna, abducted by ISIL

- on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#);
released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other Christians)
- Frial Warda Gabriel (wife of Josef Yokhanna, mother of Hanna, Elian, and Meray Yokhanna, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))
- Gabbi Ismaiel (son of Malk Sadeq Ismaiel and Khoshebo Kefarkis, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))
- Gabriel (said on [May 2, 2013](#) in [Damascus](#) that this year the "feast [Easter] will boil down to just prayers, because blood continues to flow in our country")
- Fr Gabriel (church destroyed on [July 29, 2012](#), said on [November 13, 2014](#) in [Qamishli](#) of an insurgent group "Nusra totally destroyed our church there and all our houses. We thought we would be able to return in about 15 days...")
- Deacon Gabriel Bassam Gabro (petrochemical engineering student, **killed** in a car bombing on [January 21, 2015](#) in the [New Sabri neighborhood, Homs](#))
- Fr Gabriel Daoud (detained in [Hassake](#) on [February 16, 2015](#) by Kurdish PKK soldiers along with at least 12 other Christians for travelling without permits;
released on [February 19, 2015](#), all but 2 of the others have also been released)
- Fr Gabriel Dawood (following artillery strikes in [Damascus](#) that killed eight - including a Christian man and his four children - and injured five students in a school bus wrote on [November 12, 2013](#) "in our churches we continue to hope and to light candles, praying for all the faithful killed, and for those at risk, especially for the Christian villages threatened by armed gangs")
- Gabriel Mushi Gowriyeh (detained by government security forces on [December 19, 2013](#) in [Qamishli](#);
still in government detention as of [March 2, 2015](#);
released on or before [June 23, 2016](#))
- Gawriye Ado (security guard, wounded by a suicide bomber dressed as a priest in [al-Wusta district, Qamishli](#) on [June 19, 2016](#))
- George (aged 6, son of Abeer Esber Karmo, father shot dead, destitute as of [October 11, 2013](#))
- George (mechanic, said on [August 11, 2014](#) in [Sulaimaniyah, Aleppo](#) "Why didn't the United States take military action when the ISIL persecuted Christians in Raqqa and Mosul? Why only now when it is Yazidis being targeted?...It is clear, look, now France is taking in all Christian refugees from Iraq, but in Mali it sent in its army to defeat the terrorists. Are they only terrorists in Iraq and Mali, but revolutionaries in Syria?")
- Bishop George Abu Khazen OFM (stated on [July 24, 2012](#): "We hear gunshots. The streets are empty and among the population in the city [of [Aleppo](#)] there is great concern and tension. Many people have not gone to work today. In suburb districts, where clashes are in progress, people are fleeing to seek refuge elsewhere";
sheltered Archbishop Jean Clement Jeanbart and his priests during the fighting on [August 23, 2012](#);
reported on the [October 7, 2014](#) abduction of Fr Hanna Jallouf OFM;

spoke on the [February 23, 2015](#) ISIL attacks in [Tel Shamiran, Tel Baz, Tel Goran, Tel Jezirah and Tel Hormizd villages, Hassaka province](#) "[Early] reports mentioned 90 people abducted but for others the actual number is greater, perhaps 150. A church was destroyed, at least three Assyrian villages have been occupied and people have had to flee. We do not have accurate information, but the initial evidence points to a tragic situation";

commented on [March 3, 2015](#) on the rebels refusal to a UN negotiated humanitarian truce in [Aleppo](#) "The rejection confirms that the war will continue until foreign powers fuel it. The US and Turks have just declared to have a plan of support and training of rebel groups for the next three years. So for them the war will last another three years, and the people here will continue to suffer and die for another three years...Before the riots, the nine hundred miles on the Turkish border were protected, and if by chance a shepherd crossed the border to catch a sheep that escaped, they would shoot and kill him. Now thousands of militiamen from there enter Syria with heavy weapons, while refugees are rejected, who from Syria try to go elsewhere to escape the violence of the jihadists";

said in [Aleppo](#) on [April 2, 2015](#) "These are difficult days, especially after the fall of Idlib [which] is not far from Aleppo and people fear the same might happen here. Yet, in spite of fears, Christians are taking part in Holy Week rites and the churches are always packed...the presence and the number of faithful on Palm Sunday was beautiful and touching. [Despite shelling] everywhere, people were not afraid and attended Mass and the procession with their children. For the youngest, it was a special feast, for they carried the adorned candles during the procession...Faith is really stronger than fear";

said "Over night between Friday and Saturday [[April 10, 2015](#)], in the middle the Orthodox Easter, the Christian area [the [Sulaymaniyah district, Aleppo](#)] was heavily shelled by heavy weapons, and rockets, which we never saw before, up to three meters long - [this is] something new, with enormous destructive power...we had become used to gunfire and mortars. [Now] five-story buildings have been gutted, buildings razed to the ground. People are afraid to go out into the street and are trapped...[I have] never seen anything like it...We wept when we saw the suffering in the eyes of the people, the scores of bodies under the rubble of collapsed houses. In the Christian quarter alone, we have already buried 12 people, including four from the same family. But there are still several bodies under the rubble, as well as people with serious injuries and we expect the toll to get worse in the coming hours";

described the shelling of an [Aleppo](#) church during Mass on [October 25, 2015](#) "It was about 5.50 in the evening, inside the church there were at least four hundred people and it was the moment of Holy Communion. Had the shell exploded inside the church there would have been a massacre. Instead only seven of the faithful present were slightly injured by falling rubble and the roof was damaged. We thank the Lord and the Blessed Virgin Mary. Thanks also to other members of the faithful who live nearby and rushed to the scene to assess the damage and tidy up the church and this enabled us to celebrate our daily morning Mass here today";

wrote in [Aleppo](#) on [December 10, 2015](#) on the Year of Mercy "In recent years Syria has been living through a war that has cost hundreds of thousands of lives and millions of refugees...We have already suffered far too much from the consequences of violence and the absence of mercy of the various parties to the conflict. We have experienced the consequences of acting in the name and on behalf of a God that is far from "compassionate and merciful"! Therefore the time has come for us all to review our hard and merciless

behavior!";

said in [Aleppo](#) on [February 12, 2016](#) "The meeting between Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill is perceived by Christians as the fruit of the cross they are experiencing. The suffering of all Christians in the Middle East bears the fruit of unity. This for us is a great consolation and helps us to move forward, even if we still have to suffer...A few days ago a senior representative of the Moscow Patriarchate explicitly said that what made Cuba's meeting urgent was the common concern for the suffering of fellow Christians in the Middle East. We have also spoken about this in sermons and in our meetings: the faithful feel they have more courage when they realize that their sufferings have to do with the unity between the separated brethren, where Christ embraces us and comforts us all";

said on [February 20, 2016](#) "The whole population of Aleppo is affected by the lack of water and electricity...For the last 20 days we have been under bombardment, almost daily bombing, that is destroying many houses, many apartments, and causing many, many deaths...A few days ago the Armenian Protestant church was badly damaged, and five days ago our Roman Catholic church was even damaged, along with the pastoral center...Just the other day, a student, a little boy of about 13 years old asked me 'Why do I have to study? I am going to die' - so you understand how terrible things are here";

spoke in [Aleppo](#) concerning [July 11, 2016](#) "heavy shelling throughout the day...[which] have also affected our pastoral center...there have been no casualties, as was unfortunately the case elsewhere...[the church] has suspended all activities in the summer program, including playtime and recreation for the children...only the church will stay open so that the faithful can come and pray or attend services. Everything else has been stopped for now...Unfortunately here we are not facing a clash between two armies, because the front is elsewhere. This is about attacks against civilians out of sheer vindictiveness, with increasingly sophisticated weapons";

as of [August 11, 2016](#) has been unable to return to his church in [Aleppo](#) "because the road has been closed" due to combat, which has only "partially reopened in some directions", added "the situation is critical, and people are afraid...[Christians and Muslims] are praying unceasingly for peace";

witnessed a rebel chemical attack in [Aleppo](#) that injured over a hundred on [November 24, 2018](#), later said "For us the attack was a real surprise. It was about 10 pm and we heard the usual loud explosions. Shortly thereafter, however, we saw yellow smoke rise, different from the black and dense columns of dust and debris that follow a normal bombardment. Within a few minutes sirens could be heard as ambulances carried injured people. No fighting is taking place right now in the area. We are talking about civilian areas with unarmed residents. They bombed a sector not far from our vicariate, only later did we learn that it was chlorine bombs...We hope that it will remain an isolated case, but the fear is so great that it can start a new battle. Episodes like this one have been used as a pretext by Western powers to attack again in Syria. These rebel groups have lost the battle and now try by every means to hinder the return to peace, to normal life...for a long time Russia and the Syrian government have warned of the risk of attack with chemical weapons by rebel groups, which possess this type of weapons and are very scary...[This raises a] big question mark about our future. We hope the situation does not get worse. The Turks had promised to guarantee respect for the truce, instead they allow these attacks")

George Al-Khazaal (aged 31, reported on [April 17, 2016](#) to have been **killed** by ISIL in [Qaryatain](#))

George Assaf (aged 18, son of Alice Assaf, **killed** by ISIL in [2014](#) for hiding Syrian Army soldiers in their home in [Adra al-Ummaliya, outside Damascus](#) and after he refused to convert to Islam, his mother said after they were betrayed by a neighbor)

George Azar (**shot dead by sniper fire** on or before [August 22, 2012](#) in [Rableh](#) where 12000 Christians are trapped by encircling rebels, food and medicine declining)

Fr George Bahi (described the death of a child and the wounding of 61 when on [April 15, 2014](#) a missile hit the Armenian Catholic School in [Bab Tuma, Damascus](#))

George Ballo (**killed** in a [December 11, 2015](#) triple ISIL suicide bombing that killed up to 60 people in [Tel Tamar](#))

George Barkho Khoshaba (reported on [October 2, 2014](#) to have been abducted from [Tel Tamar, Khabour region, Hasaka](#) by ISIL militants)

George Bolos Esho (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Hormez village](#))

George Ibrahim Al-Gharib (aged 44, reported on [April 17, 2016](#) to have been **killed** by ISIL in [Qaryatain](#))

George Kabandjian (**killed by sniper fire** on [November 1, 2012](#) in [Aleppo](#))

George Lahdo (reported on [May 22, 2016](#) to have been **killed** in an ISIL attack on several restaurants in [al-Wusta district, Qamishle](#))

Fr George Louis (house destroyed by four mortar rounds;

beaten and strangled by two masked gunmen on [May 11, 2012](#) in [Qara](#) but survived;

church of Sts Sergius and Bacchus in [Qara](#) desecrated on [November 19, 2012](#), icons and manuscripts stolen but later returned with apologies, served coffee to the masked men who returned the items;

has abandoned his Qara parish with all of his parishioners, new refuge in [Deir Atieh](#) as of [November 25, 2013](#) has been overrun by Islamist fighters who are taking Christians as hostages and human shields;

described on [November 28, 2013](#) how he and his parishioners became the objects of a manhunt by foreign Islamic fighters after they had reached refuge in Der Atieh: "We hid in the basement for 4 days and 4 nights, without food, water, electricity. After a night of prayer, we decided to escape. We reached Sadad, another martyred city. Archbishop Selwanos Boutros Alnemeh and the faithful who returned to the city welcomed us with love and kindness")

George Odisho (aged 28, member of the Assyrian Democratic Organization, arrested by government agents on [November 19, 2013](#) in [Jazira province](#) after they complained of a lack of Christian representation in the new ad interim government)

Bishop George Saliba (present in [Qamishli](#) when a suicide bomber dressed as a priest attempted to kill Patriarch Ignatius Ephrem II on [June 19, 2016](#), uninjured, said "Despite the heat, nearly 4,000 of the faithful had walked through the streets to the new memorial carrying crosses and rosaries. At the ceremony hall while a speech was given, a blast was heard outside. The Patriarch calmed the audience and asked for the proceedings to continue. He assured everyone Syriac guards were on top of things")

George Zoreb (son of Nabil Zoreb, **shot dead** by members of The Brigade of Islam on [July 23,](#)

2012 in Bab Touma suburb, Damascus)

Georges Bakhache (reported on [November 27, 2014](#) to have said in [Aleppo](#) "A lot of members of our community have left because they lost their jobs and because of terror of Daesh [ISIL]. Despite it all, we will not leave our land. Impossible...[ISIL terrorists] are not in town but they're not far...Christians panicked when they saw what happened to the Christians of Mosul [Iraq. It made] a big stir here and Christians left for Lebanon, Sweden, Canada, America and Armenia")

Georges Gureel ("child", son of Monna Markus, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Rev Georges Massouh (on [July 20, 2013](#) described extensive vandalism of Christian holy sites)

Georgio Rabbat (aged 13, **killed** in an [Aleppo](#) mortar attack in the three days prior to [July 16, 2013](#))

Gergess Zagher Al-Gharib (aged 66, reported on [April 17, 2016](#) to have been **killed** by ISIL in [Qaryatayn](#))

Ghada Moshe Baram (aged 40, wife of Dr Akram Lazar, mother of Maria Akram Lazar, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#);
released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other Christians)

Ghassan Bitar (reported on [August 11, 2015](#) to have returned to his home after rebel forces left [Homs](#), churches aided him with rebuilding)

Fr Giorgio (described the [November 5, 2013](#) mortar attack on the Vatican Nunciature [aka Embassy] in [Damascus](#), no one was hurt but the salvo shows evidence that the building was deliberately targeted, said "Papal legations are never closed. We shall only take a few precautions")

Giorgio Istifan (husband of Miriam, father of Benita, separated from his wife and daughter due to the fighting, injured in his left side by shrapnel from a mortar shell on November 8 2014, wrote from [Aleppo](#) on [December 22, 2014](#) "Life during the war in Syria has taught us Christians that faith is essential. As a result of this faith, there is trust in God. Despite the length and tragedy of this war, our faith has increased and so has our trust in the Lord. With the eyes of faith, we see every day the hand of God cure all of us, and take care of our daily needs. Even though we might suffer and experience gusts of wind, it seems that in this great storm of war, we are under the protection of great powerful wings")

Giries Na'oum (alias, aged 45, husband, father of three, said in [Aleppo](#) on or before : [October 27, 2015](#) "We want Christians all over the world to know what is happening in Syria without misrepresentation. This war is for the profit of the big powers. So far, more than half the Christians of Aleppo have left. If the war continues, there will be no more Christians. Everyone is thinking about emigrating. Will it be possible to help those who remain in Aleppo to travel? This is a crucial question to look at in the future. Our greatest wish is that someone intercede with your governments to end the war...Few talk about peace. Pope Francis has been asking for it incessantly and loudly. He calls for peace in Syria and throughout the Middle East. His is a very important voice. It shows his closeness to the people in this moment of distress, providing support in daily life. It is a source of hope and comfort for the people")

Msgr Giuseppe Nazzaro OFM (stated that all outdoor celebration of Easter will be cancelled this year due to the civil violence, in [April 2012](#) reported hearing shots at the University 150 meters from his residence in [Aleppo](#));

described on [December 16, 2013](#) in [Aleppo](#) the Islamic militant takeover of another Christian village: "In Kanayé, they have not imposed on the population to leave but to live according to the Islamic law. This could be the first step: tomorrow they will force them to convert to Islam")

Gourget Malki (mother of Hanna Michael Issa, Fadi Michael Issa, Bassam Michael Issa, Lina Michael Issa, and Sanharib Michael Issa, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Patriarch Gregorios III Laham (aged 79 [2013], condemned the [May 11, 2012](#) attack on Fr George Louis and said it created "very serious psychological terror in our population";

stated on [May 16, 2012](#) in [Damascus](#): "There is no more revolution, there are no more demonstrations. There is only banditry and the world refuses to acknowledge...foreign elements have entered the country and have even started beating the Christians, who had to leave Homs given the dangerousness of the situation";

stated on [June 8, 2012](#) "God can restore peace, brotherly love and mutual solidarity in Syria, in all its regions and among all its citizens...In the Eastern tradition of the Church, after Pentecost in the month of June is observed the 'Fast of the Twelve Apostles', chief among whom are Peter and Paul, whom the Church in the East and West alike commemorates on June 29. This fast begins this year on June 4 and ends on June 28. Now, after the escalation of violence, especially the widespread series of assassinations and kidnappings for ransom that has affected a great many members of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church and others, especially in Homs, we ask all the children of our patriarchal Eparchy of Damascus to fast and say special prayers every day, at home and in church...This is our response to the painful events that have caused weeping and heartbreak, implanting terrifying images and causing hatred and revenge...for all Christians that their hearts may be confirmed in true faith and united in thy Church; for leaders and members of Parliament, that they may be enlightened and follow the ways of understanding, compassion and effectual co-operation for all the inhabitants of Syria, that their hearts may be confirmed in understanding and peace.";

inaugurated the Synod of the Greek Melkite Catholic Church on June [19, 2012](#) in [Beirut](#), Lebanon, stated "We urge all parties involved in the country and abroad, to participate in the construction of a new Syria, on the model of a plural democracy...violence has exceeded all limits [and] is destroying the nation.";

on [August 1, 2012](#) asked that Christians fast and pray during the Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God, which coincides with the end of Ramadan: "Together we shall be praying especially for the safety of all Syrians and for the cessation of the violence that sows fear in quiet districts and has caused the displacement and flight of thousands who have left their homes and properties";

called for prayers for a peaceful outcome in Syria on [August 22, 2012](#);

on [September 25, 2012](#) "begs God to help the innocent and poor" who have been kidnapped by the hundreds in [Rableh](#);

stated on [February 9, 2013](#) "Twenty churches have been destroyed, damaged or abandoned.

