

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – March 2014

Saturday March 1, 2014



China: Lifu Township, Qu County, Dazhou city, Sichuan province

Yang (aged 50, lured to a local government office, beaten, stripped, tied up outside in the rain for two hours in temperatures ranging from 27 to 54 degrees Fahrenheit, taunted for his Christian beliefs, released after he began to show ill effects on his health, compensated US\$244 by the government)

Mr Xiong (reported on the illegal detention of Yang)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/03/sichuan-christian-physically-verbally.html>



Bangladesh: Goualiapara village

Shipra Palma (wife of Ben Gomes, mother of two, two-room home destroyed in an arson attack, managed to escape with her children and mother-in-law with just the clothes on their backs)

Ben Gomes (husband of Shipra Palma, home destroyed in an arson attack, was employed outside the country at the time)

Nirmol Rozario (general secretary of the Bangladesh Christian Association, **UPDATE**: called for prosecution of the arsonists)

Fr Kamal Corraya (said "We are very shocked about what happened. This is an attack against the minority, and could be the hands of Islamic extremists. They are very powerful in the area")

Fr Ujjol Rozario (is working with police to resolve a land dispute in another village)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Home-of-Catholic-family-torched-in-Bangladesh-30450.html>

Sunday March 2, 2014



Iran: Tehran

Sevada Aghasar (arrested on [August 21, 2013](#); **UPDATE**: released from prison, never charged)

Masoud Mirzaei (arrested on [August 21, 2013](#); **UPDATE**: released from prison)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8288:christian-prisoner-sevada-aghasar-released-from-evin-prison-&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Azerbaijan: Lankaran

Police raid a prayer meeting in a private home without warrant, arrest three women, seize Bibles

Tarana Huseynova

Klara Shirinova

Fatmakhanim Huseynli

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1964



Uganda

Bishop James Kinyewa (aged 47, home burned by Islamic extremists, in hiding with his family)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/03/young-woman-in-uganda-hospitalized-after-father-beats-her-mulindes-sight-saved/>



Egypt: Delga village, Deir Mawas, Minya province

Kamel Saleh (aged 45, attacked and dragged by a group of Muslims in an attempt to force him to sell his land)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52653#.UxQAGMKUM5s>



Turkey: Mardin province

Kuryakos Ergun (Head of the Mor Gabriel Religious foundation, **UPDATE**: received the deeds to 60 acres of the monastery land from the government, reversing in part the 2008 seizure which had been criticized by the European Union)

Isa Dogdu (Deputy Head of the Mor Gabriel Religious foundation, said that they will continue to work towards the return of the remaining 79 acres to the monastery that is still held by the government)

http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/03/article_3052786.html/



Libya: Benghazi

Salama Fawzi Tobia (aged 24, shot in the head, in intensive care)

http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52654#.UxP_psKUM5s

Monday March 3, 2014



North Korea: Pyongyang

John Short (aged 75, husband of Karen Short, Australian citizen, arrested in [Pyongyang](#) on [February 16, 2014](#) for distributing religious material: **UPDATE**: released and deported)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Pyongyang-frees-Australian-missionary-John-Short:-humanitarian-act-following-confession-30447.html>



Iraq: Kirkuk, Kurdistan

Imad Yokhana Yago (Member of Parliament; **UPDATE**: said that corrupt politicians are seizing the property of Christians who have emigrated from the country)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/35326-ASIA_IRAQ_Political_leader_denounces_the_lands_of_Christians_who_emigrated_plundered_with_the_complicity_of_corrupt_officials#.UxVVocKUM5s



Tanzania: Zanzibar

Pastor Lucian Mgaywa (**UPDATE**: described the bombings and attempted bombings of several churches)

Bishop Fabian Obeid (**UPDATE**: said “We urged the government to take serious measures at the series of bomb attacks targeting churches...in the past few days, because worse things will follow soon if nothing is done swiftly”)

<http://www.assistnews.net/Stories/2014/s14030012.htm>



Italy: Sibari

Fr Lazzaro Longobardi (**bludgeoned to death**)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/35348-EUROPE_ITALY_Father_Lazzaro_discreet_martyr_of_charity#.Uxf95MKUM5s

Tuesday March 4, 2014



Philippines

Daniel Jaquith (missionary, husband of Colleen Jaquith, shot in the arm during an attempted robbery, a Filipino pastor was also shot in the foot, both recovered)

Colleen Jaquith (missionary, wife of Daniel Jaquith, saw her husband shot)

<http://blog.godreports.com/2014/12/american-missionaries-survived-shooting-in-philippines-prayed-throughout-ordeal/>



India

Moses Vatipalli (project coordinator for the All India Christian Council, spoke on the increasing anti-Christian violence in Andhra Pradesh state “The jump from 39 incidents in 2012 to 72 incidents in 2013 is alarming, and the reasons for this escalated growth on the Christian minorities is the culmination of every effort of the right-wing political party to woo the majority of the communal agenda in the coming election of 2014”)

India: Pali village, Ramgarh district, Jharkhand state

Christians beaten when Hindu extremists invaded a worship service at the home of Pastor Tilas Bedia)

Pastor Tilas Bedia (convert, brother of Chandra Bedia, beaten along with his 60 year old mother)

http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/03/article_3038329.html/

<http://au.christiantoday.com/article/police-in-india-rebuke-file-case-against-christians-fleeing-hindu-extremist-attack/17082.htm>



Pakistan; Sadiq Bazar

Komal Yousaf (aged 15, daughter of Yousaf Masih and Rubina, abducted and forcibly married and converted to Islam, police refused to help)

Yousaf Masih (father of Komal Yousaf, threatened with death if he continued to try to secure her return, told that he can see her if he accepts Islam)

Rubina (mother of Komal Yousaf, threatened with death if she continued to try to secure her return, told that she can see her if she accepts Islam)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4756>



Somalia: Barawa, Lower Shebelle region

Sadia Ali Omar (aged 41, mother of girls aged 8 and 15, cousin of Osman Mohamoud Moge, **beheaded** in front of her daughters after found to be a Christian, daughters have been relocated to another location because their lives are also in danger)

Osman Mohamoud Moge (aged 35, cousin of Sadia Ali Omar, **beheaded** after found to be a Christian)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/03/islamic-extremists-in-somalia-behead-two-christians/>



Uganda: Iki-Iki township, Pallisa district

Wenene Nuru (aged 23, college graduate, beaten by her father after converting to Christianity, escaped, was hospitalized for a week)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/03/young-woman-in-uganda-hospitalized-after-father-beats-her-mulindes-sight-saved/>



Nigeria: Gwon, Gwarama, Gwarim and Torok villages, Rim district, Riyom local government area, and Gida Bua village, Langtang South local government area, Plateau state

Daniel Dem (state legislator; **UPDATE:** said of the most recent Fulani Muslim attack on five villages in which 20 died “I also believe the Special Task Force deployed to restore order is involved in the killings. In most of the villages, there are STF officers, why are they not going after the attackers, if they are not involved?”)

Nigeria: Gwon, Gwarama, Gwarim and Torok villages, Rim district, Riyom local government area, Plateau state

Pastor Daniel Bitrus Manjang (said “About 200 houses were burned, and 16 Christians were killed”)

Rev Patrick Kim (said the attack began about 4 PM and continued until 12:30 AM)

<http://thenationonlineng.net/new/20-killed-in-plateau-midnight-attack-2/>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/03/muslim-gunmen-in-nigeria-kill-16-christians-destroy-numerous-homes/>



Vatican City

Pope Francis aka Jorge Mario Bergoglio SJ (**UPDATE:** said “Blessed are you when people insult you, when you are persecuted for my name's sake’...This is because the world does not tolerate the divinity of Christ. It doesn't tolerate the announcement of the Gospel. It does not tolerate the Beatitudes. And so we have persecutions: with words, with insults, the things that they said about Christians in the early centuries, the condemnations, imprisonment...But we easily forget. We think of the many Christians, 60 years ago, in the labour camps, in the camps of the Nazis, of the communists: So many of them! For

being Christians! And even today...But 'today we are better educated and these things no longer exist'. Yes they do! And I tell you that today there are more martyrs than during the early times of the Church")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Pope:-Remember-that-among-Christians-there-are-more-martyrs-today-than-in-the-early-days-of-the-Church-30465.html>



United States – California: University of California, Santa Barbara

Thrin Short (aged 16, sister of Joan Short, assaulted during a pro-life demonstration by a professor of 'feminist studies...with specialties in pornography and sex work')

Joan Short (aged 21, sister of Thrin Short, witnessed the assault on her sister)

