

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – February 2013

**Friday February 1, 2013**



### **Iraq**

Archbishop Louis Sako (**UPDATE**: elected Patriarch of the Chaldean Catholic Church in [Rome, Italy](#))

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/New-Chaldean-patriarch-tells-AsiaNews-he'll-work-for-Christian-and-Iraqi-unity-27029.html>



### **Syria: Jazira province**

Jack Mardini (rector of the State University of Al-Furat, abducted and released)

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=33190&lan=eng>



### **Nigeria: Samunaka village, Mubi city, Adamawa state**

#### **Eight Christians killed in a Boko Haram attack on the Church of the Brethren**

Danjuma Garba (**killed**)

Ezra Kwada (**killed**)

Friday Toma (**killed**)

Kwasini Iliya (**killed**)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue18905.html>

**Saturday February 2, 2013**



### **Egypt**

Sarah Ishaq Abdelmalek (aged 14, only child, abducted on [September 30, 2012](#) in el-Dabaa and reportedly forced to convert to Islam and to marry; **UPDATE**: has allegedly been smuggled into Libya with the aid of the Interior Ministry)

Ebram Louis (founder of the Association of Victims of Abduction and Enforced Disappearance, alleged that Sarah Ishaq Abdelmalek has been smuggled into Libya with the aid of the Interior Ministry)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/take-action/advocacy-work/1178-abducted-egyptian-christian-girl-possibly-smuggled-to-libya>



### **Colombia: Ocana, Martinete district, Santander**

Fr Luis Alfredo Suárez Salazar (**shot dead** in an attack on a bystander)

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=33188&lan=eng>

**Sunday February 3, 2013**



### **India: Gadag district, Karnataka state**

Rev Nagesh Naik (prayer meeting at his home invaded by 20 Hindu nationalists, stripped, beaten, later arrested for insulting religion)

Rev Mallikarjun Shingoli (present at a prayer meeting at the home of Rev Nagesh Naik which was invaded by 20 Hindu nationalists, stripped, beaten, later arrested for insulting religion)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Karnataka:-police-arrests-two-Christians-beaten-by-Hindu-fundamentalists-27063.html>



### **Libya: Benghazi**

Fr Paul Isaac (assaulted by gunmen along with his assistant in an attack on their Coptic church)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Gunmen-attack-Coptic-Orthodox-church-in-Benghazi,-assault-two-clergymen-27303.html>

**Monday February 4, 2013**



### **Pakistan: Green Town, Lahore, Punjab province**

Rafia Bibi (aged 14, abducted on [December 5, 2012](#), forcibly converted to Islam and forcibly married on [December 8, 2012](#), **UPDATE:** appeared in court to accuse her 'husband' of abduction and rape, is now the subject of threats for abduction again to return her to her 'husband')

### **Pakistan: Chaman, Baluchistan**

Younas Masih (aged 55, **died four days after being shot** while on the way home from work after coworkers pressured him to convert to Islam)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4175>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-man-mortally-wounded-in-Baluchistan-for-refusing-to-convert-to-Islam-27049.html>



### **Uzbekistan: Tashkent**

Christians fined US\$2000 in [December 2012](#), **UPDATE: fines upheld by an appellate court**

Gennady Chen

Vladimir Zhikhar

Aleksandr Lokshev

Gennady Timoyev

[http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article\\_id=1824](http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1824)



**Canada: Montreal, Quebec**

Paul Donovan (principal of Loyola High School, announced that the school will appeal a decision prohibiting it from teaching Christian ethics to the Canadian Supreme Court, saying that the provincial Attorney General has stated that freedom of religion applies only to individuals and not to corporate entities such as schools)

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/quebec-school-to-appeal-to-canadian-supreme-court-for-right-to-teach-cathol>

**Tuesday February 5, 2013**



**Laos: Phin district, Savannakhet province**

**Pastors arrested for disseminating the Christian religion by copying a religious DVD**

Pastor Bounma

Pastor Somkaew

Pastor Bounmee

<http://www.hrwrf.net/pages/Lao-Police-Arrested-and-Detained-Christian-Pastors-for-Spreading-Christian-Religion-Through-Movie-CDs.html>



**Egypt: Cairo**

Dr Sameh Maurice (Al-Dubara Evangelical Church, described the current situation in the country)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/interview-egyptian-pastor-on-the-revolution-coptic-evangelical-unity-muslim-relations-89533/>



