

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – September 2009

Monday September 7, 2009



Iraq: Mosul

Salem Bergo (**killed**)

<http://indefenseofchristians.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Genocide-report.pdf>

Friday September 11, 2009



United States – Michigan: Owosso

Jim Pouillon (elderly man, **shot dead** while participating in an anti-abortion protest)

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

Sunday September 13, 2009



Egypt: Cairo Airport

Peter Athanasius aka Maher El-Gowhary (aged 58, convert, father of Dina, filed suit on [August 4, 2008](#) to officially change his religion to Christianity; suit denied on [June 13, 2009](#);

UPDATE: prevented from leaving the country for China)

Dina (aged 15, convert, daughter of Peter Athanasius, prevented from leaving the country for China)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20090925191939.htm>

Tuesday September 15, 2009



Robert Danish (**tortured to death in prison**, official cause ruled a suicide, had volunteered to take his father's place in prison)

Tariq Chaudhry (brother of Robert Danish)

<http://britishpakistanichristian.blogspot.co.uk/2009/09/murder-or-suicide-you-decide.html>

Wednesday September 16, 2009



Egypt

A Muslim travelled from village to village stabbing Christians

Dr Naguib Gibrael (attorney, accused police of tampering with evidence so that the killer would receive a reduced sentence)

Fr Estephanos Azer (said "I hope that the authorities would respect our intelligence. The media treats us as a herd of sheep. We refuse that completely. We have logic and can think")

Ashraf Ghobrial (attorney, said "I am saying there must be someone behind the killer. We ask the State Security to look for the terrorist cell behind him. If they don't, this incident will happen again and again, in different parts of the country. We want the State Security to protect us, all what they do is spy on us")

Egypt: Bagour

Abdo George Younan (aged 63, father of George Abdo and a daughter, **beheaded**)

George Abdo (son of Abdo George Younan, spoke on the government and media misinformation concerning his father's murder: "For whose benefit is all this government misleading information? We want justice nothing more")

Egypt: Behnay

Adib Boulo (shoemaker, repeatedly stabbed in the head and lung, skull fractured, hospitalized in critical condition)

Behman Saeed (witnessed the stabbing)

Egypt: Mit Afif

Sobhy Barsum (brother of Hani Barsum, blacksmith, stabbed, hospitalized)

Hani Barsum (brother of Sobhy Barsum, stabbed in the neck, hospitalized)

<http://www.coptsunited.com/Details.php?I=6&A=52>

Saturday September 19, 2009



Brazil: Santa Etelvina, Manaus

Fr Ruggero Ruvoletto (aged 52, missionary, Italian citizen, **killed** in his rectory after denouncing drug trafficking)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/66655->

[AMERICA BRAZIL The Caminhada pela Paz in Manaus recalls the 10 years of the assassination of Fr Ruggero Ruvoletto](#)

Tuesday September 22, 2009



Egypt: Cairo Airport

Peter Athanasius aka Maher El-Gowhary (aged 58, convert, father of Dina, filed suit on [August 4, 2008](#) to officially change his religion to Christianity; suit denied on [June 13, 2009](#); prevented from leaving the country for China on [September 17, 2009](#); **UPDATE**: again prevented from leaving the country, said "I had to make sure that I was really barred from traveling, because I was told nothing officially. I really don't know where to go now, our location has now been revealed. I feel so sorry for my daughter, such a young girl staying at home all the time. They will never let us leave and they will never have mercy on us. Our only chance of getting out of the country, is by obtaining a foreign passport")

Dina (aged 15, convert, daughter of Peter Athanasius, prevented from leaving the country for China on [September 17, 2009](#); **UPDATE**: again prevented from leaving the country)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20090925191939.htm>

Thursday September 24, 2009



China: Linfen, Shanxi province

Yang Rongli (sister of Pastor Yang Xuan, arrested while guarding her church construction site, later sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment and fined US\$4,392)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/01/bomb-destroys-persecuted-church.html>

[http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Linfen:-Christians-in-tears-watching-destruction-of-their-church-\(video\)-42807.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Linfen:-Christians-in-tears-watching-destruction-of-their-church-(video)-42807.html)

September 2009, date unknown



China; near Taiyuan, Shanxi province

Two pastors were arrested for “gathering a mob to disturb public order” after holding a prayer rally on **September 14, 2009** following the demolition of a house church in **Linfen**

Pastor Wang Xiaoguang (husband of Yang Rongli, arrested)

Pastor Yang Rongli (wife of Wang Xiaoguang, arrested)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/10/megachurch-pastor-released-after.html>