

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – January 1979

**Monday January 1, 1979**



**Zimbabwe - then Rhodesia: Shurugwi, Midlands**

Fr Martin Holenstein SMB (aged 44, Swiss citizen, abducted, **killed**)

[http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new\\_martyrs/Zimbabwe.htm](http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/Zimbabwe.htm)

**Tuesday January 8, 1979**



**Russia: Tver**

Alexander Ogorodnikov (aged 28, Christian Seminar member, husband of Yelena Levashova, father of Dima; arrested in [Redkino](#) for parasitism on [November 20, 1978](#); **UPDATE**: moved to prison in Konakovo)

[https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26180614M/Dissident\\_For\\_Life](https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26180614M/Dissident_For_Life) - page 100

**Friday January 11, 1979**



**Russia: Konakovo**

Alexander Ogorodnikov (aged 28, Christian Seminar member, husband of Yelena Levashova, father of Dima; arrested in [Redkino](#) for parasitism on [November 20, 1978](#); **UPDATE**: trial ended, refused to confess or show remorse, sentenced to 1 year's imprisonment in

Komsomolsk-na-Amur, beaten by police in public after he refused to turn over his trial notes, returned to prison in Tver and placed in an unheated punishment cell)

[https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26180614M/Dissident\\_For\\_Life](https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26180614M/Dissident_For_Life) - page 103

**Saturday January 20, 1979**



**El Salvador: Mejicanos, San Salvador**

**Security forces raided a religious retreat, a priest and four youths were shot dead, all other retreatants were arrested, the dead bodies were positioned on the roof with machine guns to incriminate them**

Angel Morales Gomez (aged 22, **shot dead**)

David Caballero Cornejo (aged 15, **shot dead**)

Jorge Alberto Gomez Juarez (aged 22, **shot dead**)

Fr Octavio Ortiz (**shot dead**, body repeatedly run over by a military vehicle to prevent an open casket wake)

Roberto Orellana Sanchez (aged 15, **shot dead**)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Octavio\\_Ortiz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Octavio_Ortiz)

[http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new\\_martyrs/El\\_Salvador.htm](http://newsaints.faithweb.com/new_martyrs/El_Salvador.htm)

**January 1979, date unknown**