**United Kingdom: Portsmouth**

Bishop Philip Egan (**UPDATE**: stated following the passage of the Government's Marriage [Same Sex Couples] Bill "Just as the Church has been forced to abandon its adoption services, so too Catholics who work in the medical profession and in social services are going to find themselves under intolerable moral pressures. These pressures will also arguably be felt throughout our Catholic schools, by teachers, staff and parents...It is now clear that the Catholic view of Matrimony will in future differ markedly from what society will call marriage. One possible consequence of this is that the Church will be forced to withdraw from the civil registration of marriages")

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2013/02/06/same-sex-marriage-will-put-catholics-under-intolerable-moral-pressures-says-bishop/>



#### **United States - New Jersey: Jersey City**

Hanny F Tawadros (aged 25, Egyptian immigrant, **beheaded**)

Amgad A Konds (aged 27, Egyptian immigrant, **beheaded**)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/egyptian-christian-immigrants-murdered-beheaded-in-nj-90424/>

**Wednesday February 6, 2013**



#### **Pakistan: Faisalabad, Punjab province**

Khalid Masih (aged 35, crutches stolen, abducted, stabbed multiple times and shot in the knees by a Muslim businessman after he witnessed a business contract that the businessman later disputed, police refuse to register a complaint)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4146>



#### **Egypt: Cairo**

Michael Farag (sentenced to three years imprisonment on false charges of stealing a machine gun during the **October 9, 2011** Maspero massacre in which 28 Christians died)

Michael Shaker (sentenced to three years imprisonment on false charges of stealing a machine gun during the **October 9, 2011** Maspero massacre in which 28 Christians died)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Maspero-massacre:-military-court-sentences-two-Christians-to-three-years-in-jail-27066.html>

**Thursday February 7, 2013**



**Vietnam: Ho Chi Minh City**

Le Cong Dinh (aged 44, lawyer, released from prison after serving more than three years of a five year sentence for "activities aimed at overthrowing the government" due to good behavior and his mother's failing health)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Dissident-Catholic-lawyer-Le-Cong-Dinh-released-ahead-of-schedule-in-Saigon-27077.html>



**Kenya: Garissa**

Pastor Ibrahim Magunyi (**UPDATE**: shot, in stable condition)

Pastor Abdi Welli (father of three, **shot dead**)

Helen (widow of Pastor Abdi Welli)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/unknown-gunmen-attack-2-christian-pastors-in-kenya-one-killed-89674/#OG5Lt66Q0LzwUhS0.99>



**Egypt: Ezbet Ayoub village, Minya province**

Hana Nemr Gad (aged 18, did not return home from school, likely abducted)

Erine Samir Naguib (aged 17, did not return home from school, likely abducted)

Nemr Gad Saad (father of Hana Nemr Gad)

Samir Naguib Guirguis (father of Erine Samir Naguib)

Mohsen Saad Gad (fiancee of Hana Nemr Gad)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/two-christian-coptic-girls-disappear-in-upper-egypt-muslim-youth-believed-responsible-90077/>

**Friday February 8, 2013**



**China: Zhoucun, Shandong**

Bishop Joseph Ma Xuesheng (aged "almost" 90, **died of natural causes**, had been forced to work as a cook from his ordination until the Cultural Revolution, then in the fields until 1980)

**China: Shenzhen**

Cao Nandi (**UPDATE**: has begun litigation against the police for his two arrests in **December 2012**)

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=33271&lan=eng>  
<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/02/well-known-house-church-minister-in.html>



**India: Balanagar Industrial Slums, Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh state**

Pastor B. Rakshanandam (forced to cancel two worship meetings after baptizing ten Muslims)

**India: Rajnandgaon city, Chhattisgarh state**

Sajan George (**UPDATE**: described a Hindu nationalist attack on a church that resulted in more than 30 Christians seeking hospital attention for major injuries, but who after treatment were asked to leave by staff who feared the hospital would be attacked)

Pastor Thomas Abraham (attacked and beaten at a revival meeting and Bible study graduation along with 300 other Christians of all ages while police watched, now missing)

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/english/country/india/2344488/>  
<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/english/breakingnews/12346/2293896/>  
<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/More-anti-Christian-violence-threatens-Lent-celebrations-27132.html>



**Pakistan: Roday village, Kasur district, Punjab province**

**Family beaten and tortured during an attack on their home by Muslims - including police out of uniform - for their determination to pursue prosecution of Fouzia Bibi's rapists**