<http://www.thecollegefix.com/post/16673/>

Wednesday March 5, 2014



Bhutan: Khapdani village, Samtse district

Two pastors arrested for holding an unauthorized public meeting with 30 Christians but not officially charged, the meeting was for the ground breaking of a new house

Pastor M.B. Thapa aka Lobzang (arrested)

Pastor Tandin Wangyal (arrested)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/04/two-pastors-in-bhutan-jailed-without-charges/>



India: Pali village, Ramgarh district, Jharkhand state

Christians beaten when Hindu extremists invaded a [March 4, 2014](#) worship service at the home of Pastor Tilas Bedia, **UPDATE: on the following day the extremists returned and dragged 15 Christians through the streets, police refused to file a report on the incident)**

Pastor Tilas Bedia (convert, brother of Chandra Bedia, beaten along with his 60 year old mother, **UPDATE:** was again beaten with his mother, then was paraded half naked through the streets and driven from the village)

Chandra Bedia (convert, brother of Pastor Tilas Bedia, beaten and paraded half naked through the streets and then driven from the village, family also beaten)

Pastor Jodhan Bedia (convert, beaten)

Manita Kumari (aged 16, beaten, told she would never marry, forced to worship Hindu idols)

Meenu Kumari (aged 17, beaten, told she would never marry, forced to worship Hindu idols)

<http://au.christiantoday.com/article/police-in-india-rebuke-file-case-against-christians-fleeing-hindu-extremist-attack/17082.htm>



Kazakhstan: Petropavl

Aleksandr Pukhov (**UPDATE:** sentenced to 5 days' imprisonment for failure to carry out court decisions)



Iran: Shush

Eight Christians - 1 church employee and 7 recent converts - beaten and arrested during a picnic, 5 released

Amin Khaki (church employee, arrested)

Hossain Danial Barro Zadeh (arrested)

Rahman Ziya Bahmani (arrested)

Hossain Yunatan E`temadi Far (arrested, released)

Mohammad Bahrami (arrested, released)

Salimeh Rahimi Merta (arrested, released)

Fatemeh Bagheri (arrested, released)

Amineh Mo`ala (arrested, released)

Iran: Karaj

Pastor Behnam Irani (**UPDATE:** prison cell searched, Bible and religious books seized)

<https://hra-news.org/en/8-christians-arrested-shush>

<http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2014/March/Iran-Police-Beat-Arrest-Pastor-Two-Christians/>

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8334:prison-authorities-seize-prisoner-of-consciences-bible&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Kenya: Bamburi, Mombasa

Michael Peter (described an attack in the previous week by ten assailants on two churches that resulted in seven Christians being injured)

<http://www.christianpersecution.info/index.php?view=12809>



Egypt: Cairo

Mina Elkess (aged 28, ophthalmologist, working to make more Copts active in politics)

Beshoy Tamry (aged 25, working to make more Copts active in politics)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20140305154033.htm>



Russia: St Petersburg

Pastor Igor Sokolov (Harvest Pentecostal Church liquidated by the local government, **UPDATE:** appeal denied)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1943



Nigeria: Abuja

David Mark (Federal Senate president, called for reconciliation and repentance during Lent, said of Boko Haram “I find it extremely difficult to understand why this violent groups would invade schools and opened fire on innocent and defenceless students”)

Fr Innocent Jooji (spoke at Mass on the need for hope and spiritual renewal)

<http://thenationonlineng.net/new/boko-haram-mark-seeks-dialogue-reconciliation-forgiveness-at-lent/>



United States - Tennessee

Uwe and Hannelore Romeike (fled Germany in 2008 due to a Nazi era law that prevented them from giving their children a Christian education at home, the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals has rejected their application for asylum in May 2013; **UPDATE:** Supreme Court refused to hear their case, but Homeland Security has granted them indefinite deferred action status, which means they will not be deported)

<http://www.charismanews.com/us/43013-after-outcry-german-homeschooling-family-allowed-to-stay-in-us>

Thursday March 6, 2014



Brunei

Bishop Cornelius Sim (**UPDATE:** said that the pending imposition of Islamic law will make it illegal to teach Christianity in Christian schools if a Muslim student is present)

<http://directory.ucanews.com/news/brunei-turning-into-dream-destination-for-taliban/1020>



Kazakhstan: Zhaksy

Vyacheslav Flotch (**UPDATE:** sentenced to 5 days' imprisonment for failure to carry out court decisions)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1937



Sweden

Ellinor Grimmark (aged 37, wife and mother, refused employment as a midwife because she refused to perform abortions, has filed a discrimination complaint)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/03/woman-in-sweden-denied-work-as-midwife-for-refusing-to-perform-abortion/>



United States – California: Lake Elsinore

Annamarie Devaney (removed a cross from the site of her son's death in a motor vehicle accident after receiving complaints from an atheist organization, other residents then replaced the cross and added signs that complained of the atheists' actions)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/calif-residents-protest-removal-of-memorial-cross-after-atheists-complaint-115866/>

Friday March 7, 2014



Pakistan: Okara district, Islamabad

New church under construction vandalized by Muslims

Akber Masih (owner of land on which a new church was being built, construction vandalized)

Sohail Johnson (described vandalism to a new church under construction)

Farrukh H Saif (**UPDATE**: said he will legally defend the construction of the new church)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4725>



Uzbekistan: Kokand

Abdulhafis Ashiraliyev (home raided by police and personal computer seized on **February 1, 2014**, **UPDATE**: fined 10 times the minimum monthly wage)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1938



Nigeria

Pastor William Kumuyi (**UPDATE**: called on Nigerians to support the nation's security agencies)

<http://www.osundefender.org/?p=153557>

Saturday March 8, 2014



China: Beijing

Zhou Jinxia (reported on harassment of churchgoers by men claiming to be from another province, the men seemed to be organized in teams that alternated their stalking, police did not respond when called)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/03/beijing-holy-love-fellowship-harassed.html>



Egypt: Nag Hamad, Tahta, Sohag province

Mohsen Fathi Salib (brother of a girl aged 17 who was apparently abducted after going to a hospital with laryngitis, police failed to search for her)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53045#.UyufmsLQcfg>



Nigeria: Fota town, Gombi local government area, Adamawa state

Fr Lawrence Dim (described a Boko Haram attack in which a police station was burned and seven officers killed, then said “Many of the people have fled the area, but [the attackers] burnt down three churches: there is EYN and LCCN Churches and one other church. They also injured some people and killed some”)

http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/03/article_3051259.html/

Sunday March 9, 2014



Uzbekistan: Samarkand

Four Christians are expecting administrative punishment after an antiterrorism police raid on a worship service in which Bibles and Christian literature was seized

Veniamin Nemirov (husband of Yelena Nemirov, home raided during a worship service, threatened with their children's expulsion from school)

Yelena Nemirov (wife of Veniamin Nemirov, home raided during a worship service, threatened with their children's expulsion from school)

Nadezhda Nemirova (aged 10, daughter of Veniamin and Yelena Nemirov, accused of distributing Christian leaflets at her school)

Alisher Abdullayev (husband of Oksana Abdullayev, present during the raid on the home of Veniamin and Yelena Nemirov)

Oksana Abdullayev (wife of Alisher Abdullayev, present during the raid on the home of Veniamin and Yelena Nemirov)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1938



Kazakhstan: Kaynar village, Kordai district, Jambyl region

Larisa Lange (teacher, religious service in her home raided by police)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1970



Syria

Bishop Antoine Audo SJ (**UPDATE:** wrote "Today, the first Sunday of Lent, will see churches crowded across the globe. But here in Syria, where St Paul found his faith, many churches stand empty, targets for bombardment and desecration. Aleppo, where I have been bishop for 25 years, is devastated. We have become accustomed to the daily dose of death and destruction, but living in such uncertainty and fear exhausts the body and the mind... We hear the thunder of bombs and the rattle of gunfire, but we don't always know what is happening. It's hard to describe how chaotic, terrifying and psychologically difficult it is when you have no idea what will happen next, or where the next rocket will fall. Many Christians cope with the tension by being fatalistic: that whatever happens is

God's will...Until the war began, Syria was one of the last remaining strongholds for Christianity in the Middle East. We have 45 churches in Aleppo. But now our faith is under mortal threat, in danger of being driven into extinction...")

