

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – September 2012

Saturday September 1, 2012



China: Zhongxinbu hamlet, Shumugou village, Horqin Right Front Banner, Ulanhot city

Sun Yuefen (arrested for evangelization efforts on [August 1, 2012](#), **UPDATE:** sentenced to two years in an education through labor camp)

China: Shaya Prison, Xinjiang

Gao Zhisheng (Christian human rights lawyer charged with violating probation at the end of his probation, new prison sentence to begin; **UPDATE:** is not being allowed to meet with his lawyers)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2012/11/police-detain-nine-christians-send-one.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2012/09/rfa-questioning-legality-and.html>



Pakistan: Islamabad

Dr. Nazir S Bhatti (**UPDATE:** reported that Muslim cleric Hafiz Mohammad Zubair has accused Khalid Jadoon, the Muslim cleric involved in the allegations of blasphemy against 11-year old Rimsha Bibi, of having fabricated the evidence against her - and that police have arrested Jadoon, he [Bhatti] also reported that Muslim cleric Tahir Ashrafi has asked fellow clerics to find a suitable punishment for Jadoon)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=3724>

Sunday September 2, 2012



India: Bhanpuri village, Balod district, Chhattisgarh state

Daminbai Sahu (new convert, hosted a Sunday service in his home that was invaded by neighbors who beat several people and people to renounce their faith in Christ)

Pastor Dada (beaten in and outside the home of Daminbai Sahu, driven from the village under death threats)

Samuel Philip (reported on the attack on the home of Daminbai Sahu)

http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/india/article_1821648.html



Pakistan: Hyderabad

Bishop Kalim John (said that as many as 200 blasphemy cases have been brought against Christians in his diocese)

Pakistan: Islamabad

Albert David (called for an end to discrimination against religious minorities)

Pakistan: Lahore

Fr Pascal Paulus OP (concelebrated a Mass which was attended by 1,000 who prayed for the release of Rimsha Bibi from jail)

Fr Francis Nadeem OFM Cap (concelebrated a Mass which was attended by 1,000 who prayed for the release of Rimsha Bibi from jail)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=3727>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=3729>

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=32136&lan=eng>



Saudi Arabia

Maryam (convert to Christianity, by July 30, 2012 had fled the country for Lebanon; **UPDATE:** believed to have relocated to Sweden, Interpol and Swedish authorities are reportedly searching for her at the request of the Saudi government for her return to Saudi Arabia)

<http://continentalnews.net/2012/09/05/interpol-swedish-saudi-11612.html>

Monday September 3, 2012



India: Bhanpuri village, Balod district, Chhattisgarh state

Daminbai Sahu (new convert, hosted a [September 2, 2012](#) Sunday service in his home that was invaded by neighbors who beat several people and people to renounce their faith in Christ, **UPDATE**: driven from his family and village by 600 Hindu extremists, family now prohibited from using the village well or collect rainwater)

Janakbai Sahu (wife of Sarjoram Sahu, driven from her family and village by 600 Hindu extremists, family now prohibited from using the village well or collecting rainwater)

Rev Sandeep Claudius (reported on the attack on the homes of Deherram Sahu, Sarjoram Sahu, Janakbai Sahu, and Ubhayram Sahu)

Sarjoram Sahu (husband of Janakbai Sahu, driven from his family and village by 600 Hindu extremists, family now prohibited from using the village well or collecting rainwater)

Ubhayram Sahu (driven from family and village by 600 Hindu extremists, family now prohibited from using the village well or collecting rainwater)

http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/india/article_1821648.html



Pakistan: Islamabad

Rimsha Bibi (aged 11 or 14, bail hearing has been scheduled for September 7, 2012)

Tahir Naveed Chaudry (lawyer for Rimsha Bibi, **UPDATE**: commented on the nearly total collapse of the blasphemy case against the 11 or 14 year old girl: “I was hoping for her release, but unfortunately it got delayed again. But these delays prove a blessing in disguise for her and all those who have been praying for her. If the court had freed her on bail early, we would not have been able to see what we are seeing today. These witnesses might not have stepped forward and the truth would have remained hidden...The case has prompted everyone of us to ponder how innocent people are made to suffer by their enemies. The widespread condemnation of Jadoon’s action shows that there is still hope for things to improve in Pakistan”)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=3734>

http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/pakistan/article_1704924.html



United Kingdom: London

Gary McFarlane (is appealing his termination as a counsellor for refusing to give relationship counseling to same sex couples to the European Court of Human Rights)

Lilian Ladele (is appealing her disciplining for refusing to conduct same sex civil partnership ceremonies to the European Court of Human Rights)

Nadia Eweida (is appealing her suspension and loss of pay from British Airways for wearing a cross to the European Court of Human Rights)

Shirley Chaplin (is appealing her forced transfer from a ward nurse to a desk position for wearing a cross to the European Court of Human Rights)

<http://www.zenit.org/article-35460?l=english>

Tuesday September 4, 2012



China: Bantian, Longgang district, Shenzhen

Zhao Jianjun (told how a new 2 year lease for space for a church meeting was terminated under local government pressure after 20 days)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2012/09/rfa-exclusive-report-gangtou-house.html>



Pakistan: Dhula Gujranwala

Fr Almas John (working to see Aney returned to her family)

Aney (aged 10, abducted and forced to convert to Islam and to marry)

Tariq (father of Aney)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=3765>



Jordan: Irbid

Cheryll Harvey (**murdered**)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue17327.html>