Zareena Bibi

Hameedan Bibi

Sharifan Bibi

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4107>

**Saturday February 9, 2013**



**India: Nanpur, Alirajpur district**

Pastor Jordarsingh Changod (aged 34, beaten unconscious during an attack on a church)

**India: Nagpur, Jhabua district, Madhya Pradesh state**

Rev Jorder (beaten at a prayer service by Hindu nationalists)

Rev Ilam (beaten at a prayer service by Hindu nationalists)

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/english/country/india/2344488/>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/More-anti-Christian-violence-threatens-Lent-celebrations-27132.html>



**Pakistan: Tehsil Haroonabad, Bahawalpur district**

Mard-e-Khuda (aged 19, **murdered with an axe** during a 5:30 AM home invasion in retaliation for allegedly dating a Muslim girl, culprits still free after police stated the victim deserved death)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4132>



**Syria**



Patriarch Gregorios III Laham (**UPDATE:** stated "Twenty churches have been destroyed, damaged or abandoned. The believers of our Lord and priests have been evicted. The priests have not reached to their people or prayed liturgy for over a year")

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/20-churches-destroyed-100s-of-sons-killed-in-syria-christian-leader-reveals-dire-reality-89768/>



**Eritrea: Akriya, Asmara**

Hajer Yohans (aged 85, grandmother, reported to have been arrested for hosting a Bible study in her home)

[http://release-eritrea.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=61:another-30-believers-arrested-in-eritrea&catid=3:news&Itemid=19](http://release-eritrea.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=61:another-30-believers-arrested-in-eritrea&catid=3:news&Itemid=19)

**Sunday February 10, 2013**



**India: Adilabad district, Andhra Pradesh state**

Anand Rao (arrested at a Bible lecture on a false charge of forced conversion)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/More-anti-Christian-violence-threatens-Lent-celebrations-27132.html>



**Syria: Aleppo**

Fr Michel Kayyal (abducted by rebels)

Fr Maher Mahfouz (abducted by rebels)

Fr Charbel (witnessed the abduction of Fr Michel Kayyal and Fr Maher Mahfouz)

Archbishop Boutros Marayati (**UPDATE:** appealed to the rebels for the release of Fr Michel Kayyal and Fr Maher Mahfouz)

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=33202&lan=eng>



### **Egypt: Alexandria**

**Church leaders met with U.S. Ambassador Anne Patterson who stated that the Egyptian government has declined U.S. technical assistance in the investigation of the [January 1, 2011](#) bombing of Two Saints Church that killed 25 Copts and injured hundreds**

Fr Makar Fawzi

Joseph Malak (attorney for Two Saints Church)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/1205-u-s-ambassador-visits-the-two-saints-church-in-alexandria-faces-criticism>

**Monday February 11, 2013**



### **India: Adilabad district, Andhra Pradesh state**

Anand Rao (arrested at a [February 10, 2013](#) Bible lecture on a false charge of forced conversion, **UPDATE:** released on bail)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/More-anti-Christian-violence-threatens-Lent-celebrations-27132.html>



### **Kosovo: Decani**

Janjic (Visoki Decani monastery, reported on attempts of local Albanians to overturn a Supreme Court ruling that preserves its ownership of 23 hectares of land)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2013/02/k-albanian-extremists-continue-to-make-threats/>

**Tuesday February 12, 2013**



**India: IIIT College, Basara, Adilabad district, Andra Pradesh state**

P Anand (arrested for attending a college prayer service with friends)

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/english/country/india/2344488/>



**Pakistan: Cantt Lahore**

Riaz Masih (sanitation worker, purchased a television set on credit, after it was paid off four armed men entered his home and demanded additional payments, beat him and his family, threatened to bring criminal charges against him, police refused to bring a case against his attackers)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4351>



**Kazakhstan: Almaty**

Yuri Bronitsky (**UPDATE**: fined 100 MFIs - 1 MFI can equal several months' minimum wage income)

[http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article\\_id=1814](http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1814)

**Wednesday February 13, 2013**



**Thailand: Bangkok**

Elvin Gill (aged 29, husband of Zarish, father of three including Moses, arrived in Thailand after having fled Pakistan due to a blasphemy allegation)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/bangkoks-pak-christian-asylum-seekers-face-nightmares-as-thai-police-continue-crackdown>



