

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – February 1977

Wednesday February 2, 1977



Argentina: Buenos Aires

Antero Daniel Esquivel (aged 32, disappeared, **presumed dead**)

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Argentina.htm

Saturday February 5, 1977



Vietnam: Vinh Quang Prison Camp, Vinh Phu

Archbishop Francois-Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan (aged 48, interrogated in [Ho Chi Minh City](#) on [August 15, 1975](#), arrested when he refused to admit his recent appointment as coadjutor archbishop was a Vatican plot, driven to Nha Trang [his previous episcopal assignment] and placed under house arrest; taken by police to the [Phu Khanh Prison Camp](#) on [March 19, 1976](#), put into solitary confinement; taken with other prisoners to a transit camp in [Thu Duc](#) on [November 29, 1976](#); taken in chains with other prisoners on [December 1, 1976](#) to a ship in [Tan Cang, Ho Chi Minh City](#), for transfer to North Vietnam; ship arrived in [Haiphong](#) on [December 10, 1976](#), taken with the other prisoners to [Vinh Quang Prison Camp, Vinh Phu](#); **UPDATE**: taken to Thanh Liet Prison Camp, Hanoi, interrogated)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nguy%E1%BB%85n_V%C4%83n_Thu%E1%BA%ADn
https://openlibrary.org/books/OL27907469M/The_Miracle_of_Hope

Sunday February 6, 1977



Zimbabwe - then Rhodesia: Musami, Harare

Sr Anna Stiegler OP (aged 60, German citizen, **shot dead** by guerrillas)

Sr Berta Schneider OP (aged 73, German citizen, **shot dead** by guerrillas)

Sr Christa Elisabeth Lewandowski OP (aged 43, German citizen, **shot dead** by guerrillas)

Fr Christopher Shepherd-Smith SJ (aged 34, British citizen, **shot dead** by guerrillas, was present at the mission only because his motorcycle battery had died)

Fr Dunstan Myerscough SJ (aged 65, British citizen, shot by guerrillas, survived)

Br John Conway SJ (aged 31, Irish citizen, **shot dead** by guerrillas)

Fr Martin Thomas SJ (aged 44, British citizen, **shot dead** by guerrillas)

Sr Pauline Wilkinson OP (aged 59, British citizen, **shot dead** by guerrillas)

http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Zimbabwe.htm

<http://www.rhodesia.nl/mission.htm>

<http://ignatiansolidarity.net/blog/portfolio-item/father-martin-thomas-zimbabwe-1977/>

<http://ignatiansolidarity.net/blog/portfolio-item/christopher-shepherd-smith-1977-zimbabwe/>

Wednesday February 16, 1977



Uganda: Kampala

Church leaders are subjected to a ‘trial’ at a public rally led by President Idi Amin on fabricated charged of arms smuggling where they were forced to stand for hours in the sun with no food or water

Archbishop Janani Jakaliya Lwum (aged 55, husband of Mary Lawinyo Lwum, father of nine, subjected to a ‘trial’ at a public rally, later beaten and **shot dead**)

Bishop Festo Kivengere (aged 58, husband of Mera, father of Charity, subjected to a ‘trial’ at a public rally, released)

Bishop Yona Okoth (subjected to a ‘trial’ at a public rally, released)

Bishop Wani (subjected to a ‘trial’ at a public rally, released)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Janani_Lwum

https://openlibrary.org/works/OL4707251W/I_love_Idi_Amin

Thursday February 17, 1977



Uganda: Kampala

Archbishop Janani Jakaliya Luwum (aged 55, husband of Mary Lawinyo Luwum, father of nine, subjected to a 'trial' at a [February 16, 1977](#) public rally led by President Idi Amin on fabricated charged of arms smuggling, later beaten and shot dead; **UPDATE**: death announced as having been in an automobile accident, body had been run over several times)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Janani_Luwum

https://openlibrary.org/works/OL4707251W/I_love_Idi_Amin

Sunday February 20, 1977



Uganda

Bishop Festo Kivengere (aged 58, husband of Mera, father of Charity, subjected to a 'trial' at a [February 16, 1977](#) public rally led by President Idi Amin on fabricated charged of arms smuggling; **UPDATE**: fled the country after rumors of his pending arrest circulated)

Mera (wife of Bishop Festo Kivengere, mother of Charity, fled the country after rumors of her husband's pending arrest circulated)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Festo_Kivengere

https://openlibrary.org/works/OL4707251W/I_love_Idi_Amin

February 1977, date unknown