

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – May 2013

Wednesday May 1, 2013



Malaysia: Kuala Lumpur

Rev Eu Hong Seng (chairman of the Christian Federation of Malaysia, condemned campaign billboards by the ruling party that depict churches as usurping the name of Allah because they could be an incitement to violence)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/church-leaders-anger-over-anti-christian-election-billboard/68163>



Iran: Ahwaz

Pastor Farhad Sabokroh (detained after leading a 2011 Christmas service, released on bail; **UPDATE:** has begun a one year prison sentence)

Shahnaz Sabokroh (wife of Farhad Sabokroh, also detained after attending a 2011 Christmas service, released on bail; **UPDATE:** has begun a one year prison sentence)

Davoud [David] Alijani (detained after attending a 2011 Christmas service, released on bail; **UPDATE:** has begun a one year prison sentence)

Naser Zamen-Dezfuli (detained after attending a 2011 Christmas service, released on bail; **UPDATE:** has begun a one year prison sentence)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6763:pastor-and-three-members-of-the-aog-church-of-ahwaz-to-serve-their-sentence&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Egypt

Gamal Assaad Abdel Malak

Naguib Sawiris (media owner; **UPDATE**: has left the country)

Egypt: Minya

Sameh George (aged 10, altar server, reported to have been abducted in front of his church - an act meant to deter parents from sending their children to church - and is being held for 250,000 pounds under threat of death)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/cs-releases/1454-ten-year-old-coptic-deacon-kidnapped-for-ransom>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20130501190528.htm>

Thursday May 2, 2013



North Korea: Pyongyang

Kenneth Bae (aged 44, U.S. citizen, arrested in Rajin on November 3, 2012 for preaching Christianity; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 15 years hard labor for “anti-government activities”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Pyongyang-sentences-American-Christian-to-15-years-hard-labor-27806.html>



Pakistan: Chak 31-10, R Essa Pur, Tehsil, Khanewal district

Ashar Yaqoob (arrested for his resistance to a mob attack)

Asif Kaleem (arrested for his resistance to a mob attack)

Napoleon Qayyum (attorney, brother of Naveed Qayyum; **UPDATE**: is representing Asif Kaleem and Ashar Yaqoob, arrested and entire family threatened with arrest for his efforts on behalf of his clients)

Naveed Qayyum (arrested in retaliation for his brother Napoleon's legal efforts on behalf of Asif Kaleem and Ashar Yaqoob)

Khurram Akhtar (is representing Asif Kaleem and Ashar Yaqoob)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4457>



Syria: Jaramana, Damascus

Shaza (mother, lamented the violence during Orthodox Holy Thursday "I won't dare go to church tonight")

Syria: Tijara, Damascus

Yussef (aged 30, said "violence doesn't stop. At dawn this morning I heard a loud explosion...It was the jet fuel depot at Damascus airport that was burning")

Syria: Damascus

Antoine (aged 47, physician, commented on the kidnapped bishops Boulos Yazigi and Yuhanna Ibrahim "[the] atmosphere is sad. For the third year we will be celebrating Easter with sadness, because the country is bleeding...We will pray for their return...We believe in the Resurrection and also that of Syria")

Gabriel (said that this year the "feast [Easter] will boil down to just prayers, because blood continues to flow in our country")

<http://www.france24.com/en/20130503-syria-orthodox-easter-marred-bishops-captivity>



Egypt

Rania Rafaat (aged 16, abducted)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=55294#.U7IoBsLQcfg>

Friday May 3, 2013

Great and Holy Friday – Eastern Calendar



India: Mumbai

Sajan K George (president of the Global Council of Indian Christians; **UPDATE:** "Since the Bharatiya Janata Party (Hindu nationalist party or BJP) came to power in Karnataka, attacks against Christians have multiplied and all religious minorities in the state feel threatened...In 2012, the GCIC recorded 41 cases of anti-Christian attacks. In 2013, we are already at seven. However, these figures refer only to destroyed churches, and

imprisoned or assaulted Christians. If we were to account for every episode of intimidation, harassment, insults or temporary detentions, the number would be much higher")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Karnataka:-With-Hindu-fundamentalists-in-govt,-violence-will-grow,-Christian-leader-says-27825.html>



Pakistan: Aziz Abad Colony [Ghetto], Bahawalpur

Rozi Munir (aged 14, abducted and forcibly married to a convert to Islam)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4313>



Nigeria: Wukari, Taraba state

Michael Nuhu (church deacon, father of one, **shot dead** during an attack on a tribal chief's funeral procession, at least 38 others also killed)

Esther Nuhu (widow of Michael Nuhu, church deacon killed during a funeral procession)

Gideon Para-Mallam (reported on the murder of Michael, the church deacon killed during a funeral procession)

Nigeria

Cardinal John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan (**UPDATE**: stated before the European Commission in [Rome, Italy](#) "Growing corruption and religious violence jeopardize the west African country of Nigeria")

Archbishop Matthew Hassan Kukah (**UPDATE**: stated before the European Commission in [Rome, Italy](#) "The way they [the Muslim leaders of northern Nigeria] spend federal funding follows their own priorities and the concept of education and public health is not the same as that of UNESCO...This is the region where the group Boko Haram was created")

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2013/05/2479243/>
<http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/cardinal-onaiyekan-nigeria-is-in-jeopardy>

Saturday May 4, 2013



Malaysia: Kuala Lumpur

Rev David Ginter (aged 62, husband of Sheryl Ginter, father of 5, **found dead from suffocation**, seven arrested, no motive determined)

Sheryl Ginter (widow of David Ginter)

Rev Cristian Moscoso (associate pastor with David Ginter)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/seven-men-arrested-in-malaysia-over-death-of-us-pastor-96963/>



Kazakhstan: Ekibastuz

Aleksei Asetov (fined 18 months average monthly wage or US\$3,273 on **February 8, 2012** for leading a worship service in his home; **UPDATE**: jailed for 3 days for being unable to pay his fine)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1837



Israel: Jerusalem

Fr Arsanios (aged 85, forcibly restrained by police with a choke hold while attempting to enter the Church of the Holy Sepulcher on Orthodox Holy Saturday, briefly lost consciousness, hospitalized)

Bishop William Shomali (**UPDATE**: said "We do not criticize the need for security in such events or the presence of Israeli police, but denying access to the Holy Sepulcher, treating pilgrims and clergy with brutal methods, shoving handicapped people are hurtful")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Coptic-Orthodox-priest-beating-by-Israeli-police-27928.html>