### **Turkmenistan: Dogry Yol, Serdarabad district**

Rahim Borjakov (summoned to the village Council for Religious Affairs, told that they had sent a letter to the President that called him "very dangerous to society" and that members of his church community had died in "difficult circumstances" [one in an automobile accident and one in childbirth], shown the presidential receipt, told that his fate is in the hands of the people)

[http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article\\_id=1836](http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1836)

**Thursday February 14, 2013**



### **Iraq**

Pastor Abdi Ali Hamzah (arrested without charge in [July 2011](#) but accused of spying for Iran, sentenced to five years in prison, **UPDATE**: is suffering from serious health problems possibly including a brain tumor, is in the prison hospital but is not being treated)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-pastor-imprisoned-in-iraq-brain-tumor-threatens-life-90097/>



### **Tanzania: Buseresere town, Geita region**

Pastor Mathayo Kachili (**beheaded** during a riot caused by Muslims trying to force the closure of Christian owned butcher shops, several others in critical condition)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201302120099.html>



### **Algeria**

Mohamed Ibaouene (aged 36, convicted in absentia in [Tigzirt](#) court of pressuring a Muslim in Tindouf to change his religion on [July 4 2012](#) - though his accuser was not present and he was not notified until [December 11 2012](#), sentenced to one year in prison and fined

50,000 dinars; **UPDATE:** the appellate judge has overturned the prison sentence but doubled the fine)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/algeria-upholds-conviction-of-christian-convert-from-islam-prison-sentence-rescinded-fine-increased-90068/>

**Friday February 15, 2013**



**India: Patachanda village, Balarampur panchayat, Dharakot block, Orissa state**

**Christians beaten by police under the pretext of association with local Maoists**

Jatho Mandal

Junas Mandal

Daud Gomango

Simanto Dalabehera (aged 42)

Kornail Raita (aged 50)

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/english/country/india/2344488/>



**Uzbekistan: Samarkand**

Farida Aminova (daughter of Umida Rasulova, religious literature and computer seized from her home, later fined US\$780)

Umida Rasulova (mother of Farida Aminova, religious literature and computer seized from her home, later fined US\$780)

Savlat Shakirov (religious literature and computer seized from his home)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1889](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1889)



**Iran**

Pastor Saeed Abedini (aged 32 years old, convert, US citizen, father of 2, arrested during a family visit; convicted on January 27, 2013 of undermining the government by spreading Christianity and sentenced to eight years in prison; **UPDATE:** has been the object of an appeal by more than 80 members of Congress to Secretary of State John Kerry to work for his release)

[http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=6336:imprisoned-pastor-saeed-abedini-80-congressmen-urge-john-kerry-to-intervene&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279](http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6336:imprisoned-pastor-saeed-abedini-80-congressmen-urge-john-kerry-to-intervene&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279)



**Egypt: Sarsena village, Tamiya district, Fayoum province**

Fr Domadios (stoned with other Christians by a mob that attacked the church of St Georgas causing damage to the dome, cross, icons and other sacred images, escaped with the help of a Muslim family)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/1228-muslim-mob-torches-coptic-church-in-egypt1>



**Sweden: Stockholm**

Parvaneh Sarabadi (convert, Iranian citizen, widow, husband killed by relatives after his conversion, illegally fled Iran and entered Sweden, denied asylum, attempt to deport her back to Iran failed when the pilot refused to fly the aircraft with her aboard)

[http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=6503:another-christian-convert-parvaneh-sarabadi-at-risk-of-deportation-to-iran&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279](http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6503:another-christian-convert-parvaneh-sarabadi-at-risk-of-deportation-to-iran&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279)



**United States - New York: Albany**

Kathleen Gallagher (New York Catholic Conference, stated that a pending state law would force the closure of all hospitals that refuse to perform abortions)

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/radical-ny-abortion-bill-could-close-catholic-hospitals-church-warns>

**Saturday February 16, 2013**



**India: Sawalikeda village, Khalwa block, Khandwa district, Madhya Pradesh state**

**Christians attacked by a mob which accused them of proselytizing, dragged to the local police station, released after 3 weeks**

Pastor Ashok Nahar (aged 50)

Arjun Singh (aged 45)

Anand Kumar (aged 19)

Shakuntala (hosted Pastor Ashok Nahar, Arjun Singh, and Anand Kumar in her home at the time of the attack against them)