The believers of our Lord and priests have been evicted. The priests have not reached to their people or prayed liturgy for over a year.";

pleaded with European Union leaders on [July 3, 2013](#) in [Brussels, Belgium](#) to oppose member countries sending more arms to Syria: "more weapons will mean more widows and orphans";

on [September 6, 2013](#) in [Damascus](#) described the rebel attack on the Christian village of Maaloula "80% of the terrified population of the village have fled to Damascus. Yesterday refugees, came crying to the Greek Catholic and then went to the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate. We tried in every way to comfort them. Maaloula is a sacred place for all of us, but first of all its inhabitants are sacred: man is the holy temple of God. Armed groups are now holed up in the village, made up of houses built on the rocks. And any act of force to throw them out could mean the destruction of the place";

said on [October 17, 2013](#) that 450,000 Christians have become refugees, almost one-third of the population;

on [October 18, 2013](#) described the finding of two remote controlled bombs in the Cathedral of Constantine and Helen in [Yabroud](#), one was in a confessional booth;

said of the murder of the Matanios El Sheikh family on or just after [October 21, 2013](#) in [Sadad](#): "How can somebody do such inhumane and bestial things to an elderly couple and their family? I do not understand why the world does not raise its voice against such acts of brutality";

said in his [December 1, 2013](#) meeting with Pope Francis in the [Vatican City](#) "You spoke to us, asking us not to let the flame of hope die in our hearts...We want to be martyrs on this earth, martyrs in blood, as was the case for some of our faithful, including the three men from Maaloula: Mikhael Taalab, Antoun Taalab, and Sarkis el Zakhm...Holy Father, they are true martyrs. Ordered to give up their faith, they proudly refused. Three others however gave in and were forced to declare themselves Muslim, but later returned to the faith of their ancestors";

on [April 20, 2014](#) called the destruction of the churches in Maaloula a "war crime";

met with the other four Christian patriarchs of Antioch in [Damascus](#) on [June 8, 2015](#) and issued a statement pleading with Christians to remain in the Middle East "We do not condemn those that choose to leave, but we remind Christians that steadfastness in faith often entails a great deal of tribulation. We call on everyone who claims to have an interest in our fate to help us to remain";

said on [July 29, 2015](#) "If [the West] helps moderates in Syria in a direct way, [it is] helping ISIL in an indirect way. If you give money to the weak, moderate groups one day, it will get into the hands of the powerful, militant groups the next. We see this happening every day";

said in [Damascus](#) on [March 18, 2016](#) concerning the U.S. State Department declaration of genocide "it is a wrong approach because now is a time to work for peace and coexistence, not generate even more divisions...[that create] animosity between groups, Sunnis vs Shias, Christians vs Muslims...We must avoid labelling religion as a cause of war. Military interventions as well as economic and political interests are the cause of wars, while religions are exploited as a tool and a pretext";

said in [Damascus](#) on [August 18, 2016](#) that it is impossible to confirm or deny an Amnesty

International report that asserts 18,000 people have died in government prisons since 2011, added that the situation is critical in Aleppo and in Madaya where "The area is under Daesh [ISIL] siege and government aid is not getting through because the terrorists mingle among the population and use civilians as human shields as they successfully did in Palmyra and Homs in the past";

signed an appeal in [Damascus](#) on [August 24, 2016](#) to end economic sanctions against the country "Since the beginning of the crisis in Syria in 2011, the impact of the economic and financial sanctions increased on the daily lives of Syrian citizens...the ban on international banking transactions with Syria puts the people in a financial difficulty. It impoverishes the citizens and threatens them in their daily bread and deprives them of their human dignity";

resigned from the patriarchate of the Greek Catholic Melkite church on [May 8, 2017](#))

Metropolitan Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim (Syriac Orthodox of Aleppo, described [April 2012](#) the many fears that Christians currently have;

called for prayers for a peaceful outcome in Syria [August 21, 2012](#))

Grigory Tsurkanu (aged 38, Russian citizen, mercenary [or covert soldier], reported on [October 6, 2017](#) to have been **executed** by ISIL [near Deir Ezzor](#) after refusing to convert to Islam)

Habsah (aged 75, wife of Matanios El Sheikh, mother of Njala, grandmother of Ranim and Fadi, **died after being thrown down a well** in [Sadad](#) by anti-government rebels on or just after [October 21, 2013](#))

Fr Halim Noujaim (reported on the [June 23, 2013](#) shooting death of Fr Francois Mourad)

Hallaq Shibli (wounded by anti-government forces on [May 25 2012](#) in [southern Rableh](#))

Hani Afif Khazaal (aged 27, reported on [April 17, 2016](#) to have been **killed** by ISIL in [Qaryatain](#))

Hani Moussa Khazaal (aged 25, reported on [April 17, 2016](#) to have been **killed** by ISIL in [Qaryatain](#))

Hanna (wife and mother, wrote in [Damascus](#) on [November 13, 2013](#) about the Islamic rebels: "In fact attacks on churches happen a lot now. They are also targeting Christians. Many of them are killed or kidnapped. When they are kidnapped they ask their families for ransom or they force them to convert to Islam. Women are often raped. The people that return from such events are traumatized. One of the men I know that came back from a kidnapping didn't speak a word since he came back. He is crying a lot. Nobody knows what happened to him...in our house you see the traces of the war: we already noticed a bullet hole in our guest room, but recently I also discovered one in the room of my girls";

wrote in [Damascus](#) on [December 16, 2013](#) "We will have some special prayers in church, but we don't have any decorations. Having Christmas decorations outside the church would provoke the terrorist attacks. They already send the Christians a message — [t]hey have special 'Christmas gifts' prepared for us: three bombed-out cars. We don't know what to expect next...It has been quiet the last week; we only rarely hear the sounds of bombs anymore. It is what we have been praying and fasting for. But I feel strange and I don't know why. It's like this is the silence before the storm and they are waiting to suddenly attack us...Last week I went to the market to get some hats, socks and candy for the kids in our church. Normally we would buy them some games, but toys are way too expensive now. At least they will have something to keep them warm. That's more important than toys in this situation. I want to give those gifts to the children and hope that they will know

that Jesus still loves them, no matter what's going on around us. Please keep praying for us";

wrote in [Damascus](#) on [February 20, 2014](#) "I'm in church while I'm telling you this. In the room next to me, there is a service going on for refugees. We have two meetings a day now, because prayer is the only thing that we can still do...More and more the bombs seem to be aimed at churches. The roof of the school of our church was also hit. Fortunately, the children were in the church at that time and thanks to God nobody got hurt...Recently I was at a youth meeting of our church where we spoke about forgiveness; quite a challenging topic in our situation as you might understand. But God asks us to forgive our enemies, no matter what. Jesus' words about forgiveness really touched the heart of a 12-year-old girl that attended the meeting. She stood up in tears and asked if she could share something. Still crying, she told about her 18-year-old brother, who had been beheaded because he was a Christian. We all knew this boy. The sister was so angry at his murderers. But now, she told us, she realized for the first time that she had to forgive them, like Jesus has forgiven us. All in the room were deeply impressed by the story of this girl. We had a deep realization of what forgiving means...God bless all of you who are praying for us. Please continue praying";

wrote on [April 16, 2013](#) in [Damascus](#) "Sometimes it seems like there is no end to all this misery. I know God is in control, but sometimes I feel so hopeless. I regularly fall on my knees and cry out to Him about why all of this is happening...While I'm telling you this, we're in the middle of a bombing. My husband and two girls just saw one bomb falling down over 200 yards from our house. We hurried downstairs to be safer...A mortar falling down sounds like a very strong voice near you; it's the same pressure. We don't know what will happen in five minutes, or even one minute. One moment you're here, the next moment you can be gone. A few days ago my relative was preparing Easter snacks in the kitchen when suddenly her life was over; a bomb fell through her apartment. We didn't find her body...I told the children [in the school where I work]: no matter what bad things are happening around us, our God is still good; even if we're in danger of death, our God is still good and worthy of praise. So we raised our hands and started worshiping God. The parents of one of our Muslim pupils were present while we did that, and they were so impressed they said: 'Our child is safe here. He is under the protection of God'")

Hanna ("child", son of Josef Yokhanna and Frial Warda Gabriel, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Hanna Ammo (son of Martin Hanna Ammo and Ramma Aslan, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Hanna Italous Ammo (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Fr Hanna Jallouf OFM (as of [June 20, 2013](#) has resisted the Islamists who want him to stop ringing church bells in [a village north of Aleppo](#), is aided by local Muslims who respect his work;

abducted on [October 6, 2014](#) by the al Qaeda-affiliated Jahbat al-Nusra Front along with up to 20 parishioners from [Knayeh village, Orontes valley](#), whereabouts unknown;

released on [October 9, 2014](#) and returned to his residence, under house arrest, the four women abducted with him also released, whereabouts of the other parishioners unconfirmed;

five Christians still in captivity as of [October 10, 2014](#), including his uncle, a cook and his brother, and a custodian and his brother;

as of [October 13, 2014](#) has been charged with collaborating with the government, trial date unknown, all other parishioners have now been released)

Hanna Michael Issa (son of Gourget Malki, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Hannaa Assaf Youssef (had been forced to appear in a [July 27, 2015](#) video in which she said if she were not ransomed then she would be sold as a sex slave)

Hannan (wife of Shawel Elesha, mother of Munira Elesha, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Hannan Youkhna (aged 46,, wife of Walid Franso Sawa, mother of Franso, Ashorina, Ornina, and Nahrin, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other Christians)

Harout Aksinan (**killed** in an artillery barrage in [Bustan Kol Aab, Aleppo](#) on [February 21, 2015](#))

Helane Kako (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Fr Hieromonk N (as of [May 28, 2013](#) described a conversation he had with Bishop Boulos al-Yazigi 'Not long before his abduction we were walking together in the city. I asked him, "Geronda, why do you go by foot? It is dangerous—after all, many have been kidnapped already." But he answered, "Martyrdom is the only sinless path."')

Metropolitan Hilarion (Moscow Patriarchate Department for External Relations, met with Pope Francis on [August 30, 2013](#) in [Vatican City](#), said later "It is clear that the extremist forces seeking power have set themselves the goal of the complete and total destruction of Christianity in Syria. And if they take power, even temporarily, the Christian population will be eliminated or driven out from their lands and their churches will be destroyed")

Hisham Bato (**killed** in a [December 11, 2015](#) triple ISIL suicide bombing that killed up to 60 people in [Tel Tamar](#))

Hormiz Sheeba (father of Sheem Hormiz Sheeba)

Sr Houda Fadoul (spoke on [February 17, 2015](#) on the 120 Christian families served by her community in [Al Nabek](#) "The jihadists are not far away. We Christians are scared of them. But so are the Muslims of Al Nabek. After all, the jihadists also kill Muslims. No one wants them here...Many families either don't have a flat at all anymore, or the ones they have are uninhabitable")

Fr Ibrahim Alsabagh OFM (aged 44 [2016], commented on the [June 23 2013](#) killing of his friend Fr Francois Mourad that it made him feel "bitter, happy, and a little bit of envy" and it reminded him of "how close martyrdom is", will be spending two months in Damascus this summer beginning on [July 6, 2013](#) to help the Franciscan mission before returning to [Rome, Italy](#) to finish his doctorate;

helped Giorgio Istifan write his [December 22, 2014](#) account;

described the [October 25, 2015](#) artillery attack on his church in the [Azizieh quarter, Aleppo](#) "Just at that moment I was preparing to administer the Eucharist to the faithful. Suddenly

everything began to shake, and all kinds of debris fell down inside the church. There was so much dust that we couldn't see one another. If it had blown a hole through the dome, it could have been a tragedy. And even if it had only caused the chandelier to fall, it could have killed as many as ten people. As I said to my congregation, it was the mantle of the Blessed Virgin that protected us...It certainly wasn't any accident that the attack took place during the Sunday evening Mass, when there were 400 people inside the church", after determining that there were no serious injuries he continued the Mass: "Some of them were astonished by my reaction. But it is in the Lord that we find our strength, in union with Him through prayer", said that the next day the people returned for Mass: "There were so many of them, and we joyfully listened once again to the sound of our bells";

said in [Aleppo](#) on [April 30, 2016](#) jihadist groups such as al-Nusra and ISIL "have launched heavy attacks, dragging in the other rebel groups" and need to be repelled with force "because with them you can not dialogue...My city is a ghost town...without water, without electricity, where there is no work and where bombs fall everywhere. It is inhuman...schools are closed, children stay at home, shops have lowered their shutters, [everyone] avoids having to go out, although this does not mean that homes are safer, because the bombs can strike anywhere", the Church has been working to "stem the emergency, providing food boxes, meeting people, listening to their stories of suffering, giving them words of hope and comfort", if their homes have been destroyed "we try to find new accommodation, we suffer with them, we too are under fire";

wrote of the [May 4, 2016](#) missile attacks in [Aleppo](#) on a hospital in which 17 children were killed in the obstetrics department and on a mosque with many refugees inside "Yesterday we experienced the worst day of the week, with heavy bombardment... The way we are being forced to live is a real crime against humanity, because targeting children, infants, women in childbirth, college students...call it revenge or terrorism, are truly horrific acts. We ask for compassion and mercy for these innocent victims. We must all be close to all those who suffer, for those who have experienced violence...for infants, the elderly, the desperate. As a Church we are close not only to Christians, but to anyone who has been struck in his dignity by this violence. This is why I renew my appeal to all of you for your prayers and thank you for the solidarity, your closeness to us, your good will";