Sunday May 5, 2013

Pascha (Easter) – Eastern Calendar



India: Orissa state

Mongli Madhi (severely beaten after drawing water from a public well, beaten again the following day by the same three Hindu extremists)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/33886->

[ASIA INDIA Christians beaten and boycotted in Orissa on charges of forced conversions#.Uc5ZzIzD8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/33886-)



Syria: Damascus

Metropolitan Jean Kawak (stated that he hopes that the Turkish government will assist in the release of Bishops Gregorios Yuhanna Ibrahim and Boulos al-Yazigi from their abductors)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/33622->

[ASIA SYRIA The Syrian Orthodox Metropolitan Kawak Turkey help us to free the kidnapped bishops#.UYRT6YzD8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/33622-)



Tanzania: Arusha

Three Christians killed and more than 60 injured when an explosive device was thrown into the inaugural Mass at the new St Joseph church

Patricia Joackim (aged 9, **killed**)

James Gabriel (aged 16, **died** on the way to the hospital)

Regina Loning'o Kuresoi (**killed**)

Archbishop Josaphat Louis Lebulu (present when an explosive device was thrown into the inaugural Mass at the new St Joseph church, uninjured, visited the injured in hospital)

Archbishop Francisco Montecillo Padilla (Vatican ambassador to Tanzania, present when an explosive device was thrown into the inaugural Mass at the new St Joseph church, uninjured, visited the injured in hospital)

Email from International Christian Concern <http://www.persecution.org/>
<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2013/05/2475982/>

Monday May 6, 2013



Colombia: Barranquilla

Fr Jose Antonio Valle Bayona (aged 48, **stabbed to death**, body found in a ditch)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/colombian-community-mourns-local-priests-murder/>

Tuesday May 7, 2013



China: Xinyu, Jiangxi province

Wei Zhongping (aged 50, arrested on [April 28, 2013](#) after publicly demonstrating for the release of prisoners; **UPDATE**: detained on a charge of 'subversion of state power')

Liu Ping (same history)

Li Sihua (same history)

China: Xianning, Hubei

Peng Ming (aged 55, convert, U.S. resident, abducted on [May 28, 2004](#) by Chinese agents on the [Myanmar-Thai border](#) while creating safe houses for escapees from China, sent to China; sentenced to life imprisonment on [October 12, 2005](#) for "forming and leading a terrorist organization", has been tortured; **UPDATE**: has developed severe heart disease and other illnesses, health is declining, is not allowed visits by family or attorneys)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/05/chinaaid-redoubles-efforts-for.html>

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2020/05/activist-summoned-to-police-station.html>

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/dies-11302016124702.html>



India: Bhubaneswar, Orissa

John Dayal (**UPDATE**: described how investigators of the 2008 anti-Christian pogrom that killed 100, wounded thousands, rendered 56,000 homeless, and burned 296 churches are unable to bring the perpetrators to justice)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/33634->

[ASIA INDIA No justice for the Christian victims of the massacres in Orissa the figures of impunity#.UYnLFYzD8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/33634-ASIA_INDIA_No_justice_for_the_Christian_victims_of_the_massacres_in_Orissa_the_figures_of_impunity#.UYnLFYzD8fg)



Poland: Okopy

Marianna Popieluszko (aged 92, described how she raised her son Bl Jerzy Popieluszko, who was murdered by three agents of the SB [the Polish KGB] in 1984)

<http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/raising-a-martyr>



Morocco: Ain Leuh

Herman Boonstra (orphanage worker, deported on false charges of proselytism, appellate court upheld the deportation but no written ruling is available for a Supreme Court appeal)

Colin Dickinson (husband of Fiona Dickinson, orphanage worker, deported on false charges of proselytism, forced to abandon 2 foster children, appellate court upheld the deportation but no written ruling is available for a Supreme Court appeal)

Fiona Dickinson (wife of Colin Dickinson, orphanage worker, deported on false charges of proselytism, forced to abandon 2 foster children, appellate court upheld the deportation but no written ruling is available for a Supreme Court appeal)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2013/05/deported-christians-from-morocco-fight-to-be-reunited-with-orphans/>

Wednesday May 8, 2013



Iran: Shiraz, Fars province

Vahid Hakkani (convert, arrested during a home church meeting on [February 8 2012](#), charged with “acts harmful to the Islamic Regime”; **UPDATE**: still awaiting the verdict from his trial, is suffering internal bleeding of the digestive tract, prison officials are refusing him medical care, is reported to be in critical condition)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6782:one-of-the-christian-prisoners-in-shiraz-in-critical-health-condition&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Egypt: Luxor

Demiana Ebeid (detained due to accusations of insulting Islam and proselytizing among her primary school students)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/1472-coptic-teacher-detained-on-accusation-of-insulting-islam>



Central African Republic: Kaga-Bandoro

Bishop Albert Vanbuel (published a statement that described the current situation as "a rebellion characterized by religious extremism, by the evil intentions for the programmed and planned desecration and destruction of religious Christian buildings, and in particular the Catholic and Protestant churches...All over the country the Catholic Church has paid a high price. Some dioceses such as Kaga-Bandoro, Bambari, Alindao, Bangassou and Bossangoa have been seriously damaged. A rebellion in search of easy prey has caused serious consequences for the population")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/33643-AFRICA_CENTRAL_AFRICA_Planned_destruction_of_Christian_churches_the_Bishops_denounce#.UYsJ5ozD8fg



Colombia: Barranquilla

Fr Jose Antonio Valle Bayona (aged 48, **stabbed to death** on **May 6, 2013**, body found in a ditch)
Archbishop Jairo Jaramillo Monsalve (presided at the funeral of Fr Jose Antonio Valle Bayona)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/colombian-community-mourns-local-priests-murder/>

Thursday May 9, 2013



China: Xiaodian district, Taiyuan municipality

Li Wenxi (bookseller, husband of Li Caihong and father of two, charged with illegally operating a business; **UPDATE**: is being defended in court by human rights lawyer Zhu Jiuhe)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/05/defense-lawyers-argument-in-li-wenxi.html>



India: Mumbai

Sajan K George (**UPDATE**: commented on the defeat of the Hindu Nationalist party BJP in the recent state election "the population of Karnataka has also launched a great message to all parties, in view of the general elections of 2014: we must stop the political use of religion, protect minorities and work for the common good")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Elections-in-Karnataka:-people-say-enough-to-the-Hindu-fundamentalists-27874.html>



Iran: Evin Prison, Tehran

Pastor Saeed Abedini (aged 32 years old, convert, US citizen, father of 2, arrested during a family visit, sentenced to 8 years imprisonment and threatened with death; **UPDATE**: has been released from solitary confinement)

Naghmeh Shariat Panahi Abedini (wife of Saeed Abedini, resident of Colorado Springs, USA; **UPDATE**: stated "His release from solitary is a direct result of the multitudes praying. I am relieved my husband is out of solitary, but still am deeply concerned about Saeed's health. While this is a small victory, I am still demanding justice be done and that Saeed be released.")