Date: March 9, 2014

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10684366/We-Christians-live-in-fear-in-Syria.html>



Egypt: Haram district, Giza

Salwa Nasser Iskandar (aged 18, abducted, father threatened with death by armed masked men when he searched for her)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53005#.Uypc3MLQcfg>



United States - New York

Elizabeth Joice (**died of cancer**, had delayed chemotherapy to avoid hurting her daughter until she could be delivered by C-section)

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/mom-dies-of-cancer-after-forgoing-chemo-to-save-unborn-daughter>

Monday March 10, 2014



India: Pali village, Ramgarh district, Jharkhand state

Christians beaten when Hindu extremists invaded a [March 4, 2014](#) worship service at the home of Pastor Tilas Bedia, on the following day the extremists returned and dragged 15 Christians through the streets, **UPDATE: police refused to file a report on the incident but did file a complaint of forced conversions against four of the Christians five days later**

Pastor Tilas Bedia (convert, brother of Chandra Bedia, beaten both days along with his 60 year old mother, on the second day was paraded half naked through the streets and then was driven from the village, **UPDATE: of forced conversions**)

Chandra Bedia (convert, brother of Pastor Tilas Bedia, beaten and paraded half naked through the streets and then driven from the village, family also beaten, **UPDATE:** accused of forced conversions)

Pastor Jodhan Bedia (convert, beaten, **UPDATE:** accused of forced conversions)

Pastor Rampath Nath (accused of forced conversions)

<http://au.christiantoday.com/article/police-in-india-rebuke-file-case-against-christians-fleeing-hindu-extremist-attack/17082.htm>



Uzbekistan: Mirzo-Ulugbek district, Tashkent

Vera Raupova (home raided by antiterrorism police, 166 Bibles and other religious books seized)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1938



Iraq

Patriarch Louis Raphael I Sako (**UPDATE:** announced a campaign to aid 1,000 families that have fled from terrorism in Fallujah to Bagdad)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20140310173514.htm>



Syria

Mother Pelagia Sayaf (abducted by Islamist rebels from Maaloula on December 2, 2013; **UPDATE:** released from captivity with 12 of her sister nuns and 3 maids in [Arsal, Lebanon](#))

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26510202>

<http://www.churchinchains.ie/node/701>



Egypt: Sadat district, Assiut

Eman Ramzi Wahib (aged 15, abducted from in front of her high school, abductor has been arrested but police refuse to return her to her family)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52833#.Ux6gPcKUM5s>



Libya

Salama Fawzi Tobia (aged 24, shot in the head on March 2, 2014 in Benghazi, in intensive care; **UPDATE:** has been brought to Egypt, is reportedly near death)

Fr Abdel Motagalli Thabet (called on the Egyptian government to help pay for the medical costs of Salama Fawzi Tobia)

Libya

Mina Philip (reported that 'several' Copts tried to cross the border into Egypt on two trucks but turned back when they saw a 'large number' of armed masked men waiting for them)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/03/egyptian-christian-shot-in-libya-near-death/>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52828#.Ux6fjsKUM5s>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52835#.Ux6ezcKUM5t>

Tuesday March 11, 2014



China

Li Wenxi (bookseller, husband of Li Caihong and father of two, arrested and beaten in December 2012; convicted on June 17, 2013 of illegally operating a business [his bookstore], sentenced to two years imprisonment; **UPDATE:** has told his wife during a visit to prison that he has led 'several' fellow inmates to Christianity, in addition to the three who he led to Christianity while in jail before his trial)

China: Zizhou county, Shaanxi province

Enrong aka Tiaorong (aged 38, has been detained by police in connection with the case against Feng Tiangdong, Zhang Baolin and Jiang "Mao" He)

Zhang Fuli (wife of Jiang "Mao" He, said that the arrest of Enrong is an attempt to continue the case despite the lack of prosecutorial evidence)

http://www.persecution.com/public/pray.aspx?prayerupdate_ID=NTU%3d

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/03/shaanxi-believers-cases-resubmitted-for.html>



Laos: Natahall village, Saybanghiang sub-district, Phin district

Christian families received eviction orders; **UPDATE: criticized at a 4 hour meeting for converting to an "American" religion**

Mr A-boun (leader of a family of 4)

Mr Lahaw (leader of a family of 4)

Mr Bountun (leader of a family of 4)

Ms Achak (leader of a family of 2)

Mr Sorn (leader of a family of 10)

<http://hrwlr.net/?p=5>



India: Gudrikiya village, Kandhamal district, Orissa state

Bhagawan Pradhan (aged 44, catechist, son of Danardan Pradhan, threatened by Hindu radicals after he helped begin the construction of a church to replace one destroyed in 2008)

Danardan Pradhan (aged 63, father of Bhagawan Pradhan, threatened by Hindu radicals after he helped begin the construction of a church to replace one destroyed in 2008)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Orissa:-Hindu-fundamentalists-block-Catholic-church-construction-30544.html>



Pakistan: Dera Ghazi Khan City

Sobia Masih (aged 19, daughter of Sharif Masih and Rani Bibi, abducted and sold as a sex slave by her mother's employer, police refuse to allow a report to be filed)

Sharif Masih (sanitary worker, husband of Rani Bibi, father of Sobia Masih)

Rani Bibi (domestic worker, wife of Sharif Masih, mother of Sobia Masih)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4759>



Egypt: Cairo

Rev Dr Safwat al Bayadi (Evangelical church leader, **UPDATE:** called on the government to send military aircraft to Libya for the evacuation of Coptic Christians)

Dr Nabil Zaki (Tagammu Party leader, called on the government to move quickly to evacuate Coptic Christians from Libya)

Rev Ikram Lamay (asked the government to take the persecution of Coptic Christians in Libya to the UN)

Egypt: Beni Suef

Karam Saber (novelist, sentence of 5 years imprisonment for contempt of religion for writing a collection of short stories entitled "Where is God?" upheld by an appellate court)

http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52858#.Ux_t8cKUMfg

http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52862#.Ux_v18KUMfg

http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52850#.Ux_xIMKUMfg

http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52851#.Ux_u_cKUMfg



Nigeria: Maiduguri

Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme (**UPDATE:** stated that more than 500 Catholics have been killed and 20 churches and rectories have been destroyed by the Boko Haram insurgency since 2009 in the northeast part of the country, and cited corruption and economic problems as part of the cause of the insurgency)

Nigeria

Gabriel Suswam (Governor of Benue state, escaped injury in an ambush of his vehicle convoy)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/35382->

[AFRICA NIGERIA Boko Haram over 500 Catholics killed and 20 churches and priests houses destroyed since 2009#.UyJv4sLQc5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/35382-)

http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/03/article_3082523.html/



Venezuela: La Otra Banda de La Victoria, Ribas municipality

Bishop Rafael Conde (denounced the vandalism at the church of Our Lady of La Candelaria in which the tabernacle was destroyed and consecrated hosts thrown on the ground)

Venezuela: Merida

Mgr Victor Hugo Basabe (described an attack on the church of Santa Barbara by 'irregular forces' during Mass)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/35387-AMERICA_VENEZUELA_Churches_subject_to_violence_and_sacrilegious_acts_even_during_Mass#.Ux_nQMKUMfg



United States – Iowa: Keokuk

Donna Holman (aged 79, arrested for demonstrating outside an abortion clinic)

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/79-year-old-woman-arrested-and-jailed-overnight-for-protesting-at-planned-p>

Wednesday March 12, 2014



North Korea

Kim Jeong-wook (aged 50 [2014], missionary, entered the country from China on November 11, 2013 to determine the fate of North Koreans forcibly returned by the Chinese government, arrested as a spy; publically confessed in Pyongyang on [February 27, 2014](#) to having spied for the South Korean NIS; **UPDATE**: the government has announced that 33 Christians allegedly associated with him will be executed)

<http://www.assistnews.net/Stories/2014/s14030051.htm>



China: Xucheng town, Xuyi county, Jiangsu province

Li Guangfang (arrested on [December 23, 2013](#) and sentenced for 5 days detention for "preaching the Gospel on Christmas Day", **UPDATE**: has filed an application to have the arrest expunged from her record)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/03/jiangsu-woman-submits-administrative.html>



Pakistan

Rafia Bibi Mansha (aged 14, abducted on [December 5, 2012](#), forcibly converted to Islam and forcibly married on [December 8, 2012](#), appeared in a Green Town, Lahore court on [February 4, 2013](#) to accuse her 'husband' of abduction and rape, is now the subject of threats for abduction again to return her to her 'husband'; **UPDATE**: home invaded by four Muslims who beat her and her parents, when police were notified they arrested the four perpetrators but also arrested her so as to force a "compromise" outcome)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/christian-family-was-beaten-and-tortured-by-four-muslim-men-for-filing-case/>



Iran

Pastor Saeed Abedini (**UPDATE**: recently hospitalized and tested for his chronic stomach pain - which results from prison beatings, hospital invaded by Revolutionary Guards who pinned him down and shackled him while roughing up and expelling an elderly relative from the hospital, told he will be returned to prison without treatment, denied the test results)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8323:pastor-s-abedini-taken-to-hospitalbut-shackled-and-forced-to-return-untreated&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Syria; Rakka

Rami (stated "As for the situation of Christians in Rakka—it is deplorable. 95 percent of its Christian population (i.e. 2000 families) were simply forced to flee...The first church to be burned down was the Catholic Church of Annunciation of Holy Theotokos; the second one - Armenian Church of Martyrs near the Ar Rashid park; the third—an Orthodox Church...Under one or another pretext [of course, unlawful] they deprived Christians of their apartments...")