Israel: Latrun

Patriarch Fouad Twal (condemned the vandalism at the Trappist monastery saying it was “only another in a long series of attacks against Christians and their places of worship”)

Fr Louis Wehbe OCSO (said, “Thanks God we were able to extinguish the fire and no one was hurt. I am shocked and grieved by this atrocious act, especially when I read the words “Jesus is a monkey” not only have they attacked a house of worship, but they have desecrated the name of our Lord”)

Fr Pierbattista Pizzaballa (condemned vandalism at a Trappist monastery)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20120908000418.htm>

<http://blog.caritas.org/2012/09/06/church-figures-visit-latrun-monastery-after-vandal-attack/>

Wednesday September 5, 2012



India: Sagar village, Shimoga district, Karnataka state

Rev Damodara (prayer service interrupted by 15 Hindu radicals, beaten by them and later by the police)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/India,-more-violence-against-Christians.-Governments-implicit-with-Hindu-nationalists-25807.html>



Pakistan: Karachi

Irfan Yousuf (aged 11, brother of Sonia Yousuf, injured in a bomb attack on his home)

Sonia Yousuf (aged 18, sister of Irfan Yousuf, injured in a bomb attack on her home)

Pakistan: Lahore

Pastor Anwar Javed (stated that Muslims came to his door due to false allegations of forced conversions to Christianity)

Fr Francis Sabir, OFM Cap (stated that the false allegations of forced conversions to Christianity originated with a Christian who tried to escape trouble with Muslims over gambling)

Fr Inayat Bernard (believed that the false allegations of forced conversions to Christianity were a hoax on the part of a Christian)

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=32156&lan=eng>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=3737>



Kazakhstan: Almaty

Aigul Djabbarbergenov (wife of Makset Djabbarbergenov, is expecting their fifth child, seized by police)

Pastor Makset Djabbarbergenov (arrested, will likely be deported back to Uzbekistan despite having official refugee status)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1739

Thursday September 6, 2012



Vietnam

Anthony Chu Manh Son (sentenced on [May 23, 2012](#) in [Nghe An](#) to 3 years for "propaganda against the State" for distributing literature for religious freedom, blood donation, aid to orphans and victims of natural disasters, and against abortion; **UPDATE:** appeal is supported by the diocese of Vinh)

Hoang Phong (sentenced on [May 23, 2012](#) in [Nghe An](#) to 18 months suspended for "propaganda against the State" for distributing literature for religious freedom, blood donation, aid to orphans and victims of natural disasters, and against abortion; **UPDATE:** appeal is supported by the diocese of Vinh)

Peter Tran Huu Duc (sentenced on [May 23, 2012](#) in [Nghe An](#) to 3 years 3 months for "propaganda against the State" for distributing literature for religious freedom, blood donation, aid to orphans and victims of natural disasters, and against abortion; **UPDATE:** appeal is supported by the diocese of Vinh)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Diocese-of-Vinh-to-appeal-judges:-acquit-three-young-innocent-Catholics-25742.html>



China: Shushan District, Hefei, Anhui province

Pu Wanming (husband of Zheng Fang, home entered and furnishings taken by officials , father injured and arrested)

Zheng Fang (wife of Pu Wanming)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/02/pu-wanming-and-his-wife-pastors-of-tspm.html>



Nepal: Godavari, Kathmandu

Sr Imelda Gurung (aged 75, robbery victim in her convent)

Sr Winifred Mukhia (aged 63, robbery victim in her convent)

<http://www.ucanews.com/2012/09/06/nuns-robbed-at-knife-point/>



Uzbekistan: Kokand City

Muhabbat Mamatkulova (fined for teaching 'Omina' religion, fine cancelled)

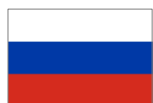
Uzbekistan: Tashkent

Natalya Pleshakova (aged 26, disabled, beaten along with her mother on [August 6, 2012](#) by six men in her yard while being video recorded by a policeman, when police arrived they were beaten again and taken to the police station where she was ordered to convert to Islam - she refused - and then signed a false confession to storing religious books and items - total ordeal lasted 22 hours, later fined 20 times the minimum monthly wage; **UPDATE:** fine reduced to an administrative warning)

Valentina Pleshakova (mother of Natalya Pleshakova)

Metropolitan Vikenty Morar (defended Valentina and Natalya Pleshakova and Muhabbat Mamatkulova, persuaded the courts to reduce their fines to administrative warnings)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1740



Russia: Kosino-Ukhtomsky district, Moscow

Mikhail Odintsov (an aide to Russia's Ombudsperson for Human Rights, condemned the illegal demolition of Holy Trinity Church after midnight)

Pastor Vasili Romanyuk (said Sunday worship will still be held in the ruins of the demolished Holy Trinity Church)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1738

Friday September 7, 2012



India: Birmawal village, Ratlam district, Madhya Pradesh state

Rev John Pargy (dragged to the local police station by Hindu radicals who then accused him of insulting Hinduism and forcing people to drink cow's blood, held in jail for 3 days)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/India,-more-violence-against-Christians.-Governments-complicit-with-Hindu-nationalists-25807.html>



Pakistan: Islamabad

Pastor Arif Khokher (beaten when he defended Christians from attack by Capital Development Authority personnel)

Rimsha Bibi Masih (aged 11 or 14; **UPDATE**: released on bail, now in hiding with her family)

Yousaf Masih (beaten by Capital Development Authority personnel, arm broken)

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=32177&lan=eng>

http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/pakistan/article_1781573.html

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=3742>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=3769>



Bahrain

Rev Hani Aziz (Bahrain's National Evangelical Church, stated his approval of attempts to build a Catholic church in the country)