<http://www.churchinchains.ie/node/614>

Friday May 10, 2013



Pakistan: Padri Jo Goth village, Taluka, Sanghar district, Sindh state

Nazir Masih (nurse, daughter of Rehmat Masih, threatened with forcible marriage or an acid attack by a prominent Muslim, family then arranged marriage to Ejaz Joseph)

Rehmat Masih (father of Nazir Masih)

Ejaz Joseph (fiance of Nazir Masih)

<http://www.pakistanchristiantimes.net/a-nurse-harassed-and-threatened/>



Egypt: Luxor

Demiana Ebeid (aged 23, detained on [May 8, 2013](#) due to accusations of insulting Islam and proselytizing among her Luxor primary school students; **UPDATE:** has begun a hunger strike)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/1477-coptic-teacher-accused-of-defaming-islam-goes-on-hunger-strike>



Turkey: Istanbul

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I (**UPDATE:** reported to be the target of an assassination plot, authorities have tightened security around him)

Fr Dositheos Anagnostopoulos (**UPDATE:** was unable to confirm the assassination plot against Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, but did confirm that authorities have tightened security around him)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2013/05/turkey-increases-security-for-orthodox-patriarch/>

Saturday May 11, 2013



Uzbekistan: Gisht-Kuprik, Zangiota district, Tashkent region

Pastor Fathulla Ibrahimov (detained and released by customs officials, religious literature and media seized, charges filed)

Osiya Khayrullina (detained and released by customs officials, religious literature and media seized, charges filed)

Aleksandr Khokhlov (detained and released by customs officials, religious literature and media seized, charges filed)

Andrey Shevchenko (detained and released by customs officials, religious literature and media seized, charges filed)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1843



Syria: Aleppo

Fr David Fernandez (described how local Christians rescued 90 disabled Muslims from crossfire between pro- and anti-government forces, but that everyone now suffers from a chronic lack of water and many are sick)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/33660-ASIA SYRIA Water emergency for 90 disabled Muslims rescued by Christians#.UY77GYzD8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/33660-ASIA_SYRIA_Water_emergency_for_90_disabled_Muslims_rescued_by_Christians#.UY77GYzD8fg)



Egypt: Luxor

Demiana Ebeid (aged 23, detained on [May 8, 2013](#) due to accusations of insulting Islam and proselytizing among her Luxor primary school students; has begun a hunger strike, **UPDATE:** detention has been extended another 15 days)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/1477-coptic-teacher-accused-of-defaming-islam-goes-on-hunger-strike>



Gabon: Libreville

Archbishop Basile Mve Engone (invited "the people of God" to join in a procession against ritual crimes, including human sacrifice)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/33659-AFRICA GABON Take part in the march against mass ritual killings urges the Archbishop of Libreville#.UY76S4zD8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/33659-AFRICA_GABON_Take_part_in_the_march_against_mass_ritual_killings_urges_the_Archbishop_of_Libreville#.UY76S4zD8fg)



Nigeria: Maiduguri, Borno state

Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme (commended by other bishops along with his clergy and religious "who remain steadfast in the faith and committed to promoting peace and harmony, even in the face of unprovoked attacks")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/33658-
AFRICA_NIGERIA_The_Nigerian_Church_is_with_you_solidarity_visit_to_Maiduguri
of_the_Bishops_of_Jos_Ecclesiastical_Province#.UY78rYzD8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/33658-
AFRICA_NIGERIA_The_Nigerian_Church_is_with_you_solidarity_visit_to_Maiduguri
of_the_Bishops_of_Jos_Ecclesiastical_Province#.UY78rYzD8fg)

Sunday May 12, 2013



China

Zhu Yufu (charged with subverting the state upon publication of a poem, sentenced to 7 years imprisonment; **UPDATE:** has told his family that he is suffering from fainting spells, angina, nausea, and high blood pressure, in retribution he has been told he will have no further calls with his family and his meal plan will be reduced)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/05/urgent-christian-dissident-zhu-yufu.html>



Pakistan: Quette, Baluchistan province

Bishop Victor Gnanapragasam, OMI (injured in a suicide car bombing linked to the recent election)

Fr. Renard Lawrence, OMI (commented on the suicide car bombing that injured Bishop Victor Gnanapragasam and damaged several church buildings including the bishop's residence, a convent, and three schools)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/33682-
ASIA_PAKISTAN_Damage_to_the_church_and_bishop_wounded_in_the_attack_in_Qu
etta#.UZRuZlZD8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/33682-
ASIA_PAKISTAN_Damage_to_the_church_and_bishop_wounded_in_the_attack_in_Qu
etta#.UZRuZlZD8fg)



Kazakhstan: Taskala, West Kazakhstan region

Eight Christians caught in a raid on a worship service, fined two months' average salary

Aleksandr Yalfimov

Natalya Yalfimova

Malika Sultangaliyeva

Gaukhar Sultangaliyeva

Tatyana Sultangaliyeva

Tatyana Osipova

Yelena Zagaychuk

Gulmira Ismagulova

Kazakhstan East Kazakhstan region

Five Christians caught in a raid on a worship service

Nail Agatanov (**UPDATE**)

Sergei Pelipenko (**UPDATE**)

Marina Kulikova (**UPDATE**)

Sergei Kulikov (**UPDATE**)

Maksim Kandyba (**UPDATE**)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1868



Saudi Arabia: Khobar

Henna Sarkees (Lebanese expatriate, arrested for converting a young woman to Christianity and helping her to escape the country, **UPDATE**: sentenced to six years imprisonment and 300 lashes)

<http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/saudi-jails-lebanese-who-helped-woman-convert-christianity>

Monday May 13, 2013



Pakistan: Okara district, Punjab province

Younus Iqbal (**UPDATE:** criticized a Muslim politician who arranged for mosques to use their loudspeakers to call for attacks on Christians in revenge for his losing the election)

<http://www.raymondibrahim.com/muslim-persecution-of-christians/vote-for-me-or-else-islamists-latest-excuse-to-kill-minorities/>



Kazakhstan: Esil

Sergei Chuvashkin (administrative case against him filed in court on [March 14, 2013](#); **UPDATE:** fined US\$1,130 for 'missionary activity without registration')

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1870



Egypt: Menbal and Manshiet Menbal, Matay district, Minya province

Dr Ehab Ramzy (attorney and former MP, described an attack on a Coptic church in one village that happened in revenge for the Copts in another village chasing off three Muslims who threw bags of urine at girls leaving church)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20130518152333.htm>



Central African Republic: Gogo

Fr Anastasio Roggero (stated "I lived the army mutinies in 1996, 1997 and 1998 and the rebellions of 2001 and 2002-2003, but what is happening now exceeds all the other crises that Central Africa has experienced so far...The Central African Republic risks becoming a home for Al Qaeda...It seems everything has been destroyed in order to establish Islam. The men of Seleka have destroyed all state institutions: schools, public and health care buildings. How can we think to restart the state administration in these conditions?")