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/69195.htm>



Central African Republic

Fr Aurelio Gazzera OCD (**UPDATE**: said "Safety conditions are improving in Bozoum, at least we managed to block the violence and theft that occurred in past days...The situation in Bangui, the capital, and in the north of the country is worrying, because Seleka groups and their allies are mainly concentrated in these areas and continue to pose a threat to urban centers such as Kaga Bandoro and Bambari...In the Catholic mission of Carnot for example, there are still thousands of displaced persons, while most of the Muslims have left because of the violence committed by the Anti Balaka...")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/35396-AFRICA_CENTRAL_AFRICA_The_situation_has_improved_in_Bozoum_but_the_situation_remains_precarious_in_the_rest_of_the_Country_says_a_missionary#.UyEm48LQc5s



United Kingdom: Brentwood

Lord David Alton (human rights advocate, spoke on Christian persecution "Hundreds of parliamentary hours can be spent asserting the rights of foxes or on discussing rights associated with our life-styles but when it comes to the killing of children and students, or the torching of their homes and places of worship, or the destruction of centuries old culture, our political classes have taken Trappist vows...If I was sitting in the rubble of a Syrian or Egyptian church, or in a gulag in North Korea, or had just seen my home destroyed or, even worse, my loved ones killed, I would think that our endless self absorbed debates, which often mirror the rights-driven agenda of the secular world, are self indulgence of a high order")

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=24338>

Thursday March 13, 2014



Kazakhstan: Oskemen

Gulsuna Kadenova (fined, **UPDATE**: appeal dismissed)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1960



Iran

Pastor Saeed Abedini (recently hospitalized and tested for his chronic stomach pain - which results from prison beatings, hospital invaded on [March 12, 2014](#) by Revolutionary Guards who pinned him down and shackled him while roughing up and expelling an elderly relative from the hospital, told he will be returned to prison without treatment, denied the test results; **UPDATE**: unshackled after his prison warden called the hospital and countermanded the Revolutionary Guards, condition still untreated)

<http://www.charismanews.com/world/43120-iran-calls-violent-treatment-of-persecuted-pastor-saeed-abedini-a-mistake>



Tanzania: Zanzibar

Islamists circulate leaflets calling Christians 'infidels' and promising a 'big funeral' for them

Fr Cosmas Shayo (said "The problem is the group is mixing calls for autonomy with religion. They issues threat to Christians. They have attacked churches and clergy. We become more afraid when they circulate threatening leaflets")

Rev Thomas Assenga (said "We fear anything can happen anytime. Things are not easy here")

http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/03/Article_3054684.html/

Friday March 14, 2014



China

Bo Ai (reported as having travelled the country giving seminars entitled Chinese Christian Faith and Legal Training Camp so that Christians can understand the law to their benefit)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/03/law-and-religious-training-seminars.html>



Myanmar

Pastor Chyauchy Tanggun (described the ongoing persecution of Christians by the government, now lives and ministers in a refugee camp)

Kareng Kaw Ja (prayed for peace and prosperity)

Bishop Raymond Sumlut Gam (is trying to see if the government will help rebuild destroyed churches)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/kachin-war-of-independence-is-a-test-of-faith/70493>



India: Cuttack, Orissa state

Sr Meena Barwa (niece of Archbishop John Barwa, raped by 10 men during the [August 25, 2008](#) anti-Christian pogrom in [Kandhamal, Orissa state](#); **UPDATE**: trial of her 9 identified assailants ended with 3 convictions and 6 acquittals, she was supported by her uncle during the trial)

Archbishop John Barwa (uncle of Sr Meena Barwa, **UPDATE**: supported his niece during her physical rehabilitation and during the trial of her rapists)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Orissa-pogrom:-three-convicted,-six-acquitted-of-gang-rape-of-Sister-Meena-Barwa-30557.html>



South Sudan: Malakal diocese, Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglei states

Msgr Roko Taban (spoke of the damage done to his diocese by the continuing intertribal conflict in which nearly the entire population has fled “We have lost everything...Many of our churches, homes and so on have been razed to the ground – and everything has been looted...We are miserable. Kindly remember us in your prayers”)

Sr Elena Balatti (Comboni missionary, said of the continuing intertribal conflict “[the diocese] is completely deserted, although our safety was guaranteed. Staying there would have been completely useless because we would not have had anyone to assist. The rebels are the only ones present”)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/03/14/violence-in-south-sudan-has-emptied-a-whole-region-says-church-leader/>



Egypt: Assiut

Fr Samaan (said police refused to permit a demonstration for the return of abduction victim Christina Marzouk Mahrous Hanna)

Egypt**Family of abducted girl receiving threats to drop the case**

Demiana Ayoub Gad EL-Sayed Abdel Massih (aged 14 [2013], daughter of Ayoub Ragaee Abdel Sayed, abducted while on her way home from tutoring on [May 17, 2011](#))

Ayoub Ragaee Abdel Sayed (father of Demiana Ayoub Gad EL-Sayed Abdel Massih)

Egypt: Kofour El Nil, Fayoum province

Malak Mikhael Naim (aged 30, abducted)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52930#.UyPYFcLQcfg>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52918#.UyPY5sLQcfg>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52924#.UyPbEsLQcfg>

**Ukraine: Kerch, Crimea**

Fr Mykhailo Milchakovskiy (said that many Ukrainian Catholics fear Russian annexation of the Crimea "Our church has no legal status in the Russian Federation, so it's uncertain which laws will be applied if Crimea is annexed. We fear our churches will be confiscated and our clergy arrested...Many have already stopped coming to church, after being branded nationalists and fascists by local provocateurs...We're counting on the prayers of Christians abroad...")

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/03/13/ukrainian-catholics-fear-new-oppression-after-russian-takeover/>

**Nigeria: Chenshyi village, Kaduna state**

Nuhu Moses (survived a suspected Fulani attack on his village in which more than 50 were killed, said "there is no house standing. All the houses were burnt by the attackers while people who attempted to run were gunned down. I was just lucky to have escaped, but our Pastor's wife, and kids were among the people that were butchered")

Nigeria: Ungwar Sankwai village, Kaduna state

Emmanuel Tonak (escaped from his village during an attack)

Jonathan Bako (escaped a massacre in his village, the total dead for the three villages attacked exceeds 100)

Mrs Jummai Likita Riku (**killed** by Fulani gunmen, her three children were also killed)

Rev Yakubu Gandu Nkut (**UPDATE**: reported on the murder of Mrs Jummai Likita Riku, her children, and more than 100 other Christians)

Daniel Anyip (vice chairman of the Kaura Local Government, described how women and children were burned to death in their homes)

Bishop George Jonathan Dodo (**UPDATE**: called on the government to end the systematic persecution of Christians)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/03/more-than-100-christians-slain-as-fulani-herdsmen-burn-homes-church-buildings-in-nigeria/>

<http://thenationonlineng.net/new/100-killed-kaduna-village/>

http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/03/Kadunavillagesdeathtollrises_3068545.html/



Belgium

Joni Eareckson Tada (broadcaster and disability activist, challenged lawmakers to explain why children can be offered euthanasia but denied alcohol, tobacco, and pornography)

Saturday March 15, 2014



Philippines: Oton, Iloilo province

Romeo Capalla (aged 65, brother of Archbishop Emeritus Antonio Capalla, human rights activist, **shot dead**)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/philippines-rights-group-accuses-army-of-killing-activist/70505>



India

Sajan K George (President of the Global Council of Indian Christians; **UPDATE:** said that the acquittal of 6 of the 9 who raped Sr Meena Barwa in 2008 "clearly indicates an institutional prejudice against the Christian community")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Orissa,-ruling-on-raped-nun-example-of-collusion-between-the-state-and-Hindu-extremists-30569.html>