<http://www.maghrebchristians.com/2012/09/07/plans-to-build-largest-catholic-church-in-bahrain-hit-by-muslim-protests/#ixzz25vrWFtDc>



Belarus: Gomel

Kirill Dashkovsky (fined 3 times his monthly wage for organizing a religious meeting, **UPDATE**: fine upheld on appeal)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1772

Saturday September 8, 2012



Iran

Firouz Khandjani (**UPDATE**: said that the release of Youcef Nadarkhani was "an answer to our prayers")

Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani (in prison under a death sentence for apostasy, **UPDATE**: released from prison with time served, no new charges filed)

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2012/09/08/christian-pastor-jailed-in-iran-for-3-years-is-freed-watchdog-group-says/>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Iranian-Protestant-pastor,-sentenced-to-death-for-apostasy,-is-released-25765.html>

Sunday September 9, 2012



Philippines: Cavite City

Sr Mary Pilar Verzosa (founder of Pro-Life Philippines, **died of an aneurysm**)

<http://www.ucanews.com/2012/09/10/pro-life-philippines-founder-dies/>



Russia: Kosino-Ukhtomsky district, Moscow

Pastor Vasili Romanyuk (said on [September 6, 2012](#) that Sunday worship will still be held in the ruins of the demolished Holy Trinity Church; **UPDATE**: "invited" to a police station to answer why he had conducted an unauthorized religious service, released without charge)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1742



Italy: Rome, Milan

Prof Mobeen Shahid (**UPDATE**: confirmed that the charity Umanitaria Padana Onlus paid the bail for the freedom of Rimsha Bibi Masih)

Sara Fumagalli (coordinated the Pakistani request for assistance in the release of Rimsha Bibi Masih on bail)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=3748>

Monday September 10, 2012



India: Idinthakarai village, Tamil Nadu state

Anthony John (aged 44, fisherman, **shot dead** by police)

Cardinal Oswald Gracias (**UPDATE**: condemned the desecration of Our Lady of Lourdes church, in which police destroyed two statues and urinated on them)

Fr X D Silvaraj (described the police attack on Our Lady of Lourdes church)

Bishop Yvon Ambroise (bank accounts frozen by the state government in response to his position on the nuclear power plant)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Police-violence-against-antinuclear-protesters:-two-dead-and-a-church-profaned-25781.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Cardinal-Gracias:-The-desecration-of-Our-Lady-of-Lourdes,-a-vulgar-and-shameful-act-25793.html>



United Kingdom: Brighton and Hove City

Christina Summers (dismissed from the Green Party for her views on same-sex marriage)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue17360.html>

Tuesday September 11, 2012



China: Zhanggongqiao Village, Qili-banshichu, Langzhong City, Sichuan Province

Xie Deyue (seven months pregnant, arrested without warrant on [May 29, 2012](#) for running a house church in her home, interrogated and released, rearrested the following day after church furnishing were seized, fined 200 yuan on [June 28, 2012](#); **UPDATE**: has filed a lawsuit against the local authorities)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2012/09/langzhong-court-in-sichuan-violates-law.html>



Laos: Alowmai, Phin district, Savannakhet province

Pastor Bounlert (arrested, held in handcuffs)

Laos: Kapang, Phin district, Savannakhet province

Pastor Onlaew (arrested, held in handcuffs and footstock)

Laos: Kengsainoy, Phin district, Savannakhet province

Pastor Adang (arrested, held in handcuffs)

<http://www.hrwlrf.net/pages/Lao-Authorities-Intensify-Campaign-Against-Christians-in-Savannakhet.html>



Uzbekistan: Almalyk, Tashkent region

Gulya (disabled, arrested and beaten while handcuffed, suffered a seizure while in custody but denied medical treatment, forced to write a statement implicating Nina Chashina in distributing Christian DVDs among Muslims)

Nina Chashina (aged 74, disabled, home raided by police, books and other items seized, arrested)

Uzbekistan: Navoi City

Artur Alpayev (husband of Irina Alpayev, personal property taken after refusing to pay a fine for illegally keeping Christian books)

Dinaida Achkasova (fined for possessing illegal Christian literature)

Irina Alpayev (wife of Artur Alpayev, personal property taken after refusing to pay a fine for illegally keeping Christian books)

Larissa Serin (wife of Nikolai Serin, personal property inventoried for seizure after refusing to pay a fine for illegally keeping Christian books)

Nikolai Serin (husband of Larissa Serin, personal property inventoried for seizure after refusing to pay a fine for illegally keeping Christian books)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1744

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1746



Canada: Cambridge, Ontario

Rev Jay Brown (told by the city council that she would either have to officiate at same sex marriage ceremonies or lose her position with the city)

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/ontario-christian-minister-forced-to-conduct-same-sex-marriages-or-get-sack>

Wednesday September 12, 2012



Armenia: Yerevan

Davit Arakelyan (sentenced to 24 months imprisonment for evasion of military service)

Samvel Prutyanyan (sentenced to 30 months imprisonment for evasion of military service, **UPDATE:** is about to be released)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1745

Thursday September 13, 2012



China: Kucha, Xinjiang

Luo (arrested during a raid on a worship service in her home along with 3 others, most religious materials confiscated)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2012/09/xinjiang-kucha-house-church-raided.html>



Pakistan: Islamabad

Rimsha Bibi Masih (**UPDATE**: trial on blasphemy charges adjourned, she was not present in court due to security concerns)