said on [July 20, 2016](#) "Within four hours, 250 rockets fell on the inhabitants of western Aleppo...Close the borders through which the weapons, food and fighters are being supplied. To 95 per cent, the supplies are arriving from Turkey and they arrive with backup. We are not talking about individuals, but of entire organized forces operating with logistics...Anyone who shoots rockets at residential houses, churches, schools and hospitals is not a 'moderate rebel'!";

possibly reported to Vatican Radio on [August 9, 2016](#) "We don't know what's going to happen. We announced to all the priests, since yesterday, and we've also told the people, that we want to fast and pray the next 72 hours so that the will for peace always prevails and so that it wins over the will for war...It's a miracle and divine providence that we bought everything [food, water, etc.] before Aleppo's main street was closed off...the bombardments, which are intensified at night, continue, but there are also missiles falling on the western side of the city, where we're living...in recent days two areas were evacuated and many people have slept and continue to sleep on the streets or in tents...The army for its part wants to retake the parts it lost in recent days, while these military groups are getting ready to advance further toward Hamdaniya and the entire western area of the city...within the city it's more the jihadists than the rebels who are taking the helm of these

military groups which are very, very diversified”;

said in [Aleppo](#) on [September 16, 2016](#) "we were awakened by a rocket that fell near here [which] hit the Syrian Catholic bishop's residence...Neither the bishop nor his vicar were present at the time, this prevented casualties or injuries. The damages to the building remain", added that the cathedral had "been targeted by rockets and mortar fire for a while" by rebel forces;

said in [Aleppo](#) on [November 28, 2016](#) "We hear the news about the governmental offensive but they are distant voices. What we experience every day are bombs, missiles, explosions in both sectors of the city...We are all waiting to see what will happen in the coming days. Families, west and east, are exhausted; they only want peace in the face of an increasingly difficult life. So we decided to intensify prayers for peace during Advent...A secondary school has just been evacuated in the western sector and last night a missile hit another school. Fortunately, the building was empty and there were no casualties...the movement of people on the streets is minimal. Uncertainty and suffering prevail...Every first Sunday of the month, starting on 4 December, we shall conduct a procession with songs and prayers for peace [as will] every Franciscan home and parish in the world...We continue to pray for peace and also for those who drop bombs on our houses, and churches";

said on [September 6, 2017](#) that [Aleppo](#) "was a metropolis that [before the war] generated about 60 per cent of Syria's industrial output [but now is] paralyzed and does not produce even a kilo of tomatoes, [it is] only a great consumer...[It is an] unstable society, where seniors are abandoned to their fate and die alone because no one takes care of them. Then there are the widows, young and lonely mothers with children because the men have disappeared, those who have not died in the war but have escaped abroad to avoid compulsory military service...For every young man, there are 12 young women, a huge disproportion...violence is part of the everyday life that went from the street into the home. The main challenge is to rebuild the children's personality. This issue is not just about schooling, but includes psychological support and involves the Church and the parish with targeted activities...The fundamentalist ideology has put down roots in the minds of a part of the population thanks to ignorance, poverty, and a desire to vengeance...[Security issues exist] because of the presence of sleeper cells, ready to strike")

Fr Ibrahim Farah (aged 57, abducted in [Idlib](#) on [March 28, 2015](#) by Islamists belonging to the al-Nusra Front, an al-Qaeda affiliate, along with other parishioners)

Pastor Ibrahim Nasir (described the [November 8, 2012](#) destruction of the historic Arabic Evangelical Church in [Aleppo](#) by armed men with explosives;

said on [July 20, 2015](#) in [Aleppo](#) that two-thirds of Syrian Christians have now fled the country. many of those remaining are internally displaced)

Ibrahim Zaghir Al-Gharib (aged 73, reported on [April 17, 2016](#) to have been **killed** by ISIL in [Qaryatain](#))

Patriarch Ignatius IV Hazim (primate of the Greek-Orthodox of Antioch and All the East, **died of natural causes** at age 91 on [December 12, 2012](#) in [Damascus](#), had worked to end the civil war until he became too ill)

Patriarch Ignatius Ephrem II (aged 50, met with the other four Christian patriarchs of Antioch in [Damascus](#) on [June 8, 2015](#) and issued a statement pleading with Christians to remain in the

Middle East “We do not condemn those that choose to leave, but we remind Christians that steadfastness in faith often entails a great deal of tribulation. We call on everyone who claims to have an interest in our fate to help us to remain”;

said in [Rome, Italy](#) on [June 19, 2015](#) "When we look at martyrs we see that the Church is not just one, holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Throughout its journey through history the Church has also been a suffering Church...Jesus suffered for no reason, gratuitously. Given that we follow him, the same could happen to us. And when it happens, Christians do not make demands, protesting 'against' martyrdom. After all, Jesus promised us that he would never abandon us, he never deprives us of his rescuing grace, as the stories of the early martyrs and today's martyrs too, attest. They face martyrdom with a joyous expression and peace in their heart. Christ said so himself: blessed are you when they persecute you because of me. Martyrs are not defeated people, they are not discriminated people who need to free themselves from said discrimination. Martyrdom is a mystery of gratuitous love";

condemned the [August 5, 2015](#) abduction of over 250 Christians from [Alqariatin](#) by ISIL;

said of the [December 30, 2015](#) ISIL suicide bombing of three Christian-owned restaurants in [Qamishli](#) "Most victims were young people willing to welcome the New Year with hope and joy. In tears and gloomy hope, Christians of Qamishli welcomed 2016...It was a sinister message the terrorists wanted to send to the Christians of this city, sowing death and tears...a message of horror...We pray to the Lord to end this tragedy: Enough of this terrorism, enough is enough";

targeted by a suicide bomber dressed as a priest during a [June 19, 2016](#) Pentecost [Eastern calendar] commemoration of the Assyrian genocide in [al-Wusta district, Qamishli](#), escaped injury when the bomber was stopped by security and set off his bomb, 3 security guards were killed and 5 wounded;

signed an appeal in [Damascus](#) on [August 24, 2016](#) to end economic sanctions against the country "Since the beginning of the crisis in Syria in 2011, the impact of the economic and financial sanctions increased on the daily lives of Syrian citizens...the ban on international banking transactions with Syria puts the people in a financial difficulty. It impoverishes the citizens and threatens them in their daily bread and deprives them of their human dignity";

led the Divine Liturgy in a ruined church in [Deir Ezzor](#) on [February 3, 2018](#), said "It's an indescribable feeling for us to pray in a nearly-destroyed church, which serves as a consolation for our hearts and a message of hope to the people of the city to come back and take part in building it anew")

Patriarch Ignatius Ephrem Joseph III Yonan (Patriarch of the Syrian Catholic Church, stated "if Assad falls, sectarian strife could ravage the country and Islamic terrorists will target Christians as they have in Iraq and Egypt. If they support Assad and he falls they could be targets for revenge";

spoke on [June 17, 2014](#) of the Islamists "Look, as a Christian I have been teaching as I was taught to pardon and love our enemies. But it doesn't help, talking to those people because they have already lost their human soul. They were and they still are fighting in the name of their god in violence. It's not only their fault. Politicians in the west have been telling us that the Arab spring is coming in that region and it will be good for its people. This was a lie. They are accomplices of emptying the region of its Christian communities...They have been telling us that they have to arm the moderate revolutionaries in Syria and elsewhere.

It's not the truth. You can't find moderate Muslim groups right now in the area. There is a fight of sectarian war between Sunnis and Shias. This is very much boosted by United States politicians. They were telling us regarding Syria that the regime will fall and the people will get the power. We are now three years and two months and the fight is still there. And innocent people are paying the price. Innocent people are leaving and the country is destroyed";

called on people to pray for the 90 or more Christians abducted by ISIL from [Tel Shamiran, Tel Baz, Tel Goran, Tel Jezirah and Tel Hormizd](#) villages on [February 23, 2015](#);

said on [March 25, 2015](#) in [Beirut, Lebanon](#) "The invasion by the Islamic State and its supporters on some 30 Christian villages on the Khabur River February 23 [2015] resulted in the killing of more than two dozen people, the kidnapping of around 300 and the uprooting of around 2,500 people...we still have Westerners calling for the fall of what they call the Syrian regime...It has its errors, its weaknesses, its failures. But that doesn't mean that Westerners have the right to keep hammering the government, aiming for it to fall. If this Syrian government falls, it will be a kind of hecatomb - that means a horrible catastrophe - on the whole region. And it will primarily hit minorities, especially the Christian communities, who are the most vulnerable in this ongoing conflict";

met with the other four Christian patriarchs of Antioch in [Damascus](#) on [June 8, 2015](#) and issued a statement pleading with Christians to remain in the Middle East "We do not condemn those that choose to leave, but we remind Christians that steadfastness in faith often entails a great deal of tribulation. We call on everyone who claims to have an interest in our fate to help us to remain";

said on [September 20, 2015](#) "We, what we call the message, we patriarchs usually extend to our flocks — either Chaldean Syriac Catholics, Iraq Orthodox, Assyrians — aid to respect their choice. We don't impose on them the choice of remaining in the country or emigrating. However, we can do nothing to stop the exodus of our people because we have been abandoned, even betrayed by the Western countries, and we really blame our Christian brethren in the West, either in North America or in the European Union, to just ignore us in our own country";

said on [November 18, 2015](#) "Western democracies have conspired against Syria and produced the destruction of the nation's infrastructure, the demolition of houses, towns, villages, monuments and archaeological sites. This is the result of a foolish politics and of a conspiracy, under the pretext of bringing democracy to the region. We Christians are not able to live in this chaos that produces militias, armed gangs, terrorist groups and Islamic parties. But when we maintain a firm stand against these phenomena, then the West accuses us of being dictatorial. All Eastern patriarchs, myself included, have spoken out clearly to the West from the very beginning: Be careful, the situation in Syria is not like that of Egypt, Tunisia or Libya. It's much more complex, and conflict here will create only chaos and civil war. They listened and responded: 'No, the Assad regime will fall in a few months.' As I predicted, that hasn't happened...[Syrian Christians are now] trapped in a terrible situation [between] criminal gangs called ISIL and other terrorist groups who use Islam as an excuse to 'purify' areas under their control in the name of religion, and Muslims scholars who tell us that Islam is alien to these facts...Innocent people, especially Christians, have no support. The West has betrayed us";

wrote of the [December 30, 2015](#) ISIL suicide bombing of three Christian-owned restaurants in [Qamishli](#) "The old people weep, the young are losing hope and the children's

joy is wiped away...The enemy of humanity is spreading its power everywhere in our beloved Middle East, seeking to destroy the homes of the children of God and to lead them astray. What god do these suicide bombers worship? What religion do they follow? They use blood, slaughter, and killing as a way to please their god. Where are the people of good conscience to act against these attacks? Is it not time to wake up from their deep sleep and to do all that is possible to protect the remaining people in this region, whose sole concern is to live in peace in their homeland? Is it not the fit time to unite and collectively fight all forms of terrorism and extremism?";

said on [August 3, 2016](#) in [Toronto, Canada](#) "The very existence of Eastern Churches, those churches that come from the apostles' time, is at stake, in danger [and] is not going to be assured [by the] hypocritical and Machiavellian agenda of the powerful countries and politicians of the West...Who taught these two young men who slaughtered the priest [in Rouen, France]? Their Iman alienated them as children and as youth, and told them to memorize all the verses of the Quran. If you tell these kids that those verses are literally coming from God, you'll be able to turn that young man into a beast, since they don't have exegesis, and they have to memorize those verses, it won't be easy to prevent them from becoming terrorists or killers")

Patriarch Ignatius Zakka I was (confirmed a car bombing of an Orthodox church on [October 27, 2012](#) in [Deir Ezzor](#);

died of a heart attack at age 81 on [March 21, 2014](#) in [Germany](#))

Fr Imad Daher (injured in fighting on [October 19, 2012](#) in [Aleppo](#);

reported on [November 27, 2014](#) to have said in [Aleppo](#) "We will celebrate Christmas...We will celebrate with a Mass for peace", also recounted how he had been injured in an October 2012 artillery attack on his church, lost an eye and had a prosthetic cheek and a metal rod implanted in his arm, said "I was treated in Lebanon and then came back, because a shepherd does not abandon his flock, otherwise the wolf will come")

Isa Rashid (teacher, education director, beaten on [September 22, 2018](#) by suspected Kurds, hospitalized in serious condition)

Fr Isaac Moawad (abducted, still missing as of [April 22, 2013](#);

reported on [August 12, 2015](#) to have been **executed**)

Fr Isadore Battikha (stated on [August 10, 2012](#) in [Damascus](#) "We have been leading a life that has been the envy of many. But today fear is a reality.")

Isan Bahri (aged 44, mechanical shop owner in the [Kasaa district, eastern Damascus](#), said on [August 22, 2013](#) "The terrorists are trying to push the Christians out of this area. They are not shooting at the army, they are intentionally aiming for civilians...They have threatened to cut our throats. I love my country, but if it means having the terrorists slaughter me, my wife and our two boys, I'd rather escape to Lebanon")

Isho Jamo (aged 48, unemployed electrician, refugee, as of [October 10, 2015](#) has fled Islamic militants several times)

Issa Hanna (**killed** on [December 30, 2015](#) along with 15 others by ISIL suicide bombings on three Christian-owned restaurants in [Qamishli](#))

Fr Issam (reported on [July 2, 2013](#) on the torture and murder of Mariam in [Qusair](#))

Fr Issam Kassouha (father and cousin kidnapped in [Qusayr](#), later released as of [May 29, 2012](#))

Fr Iyad (as of [June 12, 2012](#) worked toward reconciliation despite personal exposure to gunfire in [Homs](#))

Iyad Salloum (aged 30, **killed** on [December 13, 2012](#) in the shelling of a Christian neighborhood in [Howache](#))

Jack Mardini (rector of the State University of Al-Furat in [Jazira province](#), abducted and released on [February 1, 2013](#))

Fr Jack Murat (described on or before [April 17, 2016](#) the situation after [Qaryatain](#) was liberated from ISIL by Syrian and Russian soldiers: "Those who could not pay [the jizya tribute] were kidnapped, tortured and killed" in the cellar of the church, pointed to the many shoes left behind and said "They come from the terrorists...The church is the most peaceful place in the world. It radiates nothing but goodness. But knowing what has been done here, of all places, my heart bleeds")

Jack Tuma (**killed** on [December 30, 2015](#) along with 15 others by ISIL suicide bombings on three Christian-owned restaurants in [Qamishli](#))