**India: Gulai village, Khandwa district, Madhya Pradesh state**

**Christians attacked while conducting a prayer meeting, arrested, not granted bail**

Pastor Isaac Rajamani

Raju

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/english/country/india/2344488/>



**Pakistan: Lahore, Punjab province**

Roshan Masih (**shot dead** after defending Christianity in a debate)

Sadiq Masih (witnessed the shooting death of Roshan Masih)

<http://www.maghrebchristians.com/2013/02/21/argument-over-religion-muslim-kills-christian-in-cold-blood/>

**Sunday February 17, 2013**



**Pakistan: Baghiana Kilan village, Kasur district, Punjab province**

Saba Bibi (abducted at gunpoint, cried loudly when the perpetrator attempted rape, released)  
Anwar Masih (father of Saba Bibi)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4122>



**Iran: Shiraz, Fars province**

**Christians arrested on February 8, 2013; UPDATE: trial completed, verdict will not be published until March 21, 2013**

Homayoon Shokoohi-Gholamzadeh (convert)

Mohamad-Reza Partoei Kourosch (convert)

Mojtaba Hosseini (convert)

Vahid Hakkani (convert)

[http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=6339:christian-prisoners-in-shiraz-still-held-after-more-than-a-year&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279](http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6339:christian-prisoners-in-shiraz-still-held-after-more-than-a-year&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279)



**Tanzania: Zanzibar**

Fr Evarist Mushi (aged 55, **shot dead** while exiting his car in front of the cathedral)

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=33241&lan=eng>

**Monday February 18, 2013**



**India: Roshni village, Khandwa district, Madhya Pradesh state**

**Christians attacked during a prayer meeting, dragged to a police station, not charged**

Pastor Iliyas Buck (aged 42)

Hira Lal (aged 32)

Vishram Korku (aged 22)



Sundar Rachiya (aged 18)

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/english/country/india/2344488/>



### **Pakistan**

Bishop Sebastian Francis Shah (stated in [London, United Kingdom](#) that the Pakistani government has yet to hold anyone accountable for the 2011 assassination of Federal minister for minority affairs Shahbaz Bhatti)

### **Pakistan: Rawalpindi**

Bishop Anthony Lobo (aged 76, **died of natural causes**)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenews.php?hnewsid=4124>

<http://britishpakistanichristian.blogspot.com/2013/02/still-no-justice-for-shahbaz-bhatti.html>



### **Turkmenistan: Seydu Labor Camp, Lebap region**

Mahmud Hudaybergenov (still in prison for refusing military service; **UPDATE**: expected release date is August 2013)

Zafar Abdullaev (still in prison for refusing military service; **UPDATE**: expected release date is March 2014)

Navruz Nasyrbaev (still in prison for refusing military service; **UPDATE**: being held in the 'strict regime' section of the prison, expected release date is May 2014)

[http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article\\_id=1802](http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1802)



### **Kazakhstan: Astana**

Ahmet Alseitov (**UPDATE**: detained for sharing the faith)

Dariya Mischenko (**UPDATE**: detained for sharing the faith)

### **Kazakhstan: Oral**

Serakli Kumargaliyev (fined 50 MFIs - 1 MFI can equal several months' minimum wage income)

[http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article\\_id=1814](http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1814)

[http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article\\_id=1828](http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1828)



**Somalia: Alanley village, Kismayo**

Ahmed Ali Jimale (aged 42, father of four aged 10, 8, 6, and 4, **shot dead** for speaking about Christianity)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2013/02/christian-shot-dead-near-kismayo-somalia/>



**Egypt: Sarsena village, Tamiya district, Fayoum province**

Yvonne Mosad (leader in the Maspero Coptic Youth Union, spoke out against the torching of St Georges church during a demonstration of hundreds of Copts and liberal Muslims)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20130218170645.htm>



**Netherlands: Oisterwijk**

Mostafa “Naser” Talaie (convert, Iranian refugee, **murdered**, had received multiple threatening phone calls in the days prior to his murder, friends believe he was murdered because of his conversion)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue20428.html>



**United States**

Raymond Ibrahim (**UPDATE**: wrote about Egyptian President Morsi's objection to Coptic claims that one Christian girl disappears in Egypt every day - the President is technically correct, actually one Christian girl disappears every three days in Egypt)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/take-action/advocacy-work/1230-morsi-denies-targeting-of-christian-girls-in-egypt-morsi-denies-targeting-of-christian-girls-in-egypt>