Bishop Rufin Anthony (**UPDATE**: called for the acquittal of Rimsha Bibi Masih)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Rimsha-Masih-trial-adjourned.-Bishop-of-Islamabad-calls-for-her-acquittal-25801.html>



Armenia: Yerevan

Gevorg Arakelyan (sentenced to 24 months imprisonment for evasion of military service)

Tigran Boyajyan (sentenced to 24 months imprisonment for evasion of military service)

Vahe Sargsyan (sentenced to 24 months imprisonment for evasion of military service)

Vahe Ter-Galstanyan (sentenced to 30 months imprisonment for evasion of military service)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1745

Friday September 14, 2012



Indonesia: Bogor

Bona Sigalingging (GKI Yasmin Church spokesman, **UPDATE**: reported that the government has ordered the church to move again)

<http://www.christianpersecution.info/index.php?view=11748>



China: Dezhou city, Shandong province

Pastor Zhang Mingxuan (**UPDATE**: arrested with 17 others for distributing Gospel tracts at a railroad station)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2012/09/pastor-zhang-mingxuan-and-co-workers.html>



Pakistan: Model Town, Lahore

Basheera Bibi mother of Sumbal Masih, attempted to rescue her daughter from the employer's home but was unable to find her)

Rabiya (cousin of Sumbal Masih, witnessed her beating and reported it to her parents)

Sadaf Masih (sister of Sumbal Masih, witnessed her beating, initially held by their employer but released after police arrived)

Sumbal Masih (aged 15-16, domestic servant, beaten and tortured by employer for watching television, whereabouts unknown)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=3766>



Lebanon: Beirut

Archbishop Paul Matar ("We are in a new critical situation. The Christians of course are alarmed. They ask will the Arab world regress?")

Ruba Tawk (said: "The pope's visit will shine the light on Lebanese Christian identity and its survival at a time when they are facing a grave danger from Islamists pressuring them to leave".)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20120914185017.htm>

Sunday September 16, 2012



China: Hotan, Xinjiang

Pastor Zhong Shuguang (**UPDATE**: electricity has been turned off at his residence since July 2012)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2012/09/pastor-zhang-mingxuan-and-co-workers.html>



Pakistan: Hyderabad

Amir Masih (shot in leg while driving a nun to St Francis Xavier Cathedral)

Mangi (**shot dead** outside St Xavier Cathedral)

Fr Samson Shukardin OFM (described the 8000 strong mob attack on St Francis Xavier Cathedral which broke the church's windows with rocks and fired shots at the church doors)

<http://britishpakistanichristian.blogspot.com/2012/09/gunmen-open-fire-on-bus-of-nuns-and.html>

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=32242&lan=eng>

Monday September 17, 2012



China: Caibang village, Xiantao City, Hubei province

Fr Zhang Wei (reported on the destruction of a church by arson)

<http://www.ucanews.com/2012/09/17/catholics-say-church-was-destroyed-by-arsonists/>



India: Kashmir

PK Samantaroy (is fearful of violence against Christian schools)

<http://in.christiantoday.com/articles/christian-schools-in-kashmir-fear-backlash/7597.htm>



Pakistan: Essa Nagri, Karachi

Fr Victor John (reported on the murders of Nasir Masih and Rafi Masih and officiated at their funeral)

Pakistan: Hyderabad

James Francis (described an attack on St Elizabeth hospital)

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=32242&lan=eng>

Tuesday September 18, 2012



Pakistan: Essa Nagri, Karachi, Sindhi state

Nasir Masih (**shot dead** after attending the funeral of Yousaf Masih)

Rafi Masih (**shot dead** after attending the funeral of Yousaf Masih)

Saleem Masih (shot after attending the funeral of Yousaf Masih and admitted to hospital along with 2 others)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=3764>



Egypt: Sohag

Bishoy Kamel Gergis (teacher, arrested on [July 30, 2012](#) for posting defamatory cartoons of Islam and Muhammad on his Facebook page, he claims the account was hacked;
UPDATE: convicted, sentenced to 6 years imprisonment)

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/news/egyptian-court-sends-copt-prison-over-anti-islam-post>

Wednesday September 19, 2012



Indonesia: Tegal, Java

Fr Frans Widyanatardi Pr (summoned by authorities to explain why St Pius School does not teach Islam to its students)

Sr Madeleine (summoned by authorities to explain why St Pius School does not teach Islam to its students)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Catholic-schools-in-Central-Java-threatened-with-closure-for-not-teaching-Islam-25867.html>



China: Xinyu city, Yushui district, Jiangxi province

Li Sihua (helped Liu Ping after she was released by the police)

Liu Ping (applied to the police for a permit for a public demonstration, was beaten, verbally abused and frisked for 11 hours)

Sui Muqing (attorney representing Liu Ping in her suit against the police)

Wei Zhongping (applied to the police for a permit for a public demonstration, was beaten, verbally abused and frisked for 11 hours)

Xiao Guozhen (attorney representing Liu Ping in her suit against the police)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2012/09/christian-human-rights-defenders-in.html>



India: Idinthakarai, Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu state

Archbishop AM Chinnappa (led a day long fast to condemn the police desecration of a church)

<http://in.christiantoday.com/articles/archbishop-leads-fast-against-desecration-of-kudankulam-church/7604.htm>



Mexico: Santa Fe

Fr Esteban Robles (condemned the murder of Fr Teodoro Mariscal Rivas)

Msgr Juan Ruiz (presided at the funeral of Fr Teodoro Mariscal Rivas)

Fr Teodoro Mariscal Rivas (aged 45, **murdered** in his home during an apparent robbery)

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=32288&lan=eng>

Thursday September 20, 2012



Pakistan: Chak 226, Samundari, Faisalabad, Punjab state

Fr Bonnie Mendes (**UPDATE**: reported on the attack on Shumaila Masih)

Fr Khalid Rasheed Asi (**UPDATE**: stated "I personally know the victim [Shumaila Masih] because I was pastor in that area, they are a very poor family, but rich in the Catholic faith. They deserve justice."