Archbishop Jacques Behnan Hindo (commented on the [June 23, 2013](#) shooting death of Fr Francois Mourad "Lately, Fr Mourad sent me some messages that clearly showed how conscious he was of living in a dangerous situation, and offered his life for peace in Syria and around the world";

expressed disagreement in [Hassake](#) on [December 11, 2013](#) with Bishop Louka al-Khoury's reported call for Christians to take up arms to defend themselves;

said on [November 14, 2014](#) "If the US-led intervention against the jihadists of the Islamic State [aka ISIL] eventually turns against the Syrian army, we could have a second Libya in Syria";

denounced the Turkish government in a [February 25, 2015](#) Vatican Radio interview from [Hasakah-Nisibi](#) for helping ISIL but not Christians, said "In the north, Turkey allows through lorries, ISIL militants, oil stolen from Syria, wheat and cotton. All of these can cross the border but nobody [from the Christian community] can pass over [for refuge]";

said in [Hassakah](#) on [February 26, 2015](#) "...unconfirmed rumors say that the jihadists are celebrating. We are trying to open up channels of negotiation through Arab Muslim leaders in contact with some sheikh. We are concerned about the fate of the hostages, among whom there are many elderly people, many women and children...Before, we heard the [coalition] planes at about three in the morning. In the past four days air operations have been suspended. I wonder why";

announced on [May 1, 2015](#) that ISIL has completely surrounded his city "We are going through a terrible time. The jihadists of the Islamic State attacked Hassakah for two days. They were warded off by the army and Kurdish militias. But we are cut off, like an island surrounded by jihadists from all sides...We have not had any news regarding the fate of 232 Assyrian hostages - among whom there are 51 children and 84 women - and initial contacts in an effort to secure their release have so far been unsuccessful";

reported on [June 30, 2015](#) to have fled from Hassake to [Qamishli](#) along with nearly all Christian families after ISIL gained control of a southern suburb, said "One must also point out that a part of the local population is on the militants' side: when these arrived in the

south-eastern district of al-Nachwa, women and children were asked to leave the city. But young boys and adults remained, and have sided with Daesh [aka ISIL]. And now that very large neighborhood is at the center of the most violent clashes between government forces and those of the so-called Islamic State", said of the refugees "the needs increase day by day. There are no wounded among Christians, but many of them, like everyone else, are concentrated in makeshift camps. Many sleep in the open, and the situation gets more and more complicated by the day, due to the unbearable heat";

as of [July 21, 2015](#) has become the 'almost-mayor' of [Hassake](#) while it has become tied down in fighting between the ISIL and Kurdish militias, said "I have become responsible for the cleaning, the waste emergency, the pest control and all the services that have to do with public health. The conflict puts the population in danger and at risk of epidemics. It all becomes even more complicated with the summer heat. I have taken charge of these needs because I saw that no one would do it, and I coordinate a team of 130 operators - including almost 100 Muslims - who work in neighborhoods inhabited by 400 thousand people, and do not ask for any money...We need trucks to collect waste. But now we do not know exactly where to find them";

said on [August 12, 2015](#) that the recent release of 22 elderly Christian captives by ISIL could be the harbinger of another attack "Perhaps we can do an analysis on why [the Islamic State] returned them, because one month ago they attacked Hassake to take it, [and] they couldn't. Maybe, maybe, they are giving a signal that we are expecting another attack. It's a little like a drug for us, to reassure us so that we aren't vigilant, and then they'll make a new, large attack";

said on [September 8, 2015](#) that ISIL is lowering the price to free the 230 Christians captured in February 2015 outside [Hassake](#) and that their freedom may now be possible;

said on [October 9, 2015](#) "Moscow's intervention has been positive because they are really targeting ISIL and the militia are beginning to flee. They fled from the area in about 20 cars in a hurry in the direction of Iraq, leaving another 20 cars on site...On the night of Feb. 23, when ISIL attacked, the American planes flew over the area for a long time without intervening. Then for three days we saw no more jets, leaving the field open to the militants. This makes us think that in some way have been helped by the Americans and their ambiguous attitude...They [ISIL] have executed three [Christians] and they are preparing another three for an upcoming execution...People [in Deir ez-Zor] are dying of hunger, they lack food and medicine. Just think that today 50 kg of sugar costs as much as a car or a house. People sell the car to buy it. The ISIL has imposed a real blockade, men, women, elderly and children are starving";

spoke in [Hassake](#) on [March 23, 2016](#) on the recent ISIL terror attacks in Europe: "Although several European leaders until recently had the fall of the government of Assad as the main geopolitical goal, they also aimed at accrediting the jihadist militia of al-Nusra Front [an al-Qaeda affiliate] as 'moderate Muslims'...European leaders, and the entire West have maintained for decades the preferential axis with Saudi Arabia and the emirates of the Arabian Peninsula. In recent decades, they have ensured these Countries the possibility of financing the whole of Europe, and also in Belgium, the birth of a network of mosques where Wahhabism was preached, the ideology that poisons Islam and serves as the ideological basis for all jihadist groups. And all this happened because economic logic and billion dollar contracts with oil bosses prevailed: flows of money and resources...Europe on the issue of refugees chose to become hostage to Turkey. I understand the European

difficulties, but I highlight that the IDPs [refugees] welcomed in Europe in 2015 do not exceed 0.2 percent of the population, while in a small Country like Lebanon their share now corresponds to half of the local population. I understand the tears of the European Commissioner for Foreign Policy. But I want to point out that for 5 years thousands of Syrian Muslims and Christians, men women and children have been killed. And there are no tears for them...unfortunately innocent people [in Paris and Brussels] reap what European powers have sown in Syria and Iraq in the last few years";

narrowly missed death on or before [September 21, 2016](#) when Kurdish militia fired into his residence in [Hassake](#), said "At that moment, the area was presided over by Kurdish militias, and there were no other armed persons nearby...Whenever the Kurdish militia enter in action to reaffirm its military hegemony over the city, the epicenter of their raids and acts of force is always the area of the six churches, where most of the Christians live. In many cases they expelled the Christians from their homes under the threat of Kalashnikovs. And where they enter, they loot everything";

reported on [September 4, 2018](#) to have criticized the Kurdish governing authority DFNS of trying to oust Christians from [Hassake province](#), said "For years I have been saying that the Kurds are trying to eliminate the Christian presence in this part of Syria. Since the beginning of the year, the local government has already taken possession of about 100 state-run schools and introduced their own curriculum and textbooks. They do not want us to instruct pupils in the liturgical language, Syriac, and they do not want us to teach history because they prefer to drum their own history into the heads of pupils...To date, Kurds make up only 20 percent of the population, but, thanks to Western support, [they] are disproportionately represented in the local government. The West cannot keep silent...You are obligated to bring everything that is happening out into the open and prevent further violations of our rights and further threats to our presence in this region. We have been warning against this danger since at least 2015. They want to oust us Christians to strengthen their own presence";

spoke in [Hasakah](#) on the [September 30, 2018](#) disappearance of Souleman Yusph: "at present we don't have any news...We hope that the situation can be resolved as soon as possible. We are closely following the story in order to figure out who took him and where he is now";

reported on [October 10, 2018](#) regarding the release of Souleman Yusph: "It is understandable that he wants to keep a low profile, but I want to continue to speak out against the discriminatory campaign by Kurds against Christians in the north-eastern Syria. He was arrested simply for telling the truth, for denouncing the abuses...more targeted attacks and violent incident cannot be excluded. We can expect anything from the Kurdish authorities. They do not understand that they are pawns in the hands of the West and are used for political purposes", added information about an upcoming meeting he will have with a Kurdish delegation: "it will be a tense meeting...They know that I am against their way of doing and governing the region. The major problem is not the Syrian Kurds, but those who come from Turkey and Iraqi Kurdistan who want to annex ancient Mesopotamia to their territory")

Fr Jacques Murad SJ (abducted in [Homs](#) on [May 18, 2015](#) by two armed men;

escaped from ISIL captivity on [October 10, 2015](#) with the help of a Muslim friend, said "Almost every day, someone [from IS] would come into my cell and ask, 'Who are you?' I would answer, 'I am a Nazarene, i.e. a Christian'. At that point, they would shout, 'Then

you're an infidel. And since you are an infidel, if you do not convert, we are going to cut your throat with a knife'. But I never signed a statement to renounce Christianity...Whilst I was a prisoner, I was waiting for the day of my death but with great inner peace. I had no problem with dying in the name of our Lord. I would not be the first nor the last, but one among the thousands of martyrs for Christ")

Jalal Al-Gharib (aged 30, reported on [April 17, 2016](#) to have been **killed** by ISIL in [Qaryatain](#))

Jalal Gazouha (aged 29, brother killed by an al-Qaeda sniper, has seen a total of 20 family members killed, fled the country before [October 24, 2013](#) when he saw his name on a hit list on an a-Qaeda web site)

Jamela Kako (aged 41, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#);
released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other Christians)

James Foley (aged 40, journalist, U.S. citizen, **beheaded** on [August 19, 2014](#) by ISIL militants)

Jan Abraham (aged 54, banker, mayor of [Tal Tamir](#), said on [October 10, 2015](#) that most Christians are too fearful of ISIL to return)

Prof Jany Haddad (humanitarian aid distributor, wrote from [Aleppo](#) on [April 17, 2014](#) "Till now, and from three directions and axes, the rebels are trying to invade the Christian and Armenian areas and regions. So far, more than 120-130 rockets and mortars have been hitting our quadrants. No one in the streets. No shop is open, or hard to find some. The army is controlling our areas and not allowing people to move around. No single car moves around as well. Everyone is hidden at his house or office. Everything is standstill, as if you are in a dead city...Your intercessory prayers are highly valued and needed";

wrote from [Aleppo](#) on [January 17, 2016](#) "On Sunday service morning at Emanuel Armenian Evangelical church, just after the general service there was a youth gathering, it was concluded just around 11:45-11:50, and the attack was just when the leader of the youth went out of the church. We are very grateful to my Lord's protection and guidance. Otherwise, the number of deaths and wounded Christians were going to be in tens and hundreds...Still as you know, the weather is getting cold more due to a windy snow storm. Still no fuel, no heating system, and since more than four months no electricity to cover some heating needs. Gas cylinders are rare and rocketing in the prices...Daily, there are people admitted to hospitals, private and general, with H1N1 [avian] flu and daily we hear about one or two deaths. In spite the government has, generously, providing vaccine to everyone who needs it, but the epidemic is still active and spreading like crazy horse. No control. The pollution rate increasing and no control for it as well")

Archbishop Jean-Abdo Arbach (said on [October 9, 2014](#) in [Homs](#) "To date our archdiocese has counted 96 martyrs [killed]. The fate of 26 people is uncertain")

Archbishop Jean Clement Jeanbart (on [August 17, 2012](#) in [Aleppo](#) called on the West to not arm groups in Syria but rather to push all sides to negotiate;

fled his [Aleppo](#) office along with his priests on [August 23, 2012](#) due to the fighting, left for Lebanon, vicar returned to find the office looted;

said on [April 29, 2013](#) in [Aleppo](#) that no one really knows what has happened to kidnapped Bishops Boulos al-Yazigi and Yuhanna Ibrahim, also said that four were killed in the shelling of the Christian neighborhood in the city;

said on [June 2, 2013](#) in [Aleppo](#) "We see only chaos and destruction in a conflict that is against everything and everyone. In a country disfigured, with the civilian population led to the slaughter";

commented on the [June 9, 2013](#) jihadist killing of a 14-year old Muslim coffee vendor in [Aleppo](#) for blasphemy "Christians are terrified by these militias and fear that in the event of their victory they would no longer be able to practice their religion and that they would be forced to leave the country...As soon as they reached the city, Islamist guerrillas, almost all of them from abroad, took over the mosques. Every Friday, an imam launches their messages of hate, calling on the population to kill anyone who does not practice the religion of the Prophet Muhammad. They use the courts to level charges of blasphemy. Who is contrary to their way of thinking pays with his life";

reported that the [Aleppo](#) archbishopric was hit with two mortar shells overnight on [September 20, 2013](#);

wrote from [Aleppo](#) on [December 22, 2014](#) "Christians all over the world are preparing the beautiful feast of Christmas with its humble and heavenly scenes bringing joy, warmth and hope to the hearts of young and old, everywhere in our disenchanting and sad world! We also in Syria are wishing for a Christmas of joy and consolation in the midst of this shameful war which has ravaged our country for almost four years now...Truly, we are suffering greatly because of what is happening to us but with the humblest and the poorest, we wait anxiously but with patience and great hope for the Lord to bring us this year the gift of PEACE for the happiness of our people and for all the nations suffering in the world...";

said on [January 30, 2015](#) while visiting [Monreale, Sicily, Italy](#) "As pastor of this church, I will never leave this people. I will die but I will not abandon my flock. I am convinced that the Lord will ask me an account of my commitment, my courage and my hope for this portion of his people that He entrusted to me. I have to admit that there was a time, early in the war when I thought of leaving, but the Lord stood by me, and now at 71 years of age, I feel at least 15 years younger, and I do not fear disappointment and discouragement. I know that the Lord takes care of me and my flock...Christians here suffer because they have lost their homes, their relatives and even their churches. What was the middle class no longer has enough to live on. Everything has been corrupted, especially the press, which no longer tells the truth [but now engages in] a true act of disinformation...Christians are a sort of thorn in the side. Christians are the only ones who have some type of relationship with the West, and are able to uncover the great scam that underlies this war and the many interests that are being protected";

on [May 27, 2015](#) wrote "ISIL, which has already killed thousands in the region, is terrifying the faithful of Aleppo...After Maloula, Mosul, Idlib and Palmyra, what is the West waiting for before it intervenes? What are the great nations waiting for before they put a halt to these monstrosities?";

said in [Aleppo](#) on [July 11, 2015](#) "A major attack is being carried out by jihadists on the province through intense shelling as if all means are used to frighten people and urge them to leave";

said at the Knights of Columbus Convention in [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States](#) on [August 4, 2015](#) that it would be cheaper to help Christians stay in the Mideast than to allow them to immigrate: "Help them to stay and help the society there. The first thing they need is peace. Help us to get peace, and then the people will be happy staying in Syria";

said in [London, United Kingdom](#) on [October 22, 2015](#) "If nothing is done, it is not impossible that all the Christians in Syria may be wiped out...There is a fundamental threat to Christianity from ISIL. They have killed plenty of us. There is an existential crisis...Many people have been abducted, many people have been killed, many people have been beheaded, many people have been persecuted, it is a terrible situation...I am going back to Aleppo, it is my country. I am responsible for the Christians, I have to stay beside them and I will never leave them alone. A good shepherd never leaves his sheep...I would sacrifice my own life to be in Syria";

told of a [July 2, 2016](#) rocket attack that hit an [Aleppo](#) parochial school but the children escaped injury in their shelter, wrote "The next day, when a great crowd had gathered for Sunday Mass, I was at a loss for words, but I called on the faithful to join me in a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord, Who, once again, had seen fit to protect us. It was a good occasion to remind Christians that they are not alone and that our Good Shepherd is always there, very close to us, and that He never leave us orphaned or without help for even a single instant...In reviewing the course of events of the past five years of this pitiless war, we cannot fail to see his salutary actions among us. This terrible and infernal war, would have utterly destroyed us or driven us to despair and madness, had it not been for his tender care...As I am writing this, deafened by the explosions of intense bombing raids, I raise my eyes on high, to ask God to shorten the duration of this long trial, which, for five years, has not stopped hurting his people...May our friends who wish us well accompany us with their prayers, may they be at our sides to defend our cause, strengthen our resistance and help us stay put";

appointed administrator of the Greek Catholic Melkite church on [May 8, 2017](#);

said in St Louis, Missouri, USA on [August 2, 2017](#) "Dear friends, I am determined now, more than ever – and like I have never done before – to apply myself and to act in order to restore the Christian prestige of our ancestral city, Aleppo, pearl of the East and the West, cradle of the civilizations and Christianity, the birthplace of cultures. I am determined more than ever to stand by our young people in that devastated place to help them rebuild what was destroyed and recover what was lost")

Jessica Ismaiel (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Jezela Afram Melhem (aged 5, daughter of Afram Youkhanna Melhem and Ronia Youkhanna, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Jiea Odicho (wife of Josef Kefarkis Issac, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Fr Jihad (spoke on or before [April 8, 2016](#) on the liberation of [Qaryatain](#) from ISIL "The residents who have fled, both Christians and Muslims, are afraid. They fear that ISIL may come back again. The swift return of the people is also dependent upon how long the city will remain a military zone. Further, infrastructure such as water and electricity has largely been destroyed. And besides, many residents no longer even live in Syria, but have fled to other countries...The walls of the church are still standing, even though the roof is no longer there. The altar, unfortunately, was destroyed. They also smashed the sarcophagus of St Elian. St Elian is greatly revered by the Christians. Muslims also used to go on pilgrimage to his grave. We want to gather the holy relics and give them a worthy place again. Until the possible restoration of the monastery, the remains could be taken to another place...A great deal more vital than the restoration of the stones and the recovery of the monastery is the reconciliation of hearts")

