

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – February 1987

**Saturday February 14, 1987**



### **Russia: Khabarovsk**

Alexander Ogorodnikov (aged 36, Christian Seminar member, husband of Yelena Levashova, father of Dima Levashova; arrested in [Redkino](#) for parasitism on [November 20, 1978](#); trial in [Konakovo](#) ended on [January 11, 1979](#), sentenced to 1 year's imprisonment; released from prison in [Leningrad](#) on [November 20, 1979](#), re-arrested as he left the prison gate on anti-Soviet agitation charges; found guilty of anti-Soviet agitation in [Tver](#) on [September 8, 1980](#), sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment followed by 3 years' internal exile; charged on [November 15, 1985](#) in [Perm-36 labor camp](#) with 'violating camp rules'; found guilty of violating camp rules on [April 3, 1986](#) in [Chusovoy](#), sentenced extended by 3 years, began to lose his remaining teeth and to suffer from hallucinations; **UPDATE:** released from prison following a pardon from General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, cried out "O death, where is thy victory? O grave, where is thy sting?", five days later arrived in Moscow and wrote to his friends "I bow my head with a deep sense of gratitude for your prayers and your patient struggle in defense of your Russian disciple of Christ. When you are in a concentration camp and you feel that your heart is beginning to fail, the hunger is gnawing at your stomach, the cold is numbing your body, and the despair is coursing through your blood, it's as if you have already been carried to your grave by an indifferent world and you're being flooded by waves of despair. But it was precisely in those devastating moments in that ice-cold cell that I physically felt the salutary warmth of your prayers and compassion, a power that connects us through a stream of spiritual energy as a result of our common experience of faith and the mysterious solidarity of brotherly unity", marriage annulled by the Church after he found his wife had married another man in a civil ceremony just days before his release)

[https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26180614M/Dissident\\_For\\_Life](https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26180614M/Dissident_For_Life) - page 169-173

**Monday February 23, 1987**



**Angola: Katchiungo, Huambo**

Fr Adriano Kasala (**shot dead** in a road ambush)

Fr Nico Ligthart CSSP (aged 46, Dutch national, **shot dead** in a road ambush)

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

[https://openlibrary.org/works/OL1985805W/The\\_Catholic\\_martyrs\\_of\\_the\\_twentieth\\_century](https://openlibrary.org/works/OL1985805W/The_Catholic_martyrs_of_the_twentieth_century)

**Tuesday February 24, 1987**



**United States – New York: Buffalo**

Fr Joseph A Bissonnette (aged 64, **killed** at his rectory by two young men who had asked for food)

<http://www.catholicdoors.com/news/martyrs2.htm>

**February 1987, date unknown**



**Portugal: Lisbon**

Roger Hunt (aged 19, missionary, **shot dead** by a security guard who had mistaken him for an automobile thief)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latter\\_Day\\_Saint\\_martyrs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latter_Day_Saint_martyrs)