Manzoor Masih (father of Shumaila Masih, rescued her from her rapists, despite his poverty refuses to enter into a compromise settlement with his daughter's wealthy attackers)

Shumaila Masih (raped by 3 Muslim youths, has 'extensive' injuries)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Faisalabad:-16-year-old-Christian-girl-gang-raped-for-hours-by-young-Muslims-25928.html>

Friday September 21, 2012



Indonesia: Jakarta

Basuki Tjahaja Purnama aka Ahok (candidate for deputy governor, under attack by political opponents for his religion and Chinese ancestry; **UPDATE**: appears to have won the election)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Jakarta:-election-victory-for-challenging-duo,-ethnic-Chinese-Christian-deputy-governor-25877.html>



China: Beijing

Fan Yafeng (lawyer representing Shouwang Church)

Pastor Jin Tianming (placed under house arrest in [April 2011](#); **UPDATE**: has been fighting the police suppression of the Shouwang Church, which cannot obtain a meeting place and whose congregants have been arrested more than 1600 times including 22 this past Sunday and lost more than 60 jobs)

Li Baiguang (lawyer representing Shouwang Church)

Li Subin (lawyer representing Shouwang Church)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Beijing's-Shouwang-Church-denounces-police-repression-25883.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2012/09/shouwang-church-applies-for.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2012/09/beijing-shouwang-church-announcement-on.html>



India: Vivekanandapuram, Tamil Nadu state

Rev S Suresh Rajan (prevented by the local government from using a newly completed community hall)

India: Voddarahalli Thanda village, Shimoga District, Karnataka state

Rev Kumar Hanumanthappa (prayer service attacked, Bibles burned and some Christians beaten, all forced to attend a Hindu temple service)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bible-are-burnt,-Christians-attacked-to-convert-them-forcibly-to-Hinduism-25904.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Religious-intolerance-grows-in-Tamil-Nadu,-13-cases-in-2012-25880.html>



Pakistan: Lahore

Mehwish (nurse, declined to join a rally against the 'blasphemous' film trailer the *Innocence of Muslims* on the internet, as a result has been threatened by her Muslim coworkers)

Pakistan: Mardan, Khyber Pakhthunkwa

Rev Binyameen Barkat (stated that the local government did provide security for St Paul's Church, but the security was overwhelmed by the mob that burnt down the church)

Pastor Chand Masih (home destroyed in arson attack on St Paul Church)

Pastor Ghulam Shad (home destroyed in arson attack on St Paul Church)

Eleesheba (teacher, school and home destroyed in the arson attack on St Paul's Church)

Lazar John (described the arson damage at St Paul's Church as exceeding 1 billion rupees)

Meerab (aged 9, school burnt)

Nirmat (aged 13, escaped the arson attack on her school)

Rt Rev Peter Majeed (**UPDATE:** home destroyed in arson attack on St Paul Church)

Pastor Peter Mujeed (blamed the West for Muslim attacks on Pakistani Christians)

Raaima (aged 8, wept when asked about her school being burnt)

Most Rev Samuel Azariah Samuel (condemned the arson attack that destroyed St Paul's church, school, and presbyter)

Rt Rev Sarfarz Humphrey Peters (condemned the arson attack that destroyed St Paul's church, school, and presbyter)

Zeeshan John (escaped being burned alive in the arson attack on St Paul's Church)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=3785>

<http://britishpakistanichristian.blogspot.com/2012/10/300-disenfranchised-students-of-mardan.html>

<http://britishpakistanichristian.blogspot.com/2012/09/church-and-school-attacked-in.html>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=3781>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=3783>

<http://britishpakistanichristian.blogspot.com/2012/09/parishioners-call-for-restoration-of.html>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=3796>

<http://www.maghrebchristians.com/2012/09/27/pakistan-christian-leaders-appeal-for-calm-after-church-attack-in-retaliation-for-mohammed-film/>



Azerbaijan: Yalama, Khachmaz district

Pyotr Byakov (charged with smuggling religious literature into the country)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1759



Iraq: Kirkuk

Archbishop Louis Sako (presided over a day of prayer and fasting involving over 150 young people in response to the detonation of a bomb in front of the cathedral)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Kirkuk,-young-Christians-hold-day-of-fasting-for-peace-after-a-bomb-attack-on-cathedral-25888.html>

Saturday September 22, 2012



China: Tuquan County, Hinggan League

Dai Suqin (detained for 10 days)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2012/11/police-detain-nine-christians-send-one.html>



Egypt: Minya region

Mariane (aged 18, missing in an area where attacks on Copts are frequent)

Nadia (aged 15, missing in an area where attacks on Copts are frequent)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/cs-releases/859-two-coptic-girls-disappear-under-mysterious-circumstances>



Canada: Montreal, Quebec

Jacques Attalla (indicted by the Egyptian prosecutor general for involvement in the 'blasphemous' film trailer the *Innocence of Muslims* on the internet, he denies any involvement and says this was done in response to his work with persecuted Copts)

Canada: Ottawa

Nader Fawzy (indicted by the Egyptian prosecutor general for involvement in the 'blasphemous' film trailer the *Innocence of Muslims* on the internet, he denies any involvement and says this was done in response to his work with persecuted Copts)