Jimmy Anwar Talia ("child", son of Anwar Talia Talia and Mariam Mnashe, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Jimmy Zoreb (son of Nabil Zoreb, **shot dead** by members of The Brigade of Islam on [July 23, 2012](#) in [Bab Touma suburb, Damascus](#))

Johnny Beshish (**killed** in an [April 10, 2015](#) rocket attack in the [Sulaymaniyah district, Aleppo](#))

Johnny Chamoun (aged 42, aid worker in [Ajaltoun, Lebanon](#), said on [October 6, 2013](#) "The Christians are never going back [to Syria]")

Joelle Fahmeh ("young", **killed** in fighting on [October 19, 2012](#) in [Aleppo](#))

Jorge (speaking on [May 13, 2012](#) in [Damascus](#) of the result of the collapse of the Assad regime: "I am afraid that we will suffer bad times. If the regime falls..., Islamists will come to power [who will] wrongly believe that we [Christians] support the current regime")

Josafin Tamraz (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Josef (alias, civil engineer, on [September 7, 2014](#) described the al-Qaeda attack on the Christian-majority town of [Mhardeh](#) "There is shelling night and day. We have no electricity. There is only one road out and it is dangerous to use it now")

Josef Kefarkis Issac (husband of Jiea Odicho, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Josef Yokhanna (husband of Frial Warda Gabriel, father of Hanna, Elian, and Meray, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Josef Yoshea Lazar (husband of Marganta Adam, father of Bashar, Christy, Katia, and Peter, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Joseph (Caritas employee, said in [Aleppo](#) on or before [August 1, 2016](#) "We need from the whole world to stand up with us to stop this war")

Fr Joseph Bazuzu (church dome in [Aleppo](#) was hit and damaged by a missile on [March 24, 2014](#) during the Divine Liturgy, windows broken, no one was injured;

spoke on [April 8, 2014](#) in [Aleppo](#) on the martyrdom of Fr Frans van der Lugt "We are experiencing every day what it means to go through times of suffering. Now also Fr Frans Van der Lugt will help us with his example, he who testified his love for Christ and the Syrian people";

described a [July 31, 2014](#) missile attack on his [Aleppo](#) church that killed three parishioners including two sisters)

Joseph Haroun (aged 29, nephew of Eva Astefan, said on [November 22, 2014](#) in [Izraa](#) "It's our country and we love it, but we feel we have little choice [but to leave]. The terrorists kidnap and kill our men and dangle the holy cross over their bodies")

Archbishop Joseph Tobij (wrote on [November 5, 2016](#) concerning the continued fighting in [Aleppo](#) "Some civilians wanted to leave, but this was not possible...mortar shells also hit schools. The inhabitants are again terrified. Those who live in Hamadaniye and Halab al Jadida areas have left their homes. The latest attacks have forced thousands of families to flee to safer areas")

Joseph Yeghia (commented on [April 29, 2016](#) on the recent attacks that have killed at least 202 in the last week in [Aleppo](#) "Violence, attacks, and bombs are everywhere in the city...[The

streets are] full of wounded, many of them children, [the skies are] obscured by a thick blanket of black smoke, [the] sound of ambulances is nonstop...We do not know the exact number of dead and wounded. Not even hospitals have a precise idea...We ask you to pray for us. We only need your prayers. All we want is for God to grant us peace")

Jouny Youkhanna (aged 3, son of Elias Aweshalem Youkhanna and Lena Youkhanna, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#);

released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other Christians)

Joy (as of [October 9, 2014](#) has decided to stay to help the children she sees in the street from her window)

Fr Jules Baghdassarian (aged 55, as of [May 24, 2012](#) is assisting displaced persons in [Aleppo](#);

stated on [September 28, 2012](#) in [Sheik Maqsoud, Aleppo](#) "Innocent civilians continue to die: yesterday an Armenian Christian mother and her 6 year old daughter were killed, while the father is seriously injured in hospital. Few days ago we counted 15 victims in our Greek-Catholic community...thousands of refugees are crowded into schools and Christian priests of all denominations take care of them, they bring food and give assistance";

died from a sudden heart attack on [November 14, 2012](#) in [Aleppo](#))

Juliana Beshish (**killed** in an [April 10, 2015](#) rocket attack in the [Sulaymaniyah district, Aleppo](#))

Juliet Talia (aged 40, wife of Farid Nwea Badal, mother of Stilla Farid Badal and Tonny Farid Badal, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other Christians)

Karadij Karadjian (aged 50, escaped from ISIL control in [Raqqa](#) on [August 8, 2017](#), said "I can't describe the feeling when we saw the Christian fighters welcoming us...We were forced to pay tribute by hand and we were humiliated and insulted, what a homeland that makes you pay an additional tax because you are different...ISIL blew up all of the churches, which devastated us. I haven't prayed inside a church since 2013. If we rebuild them, we will pray again in Raqqa")

Patriarch Karekin II (from [Etchmiadzin, Armenia](#) condemned the [March 21 2014](#) terrorist attack on the town of Kessab in which 80 Christians died and 3,000 were forced to flee)

Karim Simon (reported on [May 22, 2016](#) to have been **killed** in an ISIL attack on several restaurants in [al-Wusta district, Qamishle](#))

Karoline Shamoun (daughter of Khalil Shamoun and Najat Youkhanna, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Katia (child of Josef Yoshea Lazar and Marganta Adam, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Kayla Mueller (aged 26, U.S. citizen, humanitarian aid worker, abducted from an [Aleppo](#) hospital by ISIL in [August 2013](#);

had refused to join two Yazidi girls in an [October 2014](#) escape attempt because she thought that her appearance would put the two girls at greater risk of recapture, had been sexually assaulted by ISIL leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi;

confirmed on [February 10, 2015](#) to have been **killed** while in ISIL captivity, had written "I remember mom always telling me that all in all in the end the only one you really have is God. I have come to a place in experience where, in every sense of the word, I have surrendered myself to our creator b/c literally there was no else... + by God + by your prayers I have felt tenderly cradled in freefall...Please be patient, give your pain to God...by God's will we will be together soon")

Kefarkes Rami Ismael (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Kefarkis Nwea Issac (father, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Kenji Goto Jogo (convert, Japanese citizen, journalist, held captive by ISIL, threatened with death on [January 20, 2015](#);

beheaded on [January 31, 2015](#))

"Khaled" (alias, as of [October 24, 2013](#) prays for a peaceful solution to the war)

Khalil Shamoun (husband of Najat Youkhanna, father of Klara, Lara, Karoline, Elias, Kreisty, and Khatoun, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Khanna Zaya Hefo (wife of Daoud Koresh Talia, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Khatoun Shamoun (child of Khalil Shamoun and Najat Youkhanna, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Fr Khazal (as of [June 12, 2012](#) worked toward reconciliation despite personal exposure to gunfire in [Homs](#))

Fr Krikor Milad (described his [Aleppo](#) cathedral's partial destruction by Islamic Front artillery on [January 9, 2015](#) "If the bombing had taken place just two hours later, the church would have been full of worshippers")

Khoshebo Kefarkis (wife of Malk Sadeq Ismaiel, mother of Gabbi Ismaiel, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Klara Shamoun (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Koresh Talia Talia ("old man", husband, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Kreisty Shamoun (child of Khalil Shamoun and Najat Youkhanna, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Laila Fraedon (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Lamasu Gureel (aged 7, son of Monna Markus, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#);

released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other Christians)

Lara Shamoun (daughter of Khalil Shamoun and Najat Youkhanna, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Layla Odicho Odicho (aged 47, wife of Samih Shamoun, mother of Aleksandar Shamoun, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#);

released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other

Christians)

Lazar Yousef (husband of Sherene Warda Yonan, father of Als, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Leila (aged 14, daughter of Riad Sargi and Rouba Farah, sister of Elias and Michael)

Lena Youkhanna (aged 39, wife of Elias Aweshalem Youkhanna, mother of Ninos Elias, Ashtar Elias, and Jouny Youkhanna, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#);

released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other Christians)

Lina Michael Issa (daughter of Gourget Malki, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Lodia Hormez (wife of Sadek Ismaiel, mother of Rami Ismaiel, mother in law of Ninorta, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Louis Habil Naje ("chid", son of Fala Bouls, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Louis Youkhanna ("child", son of Saied Youkhanna and Amena Elesha, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Bishop Louka al-Khoury ([April 2012](#) described the desire of Christians to be seen as patriots and not as siding with any sectarian group;

has as of [December 10, 2013](#) called on Christians to take up arms to defend themselves; denied on [December 10, 2013](#) that he had called on Christians to take up arms to defend themselves, urged people to be wary of media reports)

Luis Gureel (aged 9, son of Monna Markus, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other Christians)

Fr Luka Awad (assistant to Archbishop Selwanos Boutros Alnemeh, reported on [November 6, 2015](#) to have said in [Homs](#) "When the ISIL fighters conquered Al-Qaryatayn, they made the threat: 'We will kill all of the Christians in Sadad'...The people there still speak Aramaic, the language of Jesus. Moreover, we have important churches there. It is really a center of our Christian heritage. Its loss doesn't bear contemplating. We truly are fearing for our cultural heritage. We beg the international community to put an end to this war. My people already experienced a genocide one hundred years ago, in 1915. Now, in the 21st century, we don't need another")

Bishop Luke (stated on [March 29, 2013](#) "our churches have been attacked in all provinces...everywhere--in Harasta, Arbin, Zabadani, Deraa, Aleppo, and around Damascus--our churches and our people have been attacked...our cathedral in Raqqa has been severely damaged. The outlaws assault parishioners and kidnap and kill priests...These people say they act with the Syrian people's best interests at heart, but it is not true.")

Pastor Maan Bitar (described on or before [November 3, 2017](#) from [Hama](#) his reaction to the U.S.

announcement that it would bypass the UN and directly fund Christian refugees:
“Christians receive only a trickle of the aid and other programs set for IDPs [internally displaced persons] inside Syria. In the camps and on the Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan refugee lists, they are virtually non-existent...They [Western aid agencies] want to bring you a basket of food and a blanket to cover yourself. But not to help you live in dignity. It is the minimum to live, not to make a strong nation...Muslims will be happy [if aid is used for education]. They like to send their children to schools run by Christians”)

Maha Jamil Dyarbakerli (killed in an [April 10, 2015](#) rocket attack in the [Sulaymaniyah district, Aleppo](#))

Fr Maher Mahfouz (abducted by rebels on [February 10, 2013](#) near [Aleppo](#);
as of [April 4, 2013](#) is still missing)

Majd Shahadeh (aged 6, killed in a shelling of his school in [Damascus](#) on [November 11, 2013](#))

Malk Sadeq Ismaiel (husband of Khoshebo Kefarkis, father of Gabbi Ismaiel, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Fr Mallek Mallous (supported the current government of Syria, said on [February 7, 2014](#) in [Al-Malikiyah](#) "You know what will happen to people like us if they [the Islamists] get here? They've announced a war against Christians. They are kidnapping and killing us")

Manal Kako (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Mansour Darmo (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Marc Tice (father of Austin Tice)

Maream Gawreh (mother of Dr Abd Almasseh Enwea, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Marganta Adam (wife of Josef Yoshea Lazar, mother of Bashar, Christy, Katia, and Peter, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Maria Akram Lazar (aged 8, daughter of Dr Akram Lazar and Ghada Moshe Baram, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#);

released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other Christians)

Maria Fahmeh (killed in fighting on [October 19, 2012](#) in [Aleppo](#))

Sr Maria of Nazareth (Argentine citizen, as of [October 9, 2014](#) has moved to [Aleppo](#) in Syria from [Gaza](#))

Maria Saddeh (member of parliament, said on [December 4, 2013](#) that crimes against humanity are occurring in [Maaloula](#))

Mariam (aged 15, forced into multiple serial Islamic marriages and divorces by militants in [Qusair](#), became mentally unstable, killed prior to [July 2, 2013](#))

Mariam (aged 90, mother-in-law of Njala, grandmother of Ranim and Fadi, died after being thrown down a well in [Sadad](#) by anti-government rebels on or just after [October 21, 2013](#))

Mariam Dawod Talia (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#);
released in [Tel Tamar](#) on [March 27, 2016](#))

Mariam Koko (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Fieda village](#))

Mariana Mirza (aged 6, daughter of Abdo Mirza, niece of Bobo Mirza, released from ISIL captivity on [March 3, 2015](#))

Mariam Mnashe (wife of Anwar Talia Talia, mother of Jimmy Anwar Talia, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Marie (on [September 24, 2013](#) attended the funerals of five Christians killed by the rebels)

Marie Mashhour Gharibeh (expelled from her home by anti-government forces)

Cardinal Mario Zenari (apostolic nuncio [Vatican ambassador], said on [May 16, 2012](#) in [Damascus](#) that the desire for revenge is overtaking all segments of Syrian society: "each death calls for more";

stated "This massacre [on [May 25 2012](#) in [Houla](#) by government forces of 88 civilians and children who were used by anti-government forces as human shields] is not the only one, let's hope it is the last. We demand an end to such atrocities";

stated on [June 11, 2012](#) in [Damascus](#): "Syria has started its slide into hell. In addition to material destruction, the conflict is tearing at the heart. The destruction of homes, the dead and the wounded can be quantified, but the disintegration of the soul is impossible to measure...The death of innocent youth and their use as human shields or soldiers is an unacceptable crime...Sadly, beside the war on the ground, a media war is being waged so that we can't believe what anybody is saying";

in [Damascus](#) on [June 20, 2013](#) described the work of Fr Hanna, said "The war in Syria now affects the entire population, by the end of it the displaced people could reach a record 10 million, almost half the population";

reported on the [December 2, 2013](#) abduction of 12 Orthodox nuns in [Maaloula](#) by Islamist rebels and on the request from the Orthodox patriarch who "calls on all Catholics to pray for the women religious";

said on [February 8, 2014](#) after the beginning of a 3 day UN truce allowed food and medicine to arrive and for 83 civilians to be evacuated "We thank the Lord for this positive first step, though small and minimal. But let us not forget that not only the 2,500 civilians trapped in the old district of Homs are hungry and without access to humanitarian aid, but also 2.5 million Syrians throughout the rest of the country";

spoke on the [February 23, 2015](#) ISIL attacks in [Tel Shamiran, Tel Baz, Tel Goran, Tel Jezirah and Tel Hormizd villages, Hassaka province](#) "They came down from the mountains around 3 am Monday morning, and attacked an area largely inhabited by Assyrian-Nestorian [Church of the East]...Four or five months ago, I received a text message from the bishop of Hassakah, in which he warned that the danger of a jihadist invasion was high";

on [April 9, 2015](#) described the events surrounding the ISIL takeover of the Palestinian refugee camp outside [Damascus](#) "At Christmas in 2013, I got some money from Palestinian Christian schools for their suffering brothers. I worked hard to get aid to its destination, but it was not easy. In the past, it was very risky to venture near the camp. Now, the area is off-limits", added information about other locations: "The Christian Quarter [of Aleppo] was shelled recently. [So was Homs,] I was there just a few days ago to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of Fr Frans van der Lugt...The situation

is serious not only in Syria but throughout the region. Just think about what is happening in Iraq, Yemen...It is the Middle East that is burning”;

said on [January 15, 2016](#) of the civil war “Using hunger, and thirst, as a weapon of war is a crime, a shameful thing...I am surprised that the international media is just talking about it now. In some places, people have been dying of hunger for more than a year with lorries full of food, milk, and medicines, just waiting outside”;

said in [Damascus](#) on [August 18, 2016](#) "One always hopes to see an end to violence, but all one sees instead is the war intensify...The suffering of children are those who strike our attention the most. Even the pope in his appeal in the Angelus of 7 August mentioned the unarmed civilian population, particularly children who are among the most innocent victims. Since the beginning of the war, 14,000 children and minors they have died in the conflict...We continue to make appeals for peace, for an end to violence, but they go unanswered, powerless, falling on too many deaf ears”;

elevated to the College of Cardinals in a Vatican ceremony on [November 19, 2016](#);

said in [Damascus](#) on [March 25, 2017](#) “I do not know how to describe these atrocities. I always say, whoever does not believe in hell, just go to [Syria] and it will convey the weight of hell. In Damascus ten days ago we saw on the television, this display, these Kamikaze, seventy dead, forty dead, it is a bloodbath...You should notice more of this suffering of the civilians, especially women and children. It is time to notice and not just read about this but realize it means to do something”, added that over 1,000 volunteer aid workers have been killed since fighting began six years ago: “there are also many beautiful examples of altruism”;

commented on [March 9, 2018](#) on the continued fighting “It's terrible. I always say, it's a massacre of the innocents...the deep wounds, above all in these children, are worse than what is seen...Jesus in his passion sweat blood, from his whole body...[the] blood of the entire Church, the blood of the martyrs. We are in the eighth year of the Passion”)