Pakistan

St Paul High School staff beaten and tortured by three armed men who then threatened death if the school was not closed

Zulifqar Masih (principal of St Paul High School, beaten and tortured)

Mrs Zulifqar (staff member of St Paul High School, beaten and tortured)

Mrs Imran (staff member of St Paul High School, beaten and tortured)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/torture-and-death-threats-against-christian-school-principal-and-two-women-rights-defenders-in-pakistan/>



Egypt: Sohag

Safwat Fayez (aged 48, merchant, abducted)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52964#.UyZspsLQcfg>



Libya

Salama Fawzi Tobia (aged 24, shot in the head on March 2, 2014 in Benghazi, **UPDATE: has died from his injury**)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=52936#.UyUkx8LQcfg>



Czech Republic

Fr Tomas Halik (aged 65, awarded the 2014 Templeton Prize for advancing Christian-atheist dialog and for illegally advancing religious and cultural freedom after the 1968 Soviet invasion)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/03/13/priest-who-fought-for-religious-liberty-during-soviet-occupation-is-awarded-templeton-prize/>

Sunday March 16, 2014



China: Shanghai

Bishop Joseph Fan Zhongliang SJ (aged 97, underground bishop of Shanghai, **died after suffering a fever for several days**, had spent about 30 years in prison and labor camps, government demanded that his body be shown with limited hours in a funeral home and not a church)

Bishop Thaddeus Ma Daqin (ordained as bishop in Shanghai on **July 7, 2012**, then disappeared after stating in his first homily that he would resign from the state-sponsored church; **UPDATE**: still under house arrest, is the only bishop of Shanghai now that Bishops Aloysius Jin Luxian and Joseph Fan Zhongliang have both died)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Msgr.-Joseph-Fan-Zhongliang,-underground-bishop-of-Shanghai,-has-died-30573.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mgr-Fan-Zhongliang's-body-taken-to-a-funeral-home,-not-at-church-30581.html>



Sri Lanka: Kilinochchi

Fr Praveen Mahesan OMI (director of the Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, arrested by antiterrorism police when he inquired about the arrest of a woman and her 13 year old daughter on harboring charges)

Ruki Fernando (special advisor of the Center for human rights documentation, arrested by antiterrorism police when he inquired about the arrest of a woman and her 13 year old daughter on harboring charges)

Fr Ashok (attorney, confirmed the arrests of Fr Praveen Mahesan and Ruki Fernando despite police denials)

Fr Rohan Silva OMI (spoke with Fr Praveen Mahesan after his arrest)

Bishop Rayappu Joseph (aged 73, defended Fr Praveen Mahesan and Ruki Fernando after their arrests, asked "Where is democracy and the rule of law in the country?")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Sri-Lanka,-Catholic-priest-and-human-rights-activist-arrested-30574.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/sri-lankan-human-rights-workers-held-on-terrorism-charges/70506>



Pakistan

Parveen Bibi (wife of Sadiq Masih, mother of Zulfiqar, Nargis Bibi, and Waqar Masih, **shot dead** in a home invasion)

Zulfiqar (aged 17, son of Parveen Bibi and Sadiq Masih, **shot dead** in a home invasion)

Sadiq Masih (husband of Parveen Bibi, shot in a home invasion, hospitalized, saved by his wife's intervention)

Waqar Masih (son of Parveen Bibi and Sadiq Masih, saved by his mother's intervention during a home invasion)

Nargis Bibi (daughter of Parveen Bibi and Sadiq Masih, sister of Zulfiqar, recounted the killing of her mother and brother during a home invasion)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/brutal-double-murder-of-a-christian-mother-and-her-son/>



Somalia: Mogadishu

Abdishakur Yusuf (underground church leader, husband, father of three aged 11, 8 and 5, **shot dead** outside his home)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/05/key-leader-of-somalias-underground-church-slain/>



Ukraine: Sevastopol, Crimea

Fr Mykola [Nicholas] Kvyach (abducted twice by pro-Russian forces, released twice)

Ukraine: Yevpatoria, Crimea

Fr Bohdan Kostaskey (abducted by pro-Russian forces, released)

Ukraine: Yalta, Crimea

Fr Ihor Gabryliv (abducted by pro-Russian forces, released)

Ukraine: Kyiv aka Kiev

Patriarch Filaret (aged 84, expressed concern that the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyiv Patriarchate would be outlawed by a Russian annexation of the Crimea)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/three-abducted-priests-in-crimea-returned-safely/>
<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/After-the-referendum,-the-Ukrainian-Church-Kyiv-Patriarchate-fears-ban-in-Crimea-30577.html>



Nigeria: Maiduguri

Fr John Bakeni (presided at a Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral that was attended by over 2,000 people, said the following day "Yesterday morning there were a lot of bomb explosions but that did not seem to deter people from coming to church. It was a very humbling and edifying experience to see so many people at Mass. The place was packed. When it came to the homily, I said to them that there was no need to preach. I told them: 'Your presence in such large numbers is a homily in itself'", also called on the world to pray for Nigeria: "We are all living in fear now, looking up to God and counting on your prayers")

Nigeria: Pela Birni village, Hawul Local Government Area, Borno state

Rev Yusuf Balami (described an attack on his village "The Boko Haram gunmen killed two Christians and burned two churches", added that his home was also burned)

<http://britishpakistanichristian.blogspot.com/2014/03/mass-of-courage.html>
<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/03/islamist-gunmen-kill-two-christians-in-nigerias-borno-state-after-fulani-onslaught-in-taraba/>

Monday March 17, 2014



India: Chadurupally village, Andhra Pradesh state

Rev B. Rajarathnam (beaten in his home by more than 15 radical Hindus, wife beaten unconscious and hospitalized, a wall of his home was demolished)

<http://www.persecution.org/2014/04/28/attacks-on-christians-spike-as-hindu-nationalists-set-to-take-control-of-india/>



Pakistan: Lahore

Asia Bibi (mother of five still incarcerated on blasphemy charges after a 2010 death sentence;

UPDATE: appeal postponed again to another unspecified date after one of the two judges did not appear)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Asia-Bibi's-appeal-hearing-postponed-30583.html>



Uzbekistan: Tashkent

Deacon Grigory Kasparov (husband of Yelena Kasparova, home searched by police and religious items seized)

Yelena Kasparova (wife of Grigory Kasparov, home searched by police and religious items seized,)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1958

Tuesday March 18, 2014



China: Batang county, Sichuan province

Zhang Feng (husband of Yong Jun, house church leader, detained for distributing Christian literature, sentenced to 10 days administrative detention)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/04/sichuan-couple-threatened-by-husbands.html>



Sri Lanka: Maradana

Fr George Sigamoney (called on the authorities to allow Fr Praveen Maneshan and Ruki Fernando access to legal counsel)

Fr Marimuttu Sathivel (said that the arrests of Fr Praveen Maneshan and Ruki Fernando may be motivated by the military desire to maintain a presence in the northern and eastern provinces)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Slamming-the-arrest-of-a-priest-and-an-activist,-Church-calls-for-their-immediate-release-30591.html>



Kazakhstan: Burabai

Sergei Golovanenko (sentenced to 2 days' imprisonment for refusing to pay his fine)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2004



Ukraine

Fr Volodymyr Zhdan (said “At this moment all Ukrainian Greek Catholic life in Crimea is paralyzed” due to the Russian intervention, added of the abductions of Fathers Mykola [Nicholas] Kvych, Bohdan Kostaskiy , and Ihor Gabryliv: “multiple kidnappings are not an accident”)

Bishop Vasyl Ivasyuk (said “During Soviet times, we were always accused of being ‘agents’ of the Vatican. Of course not all people in Crimea think we are spies, but there is a very active pro-Russian group there that does”)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/ukrainian-catholics-experiencing-total-persecution-in-crimea/>



Greece: Lesbos

Family drowned fleeing from Syria, one survived

Suheyla (aged 53, **drowned**)

Fadi (son of Suheyla, survived)

Rozalin (daughter of Suheyla, **drowned**)

Josef (husband of Rozalin, **drowned**)

Martina (small child of Rozalin and Josef, **drowned**)

Carlos (small child of Rozalin and Josef, **drowned**)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20140321224907.htm>

Wednesday March 19, 2014



China: Huizhou and Shenzhen, Guangdong province

Xiao (director of a [Huizhou](#) house church care center for the homeless, disabled, orphaned, and elderly, told by police that their care center must move out and that the church is illegal)

Huang (director of a [Shenzhen](#) house church care center for the homeless, disabled, orphaned, and elderly, expressed concern for the residents' care should the two care centers be forced to merge)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/03/guangdong-government-threatens-to-shut.html>