<http://www.thespec.com/news/ontario/article/804708---these-people-are-not-afraid-to-do-beheadings>

Sunday September 23, 2012



Philippines

Fr Giancarlo Bossi (abducted and held by Abu Sayyaf militants from June 10 to July 19, 2007, **UPDATE: died of lung cancer** in Milan, Italy)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/PIME-missionary-Fr.-Giancarlo-Bossi,-former-kidnapping-victim-in-Philippines,-has-died-25893.html>



China: Wuhan

Yu (leading an attempt to prevent the demolition of an historic church)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2012/09/christian-salvation-church-in-wuhan.html>



India: Gudadahalli Hearaghatta, Karnataka state

Rev Muniraju (prayer service with five Christians invaded by Hindu radicals, beaten, Bibles and religious documents destroyed, all were dragged to a Hindu temple where two were forced to perform a Hindu ceremony)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bible-are-burnt,-Christians-attacked-to-convert-them-forcibly-to-Hinduism-25904.html>



Turkmenistan: Ashgabad

Oleg Piyashev (prohibited from returning to Russia due to his presence at a [Dashoguz](#) religious service and possession of a recorded interview with Begjan Shirmedov concerning Christian poetry, fined 750 manats)

Turkmenistan: Dashoguz

Begjan Shirmedov (aged 77, detained and questioned for possessing religious literature)

Klara Shirmedov (wife of Begjan Shirmedov, aged 68, beaten by police until her hands bled after she protested their seizure of their religious literature)

Shohrat Shirmedov (son of Begjan Shirmedov, tried to defend his father during his arrest)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1748



Egypt: Cairo, Dahshur

Christine Ashraf (worried that the *Innocence of Muslims* film trailer would be unfairly linked to Christians in Egypt)

Mona Makram Ebeid (former MP, stated that Christians' fears have grown over the reactions against the *Innocence of Muslims* film trailer)

Ramy Kamel (Coptic activist, stated concern that anger against the *Innocence of Muslims* film trailer would turn toward Christians)

Sameh Saad (said of the application of the defamation of religion laws "There are only cases involving defamation of Islam. All those who defame Islam are held accountable and punished, but those who defame Christianity aren't")

Fr Takla Abdel-Sayed (**UPDATE:** said that Christians were "paying the price" for the making of the *Innocence of Muslims* film trailer)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/847-egypt-copts-fear-fallout-from-anti-islam-film>



Nigeria: Bauchi

Bishop John Golten Malachi (bishop of St John Church)

Osondu Chukwu (witnessed a suicide car-bomb attack on St John Church which killed 3 and injured 46, some critically)

<http://thenationonlineng.net/new/news/bloody-day-in-church/>

Monday September 24, 2012



Vietnam: Hanoi

Marie Ta Phong Tan (**UPDATE**: sentenced to 10 years with 5 additional years of house arrest for spreading anti-government propaganda on the internet)

Nguyen Van Hai (sentenced to 12 years with 5 additional years of house arrest for spreading anti-government propaganda on the internet)

Phan Thanh Hai (sentenced to 4 years with 3 additional years of house arrest for spreading anti-government propaganda on the internet)

<http://www.ucanews.com/2012/09/24/court-sentences-christian-bloggers/>



India: Krutamgarh, Kandhamal district, Orissa state

Pastor Mantu Nayak (prayer service disrupted by a mob, beaten, arms fractured and head seriously injured)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Orissa:-20-Christians-arrested-while-celebrating-a-baptism-26017.html>



Iran: Rasht

Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani (**UPDATE**: stated after his release from prison after 1,000 days that "[I] had the opportunity to experience in a marvelous way the Scripture that says: 'Indeed, as the sufferings of Christ abound for us, our encouragement abounds through Christ.'")

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue17501.html>



Nigeria: Abuja

Rev Dr Musa Asake (condemned the inability of the state government to prevent attacks such as the [September 23 2012](#) car bombing of St John's Cathedral which killed 4)

Nigeria: Bauchi

Rev Lawi Pokti (**UPDATE**: stated that the [September 23 2012](#) car bombing of St John's Cathedral killed a woman and child)

<http://thenationonlineng.net/new/news-update/hold-bauchi-government-liable-for-blast-can/>
<http://thenationonlineng.net/new/news/bloody-day-in-church/>



Cuba: Havana

Berta Soler (assaulted by government agents while on the way to Mass, assault failed due to the intervention of her companions)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/video-shows-cuban-government-harassing-women-dissidents/>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKsGaKn3TOc&feature=youtu.be>



United States - Louisiana

Joseph La Rue (legal counsel opposing a New Orleans ban on religious speech on Bourbon Street)

<http://www.persecution.org/2012/09/25/religious-expression-criminalized-on-bourbon-street/>

Tuesday September 25, 2012



India: Bangalore

Pastor Chander Mani Khanna (accused by an Islamic court of proselytism, the Islamic court has ordered his expulsion from Kashmir, the Islamic court order for his expulsion from Kashmir has been overturned by the High Court; **UPDATE**: fired from his ministry due to his arrest, lost his pension, now travels throughout India talking about persecution)

http://www.persecution.com/public/newsroom.aspx?story_ID=NTM5&featuredstory_ID=MzU3&clickfrom=ZmVhdHVyZWRzdG9yaWVz