Marios Malke (security guard, wounded by a suicide bomber dressed as a priest in [al-Wusta district, Qamishli](#) on [June 19, 2016](#))

Marlin Ismaiel (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Sr Marta OCSO (said on [May 22, 2015](#) in the [Azeir monastery, between Homs and Tartous](#) “After seeing the footage of Palmyra, seized by the Islamic State fighters, the Syrian people are terrified. They assure one another saying that they won't come here, not here, but it is easy to see the fear in their eyes...The funeral ceremonies, more numerous than reported and that indicate the fate of the conflict, are now a daily event...an entire generation has been sacrificed for an absurd conflict that no one here ever wanted”)

Martin Hanna Ammo (husband of Ramma Aslan, father of Angel and Hanna, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Martn Tamraz (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Marwan Mashhour Gharibeh (musician, expelled from his home by anti-government forces)

Marwan Shamoun (**killed** on [December 30, 2015](#) along with 15 others by ISIL suicide bombings on three Christian-owned restaurants in [Qamishli](#))

Bishop Mata el-Khoury (said on [August 22, 2013](#) “The U.S. has been deceiving us that the death of Osama bin Laden meant the death of al-Qaida. They are more active now than ever before.

As to what they would do to the Christians [if they came to power], the answer is clear")

Matanios El Sheikh (aged 85, husband of Habsah, father of Njala, grandfather of Ranim and Fadi, **died after being thrown down a well** in [Sadad](#) by anti-government rebels on or just after [October 21, 2013](#))

Matay (aged 22, Syriac Military Council member, said "We got a Christian family out yesterday [[August 8, 2017](#)]... This is our goal in the campaign to liberate Raqqa")

Bishop Maurice Amsih (on [September 16, 2016](#) denounced Kurdish abuses including forcing Assyrian schools in [Gozarto](#) to adopt Kurdish curricula and putting Assyrian soldiers in the front in [Hassakeh](#) ahead of others;

said after a [February 3, 2018](#) Divine Liturgy in a ruined church in [Deir Ezzor](#) "The important thing now is for life to come back - for Deir Ezzor's residents and Christians to come back to it")

Maurice Bitar (**shot dead** on [June 11, 2012](#) by a sniper in [Qusayr](#) while buying bread for his family)

Fr Maximos Al Jamal (by [June 18, 2012](#) failed to negotiate the release of the hostages in [Homs](#);

as of [June 27, 2012](#) is working to aid Christian families trapped in [Homs](#) while the army is beginning true urban counter-guerilla warfare around them;

reported on [July 12, 2012](#) that 60 civilians, mostly Christian, have been able to escape the fighting in [Homs](#) within the last 48 hours)

Mekhael Ismaiel (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Meray Yokhanna ("child", daughter of Josef Yokhanna and Frial Warda Gabriel, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Meriana Ismaiel (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Merjane Mame ("old woman", mother of Antoun Belatos Boza and Albir Anton Boza, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Merla Afram Melhem (aged 3, daughter of Afram Youkhanna Melhem and Ronia Youkhanna, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Michael (young child of Rasha Dreizy, father killed, destitute as of [October 11, 2013](#))

Michael (aged 5, son of Riad Sargi and Rouba Farah, brother of Leila and Elias)

Fr Michael Yacoub (church of St Osyo in [Derbasieh](#), on [November 9, 2012](#) led an evacuation of the city by Christian families)

Micheal Abaji (aged 53, supervisor of the St Elias Assyrian Catholic Monastery for the elderly, **killed** on [April 10, 2015](#) in an [Aleppo](#) market by an explosive drum along with at least 20 others)

Michel George Simon (aged 17, brother of Anwar George Simon, Salesian Cooperator, **killed** along with his mother Minerva in an [April 10, 2015](#) rocket attack in the [Sulaymaniyah district, Aleppo](#))

Fr Michel Kayyal (aged 27, abducted by rebels on [February 10, 2013](#) near [Aleppo](#);

as of [April 4, 2013](#) is still missing;

reported on [August 12, 2015](#) to have been **executed**)

Fr Michel Naaman (as of [June 12, 2012](#) worked toward reconciliation despite personal exposure to gunfire in [Homs](#);
as of [June 27, 2012](#) is working to aid Christian families trapped in [Homs](#) while the army is beginning true urban counter-guerilla warfare around them;
reports as of [July 5, 2012](#) that efforts at 'reconcilliation' in [Homs](#) are bearing fruit;
has managed - along with others - to persuade 300 young anti-government fighters in [Homs](#) to surrender as of [July 9, 2012](#) with guarantees of safety)

Mikhael Chukro (aged 58, brother of Edeette Chukro, fled persecution in Syria, celebrated the Pascha [Easter] in [2014](#) in [Roselle, Illinois](#) in the U.S., and feared for the relatives and friends left behind)

Mikhael Taalab (cousin of Antoun Taalab and grandfather of Sarkis el Zakhm, **killed** by rebels on [September 7, 2013](#) in [Maalula](#) after he refused to convert to Islam)

Milia Tolo (**killed** in a [December 11, 2015](#) triple ISIL suicide bombing that killed up to 60 people in [Tel Tamar](#))

Minas (held with his father for 115 days by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in [Aleppo](#) for refusing to convert to Islam, **executed** on or before [January 9, 2014](#))

Minerva Micheal Ghazal El Bar (**killed** in an [April 10, 2015](#) rocket attack in the [Sulaymaniyah district, Aleppo](#))

Miriam Istifan (wife of Giorgio, mother of Benita, educational psychologist, as of [December 22, 2014](#) has been separated from her husband due to the fighting)

Father Miron Avedissian (spoke on how rebels from Ahrar al-Sham seized [Kessab](#) from Turkish territory on [March 21, 2014](#), brought in foreign media to show how well they were treating Christians, and then attacked churches and cemeteries after the media left, said "They took photographs to show they were looking after the churches, and then set them alight. It all still happened in the first day")

Mona Elisha (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Monna Markus (aged 41, mother of Luis, Lamasu, Ameleo, Georges, and Ankido Gureet, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#);
released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other Christians)

Morris Khajo (**killed** in a [January 25, 2016](#) double suicide terror bombing in [Qamishli](#))

Mostafa Abu Alzer ('elderly man', forced on or before [June 15, 2016](#) to convert to Islam in [Raqqqa](#), could no longer make his jizya [tribute] payments as required of Christians by the Sharia [Islamic] law, his only other remaining option was death)

Mourfaq Ibrahim Khalaf (aged 49, reported on [April 17, 2016](#) to have been **killed** by ISIL in [Qaryatain](#))

Moutazz Moussa Khazaal (aged 39, reported on [April 17, 2016](#) to have been **killed** by ISIL in [Qaryatain](#))

Fr Mtanyos Melhem Stouf (said in [Sadad](#) on [December 24, 2015](#) "our youth, who at this time of

year used to be busy decorating a big tree in the middle of the village, but who are now busy protecting our front lines”)

Munira Elesha (daughter of Shawel Elesha and Hannan, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Archimandrite Naaman Rawik (as of [November 5, 2013](#) has been forced to become a refugee in Lebanon, his two parishes in [Raqqa](#) and [Tabqa](#) have been destroyed)

Nabil Zoreb (**shot dead** by members of The Brigade of Islam on [July 23, 2012](#) in [Bab Touma suburb, Damascus](#))

Rev Nadim Nassar (aid worker in [London, United Kingdom](#), said on [October 6, 2013](#) “We are not imported there. Christ was not born under Big Ben or in Paris. This is the cradle of Christianity that we are being pushed from”;

reported on [December 21, 2017](#) to have said that Christians would be celebrating a "wounded Christmas...This is like the thorn in every side: that the younger generation is not around any more. That does not mean that the Christians are not celebrating: they are celebrating to show that Christianity in Syria is not dead, and will never die...We are here to stay, and not only to stay, but to continue our role as a light in the community")

Nael Elias (aged 44, son of Elias Naguib, **executed** by the Ahrar al-Sham Islamic movement on [March 28, 2015](#) in [Idlib](#), probably for owning a liquor store)

Nahrin Walid Sawa (aged 3, daughter of Walid Franso Sawa and Hannan Youkhna, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#);

released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other Christians)

Najat Youkhanna (wife of Khalil Shamoun, mother of Klara, Lara, Karoline, Elias, Kreisty, and Khatoun Shamoun, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Najeba Youkhanna (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Naraya (aged 22, engaged, **killed** in [February 2013](#) when her bus was hit by a rocket outside [Qamishli](#))

Nassim Moussa Khazaal (aged 42, reported on [April 17, 2016](#) to have been **killed** by ISIL in [Qaryatain](#))

Nashita (aged 10, alias, sister of Youmna, on [July 16, 2013](#) described fighting around her [Damascus](#) home and school, asked for prayers)

Fr Nawras Sammour SJ (as of [August 10, 2012](#) operates Jesuit Refugee Services in [Aleppo](#);

said in [December 2014](#) in [Toronto, Canada](#) “None of the possible solutions for the Syrian crisis includes the Christians. None of it. If you are talking, for example, about a divided Syria, you have a region for the Kurds, another region for the Sunni, a third region for Alawite and a fourth region for Druze. Christians? They would be around... Now I would say we are completely ignored...Because we are threatening nobody, not considered a threat to anybody, considered as nobody, we would be able to work with everybody. Then we could be something like the salt of the land, everywhere in a very hidden way”)

Nedal Abdo (**killed** on [December 30, 2015](#) along with 15 others by ISIL suicide bombings on three Christian-owned restaurants in [Qamishli](#))

Nenwa Roueel (daughter of Regena Khammo, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Niamat Saadiyet (wife of Hallaq Shibli, wounded by anti-government forces on [May 25 2012](#) in [southern Rableh](#))

Nichan Vartanian (**killed in fighting** on [October 19, 2012](#) in [Aleppo](#))

Nimrud Yako Gureel (husband of Alice Adam, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Nina Jamil Oshana (**killed** in [Damascus](#) on [January 31, 2013](#) when her bus came under gunfire)

Ninar Odisho (aged 26, **beaten to death** by rebel fighters on [September 21, 2013](#) in [Al-Thawra, al-Raqqa province](#), Muslim friends spared;
rebel fighters had burned a cross into his face, the last three Christian families have now fled from the town)

Ninorta (wife of Rami Ismaiel, daughter in law of Sadek Ismaiel and Lodia Hormez, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Ninos Elias Youkhanna (aged 10, son of Elias Aweshalem Youkhanna and Lena Youkhanna, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#);
released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other Christians)

Ninos John Isho (reported on [October 2, 2014](#) to have been abducted from [Tel Tamar, Khabour region, Hasaka](#) by ISIL militants)

Ninos Mekhael Shmoni (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Njala (aged 45, daughter of Matanios El Sheikh and Habsah, daughter-in-law of Mariam, mother of Ranim and Fadi, **died after being thrown down a well** in [Sadad](#) by anti-government rebels on or just after [October 21, 2013](#))

Nofa Talia (wife, mother of Daniella Zaya Gureel and Zagalo Zaya Gureel, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Odicho Aweshalem Yokhanna (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Ornina Walid Sawa (aged 9, daughter of Walid Franso Sawa and Hannan Youkhna, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#);
released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other Christians)

Pamela Dekermanji (aged 4, wounded in the head with mortar shrapnel in [Aleppo](#) in the three days prior to [July 16, 2013](#), in critical condition)

Panna Yoshea Lazar (aged 50, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Pascal Kateb (Secretary General of Caritas Syria, as of [October 10, 2012](#) is assisting thousands of families in [Damascus](#) who are displaced by the civil war)

Fr Paolo Dall'Oglio SJ (as of [May 29, 2012](#) has settled with a Christian family in [Qusayr](#) to pray and fast towards the end of the violence that surrounds them;

- expelled from [Qusayr](#) on [June 8, 2012](#) along with other Christians by the rebel forces; reportedly abducted by rebels associated with al-Qaeda on [July 29, 2013](#) in [Raqqqa](#); is still alive according to an [October 2, 2013](#) report by Archdeacon Emanuel Youkhana; was the intention of a worldwide prayer drive on Wednesday January 29, 2014; reportedly had been **executed** two hours after his abduction)
- Mother Pelagia Sayaf (abducted by Islamist rebels from [Maaloula](#) on [December 2, 2013](#), called her superior to say that all were safe; released from captivity on [March 10, 2014](#) in [Arsal, Lebanon](#) with 12 of her sister nuns and 3 maids)
- Peter (child of Josef Yoshea Lazar and Marganta Adam, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))
- Bishop Philip Barakat (spoke on [August 9, 2015](#) on the ISIL abduction of 250 Christians from [Alqariatin](#) "We have no communication with them [Christian residents], as land lines and mobile lines are being cut off")
- Bishop Philip Tournyol Clos (stated on [June 3, 2012](#) in [Damascus](#) after traveling in the country: "After a year of conflict, the reality on the ground is far from the picture that imposes disinformation in Western media...The picture for us is utter desolation: the church of Mar Elian is half destroyed and that of Our Lady of Peace is still occupied by the rebels. Christian homes are severely damaged due to the fighting and completely emptied of their inhabitants, who fled without taking anything. The area of Hamidieh is still shelter to armed groups independent of each other...All Christians (138,000) have fled to Damascus and Lebanon, while others took refuge in the surrounding countryside. A priest was killed and another was wounded by three bullets. Still a couple live there, but the five bishops have had to take refuge in Damascus and Lebanon.")
- Fr Pizzaballa (reported on the [July 20, 2014](#) missile attack on the monastery in [Yacubiyah](#))
- Bishop Raban Boutros Kassis (shot twice in the shoulder while driving [on the road between Aleppo and Homs](#) on [November 6, 2016](#), hospitalized, said "I thank God who protected and kept me alive. I thank God because in this condition and in this experience I can share the cross with so many people that today suffer in Syria, especially in Aleppo. Every day we suffer assaults and bombings, every day people are wounded and die. I am happy to taste the bitterness of the cross, in communion with Christ and with so many innocent people who suffer. We have the certainty that death is not the last word, but that the end is Resurrection")
- Rafic Ibrahim Khalaf (aged 52, reported on [April 17, 2016](#) to have been **killed** by ISIL in [Qaryatain](#))
- Sr Raghad (reported on [April 22, 2014](#) to have personally witnessed atrocities against Christians in [Maaloula](#) by Islamists, including shootings and threats of crucifixion; reported on Vatican Radio that two youths were crucified in [Maaloula](#) by Islamists for refusing to convert to Islam)
- Ramen Rouel (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))
- Rami (stated on or before [March 12, 2014](#) "As for the situation of Christians in Rakka—it is deplorable. 95 percent of its Christian population (i.e. 2000 families) were simply forced to

flee...The first church to be burned down was the Catholic Church of Annunciation of Holy Theotokos; the second one - Armenian Church of Martyrs near the Ar Rashid park; the third—an Orthodox Church...Under one or another pretext [of course, unlawful] they deprived Christians of their apartments...")

