

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – December 2014

Monday December 1, 2014



India: Dilshad district, Delhi

Fr Anthony Francis (pastor, said of the church arson "The police and the forensic team only reached at 5.30 pm, though the fire broke out in the morning")

Fr Stanley Kozhichira (media director of Delhi archdiocese, said "The sanctuary, sacristy and the first floor balcony of the church is completely gutted. It seems to be a deliberate act as we could smell kerosene on the spot")

Rev Vijayesh Lal (Religious Liberty Commission national director; **UPDATE:** said "Normally, in churches, there is a distance of about 20 feet between the altar and the pews, but the entire area was burnt. The burning is so thorough that nothing remains except the outer structure. This could not have been done except by design. Plus there was reportedly the stench of kerosene sensed all over the church. Foul play cannot be ruled out")

Fr Mathew Kojickal (chancellor of the Archdiocese of New Delhi, condemned the arson attack on a church serving 1,000 families "I do not dare to accuse anyone but what is certain is that the attack was carefully planned and carried out on a place of worship of a religious minority...We had to organize a protest in the street to convince the police to send an investigation team")

Jenis Francis (attorney, said "The SHO [police Station House Officer] didn't record any statements of the people present, and before we could press for more details, he went away. The ACP [Assistant Commissioner of Police] later declared that it was not a short circuit, but indeed, clearly a case of mischief")

Archbishop Anil JT Couto (**UPDATE:** has called on the Prime and Home Ministers to order a judicial inquiry into the church arson, also said that Christians are living in fear in India, said "The arson in St. Sebastian's church was condemnable not just because it was an act of sacrilege and hate against the community and its faith, but that it could happen in the national capital which is just recovering from a series of communal incidents")

Cardinal Oswald Gracias (**UPDATE:** said "[This] must be condemned in the strongest possible, am completely shocked and deeply saddened at this arson attacks. While I do not want to attribute communal motives, but this act of deliberate torching of a Sacred Place of

worship, is completely unacceptable and cannot be condoned. People are revolted and feel vulnerable, whenever the miniscule Christian community is targeted")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Card.-Gracias:-Arson-attack-on-Delhi-church-an-attack-on-India's-progress-32848.html>

<http://www.christiantoday.co.in/article/christians.protest.against.burning.of.delhi.church.demand.s.quick.action/17741.htm>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=58415>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/12/christians-protest-violence-as-church-burning-hits-new-delhi-india/>



Lebanon: Ras-Baalbek

Faris Mansour (aged 76, said of British efforts to protect his village from an ISIL attack "During the time of the crisis, the watchtowers helped to protect us. We were concerned about what was happening in Iraq and Syria. We were watching the news all the time, and we thought the violence would happen here")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141201045407.htm>

Tuesday December 2, 2014



China: Jinghong, Shanxi province

Pastor Yang Rongli (wife of Wang Xiaoguang, arrested in 2009 for “gathering a mob to disturb public order”, sentenced to seven years' imprisonment, reported to be in good health, parishioners expecting her release in two years)

Wang Xiaoguang (husband of Pastor Yang Rongli, arrested in 2009 for “gathering a mob to disturb public order”, sentenced to three years' imprisonment)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/12/china-18-member-in-good-health-linfen.html>



Iraq

Sr Maria Hann OP (wrote: "After four months of exile there are no signs of hope that the situation here in Iraq will be resolved peacefully. Unable to think or make decisions, everything is vague and we feel as if we have been living a nightmare. Christianity in Iraq is bleeding; so many families have left, and many are leaving to Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, preparing themselves for second immigration and an uncertain future. We do not know how long these families will be able to tolerate the burden and survive financially...Many still are forced to stay in unfinished buildings on construction sites. In one place, a mall has been remodeled to accommodate families, with the hall divided merely with partitions. Although they are better than tents, they resemble dark, damp cages with no ventilation. Most difficult of all is the lack of privacy...Everyday we hope that tomorrow will be better, but our tomorrows seem to bring only more tears and hardship. 'Out of the depths we cry to thee, O Lord! When will you rescue us?' We desperately count on your prayers, and we need you carry us to Jesus like the men who brought the paralytic to Jesus")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141201203134.htm>