Pakistan: Islamabad

Rimsha Bibi Masih (aged 11 or 14, has Down's Syndrome, arrested on a charge of blasphemy on [August 18, 2012](#) for burning pages of the Quran; released on bail on [September 7, 2012](#) after a Muslim cleric was implicated in fabricating evidence against her, now in hiding with her family; **UPDATE:** case has been transferred to juvenile court, hearing is scheduled for October 1, 2012)

Pakistan: Karachi

Kalson Aamir Khokhar (son of Parliamentarian Saleem Khursheed Khokhar, abducted and beaten)

Saleem Khursheed Khokhar (member provincial assembly, **UPDATE:** has requested additional security due to an increase in death threats against him and his family)

Pakistan: Mardan, Khyber Pakhthunkwa

Rt Rev Sarfarz Humphrey Peters (condemned the [September 21, 2012](#) arson attack that destroyed St Paul's church, school, and presbyter; **UPDATE:** called on Christians worldwide to pray for them)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=3799>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/As-silence-falls-on-the-imam-behind-the-blasphemy,-Rimsha-Masih's-case-goes-to-juvenile-court-25913.html>

<http://in.christiantoday.com/articles/appeal-for-prayers-after-pakistan-church-stormed/7612.htm>



Syria: Rableh

Abou Fadel (son and other family members kidnapped by armed gangs)

Patriarch Gregorios III Laham (**UPDATE:** "begs God to help the innocent and poor" who have been abducted by the hundreds)

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=32286&lan=eng>



Nigeria: Jos. Plateau state

Archbishop Ignatius Kaigama (**UPDATE:** commented on the recent car bomb attacks "People somehow have become much stronger. If there is any event in that cathedral over the coming days, you can be sure that it will be full. No matter what, the people will not give into Boko Haram and other extremists. They have a courage and a determination to go back to church regardless of the dangers")

<http://www.zenit.org/article-35599?l=english>

Wednesday September 26, 2012



Vietnam: Nghe An

Anthony Chu Manh Son (sentenced on [May 23, 2012](#) in [Nghe An](#) to 3 years for "propaganda against the State" for distributing literature for religious freedom, blood donation, aid to orphans and victims of natural disasters, and against abortion; **UPDATE:** appellate court reduced sentence to 6 months)

Anthony Duong Van Dau (sentenced on [May 23, 2012](#) to 3 years 6 months for "propaganda against the State" for distributing literature for religious freedom, blood donation, aid to orphans and victims of natural disasters, and against abortion; **UPDATE:** sentencing upheld in appellate court)

Hoang Phong (sentenced on [May 23, 2012](#) in [Nghe An](#) to 18 months suspended for "propaganda against the State" for distributing literature for religious freedom, blood donation, aid to orphans and victims of natural disasters, and against abortion; **UPDATE:** sentencing upheld in appellate court despite his decision to not appeal)

Peter Tran Huu Duc (sentenced on [May 23, 2012](#) to 3 years 3 months for "propaganda against the State" for distributing literature for religious freedom, blood donation, aid to orphans and victims of natural disasters, and against abortion; **UPDATE:** sentencing upheld in appellate court)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Vietnamese-Court-upholds-sentence-against-three-young-Catholics-25941.html>



India

Joseph Dias (**UPDATE:** protested the upcoming movie "Kamaal Dhamaal Malamaal" which has a scene with a Catholic priest dancing on church steps while wearing a garland of lottery tickets)

Judith Monterio (called for more Catholic screening of films)

Fr Rueben Tellis (stated that a Catholic should be placed in the Central Board of Film Certification)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue17524.html>



Egypt

Alber Saber (computer science student, arrested for allegedly posting religious insults to the internet)

<http://www.persecution.org/2012/09/27/christian-bloggers-arrest-underlines-differences-on-freedom-of-speech-in-egypt/>



Algeria: Laghouat

Bishop Claude Rault (working to build friendship with Muslims)

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=32296&lan=eng>

Thursday September 27, 2012



Indonesia: Bogor

Jayadi Damanik (described the radical changes in policy of the local government in regards to the GKI Yasmin Church)

<http://www.persecution.org/2012/09/28/heavily-persecuted-indonesian-church-faces-uncertain-future/>



Sudan: Heiban village, South Kordofan state

Abdelrasoul Angolo (aged 40, sustained a wound in his right shoulder in a government air raid)

Asia Omer Kuku (mother of 7, **killed** in a government air raid)

Firous Silas (wounded in her right leg in a government air raid)

Howeda Hassan (mother of 7, wounded in a government air raid, was in critical condition with a stomach wound but unable to obtain medical care)

Manas Yagoub Ibrahim Tia, 15, sustained wounds to his right leg and burns on his face in a government air raid)

Martha Kuku Bilal (aged 65, received injuries to her face in a government air raid)

Samira James Kuku (aged 70, suffered a broken right leg and two broken arms in a government air raid)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue17666.html>



Maldives: Male

Jathish Bisvas (Bangladeshi expatriate, arrested for possession of Christian books)

<http://minivannews.com/society/custom-seize-two-men-carrying-books-about-christianity-44580>

Friday September 28, 2012



Syria: Sheik Maqsoud, Aleppo

Fr Jules Baghdassarians (stated "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")

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=32312&lan=eng>



Russia

Beverly Chan (daughter of Pastor Thomas Kang)

Ekaterina (assistant to Pastor Thomas Kang, arrested, held overnight and questioned without food and water despite poor health, released)

Pastor Thomas Kang (U.S. citizen, arrested on a charge of attempted bribery the day before he was to open his retreat house)