Sri Lanka: Colombo

Fr Praveen Mahesan OMI (director of the Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, arrested by antiterrorism police in [Kilinochchi](#) on [March 16, 2014](#); **UPDATE**: released from jail)

Ruki Fernando (special advisor of the Center for human rights documentation, arrested by antiterrorism police in [Kilinochchi](#) on [March 16, 2014](#); **UPDATE**: released from jail, said "I truly believe that only the prayers and the massive attention paid by so many friends and colleagues here and around the world guaranteed my safety and that of Fr. Praveen. I thank God, who has heard and granted His full mediation")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Sri-Lanka,-priest-and-human-rights-activist-released:-Prayer-can-do-anything-30597.html>



Pakistan: Punjab

Chaudhry Mushtaq Gill (attorney and member of parliament, won a suit against the University of Sargodha for violating employment law by refusing to hire non-Muslims for anything other than menial positions - 102 of the 111 Christians hired since 2010 became street sweepers - but the University has failed to implement the court decree)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/muslim-university-refuses-to-appoint-christians-for-anything-but-low-ranked-jobs/>



Egypt: Mallawi district, Minya

Peter Nagi Farah (aged 4, abducted while walking with his sister to his nursery)

Egypt: Tenda village, Malawi, Minya province

Mishael Angly Gabrah (farmer, abducted while working his land)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53019#.Uypdm8LQcfg>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53040#.UyugdcLQcfg>



Ukraine

Major Archbishop Svyatoslav Shevchuk (**UPDATE:** wrote “These attacks are nothing new. In them we trace an echo of everything our martyr-Church experienced in the not-so-distant Communist past”)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/03/25/priest-ukrainian-catholics-flee-crimea-to-escape-threats-of-arrest/>



Kosovo: Mogila village, Kosovska Vitina municipality

Svetlana Stevic (described the vandalism of 36 acres of church owned greenhouses, said that some soup kitchens may be left hungry as a result)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2014/03/unidentified-perpetrators-damage-greenhouses-in-serbian-orthodox-churches-in-kosovo/>



Nigeria: Kaduna state

Pastor Mathias Yashim (conducted a prayer session to honor the more than 100 people killed in the last week and to ask for peace)

<http://www.assistnews.net/Stories/2014/s14030096.htm>

Thursday March 20, 2014



Vietnam

Le Quoc Quan (aged 41 in 2012, lawyer, blogger, and human rights activist; **UPDATE**: prison administration has denied him a Bible and access to clergy)

Marie Ta Phong Tan (aged 43 in 2012, former policewoman; **UPDATE**: beaten in prison by compliant prisoners, denied a Bible and access to clergy)

Paul Tran Minh Nhat (**UPDATE**: prison administration has denied him a Bible and access to clergy)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Prisoners-of-conscience-in-Vietnam-not-allowed-to-go-to-Mass-or-even-have-a-Bible-30611.html>



Kazakhstan: Kaynar village, Kordai district, Jambyl region

Larisa Lange (teacher, religious service in her home raided by police, **UPDATE**: fined US\$ 500)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1970



Iran: Shiraz

Vahid Hakkani (convert, sentenced to three years and eight months in prison on [June 16, 2013](#) for "acts harmful to the Islamic Regime"; **UPDATE**: has begun a hunger strike to protest the rejection of his conditional release appeal)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8390:iranian-christian-prisoner-goes-on-hunger-strike&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Algeria: Chardaia

Bishop Claude Rault M Afr (**UPDATE**: wrote a letter to all inhabitants of the M'Zab Valley pledging Christian assistance to mediate the end of the sectarian violence between Berbers and Sunni Islamists)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/35433->

[AFRICA ALGERIA Violence in the valley of M Zab Christians pray for peace#. UyuWIMLQcfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/35433-)



United States - New York

Chang Qaing Zhu (imprisoned and beaten in China for attending an underground church, denial of asylum overturned by the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals, which found that the immigration judge had acted improperly when she demanded that he name the precise year that St Paul converted to Christianity)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/03/politichicks-2nd-circuit-judge-deems.html>

Friday March 21, 2014



China: Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region

Li (described how police raided a training program at a nursing home, four attendees given 15 day administrative detentions, an American missionary in attendance was fined US\$127 and expelled)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/06/four-detained-for-training-program-in.html>



Sri Lanka

Fr Praveen Mahesan OMI (director of the Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, arrested by antiterrorism police in [Kilinochchi](#) on [March 16, 2014](#); released from jail on [March 19, 2014](#) in [Colombo](#); **UPDATE**: subject of a restraining order that prohibits him leaving the country or talking to the press, and requires him to turn over his cell phone and computer to the antiterrorism police)

Ruki Fernando (special advisor of the Center for human rights documentation, arrested by antiterrorism police in [Kilinochchi](#) on [March 16, 2014](#); released from jail on [March 19, 2014](#) in [Colombo](#); **UPDATE**: subject of a restraining order that prohibits him leaving the country or talking to the press, and requires him to turn over his cell phone and computer to the antiterrorism police)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Sri-Lanka:-Freed-Catholic-activists-“forbidden-to-speak-to-press-or-leave-country-30621.html>



Syria

Patriarch Ignatius Zakka I Iwas (**UPDATE**: **died of a heart attack** at age 81 in [Germany](#))

Syria: Kessab

Father Miron Avedissian (spoke on how rebels from Ahrar al-Sham seized his town from Turkish territory, brought in foreign media to show how well they were treating Christians, and then attacked churches and cemeteries after the media left, said "They took photographs to show they were looking after the churches, and then set them alight. It all still happened in the first day")

Zavinar Sargdegian (aged 58, said "I was at home with my husband when they raided the house. They broke down the front door. They pushed us on to the street. We were on our knees and they put a gun to our heads. From the road I saw the Angelic Church burning. Fire was coming out of the doors and windows", added that the rebels were from Chechnya, Tunisia and Libya)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2014/03/statement-issued-by-the-general-secretariat-of-the-holy-syrian-orthodox-church-of-antioch/>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150103213217.htm>

Saturday March 22, 2014



Pakistan: Islamabad

Dr Nazir S Bhatti (**UPDATE**: condemned the Capital Development Authority's plan to demolish a slum in which 2,000 Christian families live because the plan includes no provision for new housing for these families - they will all become homeless)

Pakistan: Pind Dadan Khan, Jehlum district, Punjab province

Ashraf Gola (brother of Sharafat Gola, recently cleared of charges of blasphemy, **shot dead** in an automobile along with a friend)

Sharafat Gola (brother of Ashraf Gola, reported on his brother's murder)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4770>

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/man-assassinated-although-being-freed-in-blasphemy-case/>

Sunday March 23, 2014



Kenya: Likoni

Six killed and 17 hospitalized in an attack by two gunmen on the Joy Jesus church

Lilian Omondi (was leading a prayer at the time of the attack "Both carried big guns and began shooting all over the place. I fell to the ground and could hear screams")

Assistant Pastor Phillip Musasa (husband of Sarah Ambetsa, **shot dead**)

Sarah Ambetsa (widow of Assistant Pastor Phillip Musasa, shot, hospitalized)

<http://www.persecution.org/2014/03/23/4-killed-in-attack-on-kenyan-church/>

<http://www.ecumenicalnews.com/article/gunmen-kill-six-in-attack-on-kenyan-church-23006>



Egypt: Abu Tig, Assiut province

Fr Samaan Fahim Shehata (automobile and other property set on fire)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53218#.UzZY9cLQc5s>



Turkey: Kazhcesme, Istanbul

Athanasios Ozkaremihologlu (church custodian, escaped from several young men who proceeded to desecrate the Agia Paraskevi church and steal relics, police refused to intervene when notified)

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I (**UPDATE**: expressed indignation over the desecration of the Agia Paraskevi church)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Orthodox-church-vandalised-in-Istanbul-30666.html>

Monday March 24, 2014



Syria

Patriarch Karekin II (from [Etchmiadzin, Armenia](#) condemned the [March 21 2014](#) terrorist attack on the town of [Kessab](#) in which 80 Christians died and 3,000 were forced to flee)

Syria: Aleppo

Fr Joseph Bazuzu (church dome hit and damaged by a missile during the Divine Liturgy, windows broken, no one was injured)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2014/03/mother-see-of-holy-etchmiadzin-condemns-terrorist-attacks-by-extremists-in-kessab/>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/35481->

[ASIA SYRIA Missile on an Armenian church in Aleppo during Mass#.UzZSfcLQc5s](#)