Fr Valentine (aged 78, mission destroyed, hid under a bed to avoid gunfire, has left the country)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/33664->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA The Central African Republic is likely to become a home for Al Qaeda says a missionary#.UZGeBlzD-po](#)

Tuesday May 14, 2013



North Korea: location unknown

Kenneth Bae (aged 44, U.S. citizen, sentenced to 15 years hard labor for “anti-government activities” **UPDATE**: has entered prison)

Myung-Hee Bae (mother of Kenneth Bae)

Terri Chung (sister of Kenneth Bae)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/us-christian-kenneth-bae-begins-15-year-sentence-in-special-prison-in-north-korea-96555/>

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/family-of-christian-man-imprisoned-in-north-korea-speaks-out-95230/>



Pakistan

Zoya Mary (aged 14, abducted by a group of Muslim radicals including her uncle, held for 12 days, raped and married to a captor as a second wife and forcibly converted to Islam, suffered a major heart attack due to a congenital defect and was then dumped on a roadside, found and hospitalized, reunited with her family, her "husband" has now initiated a court case against her father for abducting his "wife" and has attempted to bribe her family for her return)

<http://www.persecution.org/2013/09/19/despised-and-disgraced-persecution-uniquely-faced-by-christian-women-in-pakistan/>



Azerbaijan: Goychay and Sheki

Kamran Mirzayev (aged 18, convicted on refusing military service and sentenced to nine month's imprisonment, **UPDATE**: appeal heard, verdict due the following day)

http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=1834



Eritrea

Patriarch Abune Antonios (disappeared, reportedly detained by the government in a darkened room, health declining, diabetic condition requires medical attention; **UPDATE**: is still reportedly under house arrest, 2000 other Christians also being held in various locations under extremely harsh conditions)

<http://dynamic.csw.org.uk/article.asp?t=news&id=1458&search=>



Egypt: Luxor

Demiana Ebeid (aged 24, detained on or before [May 10, 2013](#) due to accusations of insulting Islam and proselytizing among her primary school students; **UPDATE**: released on US\$3,000 bail)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20130514135147.htm>



Nigeria: Maiduguri, Borno state

Rev Faye Pama Musa (aged 47, father of three, **shot dead** by Boko Haram gunmen after a Bible study in front of his home despite the pleas of his daughter, had refused to leave the area)

Rev Titus Dama Pona (reported on the murder of Rev Faye Pama Musa)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2013/05/suspected-boko-haram-gunmen-kill-christian-leader-in-borno-state-nigeria/>

Wednesday May 15, 2013



Taiwan: Changhua

Fr Eliseo Napiere (said that he was upset by the government ban on a Filipino Catholic procession following the fatal shooting of a Taiwanese fisherman in disputed waters by the Philippine coast guard)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/filipinos-in-taiwan-refused-catholic-procession/68264>



China

Zhu Yufu (charged with subverting the state upon publication of a poem, sentenced to 7 years imprisonment, appealing sentence; has told his family on [May 12, 2013](#) that he is suffering from fainting spells, angina, nausea, and high blood pressure, in retribution he has been told he will have no further calls with his family and his meal plan will be reduced; **UPDATE:** wife has been told by authorities that she should be careful what she says about her husband because it would not be 'good' for him)

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/zhu-yufu-05172013145342.html>



Pakistan: Jago Key Ghuman village, Chak No.45 Pariana Pattoki, Kasur district

Bashir Masih (home invaded by Muslim landlords, buffaloes and motorbike stolen, family members threatened with death and public nudity, abducted and tortured in a private prison cell for 16 days, is now suicidal)

Sugran Bibi (home invaded by Muslim landlords, buffaloes and motorbike stolen, threatened with death and public nudity, police refused to file her criminal complaint)

Pakistan: Lahore

Savan Masih (jailed on blasphemy charges, appeared in court, court adjourned until June 12, 2013 for time for the complainant to produce evidence)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4348>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4328>



Egypt: Menbal village, Minya province

Michael Sobhi (stated "The thugs attacked my shop, assaulting it with stones. Some of the contents were damaged...they destroyed a number of Coptic-owned shops and pharmacies")

Ibrahim Abdou (aged 48, assaulted along with his wife)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20130515191744.htm>



Nigeria: Abuja

Archbishop Ignatius Ayau Kaigama (**UPDATE**: expressed doubt that the recent imposition of a state of emergency in three northern states will stop Boko Haram, due to the failed results of previous impositions in other states)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/33681->

[AFRICA_NIGERIA_I_am_skeptical_about_the_imposition_of_a_State_of_emergency_said_Mgr_Kaigama#.UZRv6YzD8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/33681-AFRICA_NIGERIA_I_am_skeptical_about_the_imposition_of_a_State_of_emergency_said_Mgr_Kaigama#.UZRv6YzD8fg)

Thursday May 16, 2013



Greece: Lairos

Johnny Hanna (Syrian refugee, left on a deserted island by a smuggler without food or water, rescued after a few days)

Romeo Boutros (Syrian refugee, left on a deserted island by a smuggler without food or water, rescued after a few days)

Reem Boutros (Syrian refugee, left on a deserted island by a smuggler without food or water, rescued after a few days)

Sana George (Syrian refugee, left on a deserted island by a smuggler without food or water, rescued after a few days)

Noubar Mansourati (aged 44, Syrian refugee, put into the sea by his Algerian smuggler with no vest and a sabotaged raft, rescued)

Bouthayna Kan'o (aged 32, wife of Noubar Mansourati, put into the sea by her Algerian smuggler with no vest and a sabotaged raft, rescued))

Elias Mansourati (aged 40, brother of Noubar Mansourati, pharmacist, put into the sea by his Algerian smuggler with no vest and a sabotaged raft, rescued)

Imad Kan'o (brother of Bouthayna Kan'o, put into the sea by his Algerian smuggler with no vest and a sabotaged raft, rescued)