<http://mnnonline.org/article/18250>



Egypt: al-Arish, north Sinai

Fr Mikhail Antwan (described how most Christians living in Egypt near the border with Israel are abandoning their homes due to threats and attacks by Islamists)

Egypt: Rafah, Sinai

Bishop Anba Pachomius (acting Patriarch of Coptic Church; **UPDATE**: issued a statement condemning the forced displacement of Coptic families by Islamists in the Sinai)

Bishop H G Cosman (denied having said in an interview with a Muslim Brotherhood reporter that no Copts in the Sinai have been displaced)

Mark Ebeid (Coptic activist, **UPDATE**: charged that the desire for an Islamic state is the root of the displacement "...they want an Islamic state in Sinai, all Copts have to go out")

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/09/28/us-egypt-sinai-copts-idUSBRE88R1A320120928>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20120928192826.htm>



Brazil: Brasilia

Bishop Leonardo Ulrich Steiner (protested a soccer ad which showed a player as crucified)

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=32325&lan=eng>

Saturday September 29, 2012



Pakistan: Youhanabad suburb, Lahore, Punjab province

Bishop Naeem Samuel (beaten while leaving church)

http://www.agi.it/english-version/world/elenco-notizie/201209291003-cro-ren1009-pakistani_protestant_bishop_injured_in_lahore

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/mainpic.php?id=1667>

Sunday September 30, 2012



Bangladesh: Chittagong

Fr Adam S. Pereira (described the situation as "very tense" after Muslims burned 22 Buddhist temples, 2 Hindu temples, and more than 100 homes)

Bishop Moses M. Costa (said of the anti-Buddhist violence "We Christians could become the next targets")

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=32333&lan=eng>



Pakistan: Faisalabad

Pastor Babar Bhatti (shot twice in the leg, assailant cursed Christ and Christians)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=3837>



Madagascar: Carion

Fr Bruno Raharison SJ (**shot dead** in a street robbery)

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=32356&lan=eng>



Kenya: Nairobi

Archbishop Eliud Wabukala (prayed with children hospitalized from the St Polycarp Church grenade attack)

Imam Hussein (convert from Islam, Ethiopian national, **UPDATE**: described the bombing of St Polycarp Church "I just heard two loud explosions and then everything went quiet. Then I heard screams. Everything was in disarray")

Irene Wambui (described a bomb attack on St Polycarp Church's Sunday school in which one child initially died and between 3 and 6 were seriously or critically injured)

Jackline Nduku (St Polycarp Church parishioner, said "Children are innocent. I wish the grenade had been thrown into the adult section, at least we have served our lives!")

Jackson Mwangi (was worshiping in St Polycarp Church when the Sunday school was attacked with an explosive device, killing 2 children and injuring at least 6)

Jane Maina (mother of John Ian Maina)

Bishop Joel Waweru (prayed with children hospitalized from the St Polycarp Church grenade attack)

John Ian Maina (aged 9, **killed in a grenade attack** on his Sunday school at St Polycarp Church after he had pushed his wheelchair-bound father to church)

Bishop Margaret Wanjiru (spoke after the St Polycarp Church grenade attack)

Maureen Mwangi (St Polycarp Church Sunday school student, received minor injuries in the grenade attack, brother received major injuries)

Patrick Maina (father of John Ian Maina, was at St Polycarp Church when the Sunday school was attacked with a grenade)

Paul Muigai (St Polycarp Church usher, was at the church when the Sunday school was attacked with a grenade)

Sally Gatei (St Polycarp Church Sunday school teacher who was present during the grenade attack, is undergoing counseling)

Rev Steve Shisia (spoke after the St Polycarp Church grenade attack)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-19776747>

<http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2012/October/Christians-Bombed-Burned-Out-in-Kenya-Tanzania/>

http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/kenya/article_1851907.html

International Christian Concern email



Egypt: el-Dabaa

Bishop Anba Pachomius (acting Patriarch of Coptic Church; **UPDATE**: instructed Father Bigem to request aid from President Morsi in securing the freedom of Sarah Ishaq Abdelmalek, stated on Coptic television that the church will not be intimidated by threats)

Fr Bigem (delivered a letter to President Morsi that requested his help in securing the freedom of Sarah Ishaq Abdelmalek)

Sarah Ishaq Abdelmalek (aged 14, only child, abducted and reportedly forced to convert to Islam and to marry)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20121101201755.htm>

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/944-coptic-christian-girl-14-abducted-by-muslim-in-egypt>

September 2012, date unknown



Pakistan: Sargodha, Punjab

Ansar Masih (eloped with Muneeza, a Muslim girl now converted to Christianity, now in hiding)

Muneeza (convert from Islam, eloped with Ansar Masih, now in hiding)

Nazir Masih (father of Ansar Masih, family attacked after his son eloped with Muneeza, all were beaten and driven from their homes which were then occupied by others)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/punjab-family-seeks-justice-after-mixed-marriage-attack/69131>



Uruguay

Tabaré Vázquez (former president, publicly opposed the pending decriminalization of abortion)

http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/read-my-veto-no-abortion-says-popular-uruguayan-ex-president-as-vote-approa?utm_source=LifeSiteNews.com+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=58e971ff2a-LifeSiteNews_com_US_Headlines_09_05_2012&utm_medium=email



Canada: Ottawa

Stephen Woodworth (Member of Parliament, has introduced a pro-life measure in Parliament)

http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/canadian-mp-i-will-fight-for-rights-of-the-unborn-as-long-as-i-have-breath?utm_source=LifeSiteNews.com+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=1fa71553da-LifeSiteNews_com_US_Headlines_09_18_2012&utm_medium=email