Rami Afram Melhem ("child", son of Afram Youkhanna Melhem and Ronia Youkhanna, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Rami Ismaiel (son of Sadek Ismaiel and Lodia Hormez, husband of Ninorta, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Ramina Habil Naje ("child", daughter of Fala Bouls, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Ramma Aslan (wife of Martin Hanna Ammo, mother of Angel and Hanna Ammo, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Ramy Tarzi Bashi (**killed** on [December 30, 2015](#) along with 15 others by ISIL suicide bombings on three Christian-owned restaurants in [Qamishli](#))

Ramziyya Rehana (aged 80, captured by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) in [Tel Jazira](#), **UPDATE:** released on [May 25, 2015](#) in the [Hasaka region](#), has a fractured hip)

Ranim (aged 18, first-year university student, son of Njala, brother of Fadi, **died after being thrown down a well** in [Sadad](#) by anti-government rebels on or just after [October 21, 2013](#))

Rasha (fiancee of Atef, called his cell phone on [September 24, 2013](#) and reached one of his killers who taunted her "Jesus didn't come to save him")

Rasha Dreizy (aged 25, widow of Wasim Salloum, mother of Rashel and Michael, destitute as of [October 11, 2013](#))

Rashel (young child of Rasha Dreizy, father killed, destitute as of [October 11, 2013](#))

Raswena Elesha (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Regena Esho Hefo (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Regena Khammo (widow, mother of Nenwa Roueel, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Regina Marwan (mother of Bassam, Sharbiel, and Zuhir Gureel, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Rehanna Beniamen Denkha (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Hormez village](#))

Riad Habsuno (security guard, wounded by a suicide bomber dressed as a priest in [al-Wusta district, Qamishli](#) on [June 19, 2016](#))

Rev Dr Riad Jarjour (said on [January 28, 2014](#) that 80,000 Christians have been displaced from their homes in [Homs](#) by militants)

Riad Sargi (husband of Rouba Farah, father of Leila, Elias, and Michael, mechanical engineer in the pharmaceutical industry, said in [Damascus](#) on [December 29, 2015](#) "we have tried to experience the atmosphere of Christmas and respect its values despite the conflict that goes on unabated around us. We went to church, attended Mass, saw plays, watched young people sing and play hymns, whilst only two kilometers away from our church, war rages on in an area controlled by terrorists...it will not be possible to put an end to the Syrian crisis without mercy, love and reconciliation, completely lacking in the hearts of those who

fight in the name of God, as they see Him and shape Him to their own ends...I am excited by the chance to show the ideal of love that is inherent in Christianity, which has no place for hatred to fuel of war and fighting in our country")

Sr Rima (**died in a rebel bomb blast** on [January 15, 2013](#) on Aleppo University that killed 87)

Rimon Mnashe Esho (brother of Amme Mnashe Esho, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Rita (aged 15, student, **killed** in a [January 24, 2018](#) mortar attack in [Damascus](#))

Robert Abiad (stated in the week prior to [January 15, 2014](#) that the negotiations to free the abducted nuns from Maloula are "very fruitful")

Robert Hegame (**killed** on [December 30, 2015](#) along with 15 others by ISIL suicide bombings on three Christian-owned restaurants in [Qamishli](#))

Robert Krio (**killed** on [December 30, 2015](#) along with 15 others by ISIL suicide bombings on three Christian-owned restaurants in [Qamishli](#))

Roman Zabolotny (aged 39, Russian citizen, mercenary [or covert soldier], reported on [October 6, 2017](#) to have been **executed** by ISIL [near Deir Ezzor](#) after refusing to convert to Islam)

Fr Romualdo Fernandez OFM (stated on [May 25, 2012](#) in [Damascus](#): "People are confused and disoriented. Reports of massacres follow but the responsible are not certain. There is pessimism because no one knows what the future holds...As Christians we share the sufferings of the people, tried by the conflict. We work for peace and justice, without adhering to any political faction";

stated on [July 13, 2012](#) in [Damascus](#) after mention of recent massacres that "we are next to the population who is suffering, Christians and Muslims, and will never leave this country. We will stay in Syria, at the service of the Gospel.")

Ronia Youkhanna (wife of Afram Youkhanna Melhem, mother of Rami Afram Melhem, Merla Afram Melhem, and Jezela Afram Melhem, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Rosy Banna (aged 17, student, sister of Fouad, at his [February 22, 2016](#) funeral in [Aleppo](#) said to Archbishop Jean-Clement Jeanbart "Father, I beg you, ask the Lord to heal my two parents")

Rouba Farah (wife of Riad Sargi, mother of Leila, Elias, and Michael, medical researcher)

Rouel Dankha (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Sabinnna Habil Naje ("chid", daughter of Fala Bouls, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Sadek Ismaiel (husband of Lodia Hormez, father of Rami Ismaiel, father in law of Ninorta, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Safouh Al-Mosleh (aged 40-plus, Caritas employee, **killed** in an [April 7, 2015](#) mortar attack in [Aleppo](#))

Saied Youkhanna (husband of Amena Elesha, father of Elias, Louis, and Almas, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Fr Saliba (as of [November 13, 2014](#) has lost half his [Qamishli](#) parish due to emigration)

Sally Qassar (aged 40, said after a Divine Liturgy in a ruined church in [Deir Ezzor](#) on [February 3, 2018](#) "Prayer for me is like a new life. It gave me the determination to come back to Deir Ezzor and put up with the poor provision of services, and participate in rebuilding it")

Salwa Rouel (wife of Shmshon Yokhanna, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Sam Ghannoum (aged 28, composer and singer, taken allegedly by the secret police on [October 15, 2012](#) in [Aleppo](#);
released on [December 10, 2012](#))

Sami Amir (aged 55, merchant, Christian residential neighborhood of [al-Qassaa district, Damascus](#) has been repeatedly shelled by rebel forces in the two weeks prior to [November 10, 2013](#), killing 32 and injuring dozens, shelling increases on Sundays)

Sami Awesha Melhem (aged 41, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#);
released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other Christians)

Samih Shamoun (husband of Layla Odicho Odicho, father of Aleksandar Shamoun, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Dr Samir David Hormuz (reported on [October 2, 2014](#) to have been abducted from [Tel Tamar, Khabour region, Hasaka](#) by ISIL militants)

Dr Samir Ibrahim (detained by government forces on the Beruit-Damascus highway on [July 5, 2014](#);
released on [March 2, 2015](#))

Archbishop Samir Nassar (stated that events are spiraling out of control after a Catholic monastery was attacked by masked armed men, commented on the violence in Syria "The suffering which we live is great. We are assisting the tragedy helplessly. Fortunately, the Holy Father Benedict XVI fills the void demanding peace, justice, dialogue and reconciliation...the conflict is headed into the unknown: on one side, a strong, centralized power that refuses to let go; on the other, a determined popular uprising that will not alleviate or surrender, despite the intensity of the violence. This conflict, which is paralyzing the country, is defined by: economic sanctions, inflation, devaluation of the local currency (-60%), rising unemployment, destruction, displaced populations and victims by the thousands...The current deadlock is fueling the anguish of the faithful who, at the end of each Mass, bid their final farewells, so uncertain is their future. The embassy closings in Damascus have made it impossible to obtain visas, thus significantly curtailing the possibility of leaving the country...In this time of great torment and division families becomes the sole refuge for victims of the crisis. The family acts as a shield that ensures the survival of society and Church. This is why, in the face of such tragedy, the Church has chosen to focus its attention and prayer on families, by providing them with all available help and support", personally met with refugees displaced by the fighting;

commented on [July 17, 2012](#) on the increasing number of kidnappings of Christians in [Damascus](#);

stated on [July 20, 2012](#) that "Since Tuesday fighting has been raging in Damascus with heavy weapons, tanks and helicopters, in a city full of civilians. The destruction is

enormous...we are short of bread, vegetables, cooking gas and fuel for the furnaces. The population is terrified and does not know where to take shelter";

stated on [April 13, 2013](#) that Christians in Syria now "must choose between two bitter chalices: to die or leave", and that the poor cannot afford to leave;

said in [Konigstein, Germany](#) on [November 22, 2013](#) "since all the cemeteries are already full, our only project for 2014 is to build a bigger cemetery";

said on [December 16, 2013](#) in [Damascus](#) "Jesus is not alone in his misery. The Syrian children, abandoned and marked by scenes of violence, dream of being in Jesus' place, who always has his parents around him and fondle him...Some envy the divine Child who found a stable where to be born and have shelter, while among these unfortunate children there are those who were born under the bombs";

said on [April 13, 2014](#) in [Damascus](#) "This Holy Week was introduced by the murder of Fr Frans from Homs in the fourth year of war and violence. Shells raining down on our neighbourhoods, schools closed, we cannot give an account of the victims. We are abandoned to Providence...This small Syrian people, so kind, generous and patient, have become accustomed to suffering and die in silence. It is in this spirit that we live Holy Week and Easter holidays, knowing that the Way of the Cross...has marked our lives for three years, accompanies the fourth year. The end of the tunnel is invisible";

reported on [December 4, 2014](#) that 21 people including 5 children have died from winter cold in his diocese, wrote "Our loyal Damascus feels isolated, condemned to live in danger, and die in a 'hole' cut off from relatives and friends already living in Lebanon. This loneliness adds to the anguish, the bitter cold winter experience, the sad tenor and feeling of neglect...Our faithful spend their Christmas celebration in the freezing cold of their 'household nativity' relying on the warmth of their faith under the tender gaze of the Holy Family";

spoke on the [August 23, 2015](#) shelling of two churches and multiple residences in [Damascus](#) that killed 9 and wounded more than 50: "Part of the war in Syria is to live under indiscriminate bombing, a kind of Russian roulette which is always unpredictable...Of those who died, at least you will not have to see and live this cruel tragedy without end. You will not see your children, your friends and your neighbors suffer and die in the blind violence and fanatical killing unable to save them or help them without understanding why...The survivors bury the dead without having been able to treat the wounded since they lack means and competence. They sink into silent prayer before the relics of martyrs, the seeds of Faith";

wrote in [Damascus](#) on [November 28, 2015](#) ""Since 2003 [the Iraq war] and especially since 2011 [the Arab spring] the exodus of Christians from the east increases. Some reports give only ten years for the page to turn concerning Christianity in the Middle East. This seems to be a pessimistic view, but observed experience shows an alarming and growing emigration...The subject of daily discussions is how to leave. Go anywhere and in any way, even if it means taking dangerous risks. A family just sent their twelve-year-old son away with a caravan of fugitives. A twelve-year-old child has not returned. Will he later be able to invite his family to join him? Will he find a safe place? Given the military stalemate, an increasingly distant peace, and to avoid Military Service, in order to escape an absurd war that has lasted too long, young people are the greatest number of those who leave...What is the future a Church without young people? It is the fatal end of apostolic Christianity in a

Biblical Land which becomes a hostage of violence and intolerance in the name of a radical faith that neither supports pluralism nor accepts differences...The Christians of the East face an almost suicidal choice. Living under the shadow of Islam remains a choice quite difficult to assume. Living in the shadow of Islam requires a return to the early centuries of the Church, which highlights the hidden life of Jesus in Nazareth";

bedroom in [Damascus](#) reported on [January 12, 2018](#) to have been destroyed by a mortar shell, had just left the room prior to the impact, wrote in an email "Thank you Lord for this new beginning. My life belongs to you")

Samir Samaan (reported on [August 15, 2016](#) to have said in [Aleppo](#) "Today we have started receiving aid for Muslim families from the 1070 district who fled severe fighting. We try to give away essential things, hot meals and medicines. We help as much as possible with accommodation and medical care")

Samira Abu Sukkeh (mother of a school bus driver killed in shelling in [Damascus](#) on [November 11, 2013](#))

Samira Hormez Issac ("old woman", mother of Sarkis Yonan Shmoni, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Samira Shmony (wife of Awia Ismaiel Youkhanna, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Sanharib Michael Issa (son of Gourget Malki, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Sargon (aged 17, wounded in the [May 28, 2014](#) shooting of Sheem Hormiz Sheeba)

Sargon Necola Shmoni (husband, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Sargon Ninos Sarkis (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Fieda village](#))

Sarkis el Zakhm (grandson of Mikhael Taalab, **killed** by rebels on [September 7, 2013](#) in [Maalula](#) after he refused to convert to Islam, had told the rebels "I am a Christian and if you want to kill me because I am a Christian, do it")

Sarkis Qara Elian (**killed** in an artillery barrage in [Bustan Kol Aab, Aleppo](#) on [February 21, 2015](#))

Sarkis Yonan Shmoni (son of Samira Hormez Issac, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Sawsan Karabidian (aged 45, relative of Alexey, escaped with six others in her family from ISIL control in [Raqqa](#) on [August 8, 2017](#), was able to take only her rosary and her two pet parrots, said "I didn't want to leave, but there was so much bombardment around us that we fled...When Raqqa was bombed, we would gather together to pray to the Lord so things would be calm. We have lived through the hardest moments these last three days because of the fierce bombing. I was terrified for my husband and my family...When ISIL entered they burned the churches, all the prayer books, the angels, the statue of the Virgin Mary and of Jesus the Messiah...They forced us to wear the headscarf and allowed us to reveal our faces to distinguish us from Muslims. We had to hide our faces to avoid insults")

Archbishop Selwanos Boutros Alneme (officiated at the funeral of thirty Christians - including women and children - found in two mass graves, killed after [Sadad village, Qalamoon region](#) was overrun by anti-government militants on [October 21, 2013](#), 45 were killed in

total , 30 wounded, and 10 are still missing;

on [December 11, 2013](#) called for the release of the 12 nuns and the 2 bishops being held by Islamic militants;

reported on [November 6, 2015](#) to have described from [Homs](#) the escape of 15,000 people, mostly Christians, from the ISIL attacks on the towns of Sadad and Al-Hafar;

reported on [December 4, 2016](#) to have been denied a visa to visit the United Kingdom to speak about Christian persecution)

Sevag Tashdjian (said on [April 25, 2016](#) concerning the recent shelling of the Armenian neighborhoods [[Suleymaniye and Ashrafieh districts, Aleppo](#)] in which 17 were killed including 3 children "We woke up under the bombs, it is Turkey's gift, entire neighborhoods have caught fire and we went under the bombs to bring relief to sick and elderly trapped in their homes and take them to safety, to safer underground shelters...Where are you Bashar [Assad]? You claim to protect Christians, why have you forsaken our neighborhoods at the mercy of Islamic terrorists for 4 years now? Syrian troops are freeing areas controlled by 'Isis all over the country, even in the desert so why not here?")