Sinella and Fimella Mansourati (daughters of Noubar Mansourati and Bouthayna Kan'o, put into the sea by their Algerian smuggler with no vests and a sabotaged raft, one rescued, the 5 year old **drowned**)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2013/05/the-sad-plight-of-syrian-christian-migrants-exclusive/>



Italy: Milan

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I (**UPDATE:** during a celebration of the 1,700 anniversary of the Edict of Milan stated "the persecution of Christians has not ceased...the Church of Christ will never cease to generate martyrs")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Bartholomew,-the-persecution-of-the-Christians-has-not-ceased,-and-the-Church-of-Christ-will-never-cease-to-generate-martyrs-27935.html>



United States

Dr Anne Hendershott (sociology professor, audited by the IRS after publishing articles criticizing "fake Catholic" organizations that supported administration policies)

Rev Franklin Graham (head of two organizations audited by the IRS after they paid for advertisements supporting traditional marriage and "biblical principles")

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/catholic-professor-says-irs-audit-deterred-her-criticisms-of-obama/>

Friday May 17, 2013



Kazakhstan: Astana

Pastor Bakhytzhan Kashkumbayev (aged 66, arrested on charges of 'harming health')

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1837



Egypt: Dakhela district, Alexandria

Sedky Sherif (aged 36, father of three, **shot dead** after he joined 1,000 Copts who were defending their church building from a mob of 20,000 Muslims armed with bricks, Molotov cocktails, and shotguns)

Rabah (nephew of Sedky Sherif, described his uncle's murder)

Mina Milad Saber (aged 19, severely injured after he joined 1000 Copts who were defending their church building from a mob of 20,000 Muslims armed with bricks, Molotov cocktails, and shotguns, in a coma following brain surgery)

Egypt: Cairo

Wasfi Amin Wassef (jeweler, described how Copts have tripled the sale of their gold and jewelry to finance their emigration)

Rafik Beshay (procurement director at a Coptic business, said he is having difficulty finding Christians to fill job openings created by employees leaving the country)

Rasha Samir (head of publications at an investment bank, said that the U.S. government is speeding visa applications and asylum requests for Coptic emigres)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20130518152333.htm>

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/1484-christians-uneasy-in-morsi-s-egypt>



Libya: Benghazi

Archbishop Giovanni Innocenzo Martinelli (**UPDATE**: described the bombing of the Church of the Immaculate Conception)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/33702->

[AFRICA LIBYA Attack near the Catholic church in Benghazi#.UZq8SYzD85s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/33702-AFRICA_LIBYA_Attack_near_the_Catholic_church_in_Benghazi#.UZq8SYzD85s)

Sunday May 19, 2013



Pakistan: Mariamabad village, Shekhupura district, Francisabad

Faisal Patras (10th grader, **shot dead** over a land dispute)

Danish Masih (brother of Faisal Patras, seriously wounded from gunfire over a land dispute)

Patras Masih (father of Faisal Patras, seriously wounded from gunfire over a land dispute)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4319>



Kazakhstan: Astana

Pastor Bakhytzhan Kashkumbayev (aged 66, arrested on **May 17, 2013** on charges of 'harming health', **UPDATE**: ordered held for two months' pretrial detention)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1837



Iran: Tehran

Pastor Robert Asseriyen (arrested in the middle of a church service, taken to an undisclosed location, personal computer and books seized from his home)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6867:aog-leader-arrested-during-church-service-in-tehran&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Egypt: Tema, Sohag

Fr Paul Samaan (described the fire that destroyed the church of the Virgin Mary as having begun in multiple locations around the building at the same time)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/1493-huge-fire-devours-a-coptic-church-in-sohag-reason-unknown>

Monday May 20, 2013



Kazakhstan: Oskemen, East Kazakhstan region

Arman Abdullinov (detained, interrogated, and charged with discussing or sharing faith with others on [February 20, 2013](#); **UPDATE**: fined US\$1,130 for 'missionary activity without registration')

Marat Saleubayev (detained, interrogated, and charged with discussing or sharing faith with others on February 20, 2013; **UPDATE**: fined US\$1,130 for 'missionary activity without registration')

Zhangazy Biimbetov (detained on March 20, 2013, charged with discussing or sharing faith with others; **UPDATE**: fined US\$1,130 for 'missionary activity without registration')

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1870



Iraq: Bagdad

Patriarch Louis Sako (**UPDATE**: wrote that recent car bombings are intended to divide the country, and that while Christians were not targeted in the recent attacks "...they are afraid and their exodus continues nevertheless")

Archbishop Luis Shabi (stated "We are not Arabs but Semitic. We've been speaking Aramaic in Mesopotamia since the times of Hammurabi. We are the grandsons of Abraham and of Nebuchadnezzar, but our future in Iraq does not go any further than tomorrow.")

Fr Aysur Said (remembered the al-Qaeda attack on the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help on [October 31, 2011](#) in which 50 died)

Iraq: Bashiqa

Fr Daniel (aged 23, reported to have said "This is chaos. The new authorities in Baghdad are unable to protect us, so our people continue to flee in the thousands. However, in recent months we have also welcomed many Christian families arriving from Syria and knocking the doors of our monasteries and churches, many of them with virtually nothing")

Iraq: Kikuk

Imad Yokhana Yago (member of parliament, supports Christian autonomy in the Nineveh region)

Yousif Eisho (executive of the Assyrian Christian Movement, reported to have said "The repression we are suffering does not come exclusively from the Iraqi Arabs. Iran, Saudi Arabia... there are too many foreign agents involved in the ethnic cleansing of our people")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20130520151738.htm>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20130520171819.htm>

Tuesday May 21, 2013



Egypt

Bishop Thomas (said in [London, United Kingdom](#) "There is a big force leading and pushing the society towards conservatism. We need to bring forces that work towards openness and civil society")

Egypt: Beba, Benni Sweif province

Abra'am Zaky (jailed for another 15 days due to false charges of aiding the conversion and escape of a Muslim girl)

Zaky Andrawus (father of Abra'am Zaky, also jailed for another 15 days due to false charges of aiding the conversion and escape of a Muslim girl)

Suad Akhnoun (mother of Abra'am Zaky, also jailed for another 15 days due to false charges of aiding the conversion and escape of a Muslim girl)

Peter Bahig (cousin of Abra'am Zaky, also jailed for another 15 days due to false charges of aiding the conversion and escape of a Muslim girl)

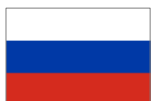
Egypt: Tud

Sarabamon El Shayeb (head of the All Saints Monastery, said "Today, despite this repression, we can live. But tomorrow, what will we do? The coming days will be much worse")