Kenya: Wajir and Mandera county

Thirty-six Christians killed by Al-Shabaab gunmen in two locations, thirteen wounded

Boniface Daae (**shot dead**)

Kevin Ojwang (shot, hospitalized in serious condition)

Tom Gikundi (shot, hospitalized in serious condition)

John Muchiri (shot, hospitalized in serious condition)

Peter Nderitu (hid in a trench while Al Shabaab militants killed over 30 Christian workers at a stone quarry)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/12/al-shabaab-islamists-again-attack-non-muslims-near-mandera-kenya-killing-36/>

<http://www.assistnews.net/Stories/2014/s14120013.htm>



Sudan: North Khartoum

Thirty-eight Christians arrested and fined for attempting to prevent the demolition of their church

Daud Bashir Gadalah (church elder; **UPDATE**: severely beaten)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/12/police-in-sudan-attack-worshipping-congregation-arrest-38-christians/>



Egypt

Bishoy Armiya aka Mohammed Hegazy (aged 31 in 2014, Egypt's 'most famous' convert, arrested again on July 21, 2014 on 2009 charges of "defaming Islam", charges were filed after he attempted to have his religious affiliation changed on his government ID card; **UPDATE:** detained temporarily in an execution chamber by prison authorities)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=58309>



Russia: Khostinsky district, near Sochi

Pastor Alexei Kolyasnikov (prayer service in a rented coffee shop room raided by FSB agents on [September 28, 2014](#), detained; fined US\$480 on [October 10, 2014](#); **UPDATE:** fine overturned on appeal)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2044

Wednesday December 3, 2014



China: Hong Kong

Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-Kium SBD (**UPDATE:** surrendered for arrest with the principal organizers of the pro-democracy Occupy Central movement, which had been engaged in civil disobedience in an effort to convince the government to allow direct elections of the Hong Kong executive, released)

Rev Chu Yiu-min (Occupy Central organizer, **UPDATE:** surrendered for arrest after engaging in civil disobedience, released)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Card-Zen-and-Occupy-Central-leaders-released-by-police-32865.html>



Pakistan: Jaranwala district

Sehrish (aged 18, daughter of Ilyas Masih, abducted and gang raped, told by her attackers that hers was the fate of 'poor Christian girls', released half naked; unable to leave her home to use the latrine)

Farazana (aged 14, daughter of Ilyas Masih, abducted and gang raped, told by her attackers that hers was the fate of 'poor Christian girls', released half naked; unable to leave her home to use the latrine)

Ilyas Masih (father of Sehrish and Farazana, attempted to file a police report on his daughters' abduction and rape, police refused and attempted to coerce him into a compensation agreement with the perpetrators, a court finally ordered the issuance of a police report, family now receiving threats; police have obstructed the gathering of medical evidence)

Pastor Razaq (said that the rapists of Sehrish and Farazana had raped another Christian girl in the village)

Pakistan: Thatha Gondal, Hafizabad, Punjab state

Noreen Bashir (aged 14, daughter of Bashir Masih and Ruqqiya Bibi, abducted on [November 26, 2014](#), repeatedly raped, forcibly converted to Islam and married to her captor; **UPDATE:** released back to her family, under threat of death due to her renunciation of Islam)

<http://barnabasfund.org/news/Pakistani-Christian-girl-14-kidnapped-and-forced-to-convert-to-Islam>

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/pakistani-christian-family-with-daughters-ganged-rape-by-muslim-men-powerful-people-threatened-us-police-obstructed-medical-evidence-131404/>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5080>



Nigeria: Lassa, Borno state

Daniel Ibrahim (escaped a Boko Haram massacre of 11 people, said “They abducted more than 20 girls from our town and killed many people, mostly old men and women. They burnt almost half of the town before they left. Those of us who were lucky fled, but they massacred aged ones and younger men they could catch“)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/nigeria-boko-haram-attacks-a-christian-city-killing-more-christians-abducting-20-girls/#sthash.CqdhgP71.dpuf>

Thursday December 4, 2014



Kazakhstan: Astana

Samat Musin (cited for street evangelization on [October 4, 2014](#), fined on [November 11, 2014](#), fine upheld on appeal)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2026