Shadi Tuma (aged 31, remained in [Deir Ezzor](#) during the war, said after a Divine Liturgy in a ruined church on [February 3, 2018](#) "The hard times that Deir Ezzor went through pushed the families to leave, but there was a determination inside of me to stay in this city. Deir Ezzor will always have coexistence. Christians will always have a presence here")

Shameram Esho Yonan (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Hormez village](#))

Shameram Kako (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Shameram Kako (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Sharbiel Gureel (son of Regina Marwan, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Sharbiel Ismaiel (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Sharbil Tamraz (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Shabo Malke (killed on [December 30, 2015](#) along with 15 others by ISIL suicide bombings on three Christian-owned restaurants in [Qamishli](#))

Shawel Elesha (husband of Hannan, father of Munira Elesha, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Shaza (mother, on [May 2, 2013](#) lamented the violence during Orthodox Holy Thursday in [Jaramana, Damascus](#) "I won't dare go to church tonight")

Shedrakh Khaoshaba (husband of Elzabith Kheo, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Sheem Hormiz Sheeba (aged 17, son of Hormiz Sheeba, **shot dead** on [May 28, 2014](#) while riding his motorcycle [outside Um Gahrgan village](#))

Sherene Warda Yonan (wife of Lazar Yousef, mother of Als Yousef, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Shigho (aged 19, **executed** by ISIL in [Kobane](#) on [June 25, 2015](#) for converting to Christianity)

Shmshon Yokhanna (husband of Salwa Rouel, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Fr Sirjun Zumaya (wife's uncle Wanis captured by ISIL, said in [Lebanon](#) on [March 3, 2015](#) "The village in which my wife's family lived in had no strategic value...They lived as one. It did not occur to them at all that they could be the victims of ferocious barbarism whose hearts lack honor, because of the failure and conspiracy of the disgraceful international community. After the Chaldeans and Yazidis came the Assyrians' turn. The ethnic cleansing in the region continues, from Iraq to the Levant, amidst dubious international silence...Whose turn is it? Who can we appeal to? I don't have anyone but Jesus Christ to appeal to")

Siwar Hassan (security guard, wounded by a suicide bomber dressed as a priest in [al-Wusta district, Qamishli](#) on [June 19, 2016](#))

Slivo Isaac (**killed** in a [December 11, 2015](#) triple ISIL suicide bombing that killed up to 60 people in [Tel Tamar](#))

Snjer Dasho (aged 55, member of the Assyrian Democratic Organization, arrested by government agents on [November 19, 2013](#) in [Jazira province](#) after they complained of a lack of Christian representation in the new ad interim government)

Somar Shawel Elesha (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Fieda village](#))

Soria Mechael Marco (wife of Bolous Badal Yousef, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Sorma Issac (wife of David Yako Gureel, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Souleman Yusph (journalist, disappeared in [Qamishli](#) on [September 30, 2018](#), believed to have been detained by the Asayish [the Kurdish security and intelligence service], had extensively reported on Kurdish closure of Christian schools; reported on [October 10, 2018](#) to have been released, in seclusion at home)

Stefan Maier (Austrian citizen, Caritas coordinator, said on or before [August 1, 2016](#) "Pickup trucks constantly drive past the Caritas office [in [Aleppo](#)], and the loading surfaces in the back are packed with the injured or dead, most of them children")

Stilla Farid Badal (aged 10, daughter of Farid Nwea Badal and Juliet Talia, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#); released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other Christians)

Susan Elias (had been forced to appear in a [July 27, 2015](#) video in which she said if she were not ransomed then she would be sold as a sex slave)

Swden Yokhanna (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Dr Taleb Mashhour Gharibeh (professor of mathematics, expelled from his home by anti-government forces)

Tamar Varvanyan-Srunyan (aged 40, mother of two, **killed** in an attack on two passenger buses near [Aleppo](#) on or before [July 24, 2013](#), husband and children wounded)

Tamraz Tamraz ("old man", abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Tamraz Tamraz ("child", abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Temateos Ismaiel (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Metropolitan Bishop Timothy Matta Fadil Alkhouri (commented on [June 22, 2013](#) from [Balamand, Lebanon](#) on the April 2013 abductions of Bishops Boulos al-Yazigi and Yuhanna Ibrahim "We are not sure whether they are still alive, we hope so. We have asked many times to be able to hear their voices and it was not possible. But so far we have not received bad news, and this gives us and our people hope" We thank "Pope Francis, all Christians and also Muslims who pray with us in this moment of sorrow")

Toma Khosho (reported on [May 22, 2016](#) to have been **killed** in an ISIL attack on several restaurants in [al-Wusta district, Qamishle](#))

Tonny Farid Badal (aged 7, son of Farid Nwea Badal and Juliet Talia, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#);
released from captivity by ISIL near [Tel Tamer](#) on [December 25, 2015](#) along with 24 other Christians)

Fr Tony Haddad (described the destruction of a [Deir Ezzor](#) church and convent on [April 15, 2013](#) in a large explosion)

Tony Homsy SJ (Syrian native, University of Aleppo graduate in biochemistry, on [April 14, 2014](#) from [Omaha, Nebraska, United States](#) wrote a reminiscence of his friend and mentor Fr Frans van der Lugt in which he quoted the murdered priest's last Facebook entry)

Tony Qaswat (**killed along with his wife and two daughters** in an [April 10, 2015](#) rocket attack in the [Sulaymaniyah district, Aleppo](#))

Fr Touma Qas Ibrahim (pastor of the church of St Thomas in [Ras Al-Ayn](#), retrieved ancient liturgical manuscripts under great threat in early November 2012)

Fr Touni Hannah (condemned the [December 30, 2015](#) ISIL suicide attacks on three Christian-owned restaurants in [Qamishli](#) that killed 16 and wounded more than 45)

Umm Odisho (elderly woman, as of [November 8, 2014](#) prays in [Tel Tamr, al-Hasaka](#) for her country in church each day)

Valentine Hanan (said on or before [March 21, 2018](#) while the Turkish military continued operations against the Kurds in and around [Afrin](#) "Afrin was untouched by the war going on all around us. We were a safe place in the middle of our war-torn nation...I am very grieved about what is going on today. Six years ago when I started the church ministry in Afrin, I didn't know of any other Christian. Many of those who come to church are from Muslim background and they became Christians. Many people were coming to the church because they were really interested in knowing more about Christ. Those who attended said they felt peaceful and hopeful when they heard the gospel message.. Many of the other Christian families are still in Afrin and surrounding villages and are now trying to get out...Now they [Christians] are afraid that they could be persecuted for their faith. Many are terrified for their lives because of ISIL and other Islamic groups are moving around the town")

Vaniciya Mekho (aged 9, **killed** in the shelling of her school in [Damascus](#) on [November 11, 2013](#))

Vartan Karbedjian (**killed in fighting** on [October 19, 2012](#) in [Aleppo](#))

Violet Zoreb (wife of Nabil Zoreb, **shot dead** by members of The Brigade of Islam on [July 23,](#)

2012 in Bab Touma suburb, Damascus)

Wadad Mtanous Malghouj (aged 67, reported on [April 17, 2016](#) to have been **killed** by ISIL in [Qaryatain](#))

Walid Franso Sawa (husband of Hannan Youkhna, father of Franso, Ashorina, Ornina, and Nahrin, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Wanis (uncle of the wife of Fr Sirjun Zumaya, captured by ISIL in [Tal al-Jazira](#) on [February 23, 2015](#), whereabouts unknown)

Wanis Ismaiel (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Wardia (wife of Anton Hormez Issac, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Wardia Solyman Sawa (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Wardiyya Yonan (wife of Yatroun Marko, released from ISIL captivity on [March 3, 2015](#))

Wasim Salloum (aged 33, delivery driver, husband of Rasha Dreizy, father of Rashel and Michael, **killed** on or before [October 11, 2013](#))

Wassim Moussa Khazaal (aged 40, reported on [April 17, 2016](#) to have been **killed** by ISIL in [Qaryatain](#))

Wedad Elia Yonan (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Hormez village](#))

William Fayez Al-Khoury (aged 33, reported on [April 17, 2016](#) to have been **killed** by ISIL in [Qaryatain](#))

William Youkhanna Melhem (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Fr Yacob Boulos (**beheaded** by ISIL on [February 18, 2016](#) after praying in his church)

Fr Yatroun Colliana (said in [Lebanon](#) on [February 26, 2015](#) "the [ISIL] fighters entered the town of Tal Shamriun and took it over. The popular Assyrian and Kurdish committees were carrying out the defense of these towns as much as they could, but they could not repel these groups of ISIL fighters which were equipped with modern weapons. Meanwhile, the warplanes of the coalition were hovering in the airspace above the area without targeting ISIL locations or their groupings, as if nothing were happening...meanwhile the world stands by silently watching. We are asking Iraqi officials to open up the borders, at least to let women and children escape...we only have the Almighty left to protect us")

Yatroun Marko (husband of Wardiyya Yonan, released from ISIL captivity on [March 3, 2015](#))

Yohannes A (**shot dead** in [February 2013](#) outside [Aleppo](#) by Islamic extremists after finding a cross on his person)

Yoniyya Kanoon (aged 70, captured by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) in [Tel Shamiram](#), **UPDATE**: released on [May 25, 2015](#) in the [Hasaka region](#))

Yosef Ninos Sarkis (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Fieda village](#))

Patriarch Youhanna X aka Youhanna Yazigi (aged 57 [2012], brother of Bishop Boulos al-Yazigi, on [December 17, 2012](#) was elected patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch at [Balamand Monastery, Tripoli, Lebanon](#);

appealed on [December 2, 2013](#) to the Islamic rebels to release the 12 abducted nuns and the 3 other women taken with them from [Maaloula](#);

called on the international community on [June 27, 2014](#) from [Beirut, Lebanon](#) to work for the release of all abducted Syrians, including his brother and Bishop Yuhanna Ibrahim;

met with the other four Christian patriarchs of Antioch in [Damascus](#) on [June 8, 2015](#) and issued a statement pleading with Christians to remain in the Middle East “We do not condemn those that choose to leave, but we remind Christians that steadfastness in faith often entails a great deal of tribulation. We call on everyone who claims to have an interest in our fate to help us to remain”;

reported on [April 15, 2016](#) to have spoken on the third anniversary of the abduction of his brother and of Archbishop Yohanna Ibrahim, said "We hope that the bishops are alive, but unfortunately, the world is silent and nobody has provided physical evidence”;

signed an appeal in [Damascus](#) on [August 24, 2016](#) to end economic sanctions against the country "Since the beginning of the crisis in Syria in 2011, the impact of the economic and financial sanctions increased on the daily lives of Syrian citizens...the ban on international banking transactions with Syria puts the people in a financial difficulty. It impoverishes the citizens and threatens them in their daily bread and deprives them of their human dignity”;

said in [Washington DC](#) on [October 24, 2017](#)"We cannot ignore the fact that, without the Christians in the Middle East, there is no Middle East. The church is the beacon of truth in this educated world. We will continue to witness to that truth even if we are hanged on the cross")

Youkhana Bolbol Qatena (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Hormez village](#))

Youmna (aged 14, alias, sister of Nashita, on [July 16, 2013](#) described fighting around her [Damascus](#) home and school, asked for prayers)

Younea Talia (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera village](#))

Yousef (shopkeeper, said on [August 11, 2014](#) in [Sulaimaniyah, Aleppo](#) “Why aren’t the moderate Muslims doing more to stop the extremists in their midst? Do they agree with their ideology and extremism? We saw hundreds of thousands of protesters on the streets against the abuses of the regime, so why are we not now seeing those thousands of protesters against what ISIL is doing? Worse, we are now seeing many people and rebel groups joining them. There are so many hundreds of these Islamic rebel groups, but they are all the same, they all have this extremist ideology against us. My conclusion is that these groups and ISIL are fully supported and backed in what they are doing by the anti-government forces")

Fr Yousef Abdulmasih (said on [January 13, 2014](#) "The exodus from the city [of [Qamishli, Jazira province](#)] is in full swing. Every day individuals and families in our community flee, especially young people, who are our hope and our future. Our Town will become a city of old people")

Youssef Karme (father of three children, **shot dead** on [December 5, 2012](#) after dropping off Armenian Catholic Archbishop Boutros Marayati, Maronite Bishop Youssef Anis Abi-Aad and a priest at the [Aleppo](#) airport)

Youssuf (aged 65, said of Christmas in [Sadad](#) on [December 24, 2015](#) “Dozens of people have died in this village; how could I put up decorations or hand out holiday sweets?”)

Bishop Yuhanna Ibrahim (abducted at gunpoint by rebels on [April 22, 2013](#) near [Kfar Dael, Aleppo](#), the deacon who was driving was shot dead;

[April 23, 2013](#) news of release untrue, reportedly held by Chechen fighters;

still in rebel captivity as of [May 22, 2013](#);

fear is growing as of [August 7, 2013](#) that he is dead;

Turkish intelligence reports that he is still alive as of [September 26, 2013](#);

as of [April 22, 2014](#) has now been in captivity for one year;

reportedly as of [June 7, 2014](#) is being held in [Raqqa](#) by the al-Qaeda affiliated Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)

Yussef (aged 30, said on [May 2, 2013](#) in [Tijara, Damascus](#) "violence doesn't stop. At dawn this morning I heard a loud explosion...It was the jet fuel depot at Damascus airport that was burning")

Zagalo Zaya Gureel (son of Nofa Talia, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Zahi Saad (**killed** in a car bombing on [January 21, 2015](#) in the [New Sabri neighborhood, Homs](#))

Zavinar Sargdegian (aged 58, said "I was at home [in [Kessab](#) on [March 21, 2014](#)] with my husband when they [rebels from Ahrar al-Sham] raided the house. They broke down the front door. They pushed us on to the street. We were on our knees and they put a gun to our heads. From the road I saw the Angelic Church burning. Fire was coming out of the doors and windows", added that the rebels were from Chechnya, Tunisia and Libya)

Zaya Beniamen Denkha (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Hormez village](#))

Zaya George (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Zaya Shlimon Gureel (husband, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Zeinat Akhras (aged 49, sister of Ayman Akhras, as of [May 13, 2014](#) has survived the entire siege of Homs, weighs 75 pounds)

Zhirayr aka Jirair Reisian (reported on [October 29, 2012](#) on the destruction of St Gevorg church in [Nor Kyugh, Aleppo](#) by rebels and the kidnapping of 12 Christians)

Ziad Farah (aged 49, reported on [April 17, 2016](#) to have been **killed** by ISIL in [Qaryatain](#))

Fr Ziad Hilal SJ (reported on the [April 7, 2014](#) murder of Fr Frans van der Lugt;

described a [January 21, 2015](#) car bombing in [Homs](#) that killed 15 and wounded 50 "Most of them were students at the university, young people who had not left the city. So what sort of message does this attack send out now? I believe they were deliberately targeted...the attack was staged very close to our church and our aid center";

reported on [August 15, 2016](#) to have said concerning the current conditions in [Aleppo](#) "...the city it's divided between two sides. Between the opposition and the government, then people couldn't move from one side to the other side. And a lot of people couldn't go from here to there, from there to here, to get to their jobs – and so they lost their jobs, they lost their houses...I met a Catholic family where three children are working in a restaurant, one is 7 or 8 years old, the other one is 10 years old and the third one, he is 14 years old. Their father has died, we don't know how, and their mother is also working. And the boss of the restaurant told me – you see these three children are working and I couldn't tell them no it is summer now because they are helping their mother. I was choked")

Zohair David (aged 44, father of four, abducted and **killed** outside [Tabga, Raqqa province](#) on [March 29, 2013](#) after driving a doctor to work with the Free Syrian Army)

Zomo Ismaiel Sawa ("old woman", abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))

Zuhir Gureel (son of Regina Marwan, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran village](#))