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2013/05/2493860/>

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/1502-coptic-family-in-wasta-further-detained>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20130523174856.htm>



Russia: Asbest, Sverdlovsk region

Petr Tkalic (pensioner, under investigation for "incitement of hatred or enmity" for publishing an article stating theological differences with the Russian Orthodox Church, computer seized)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1899

Wednesday May 22, 2013



Vietnam: Nghi Phuong

Nguyen Van Hai (aged 43, arrested for "disturbing the public order")

Ngo Van Khoi (aged 53, arrested for "disturbing the public order")

http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2013/09/article_2704318.html/



China: Hong Kong

Anthony Lam Sui-ki (reported to have commented on new government regulations concerning the election of Catholic bishops “The revision is a regression as it blocks the normalization of Church life in China. But it also reminds Vatican-approved bishops to be brave and not to be frightened by the authorities”)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/anger-at-beijings-grip-on-bishop-elections/68321>



Azerbaijan

Fakhraddin Mirzayev (sentenced to one year in prison for refusing military conscription;

UPDATE: has been released under an amnesty)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1852



Tanzania: Arusha

Bishop Tarcisius Ngalalekumwta (**UPDATE:** denounced violent anti-Christian propaganda by extremist Muslim leaders during the funeral of the three bomb victims killed in the [May 5 2013](#) attack on St Joseph church)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/33718-AFRICA_TANZANIA_The_Church_is_object_of_persecution_but_the_government_does_not_intervene#.UZ2jAYzD8fg



Syria: Aleppo

Bishop Antoine Audo SJ (**UPDATE**: reportedly will lead a retreat of prayer and reflection for the release of Bishop Boulos al-Yazigi and Bishop Yuhanna Ibrahim from rebel captivity)

Bishop Boulos al-Yazigi (**UPDATE**: still in rebel captivity)

Bishop Yuhanna Ibrahim (**UPDATE**: still in rebel captivity)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20130522130217.htm>



Egypt: Luxor

Demiana Ebeid Abdel Nour (detained due to accusations of insulting Islam and proselytizing among her primary school students; **UPDATE**: trial begun, school principal Mostafa Mekki [who is Muslim] defended her innocence, stated "If I wanted to please anyone, I would say she said it, and they would carry me on their shoulders")

Safwat Samaan Yasaa (said of the Demiana Ebeid Abdel Nour case "All Coptic teachers are scared here now that any child who fights with them could accuse them of blasphemy and drag them to court")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20130523174856.htm>



Central African Republic: Bangui

Archbishop Dieudonne Nzapalainga (**UPDATE**: reported to have sent a letter to the government demanding an end to the atrocities against non-Muslims and that it renounce a letter reportedly from newly installed President Michel Djotodia to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Saudi Arabia which stated "all Christians are liars" and "If by God's will, we reach Bangui, we will set up an Islamic regime in order to apply the sharia")

Bishop Edouard Mathos (attacked by Seleka rebels)

<http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2013/05/2492414/>



Albania: Tirana

Bishop Mario Toso (stated at the annual meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe that Christians are told, "that they can believe whatever they like in their own homes or heads, and largely worship as they wish in their own private churches, but they simply cannot act on those beliefs in public...This is a deliberate twisting and limiting of what religious freedom actually means, and it is not the freedom that was enshrined in international documents")

Dr Massimo Introvigne (sociologist and author, stated at the annual meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe that 15 European countries currently have laws on the books that effectively restrict the freedom of religious practice and speech of Christians)

Dr Gudrun Kugler (head of the Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians [OIDC] stated she had "documented 41 laws which effect Christians West of Vienna adversely")

<http://www.ecumenicalnews.com/article/catholic-leaders-highlight-faith-siege-in-east-and-west-22248>

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/christians-are-the-most-persecuted-group-in-the-world-expert-says>



Nigeria: Abuja

Archbishop Ignatius Ayau Kaigama (warned that the country "is almost tottering on the brink")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/33720-AFRICA_NIGERIA_The_Bishops_Nigeria_now_almost_totters_on_the_brink_Prayer is essential to restore peace#.UZ2lhYzD8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/33720-AFRICA_NIGERIA_The_Bishops_Nigeria_now_almost_totters_on_the_brink_Prayer_is_essential_to_restore_peace#.UZ2lhYzD8fg)



United Kingdom

Archbishop Peter Smith (signed a letter stating that the proposed same-sex marriage bill will "isolate hundreds of thousands of young students and workers across the country who hold a fuller view of marriage based on religion or a traditional view. These young people, from teenagers to 30-year-olds, will suffer discrimination and face new risks to their careers, and futures")

Rev John Stevens (signed the same letter)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue19729.html>

Thursday May 23, 2013



Indonesia: Jakarta

Fr Franz Magnis-Suseno SJ (published a letter stating that President Yudhoyono is an accomplice of the climate of religious intolerance against Christians and minority Muslims "Do you know the growing difficulties of Christians to get permits for opening places of prayer, about the growing number of forced closure of churches, about the growth of regulations that make worshipping for minorities more difficult, thus about the growing intolerance on the grassroot level?")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/33724-ASIA_INDONESIA_A_Jesuit_President_Yudhoyono_is_an_accomplice_of_religious_intolerance#.UZ7Mp4zD8fg



Nepal: Kathmandu

Fr Robin Rai (**UPDATE:** spoke at a Mass on the fourth anniversary of the bombing of the Church of the Assumption which killed 2 and wounded 13)

Shyam Rai (seriously injured in the 2009 bombing of the Church of the Assumption, said that the event "increased his faith in God. Now I am ready to face any adversity in his name")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Catholics,-Muslims-and-Hindus-remember-the-attack-on-Kathmandu-cathedral-27998.html>



Egypt: Sinai and Cairo

Merhawi (aged 17, Eritrean refugee, attempted to reach asylum in Israel, tortured by traffickers, permanently scarred, family paid US\$30,000 for his release, currently in a safe house)

<http://barnabasfund.org/US/News/Latest-emergencies/Help-and-hope-for-persecuted-Eritrean-Christian-refugees.html>



United Kingdom: Woolwich, London

Ingrid Loyau-Kennet (attempted to aid Army Drummer Lee Rigby after he was murdered and almost beheaded by two Muslims, said "I live my life as a Christian. I believe in thinking about others and loving thy neighbor. We all have a duty to look after each other")

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2013/05/24/my-catholic-faith-inspired-me-to-confront-woolwich-attacker/>

Friday May 24, 2013



Philippines: Surigao del Sur province, Mindanao

Chito Trillanes (Tandag diocese's social action center spokesman, is being hunted by armed masked men, possibly over his opposition to illegal mining operations)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/church-worker-in-hiding-after-death-threats/68350>