Syria: Damascus

Archbishop Samir Nassar (**UPDATE:** reported that 21 people including 5 children have died from winter cold in his diocese, wrote “Our loyal Damascus feels isolated, condemned to live in danger, and die in a ‘hole’ cut off from relatives and friends already living in Lebanon. This loneliness adds to the anguish, the bitter cold winter experience, the sad tenor and feeling of neglect...Our faithful spend their Christmas celebration in the freezing cold of their ‘household nativity’ relying on the warmth of their faith under the tender gaze of the Holy Family”)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/12/04/children-in-damascus-are-freezing-to-death-archbishop-tells-faithful/>



United States – Alabama: Piedmont

Bill Baker (mayor, reported to have been fighting efforts by Wisconsin atheists to ban a municipal Christmas parade)

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2014/12/04/town-told-to-keep-christ-out-christmas-parade/>

Friday December 5, 2014



Azerbaijan

Two women cited in **Pirallahi** on **December 5, 2014** for distributing religious literature door to door

Irina Zakharchenko (aged 54)

Valida Jabrayilova (aged 38)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2041



Kenya: Malindi

Bishop Emanuel Barbara (**UPDATE**: said of the recent Al-Shabaab attacks on Christians “we are telling our people, ‘Be cautious and pay attention to what’s happening around you; but don’t let anger and vengeance grow in your hearts’”)

Br John Mwangi Wambugu (said that church attendance has dropped due to fear of more attacks “There is a lot of insecurity and fear among Christians, especially in the coastal regions and northeastern Kenya...people [Christians and Muslims] are not as close as they used to be”)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/12/08/christians-in-kenya-living-in-fear-after-latest-islamist-attack/>



United States – Florida: Bradenton

Pastor James Battle (aged 31, married, father of two, **shot dead** by the husband of a church employee)

Amber Avalos (aged 33, church nursery and children's director, mother of six, **shot dead** by her husband at a neighbor's home, the neighbor was also killed)

United States – Massachusetts: Boston

Pastor Scott Lively (sued by a homosexual group for allegedly inciting incidents of persecution against homosexuals in Uganda over the past decade, he denies the charges, a Federal judge has ruled on August 28, 2013 that the trial may proceed; **UPDATE**: petition for dismissal denied by a three judge panel of the Federal First Circuit Court)

<http://www.charismanews.com/us/46368-manhunt-underway-for-florida-suspect-who-murdered-pastor-2-others>

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/u.s.-pastor-faces-crimes-against-humanity-charges-for-opposing-gay-agenda-a>

Saturday December 6, 2014



India: New Delhi

Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara (reported that parishioners were anxious after their church was pelted with stones and windows broken during Divine Liturgy)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/12/christians-protest-violence-as-church-burning-hits-new-delhi-india/>



Pakistan: Toka Wala Chowk [ghetto], Satokitla village, Punjab state

Nusrat Bibi (sister of Rani Bibi, beaten with a cricket bat when she attempted to prevent the molestation and abduction of her daughter, left arm and two left fingers broken, clothing torn, police took no action)

Rani Bibi (sister of Nusrat Bibi, injured along with her sister while defending her niece from molestation and abduction, police took no action)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5129>



Egypt: El-Khusus

Milad Nageh Gad (shops seized by thugs, accused a police detective of aiding them)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=58387>



Turkey: Mor Augin

Fr Yoqin (described how most of the land owned by his monastery has been seized by local Kurds)

Turkey: Midyat

Yuhanna Aktas (president of the Syriac Unity Association, said that Christians were driven from their lands during the Kurdish-Turkish conflict in the 1990's, and so were not present to prevent land seizures)

Rudi Sumer (attorney, said "The law does not ask why people left their land, or why they had to leave")

Turkey: Mzizah

Ibrahim Ogur (said of Kurdish squatters "They bore false witness against each other. None of them would testify on behalf of my father...If these land problems are solved, then many Christians will return home")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141205212009.htm>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141205212009.htm>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141205212009.htm>