**Tuesday February 19, 2013**



**China: Youhao district, Yichun city, Heilongjiang**

Pastor Sun Wenxian (beaten by two police officers in her church, suffered a heart attack, now under house arrest)

Sister Hao (witnessed the police beating of Sun Wenxian)

Li Fangping (attorney, is representing Sun Wenxian)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/02/vicious-persecution-of-churches-in.html>



**Cameroon: Lake Chad**

Abdoulaye Douad (convert from Islam, father of thirteen, **shot dead** by Boko Haram)

Abakachi (convert from Islam, father of four, **shot dead** by Boko Haram)

<http://barnabasfund.org/US/News/Archives/Two-Christian-converts-killed-by-Islamists-in-Cameroon.html>

**Wednesday February 20, 2013**



**India: Dumartola, Bajag village, Dindori district, Madhya Pradesh state  
Seminar interrupted by police, participants questioned but not charged**

Pastor Jiyalal Maravi (aged 35)

Mannulal Rajdiwar (aged 68)

Ebenezar (aged 41)

Tirath Patta (aged 35)

Vimlendra Jhariya (aged 25)

**India: Deori, Surguja district, Chhattisgarh state**

**Pastoral meeting cut short after attack by Hindu protestors**

Pastor Sukhchain Masih

Pastor Lalsa Tirkey

Pastor Lalsai Khakha (described the attack on the pastoral meeting)

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/english/country/india/2344488/>



**Kazakhstan: Oskemen, East Kazakhstan region**

Marat Saleubayev (detained, interrogated, and charged with discussing or sharing faith with others)

Arman Abdullinov (detained, interrogated, and charged with discussing or sharing faith with others)

[http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article\\_id=1828](http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1828)



**Iran: Shahin-Shahr**

**Thirteen Christians - two unnamed - arrested**

Abbas Kiani

Akbar Ahmadi

Bitra Ja'fari

Fatemeh Zareie

Maryam Bateni-nia

Masoumeh Dashti

Nasrin Kiamarzi

Neda Fouladi

Ramin Bakhtiarvand

Samira Fouladi

Sarah Fouladi

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=2137>

**Thursday February 21, 2013**



**India: Aara, Surguja district, Chhattisgarh state**

**Pastors arrested during a revival meeting, released on bail**

Pastor Akshya Kumar Vishyakarma (aged 32)

Pastor Angad Singh (aged 35)

Pastor Harendra

Pastor Albis Bara (aged 35)

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/english/country/india/2344488/>



**Egypt: Fayoum**

Nadia Makram (aged 15, abducted and forced to marry a 48 year old and to have a baby, and to denounce her mother on television)

Martha Said (mother of Nadia Makram, has received several death threats when trying to recover her abducted daughter)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/take-action/advocacy-work/1241-my-kidnapped-minor-daughter-forced-to-marry-48-year-old-man-says-saddened-mother>



**Nigeria: Kogom Tah village, Plateau state**

Regina Luka (aged 20, described the attack on her home in which she was shot and wounded with a machete and her husband and children were killed)

Jacob Musa (aged 30, brother-in-law of Regina Luka, **killed**)

Naomi Jacob (aged 25, wife of Jacob Musa, **killed**)

Blessing Jacob (aged 5, child of Jacob Musa and Naomi Jacob, **killed**)

Dachollom Jacob (aged 4, child of Jacob Musa and Naomi Jacob, **killed**)

Ayuba Jacob (aged 1, child of Jacob Musa and Naomi Jacob, **killed**)

Aaron Luka (aged 4, son of Regina Luka, **killed**)

Mary Luka (aged 2, daughter of Regina Luka, **killed**)

Dawan Musa (aged 18, **killed**)

Benjamin Joseph (aged 15, **killed**)

John Dalyop (aged 15, wounded)

Pastor John Mwatbang (aged 58, attempted to aid the family of Regina Luka but arrived after the attack was over, said "There is no doubt that this is an Islamic agenda. It is a plan to wipe us Christians out of this part of Nigeria")

<http://www.churchinchains.ie/node/599>

**Friday February 22, 2013**



### **Iran: Tehran**

Pastor Saeed Abedini (aged 32 years old, convert, US citizen, father of 2, arrested during a family visit, convicted on January 27, 2013 of undermining the government by spreading Christianity and sentenced to eight years in prison; **UPDATE:** is under increased pressure to renounce Christianity and revert to Islam)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/pastor-saeed-abedini-being-pressured-to-deny-christ-in-iranian-jail-90565/>