Tuesday March 25, 2014



Indonesia: Cibubur, Bekasi regency, West Java

Fr Rudianto (described the revocation of his church's building permit for the purpose of avoiding 'sectarian violence')

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/West-Java,-Islamists-block-construction-of-a-Catholic-Church-30646.html>



Uzbekistan: Tashkent

Deacon Grigory Kasparov (husband of Yelena Kasparova, home searched by police on [March 17, 2014](#), religious items seized, **UPDATE**: fined for "illegally storing" his own Christian books in his home, books were destroyed even before his conviction)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1958



Ukraine

Fr Mykhailo Milchakovskiy (**UPDATE**: has fled Crimea with his family and at least two-thirds of his parishioners, said that only one priest and deacon from the Ukraine Catholic church remain)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/03/25/priest-ukrainian-catholics-flee-crimea-to-escape-threats-of-arrest/>



Russia

Yelena Mizulina (Duma member, has been placed on the U.S. government's sanctions list despite having no responsibility for the Crimea annexation, her addition to the list is suspected to be due to her pro-life stances)

Fr Maxim Obukhov (**UPDATE**: said "President Obama is using the economic sanctions against Yelena Mizulina to send a very clear message to Russian Christians")

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/is-obama-using-the-crimea-crisis-to-punish-a-prominent-pro-life-and-pro-fam>



Libya: Benghazi

Heshmat Luka (reported that Christians are being subjected to murder, beating, dragging, and persecution)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53160#.UzJECcLQc5s>



Nigeria

Archbishop Yiman Okrwar (**UPDATE**: said after more than 100 Christians have been killed by Muslim gunmen and 20 churches destroyed "The federal government cannot allow the genocide going on in Benue State to continue. Today, another 14 persons have been killed by the Muslim group. We can't allow this indiscriminate killing to go on")

http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/03/article_3082523.html/

Wednesday March 26, 2014



Pakistan: Lahore

Asia Bibi (**UPDATE**: blasphemy conviction and death sentence appeal hearing delayed again when the counterparty - complainant - failed to appear)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/35467->

[ASIA_PAKISTAN_Asia_Bibi_the_appeal_has_been_postponed_due_to_the_counterparty_s_use_of_tactics#.UzT5qMLQc5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/35467-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Asia_Bibi_the_appeal_has_been_postponed_due_to_the_counterparty_s_use_of_tactics#.UzT5qMLQc5s)



Uzbekistan

Alisher Abdullayev (husband of Oksana Abdullayev; **UPDATE**: home raided by police for non-payment of a 2012 fine but after a court order expired, vacuum cleaner, electric heater, and mobile phone seized)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1957



Egypt

Shenouda Riad Musa (abducted, ransom of 1 million pounds or US\$150,000 demanded of his family)

Egypt: Qalyubia

Romany Makram Zakaria Ghali (**shot dead** in a carjacking attempt)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/cs-releases/2559-coptic-abductions-and-the-jizya-rationale>
<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53199#.UzUIAMLQc5s>

Thursday March 27, 2014



Vietnam: Hanoi

Peter Doan Van Vuon (husband of Nguyen Thi Thuong, sentenced on April 5, 2013 to five years' imprisonment on attempted murder charges for his resistance of a government eviction of his home and business, sentence was unusually light for the charges; **UPDATE**: sentence upheld on appeal)

Nguyen Thi Thuong (wife of Peter Doan Van Vuon)

Bishop Paul Nguyen Thai Hop (**UPDATE**: had called for the acquittal of Peter Doan Van Vuon)

Bishop Joseph Vu Van Thien (had called for the acquittal of Peter Doan Van Vuon)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hero-who-fought-forced-evictions-jailed-and-fined-30671.html>



China: Zizhou county, Shaanxi province

Dongduo (aged 35, sister of Enrong, detained on charges of “gathering a crowd to assault a state official”)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/04/shaanxi-zizhou-authorities-detain-woman.html>



India: Mumbai

Fr Cedric Prakash SJ (**UPDATE**: said after he received a human rights award "In many ways, the 2002 carnage [in which over 1,044 died, 75% of whom were Muslim] ushered in a culture of death, not only in Gujarat but in the entire country. Nowadays many in India seem to legitimize it. A section of society backs someone [Narendra Damodardas Modi] as a candidate for prime minister who presided over this bloody chapter in the country's history...there can be no greater tragedy than what happens to 'the other' [when] it does not matter if we burn and loot, rape and kill, if we destroy life in all its sanctity")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Jesuit-priest-urges-fight-against-India's-culture-of-death-30674.html>



Pakistan: Faisalabad

Sawan Masih (**UPDATE**: found guilty of blasphemy, sentenced to death and fined 200,000 rupees – US\$1,044)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4788>



Turkmenistan: Ashgabad

Ogulbostan Amannazarova (home raided by police, all present detained, later fined US\$57)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2047



Qatar: Doha

U.S. couple sentenced to 3 years imprisonment for starving their 8-year old daughter Grace to death despite an autopsy that showed her illnesses were due to pre-adoption malnutrition

Matthew Huang (husband of Grace Huang, jailed in [January 2013](#) on murder charges after their 8-year old daughter Gloria died from anorexia, authorities accused him of adopting Gloria for organ harvesting since she was not "good looking", released from jail on [November 6, 2013](#); **UPDATE**: sentenced)

Grace Huang (wife of Matthew Huang, jailed in [January 2013](#) on murder charges after their 8-year old daughter Gloria died from anorexia, authorities accused her of adopting Gloria for organ harvesting since she was not "good looking", released from jail on [November 6, 2013](#); **UPDATE**: sentenced)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/american-couple-in-qatar-sentenced-to-3-years-for-allegedly-starving-adopted-daughter-supporters-vow-to-continue-fight-for-their-release-117145/>



Uganda

Pastor Umar Mulinde (attacked with acid on Christmas Eve 2011, blinded in right eye;

UPDATE: wrote that the Israeli doctors managed to save his sight and hearing, expressed concern for other converts “They continue to suffer discrimination, expulsion from families, and threats of death, and the recent rise of extremists taking important political positions is worrying us much. We are networking to keep resisting evil and looking for my possible return soon, though the perpetrators are yet to be apprehended. But we trust the One who saved me will continue His work”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/03/young-woman-in-uganda-hospitalized-after-father-beats-her-mulindes-sight-saved/>

Friday March 28, 2014



Pakistan: Lahore

Fr Inayat Bernard (rector of St Mary’s Minor Seminary; **UPDATE:** led a day of prayer, Bible study, and fasting with priests, religious, seminarians, and laypeople for the release of Asia Bibi and Sawan Masih, both of whom have been sentenced to death for blasphemy)

Pervez Paulus (catechist, prayed at St Mary’s Minor Seminary for the release of Asia Bibi and Sawan Masih)

Fr Andrew Nisari (**UPDATE:** current pastor of the parish of Sawan Masih and his neighbors, the parish church had been burnt during the [March 9, 2013](#) rioting following the arrest of Sawan Masih on blasphemy charges)

Chaman Masih (father of Sawan Masih; **UPDATE:** said “During the hearings of the case, the judge used to tell us that everything will be alright, but on Thursday he convicted my son on a completely fabricated charge. This is sheer injustice with us”)

Saleem Masih (brother of Sawan Masih, said “The Muslims burnt down our entire colony [ghetto], yet only my brother has been given the death sentence and fined such a heavy amount. Has the court done justice with us?”)