Nigeria: Chibok, Borno state

Rev Enoch Mark (a daughter and a niece among the over 200 abducted schoolgirls from Chibok, Borno state, alleged on May 12, 2014 that they were held in a camp only 30 kilometers away for 11 days; **UPDATE**: reported on the Boko Haram takeover of the town, said "We have all fled. They are now in control of the town, having overpowered the soldiers and the vigilantes")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/12/boko-haram-kills-more-christians-as-it-expands-caliphate-in-nigeria/>



United States - South Carolina: Naval Nuclear Power Training Command, Goose Creek

Lt Commander Wes Modder (U.S. Navy chaplain, husband, father of four, accused by his superior officer of failing "to show tolerance and respect" in counseling sessions and of being unable to "function in the diverse and pluralistic environment" of his command, allegations are linked to the chaplain's defense of traditional Christian morality, said "They want a chaplain to accommodate policy that contradicts Scripture")

Michael Berry (attorney, **UPDATE**: said that "We are starting to see cases where chaplains have targets on their backs" and said of the homosexual chaplain assistant who implicated Lt Commander Wes Modder "I believe some of what the lieutenant has alleged could constitute a military crime – false statements – taking what the chaplain said and twisting or misconstruing it – in an attempt to get the chaplain punished. He abused the position he was placed in as a chaplain's assistant")

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/former-navy-seals-chaplain-could-be-kicked-out-of-navy-for-christian-beliefs-135392/>

Sunday December 7, 2014



Malaysia

Government religious authorities returned seized Bibles but desecrated them with a stamp reading 'Strictly for non-Muslims usage only and shall not be published or used in any part of the state of Selangor pursuant to section 9 [1] Non-Islamic Religions [Control of Propagation Amongst Muslims] Enactment 1988'

Pastor Graman Ujang (said "It showed they were not sincere in wanting to return them. They did so because they were pressured to. But why on earth did they do that, stamping the Bibles? It also shows they just don't have any respect for other religions")

Bishop Datuk Ng Moon Hing (president of the Bible Society of Malaysia, said "The Christian minority in this country has been made to suffer at the hands of religious zealots and extremists working within the government", demanded an apology from the religious authorities)

Rev Dr Justin Wan (said that the government's attempt to restrict the Bibles to one state belied the "high mobility" of people between the states)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/christians-push-back-after-muslim-leaders-stamp-malaysian-bibles-with-warning/72571>



Pakistan: Islamabad

A Muslim woman accused 50 Christians of having gone to her home and committed blasphemy, 18 arrested including 2 pastors

Pastor Karamat Masih (aged 45)

Shafique Masih aka Noora (aged 32)

Yousaf Masih (aged 60, husband of Nasreen Bibi, daughter's wedding imminent)

Parveen Bibi (widow)

Bavi Bibi

Nasreen Bibi (wife of Yousaf Masih, had been hospitalized with 'severe illness', daughter's wedding imminent)

Shahid Masih (aged 35)

Parveez Masih

Tariq Matto

Nabeela Bibi

Judge Masih

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5105>



Qatar: Doha

Event: Christian couple, U.S. citizens, 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", the prosecutor also cited the Islamic prohibition on adoption; **UPDATE: left the country and arrived in Los Angeles**

Matthew Huang (father of Josiah aged 8 and Emmanuel aged 11)

Grace Huang (mother of Josiah aged 8 and Emmanuel aged 11)

<http://www.charismanews.com/world/46381-u-s-couple-released-by-qatar-in-child-s-death-celebrate-their-return>



Jordan: Amman

Najem Handaniyeh (Iraqi refugee, husband, father of four, family now lives in a single room, said "Thank God we are here now and we have this. Any Christian still in our home [in Iraq] is now either Muslim or dead...For all the people here, there is only one toilet, and until last week we didn't have a shower. We have no money to buy water to wash. We tell our children to wait and be patient, but it's difficult as they can't go to school")

Nual Ibrahim (Iraqi refugee, said of the ISIL attack on Mosul "They said convert to Islam or die and gave us one day to decide, so we fled. There is no future in Iraq for us now but we have no papers, no money and begin at zero again. To be a refugee is like being sick, you live just to eat and sleep...Iraq is destroyed now. We just want to go somewhere where we can live in peace")