### **Russia**

Pastor Thomas Kang (U.S. citizen, arrested on [September 28, 2012](#) on a charge of attempted bribery the day before he was to open his retreat house, **UPDATE:** still in jail)

Beverly Chan (daughter of Pastor Thomas Kang)

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



### **Tanzania: Zanzibar**

Bishop Tarsisius Ngalalekumtwa (president of the Bishops Conference of Tanzania, called for people to work and pray for peace in his homily at the funeral Mass of Fr Evarist Mushi)

Cardinal Polycarp Pengo (attended the funeral Mass of Fr Evarist Mushi)

Bishop Augustine Shao (**UPDATE**: attended the funeral Mass of Fr Evarist Mushi, stated that a text message was sent to clergy following the murder of Fr Evarist Mushi which stated “We thank our young men, trained in Somalia, for killing an infidel. Many more will die. We will burn homes and churches. We have not finished: at Easter, be prepared for disaster. Muslim Renewal”)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/tanzanian-bishops-stress-peace-as-murdered-priest-laid-to-rest/>

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2013/02/22/zanzibar-bishop-says-his-priests-are-terrified-after-murder/>

**Saturday February 23, 2013**



**China: Youhao district, Yichun city, Heilongjiang**

Pastor Sun Wenxian (beaten by two police officers in her church on [February 19, 2013](#), suffered a heart attack, now under house arrest; **UPDATE**: has been visited by the local Public Security Bureau who have warned her to dismiss her lawyer and have threatened her with investigations into the content of her sermons and the church's finances, she has asked people to pray)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/02/updates-pastor-of-church-in.html>



**Egypt: Alexandria**

Bishop Boutros Fahim Awad Hanna (protested the decision by President Morsi to hold parliamentary elections on Easter Sunday)

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=33280&lan=eng>

**Sunday February 24, 2013**



**Belarus: Gomel**

Pastor Nikolai Varushin (church meeting raided by police)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1847](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1847)

**Monday February 25, 2013**



**China: Qigexing town, Yanqi city, Bayinguole prefecture, Xinjiang autonomous region**

Wang Yuxia (detained for handing out Gospel tracts)

Zhang Xiaochen (detained for handing out Gospel tracts)

**China: Shushan District, Hefei, Anhui province**

Pu Wanming (husband of Zheng Fang, home entered and furnishings taken by officials on [September 6, 2012](#), father injured and arrested; **UPDATE**: had filed an administrative appeal to reverse the loss of their home, which has been sealed by officials)

Zheng Fang (wife of Pu Wanming; **UPDATE**: had filed an administrative appeal to reverse the loss of their home, which has been sealed by officials)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/03/two-news-flashes-christians-in-xinjiang.html>

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



**India: Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh state**

Laxmi Amma (aged 70, beaten after visiting a sick friend, suffered minor bruises on her face)

Rahel Amma (aged 60, beaten after visiting a sick friend, suffered minor bruises on her face)

Pastor Purshottam (registered a complaint with police after the beatings of Laxmi Amma and Rahel Amma)

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/english/country/india/2344488/>



**Turkmenistan: Seydi, Lebap region**

Matkarim Aminov (**UPDATE**: transferred to a labor camp, beaten by inmates under police orders for refusing to join in Muslim prayers)



Arslan Dovletov (**UPDATE**: transferred to a labor camp)

[http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article\\_id=1817](http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1817)



**Egypt: Shubra al-Kheima**

Ramsis al-Deiry (described how Salafist and Muslim Brotherhood members obstructed construction of a church annex)

**Egypt: Bani Sweif**

Mina Nady al-Farag (aged 9, arrested and jailed on or before [October 3, 2012](#) on charges of Quran desecration; **UPDATE**: convicted in juvenile court without evidence, sentenced to be "handed over to his family" which is a punishment under the law, appeal rejected)

Nabil Nagy Rizk (aged 10, arrested and jailed on or before [October 3, 2012](#) on charges of Quran desecration; **UPDATE**: convicted in juvenile court without evidence, sentenced to be "handed over to his family" which is a punishment under the law, appeal rejected)

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/news/islamists-attempt-halt-construction-shubra-al-kheima-church>

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/1249-court-rejects-appeal-by-two-children-accused-of-contempt-of-islam>