Sohail Johnson (**UPDATE:** said “Unfortunately the blasphemy law has become a powerful tool the hands of extremists and is continually being used to attack churches, burn down Christian towns and villages and also kill innocent people”)

Farrukh H Saif (**UPDATE:** said that in the current climate he expects death sentences to be handed down against Pastor Adnan Prince, Shafaqat Emmanuel, and Shagufta Kauser)

Nazir S Bhatti (**UPDATE:** said “Essentially the blasphemy law is used as a tool of persecution and to settle other scores that are nothing to do with religion. It makes religious minorities particularly vulnerable because it’s often used against them”)

Albert David (chairman Pakistan United Christian Movement; **UPDATE:** said “In reality the death sentence may not be carried out but it can mean that an accused person ends up behind bars for years. Even if their conviction is eventually overturned on appeal the accused are still vulnerable to attacks by vigilantes”)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4790>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4791>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/35483->

[ASIA PAKISTAN Today fasting and prayer for Asia Bibi and for Sawan Masih#.
UzZOKcLQc5s](#)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/03/attorneys-rights-groups-blast-death-sentence-for-christian-in-pakistan/>



Kazakhstan: Taraz, Jambyl province

Oksana Alekseyeva (aged 37, unemployed, fined US\$ 1,000 for sharing her faith with another)

Tatyana Vongai (aged 59, pensioner, fined US\$ 1,000 for sharing her faith with another)

Kazakhstan: Oskemen

Akmara Serikova (**UPDATE:** fined US\$ 1,000)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=1960



Egypt: Naga al-Nasara, Sohag province

Fr Thomas Morris (reported on a Muslim attack on Copts who were building a guesthouse)

Egypt: Ain Shams suburb, Cairo

Mary Sameh George (caught by Muslim Brotherhood rioters as she was delivering medicine to an elderly woman, an eyewitness reported on television "Once they saw that she was a Christian [because of the cross hanging on her rear view mirror], they jumped on top of the car, to the point that the vehicle was no longer visible. The roof of the car collapsed in. When they realized that she was starting to die, they pulled her out of the car and started pounding on her and pulling her hair—to the point that portions of her hair and scalp came off. They kept beating her, kicking her, stabbing her with any object or weapon they could find...Throughout she tried to protect her face, giving her back to the attackers, **till one of them came and stabbed her right in the back, near the heart, finishing her off.** Then another came and grabbed her by the hair, shaking her head, and with the other hand slit her throat. Another pulled her pants off, to the point that she was totally naked", eyewitnesses identified the killers to police but no arrests have been made)

Sameh George Ayad (father of Mary Sameh George)

Bishop Raphael (eulogized Mary Sameh George on his Twitter account and at her funeral Oh how lucky you are, Mary, you who are beloved of Christ. They tore your body because of the Cross. Yet they offered you the greatest service and gave you a name of honor as one who has attained the crown of martyrdom"...Yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service" - John 16:2)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53228#.UzZYHcLQc5s>

<http://www.raymondibrahim.com/from-the-arab-world/coptic-woman-martyred-for-the-cross-body-torn/>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53243#.UzePXcLQc5s>

<http://www.raymondibrahim.com/islam/muslim-brotherhood-savagely-murder-christian-woman/>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=53318#.Uz4eUsLQcfg>

Saturday March 29, 2014



Brunei

Fr Robert Leong (said that the upcoming imposition of Islamic law will make it illegal to expose the children of Christians to Christian ceremonies and rites: "There will be no baptisms. There is not a lot we can do about it. We will have to wait and see what happens")

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/concern-as-brunei-brings-in-system-of-islamic-law-with-punishments-that-include-the-dismemberment-of-limbs-and-stoning-to-death-9223633.html>



Libya: Benghazi

Gad Abdel Messiah Abdel Malak (**shot dead** while unloading vegetables for a market)

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/news/foreign-ministry-egyptian-killed-benghazi>



Austria: Vienna

Cardinal Christoph Schonborn (expressed shock at the vandalism of four churches - including St Stephen's Cathedral - in which a single Muslim destroyed statues and altars, including nearly every one in the Lazaristenkirche)

http://www.viennatimes.at/news/General_News/2014-04-01/29979/Cardinal_shocked_at_church_vandalism



Nigeria

Jonah David Jang (Governor of Plateau state, ordained minister, for unknown reasons has been denied a visa to visit the U.S. for a meeting with the United States Institute for Peace, all governors from the 19 northern states were invited but he was the only one denied a visa, denial believed linked to him being the only Christian governor in the region and to his statements that highlight the religious motives of the Boko Haram insurgency)

Ann Buwalda (attorney with the Jubilee Project, said “My personal observation and view is that some staff within the [U.S. State Department] have an unbalanced perception that somehow raising the persecution of Christians minimizes the persecution of Muslims or even favors Christians over Muslims...In fact, unrelated to the governor’s visa issue, three of our Nigerian colleagues including a former congresswoman from Plateau State and I participated in a U.S. Department of State meeting with high level officials last year in May or June [who] very bluntly declared how the governor of Plateau State was to blame for unrest in his state. I was shocked at the hostility [toward Governor Jang]”)

<http://www.wnd.com/2014/03/u-s-blocks-christian-governor-from-nigeria-peace-talks/>

Sunday March 31, 2014



India

Numerous Christian leaders express unease with the nomination of Narendra Damodardas Modi for Prime Minister by the Hindu nationalist BJP party

Rev Richard Howell (said “The perception among certain pockets of the Christian community is that the scale of persecution of Christians will increase”)

Dr John Dayal (**UPDATE:** said “The record of Mr Modi and of his party is terrible as far as religious minorities, especially Christians and Muslims, are concerned”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/03/upcoming-election-in-india-brings-fear-insecurity-for-christians-amid-unrelenting-persecution/>



Pakistan

Gul Sher (driver for Shahbaz Bhatti, witness to his 2011 assassination, had been detained and tortured by the police in an attempt to implicate Christians in the assassination;

UPDATE: Tehreek Talban Pakistan [TTP] terrorists threatened him with death, has fled the country)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4796>



Iran: Karaj

Pastor Saeed Abedini (**UPDATE:** still hospitalized, condition has improved, is receiving medication but the surgery necessary to correct the internal injuries from prison beatings has not been scheduled)

<http://aclj.org/iran/us-pastor-saeed-remains-in-iranian-hospital-instead-of-prison>

<http://www.assistnews.net/Stories/2014/s14040005.htm>



Uganda: Kadimukoli village, Budaka district

Hassan Muwanguzi (abandoned by his family, beaten, and fired from his teaching position for converting to Christianity; **UPDATE:** poisoned by relatives with insecticide, treated, refused further treatment due to financial hardship)

Bishop James Kinyewa (**UPDATE:** said that Hassan Muwanguzi still needs further treatment for his poisoning)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/04/convert-from-islam-in-uganda-former-sheikh-says-muslim-relatives-poisoned-him/>



Ukraine

Pastor Gennadiy Mokhnenko (described an attack by pro-Russian activists on a rehabilitation center bus used to transport orphans in which the driver was almost shot, and his decision to forgive the activists)

Peter Dudnik (Orphan Project leader, wrote of the attack on Facebook "What kind of evil did the orphans do to you? Why would you raise your hand to the property of the orphans and almost kill the driver?")

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue23120.html>

March 2014, date unknown



Pakistan: Lahore

Hospital nurses protesting the termination of temporary nurses confronted by police, only the 17 Christian nurses were arrested on disorderly conduct charges, an attempt to replace them with Muslim nurses failed when Muslim media personalities came to their aid

Ruth (alias, nurse, accused of blasphemy by Muslim nurses when she was able to retain her position, physically attacked by hospital staff, husband fired from his hotel management position, threatened with death, fled the country with her family for Thailand)

Sandra (alias, nurse, accused of blasphemy by Muslim nurses when she was able to retain her position, physically attacked by hospital staff, husband fired from his hospital laboratory position, threatened with death, fled the country with her family for Thailand)

<http://www.raymondibrahim.com/muslim-persecution-of-christians/christian-nurses-betrayed-by-muslim-colleagues-in-pakistan/>



Iraq

Suad Saeed (husband murdered by ISIL militants, son abducted and later ransomed, fled to Jordan in [approximately March 2014](#), said "They killed my husband in front of my son. He's badly traumatized from this horrific ordeal. I desperately asked everybody I knew to help me pay the ransom. I couldn't suffer another loss. Afterward, we had no other choice but to flee for our lives")

<http://www.thebostonpilot.com/article.asp?ID=171385%20>



Kenya

Bishop David Oginde (issued a statement in [late March 2014](#) opposing parliament's legalization of polygamy)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/kenyan-churches-oppose-polygamy-legalization-117562/>



Egypt: al-Nafura region, Asyut province

Isaac Eli (wood merchant, abducted at gunpoint in [early March 2014](#), ransom of US\$72,000 demanded from the family)

<http://www.raymondibrahim.com/islam/jizya-vigilantes-target-christian-minorities/>



Nigeria: Masankwai village, Kaura local government area, Kaduna state

Pastor Likita Riku (wife and three children killed)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/08/muslim-herdsmen-in-nigeria-kill-18-christians-in-plateau-kaduna-states/>



Germany: Berlin

Gunnar Schupelius (journalist, husband of Magdalena Schupelius, father of five, automobile destroyed by arson, an online feminist manifesto claimed responsibility)

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2020/01/10/radical-feminist-group-admits-attacking-churches-and-pro-lifers-in-germany/>

<https://www.idea.de/menschenrechte/detail/brandanschlag-auf-auto-eines-christlichen-journalisten-111509.html> - with translation