Yusuf Ishak Bahey (aged 66, Iraqi refugee, said of the ISIL attack on Qaraqosh "When ISIL arrived, we took nothing from our homes and left with just the clothes on our backs. In two hours, the town [of 40,000] was emptied")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141207051642.htm>



Turkey: Istanbul

David Byle (U.S. citizen, co-founder of the Bible Correspondence Course, **UPDATE:** said of the suspected arson that destroyed 10,000 religious books "Our hunch is it is people who don't like people who do the activities we do here – mainly giving out free New Testaments and explaining the Christian faith to people", added that fire officials refused to investigate and claimed the fire was from a Christmas tree which never existed)

Paul Weaver (media and IT director of the Bible Correspondence Course, said that the likely arsonist was recorded on video)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/12/suspected-arsonist-sought-in-fire-at-bible-distribution-center-in-istanbul-turkey/>



Egypt: Nag Al-Siagh, Luxor

Amira Hafez Waheeb (aged 15, as of [April 11, 2014](#) has been abducted for more than 40 days; **UPDATE:** the family of her accused abductor has demanded a ransom of almost US\$5,600)

Egypt: Nag Rizk Shenouda, Tahta, Sohag province

Horus Samuel (said "Christian villagers were attacked by militants for the fifth time last Sunday in the house church, in which they pray because there is no Church in the village")

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=58418>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=58517>



Nigeria

Abigail John (aged 15, secondary school senior, daughter of Rebecca John, sister of Lucky John, abducted by Boko Haram on [October 29, 2014](#), arm broken in an Air Force bombing on [October 30, 2014](#) in which five abducted women and a child were killed, forcibly)

converted to Islam on [October 31, 2014](#), **UPDATE**: rescued by the Nigerian military, said her injury likely saved her from rape)

Dates:

Location: Mubi, Adamawa state

Source: <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2015/01/teenager-recounts-seven-week-ordeal-boko-haram-den/>



United States – Illinois: Chicago

Fr Anthony Brankin (church creche vandalized, statues of Mary and Joseph decapitated)

<http://www.charismanews.com/us/46400-you-won-t-believe-what-vandals-did-to-mary-and-joseph-statues>

Monday December 8, 2014



Egypt

Sherif Fekry (deliveryman, disappeared, motorcycle found)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1264&A=16787>



United Kingdom: Cambridgeshire, Scotland

Br Damon Jonah Kelly (arrested for publishing leaflets defending traditional Christian morality)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/scottish-monk-arrested-for-distributing-leaflets-promoting-sexual-morality>

Tuesday December 9, 2014



India: Bamnora village, Chattarpur district, Madhya Pradesh state

Pastor Paltu Ahirwar (beaten along with another Christian by Hindu extremists)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/12/christmas-season-brings-christianity-under-renewed-attack-in-india/>



Iran: Bandar-Anzali

Pastor Matthias Haghnejad (husband of Anahita Khadeimi, to stand trial on Easter Sunday 2012 for charges including "crimes against the order"; **UPDATE:** all charges dismissed on appeal, freed)

Silas Reza Rabbani (arrested on May 5, 2014; **UPDATE:** all charges dismissed on appeal, freed)

<http://dynamic.csw.org.uk/article.asp?t=press&id=1813&search=>



Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan

Fr Mazen Ishoa aka Abuna Mazen (has resided in a refugee camp to minister to his flock, said "I hold no grudge against the extremists. 'Love your enemies,' Jesus says. And the Bible is clear: 'If you follow Me, you will be persecuted'")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141209172524.htm>



Lebanon: Beirut

Fr Paul Karam (**UPDATE:** spoke a few days after the UN announced it had run out of money to feed Syrian refugees and that US\$4.4 billion will be needed "In Lebanon, there are at least 1.6 million Syrian refugees...Soon, there will be no food for refugees under UN protection. Until now, these people survived on aid. How will they live in the future? Will they start stealing? Will they move to other countries and destabilize them?...Most Syrian refugees are Muslims, not Christians. This affects Lebanon's own situation, which is defined by a balance between two communities, Muslims and Christians, and the relationship between 18 religious denominations. If this situation is upset, everything

could collapse...In the past three years, the presence of refugees has led to spike in stealing, kidnapping, and violence. So many of them attack people, or want to steal...In recent years, the crime rate rose from 15 to 60 per cent...We cannot guarantee peace to one country and let the others sink into war. There must be a path towards peace for everyone. Without such a perspective, there will always be conflicts, dragging from year to the next, from one generation to another...But why should Lebanon have to solve this problem alone? Why is it that money to buy and make weapons is always found, but there is none to feed refugees?")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Caritas-Lebanon's-director,-Syrian-refugees-are-a-humanitarian-and-international-crisis-32912.html>