Vietnam: Vinh, Nghe An province

Paulus Le Van Son (convicted on January 9, 2013 for "carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the people's administration", sentenced to 13 years imprisonment;

UPDATE: sentence reduced to 4 years imprisonment on appeal)

John Nguyen Van Duyet (convicted on January 9, 2013 for "carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the people's administration", sentenced to 3-8 years imprisonment;

UPDATE: sentence reduced by a minor amount on appeal)

Paul Ho Van Oanh (convicted on January 9, 2013 for "carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the people's administration", sentenced to 3-8 years imprisonment;

UPDATE: sentence reduced by a minor amount on appeal)

Peter Nguyen Xuan Oanh (convicted on January 9, 2013 for "carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the people's administration", sentenced to 3-8 years imprisonment;

UPDATE: sentence reduced by a minor amount on appeal)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Vinh,-four-Catholic-activists-sentence-reduced-on-appeal,-but-peaceful-protest-continues-28005.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/vietnam-cuts-activists-sentences/68336>



Pakistan: Muridkey city, Punjab state

Alam Ashiq (cousin of Fouzia Bibi, arrested on false charges, family has been told that he will not be released until they drop charges against Fouzia's rapists)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4321>



Nigeria: Gwoza, Borno state

Ayo Oritsejafor (president of the Christian Association of Nigeria, **UPDATE**: described the most recent attacks by Boko Haram)

Rev Luka Bazigila (**shot dead**)

Yohanna (**shot dead**)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201306010136.html>

Saturday May 25, 2013



Pakistan: Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province

Aman Ullah (aged 16, convert, abducted by Taliban militants)

John Taimoor (missionary, commented on the abduction of Aman Ullah "We don't know which of the 32 different Taliban groups operating both in Afghanistan and Pakistan is responsible...My team, workers and disciples from Muslim backgrounds are facing pressures from many sides and physical persecution")

<http://www.bosnewslife.com/28659-christian-convert-kidnapped-in-pakistan-by-taliban-militants>



Ethiopia: Moyale Town

Tamirat Woldegiorgis (**UPDATE:** arrested and jailed, reason unknown but believed related to a 2010-2012 stint in prison for a "Crime against Islam")

<http://www.persecution.org/>



Egypt: Talebeya, Giza

Remonda Samir Habib (aged 16, abducted, allowed to phone her family and told to say "Don't look for me because I can't come back")

Samir Habib (father of Remonda Samir Habib, told by police that his daughter had been forcibly married to a young Muslim, denied by police the opportunity to file a complaint, later assaulted by the Muslim and five others over the attempted filing of the police complaint, has fled the area for fear of promised additional reprisals)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/1514-coptic-minor-kidnapped-in-giza-family-attacked>

Sunday May 26, 2013



Pakistan: Padri Jo Goth village, Taluka, Sanghar district, Sindh state

Nazir Masih (nurse, daughter of Rehmat Masih, threatened with forcible marriage or an acid attack by a prominent Muslim, family then arranged marriage to Ejaz Joseph; **UPDATE:** engagement party raided by police who arrested her father and fiancé, now subject to a family court where the Muslim has falsely stated she is legally married to him)

Rehmat Masih (father of Nazir Masih; **UPDATE:** arrested at her engagement party, released)

Ejaz Joseph (fiancé of Nazir Masih; **UPDATE:** arrested at their engagement party, released, threatened with "dire consequences" if he did not break off the engagement)

Sr Marie Khurshid (principal at St Teresa's hospital, threatened by the same Muslim man who has threatened Nazir Masih with forcible marriage or an acid attack, has requested police protection)

<http://www.pakistanchristiantimes.net/a-nurse-harassed-and-threatened/>



Tanzania: Zanzibar

Pastor Dickson (reported "[The] attack at my church occurred on May 26, 2012. Radical Muslims, who are growing in number in Tanzania, set fire to my church building. They set fire to all of the chairs, musical equipment and our PA system. They even [burned] our Bibles and set my car on fire...There have been other incidents. A young boy of about 22 years was jailed when he was falsely accused of burning a Quran.")

<http://www.persecution.org/2013/06/04/zanzibar-the-epicenter-of-christian-persecution-in-tanzania/>

Monday May 27, 2013



China

Gong Shengliang (serving a sentence of life imprisonment for "assault", has suffered a stroke in prison on [December 2, 2012](#); **UPDATE**: reported that his daughter writes that he is dying in prison due to lack of medical care)

Gong Huali (daughter of Gong Shengliang, wrote a letter to China's President defending her father's faith and demanding his release)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Evangelical-pastor-Gong-Shengliang-is-dying-in-a-Chinese-prison-28027.html>



Iraq

Salem Dawood Coca (aged 62, abducted)

<http://www.aina.org/news/2013079163548.htm>



Sudan

Nahmia Ibrahim Omer Shaloka (attorney, arrested after he gave workshops on freedom of religion, threatened with death if he did not report daily to the police)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2013/11/2253/>



United Nations: Geneva, Switzerland

Archbishop Silvano M Tomasi (reported to the UN that more than 100,000 Christians are killed for their faith each year)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/1518-vatican-to-un-100-thousand-christians-killed-for-the-faith-each-year>

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2013/05/29/vatican-officials-decry-global-persecution-of-christians/>

Tuesday May 28, 2013



Cambodia: Kokpreach

Sokreaksa Himm (returned and forgave the men who killed his family during the Pol Pot era)

<http://blogs.christianpost.com/dispatches-from-the-global-village/life-from-the-killing-fields-16314/>



Iran

Pastor Robert Asseriyani (**UPDATE**: has been allowed to make one phone call to his family in which he said he was in good health, whereabouts still unknown)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6903:latest-update-on-pastor-asseriyani-fate-of-the-central-assemblies-of-god-church-still-unknown&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Syria

Fr Hieromonk N (reported to have described a conversation he had with Bishop Boulos al-Yazigi 'Not long before his abduction we were walking together in the city. I asked him, "Geronda, why do you go by foot? It is dangerous—after all, many have been kidnapped already." But he answered, "Martyrdom is the only sinless path."')