**Tuesday February 26, 2013**



**Kazakhstan: Tuymebayev**

Fr Sofrony aka Pyotr Yevtikheyev (aged 44, Russian citizen, ordered deported for lack of a residency permit)

**Kazakhstan: Kokshetau, Akmola region**

Sofya Ilyinykh (detained, religious literature seized)

Yulia Khramchenko (detained, religious literature seized)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=1880](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1880)

[http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article\\_id=1828](http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1828)



## **Egypt**

Andrea Zaki (deputy leader of the Evangelical Church; **UPDATE**: announced that the Coptic Catholic, Orthodox, and Evangelical Churches will not be attending a televised national dialog session with President Morsi, and called for a private meeting with the President)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2013/02/egyptian-churches-will-not-be-attending-national-dialogue/>

**Wednesday February 27, 2013**



## **China: Hefei, Anhui province**

Zhang Lin (illegally interrogated by police, private possessions seized, 10 year old daughter removed from school and held alone in a room without food for over three hours)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/03/hu-shigen-appeal-for-immediate-stop-of.html>



## **Kazakhstan: Petropavl, North Kazakhstan region**

Svetlana Molibayeva (detained, facing charge of discussing or sharing faith with others)

Tatyana Folomeyeva (detained, facing charge of discussing or sharing faith with others)

[http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article\\_id=1828](http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1828)

**Thursday February 28, 2013**



## **China: Beijing**

Pastor Jin Tianming (**UPDATE**: still under house arrest)

Chu (described a police raid on a Christian seminar)

Hu Shigen (released from prison in 2008, had been sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment on counter-revolutionary charges; **UPDATE**: described a police raid on a Christian seminar)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/03/radio-free-asia-seminar-attended-by.html>



**Pakistan: Hari camp Sikendarabad, Kotri**

Fr Erik Ilyas (protested the theft of church land)

Pervez Khokhar (protested the theft of church land)

Budho Bheel (protested the theft of church land)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4145>



**Libya: Benghazi**

Sherif Ramses (arrested with six other Christians on charges of proselytism, has been tortured)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/1259-libyan-authorities-torture-arrested-coptic-christian-accused-of-proselytizing>



**United Kingdom: Strathclyde**

Rev Brian Ross (aged 68, reported to have been forced to step down as volunteer police chaplain after posting his affirmation of the traditional Christian definition of marriage on his personal web site)

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/religious-freedom/police-chaplain-forced-to-step-down-after-expressing-views-on-same-se>

**February 2013, date unknown**



### **Syria: Aleppo**

Yohannes A (shot dead by Islamic extremists after finding a cross on his person)

### **Syria: Qamishli**

Boutros (killed when his bus was hit by a rocket)

Naraya (aged 22, engaged, killed when her bus was hit by a rocket)

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=33257&lan=eng>



### **Turkey: Diyarbakir**

Pastor Jeremiah Ian Mattix (expelled from the country for performing "illegal work")

<http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=33296&lan=eng>



### **Libya: Benghazi**

Atif Kamel (aged 32, arrested with 47 others for having Christian icons in his place of business, locked together in a small room, subjected to electric shocks, cross tattoos on his wrists burned off with acid, deported back to Egypt)

Fardoos Salib (mother of Atif Kamel, said "When the residents of the village told me that he was imprisoned, I embraced his sons and told them they would not see their father again. I prayed in the church, until God responded and he was released, as God knows our conditions.")

<http://www.maghrebchristians.com/2013/03/05/egyptian-christians-allege-torture-at-hands-of-libyan-islamists/>

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/1279-families-say-coptic-detainees-in-libya-faced-torture-despite-not-understanding-what-proselytizing-is>



### **Cuba**

Pastor Omar Gude Perez (former prisoner, **UPDATE:** has arrived in the United States after being granted asylum)

Kenia Denis (wife of Omar Gude Perez, has arrived in the United States after being granted asylum)

Omar Daniel Gude (son of Omar Gude Perez, has arrived in the United States after being granted asylum)

Kelia Rosa Gude (daughter of Omar Gude Perez, has arrived in the United States after being granted asylum)

**Cuba: Lotería neighborhood, Cotorro municipality, Havana province**

Pastor Jesus Hernandez (attacked by an armed mob while sleeping in his home, teenage son threatened, church closed a week later)

<http://au.christiantoday.com/article/cuba-church-closed-and-pastor-attacked-in-havana-province/15097.htm>

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue18636.html>