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2013/05/on-syria-jihad-and-kidnapped-metropolitan-paul-an-interview-with-an-orthodox-priest-from-syria/>



Egypt: Minya

Kirollos Yousef Kilada (aged 6, abducted for ransom, **died after being bound and gagged**)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/1520-body-of-coptic-child-found-in-kidnapper-s-house-sink>



United Kingdom

Gary McFarlane (**UPDATE:** The Grand Chamber of the Council of Europe in [Brussels](#) has rejected his appeal for his termination as a counselor when he refused to counsel same-sex couples, no further appeal is possible)

Lilian Ladele (**UPDATE:** The Grand Chamber of the Council of Europe in [Brussels](#) has rejected her appeal for her disciplining for refusing to perform same-sex weddings, no further appeal is possible)

Shirley Chaplin (**UPDATE:** The Grand Chamber of the Council of Europe in [Brussels](#) has rejected her appeal for her forced transfer from a ward nurse to a desk position for wearing a cross, no further appeal is possible)

Andrea Minichiello Williams (CEO of Christian Legal Centre, **UPDATE:** stated that "This case shows that these assurances [by Prime Minister Cameron regarding religious liberty] are worthless")

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/grand-chamber-rejects-christians-cases>
and <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/pms-assurances-to-christians-wholly-insufficient-after-christians%E2%80%99-european-court-bat-0>

Wednesday May 29, 2013



Pakistan: Lahore

Fr George Joseph (spoke concerning the convening of the new parliament on June 1 "We appeal to divine wisdom to guide our leaders, to witness a real change in the system, in the name of equality and justice for all")

Pakistan: Islamabad

Peter Jacob (**UPDATE:** released a report describing anti-Christian and other religious minority intolerance in school textbooks has risen from 45 cases in 2009 to 122 cases in 2013)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Islamabad:-Islamist-violence-and-economic-crisis,-the-challenges-facing-next-Parliament-28049.html>

http://www.fides.org/en/news/33744-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Bishops_to_the_government_no_to_religious_discrimination_in_textbooks#.UabGdYzD8fQ



Uzbekistan: Urgench

Sharofat Allamova (sentenced to one and one-half years rehabilitative labor on [April 11, 2013](#) for "illegal production, storage, import or distribution of religious literature"; **UPDATE:** appeal denied)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1857



Iran: Esfahan

Hamid-Reza Ghadiri (Afghan convert, arrested during a [May 29, 2013](#) worship service in his home along with two others)

Mohammad-Reza Farid (Afghan convert, arrested during a [May 29, 2013](#) worship service in the home of Hamid-Reza Ghadiri)

Saeed Safi (Afghan convert, arrested during a [May 29, 2013](#) worship service in the home of Hamid-Reza Ghadiri)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7149:concerns-over-condition-of-three-christian-detainees-in-esfahan&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279

Thursday May 30, 2013



Vietnam

Fr Thadeus Nguyen Van Ly (serving a 15 year sentence since 2007, has survived three strokes and is now suffering from brain cancer)

<http://www.persecution.org/2013/05/30/as-vietnamese-human-rights-activists-fight-for-religious-freedom-fr-thadeus-nguyen-van-ly-fights-for-survival/>

http://www.prisoneralert.com/pprofiles/vp_prisoner_219_profile.html



Iraq: Mosul

Magid Shipa Alkasrany (**killed**)

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



United States - District of Columbia

Rev Samuel Rodriguez (president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, speaking at the 2013 National Religious Freedom Conference said “we live in a time where the very freedom to express our respected faith narratives stands threatened”)

Dr Katrina Lantos Swett (chair of the U.S. Commission for International Religious Freedom, stated that “There is no doubt that religious freedom faces extraordinary and novel challenges that grow out of increasing and aggressive secularism, coupled with fundamental redefinitions of core social institutions...These changes are putting some religious communities on a collision course with newly emerging social concurrences on matters of morality, equality and how we define fundamental civil and human rights”)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/religious-liberty-is-endangered-warns-hispanic-christian-leader/>

Friday May 31, 2013



China

Dr Li Baiguang (**UPDATE:** told that he has not passed the Beijing Justice Bureau's annual review, cannot renew his license to practice law, no reason given)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/06/in-apparent-act-of-targeted-persecution.html>



Pakistan: Lahore and Sheikhpura district

Fouzia Bibi (aged 15, abducted and raped on [January 25, 2013](#), police initially refused to open a case; Alam Ashiq, cousin of Fouzia Bibi, arrested on false charges on [May 24, 2013](#), family has been told that he will not be released until they drop charges against Fouzia's rapists; **UPDATE:** two courts have criticized the police in this case and have ordered the release of Alam Ashiq)

Sardar Mushtaq Gill (attorney, **UPDATE:** is hopeful that Fouzia Bibi's rapists will be prosecuted)

<http://www.bosnewslife.com/28502-breaking-news-pakistan-court-condemns-police-over-rape-christian-girl>



Egypt

Dr. Mounir Megahed (coordinator for Egyptians Against Religious Discrimination [MARED], stated that he could not see the merits in the South Cairo Court's decision to suspend the investigation into the October 2011 Army Maspero massacre of 24 unarmed Copts)

Ebram Louis (founder of the Association of Victims of Abductions and Forced Disappearance [AVAFD]; **UPDATE:** expressed frustration at the lack of victims' rights displayed in the South Cairo Court's decision to suspend the investigation into the October 2011 Army Maspero massacre of 24 unarmed Copts)

Kamal Zakher (**UPDATE**: said that the South Cairo Court's decision to suspend the investigation into the October 2011 Army Maspero massacre of 24 unarmed Copts ignores issues that have already been investigated)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20130531204129.htm>



Zambia: Matero township, Lusaka

Fr Cleophas Lungu (signed a letter protesting an attack by members of the Patriotic Front [the ruling party] on people praying in the Bible Gospel Outreach Church for relief and planning peaceable protests after the end of subsidies for food and fuel)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/33752-AFRICA_ZAMBIA_Pre_meditated_attack_against_a_peaceful_gathering_in_a_church#.Ua6y-IzD8fQ



Belarus: Borisov

Fr Vladislav Lazar (arrested, taken to a secret KGB detention center without charge, rumored to be considered to be a spy)

Belarus: Gomel

Pastor Pyotr Yashchenko ([April 14, 2013](#) church meeting raided by police under KGB orders, religious literature seized, **UPDATE**: fined US\$23)

Valentin Shchedrenok (preaching on [April 14, 2013](#) when police under KGB orders raided the meeting led by Pastor Pyotr Yashchenko, **UPDATE**: fined US\$23)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1873

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1847



Tanzania: Geita

Pastor Daudi Nzumbi (home attacked by a large mob which was driven off by his large dogs, police refused to help)

http://www.persecution.com/public/newsroom.aspx?story_ID=NTgy

May 2013, date unknown



China: Aletai area, Xinjiang province

Xinhe Tang (organized a legal seminar to recover seized property)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2013/07/house-churches-in-aletai-area-invited.html>