Egypt

Mina Thabet (**UPDATE:** said that Coptic Christians have paid US\$16,800,000 in various ransom cases since January 25, 2011 in Minya province alone)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/cs-releases/3183-minya-s-copts-pay-120-million-in-ransom>

Wednesday December 10, 2014



Australia: Sydney

Seventy-six graves at a Christian cemetery have been desecrated

Olga Zakroczymski (aged 84, family graves desecrated, later said 'Even dead people have no peace. I've been crying for two days. The cross has been bashed...it's very cruel')

John Koudrin (friend's grave desecrated)

Alexey Ivacheff (Russian Orthodox Cemetery Care committee, said "This is an act of hatred")

Fiona Heslop (cemetery CEO)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/75841.htm>



Vietnam

Fr Nguyen Van Ly (imprisoned since 2001 for advocating religious freedom, democracy, and human rights and for opposing a U.S.-Vietnam trade treaty)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/prisoners-of-conscience-remembered-on-human-rights-day-49496/>



India: Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh state

Fr Francis Arackal OP (criticized an announced plan by the RSS paramilitary organization to convert 1,000 Muslim and 4,000 Christian families to Hinduism on December 25, 2014)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/The-Christmas-of-Hindu-radicals:-We-will-reconvert-5,000-Christian-and-Muslim-families-32917.html>



Pakistan: Chak No.216 GB, Samundri

Prof Anjum James Paul (**UPDATE**: condemned the demolition of the homes of 13 Christian families who are now homeless)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5091>

Thursday December 11, 2014



Uganda: Kaliro district

Namugonya Jamirah (aged 15, convert, sister of Naigaga Saidah, **beaten to death** by her father for converting)

Naigaga Saidah (aged 12, convert, sister of Namugonya Jamirah, beaten by her father for converting, hospitalized and later released, in hiding due to death threats)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/01/imam-in-uganda-beats-daughter-to-death-for-converting-to-christ/>



Egypt: Mit Nama, Shubra al-Khaymah, Qalyubia

Fr Beman Shaker Adle (said that the construction of a church service building has not been allowed despite the issuance of a building permit in 2011)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=58496>



Nigeria: Jos, Plateau state

Jummai Sunday (aged 63, widow, survived twin bomb blasts but then **shot dead** by Boko Haram gunmen along with at least 31 others in a Christian area, 45 were wounded, daughter said "I pray that I am able to have the grace to take after her. I have no choice than to follow her exemplary lifestyle of being a disciple of Jesus. I have lost a dear friend and a mother")

Rev Musa Ishe (condemned the murder of Jummai Sunday)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/12/gunmen-kill-christian-widow-in-jos-nigeria-bomb-blasts/>

Friday December 12, 2014



India: New Delhi

Fr Z Devasagayaraj (secretary for Scheduled Class/Backward Class and tribal affairs, condemned the new proposal for a national law banning religious conversion, said "Even Hindus who want freedom from caste oppression and untouchability will be restricted to follow the religion")

India

Dr John Dayal (**UPDATE**: said that since May 2014 there have been a "recorded 34 cases of physical and structural violence against the Christian community, total of about 600 cases reported by the media, most of them against Muslims")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/indias-government-advocates-anti-proselytization-law/72610>
<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/concern-mounts-in-india-over-persecution-of-religious-minorities-91154/>



Israel: Nazareth

Fr Gabriel Nadaf (said on a trip to [Madrid, Spain](#) that “What is happening in the Middle East is genocide, and it is happening today, now. Every five minutes, a Christian dies in the Middle East, and Muslim leaders know it”)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/every-five-minutes-a-christian-dies-in-the-middle-east-27028/>



Russia: Khostinsky district, near Sochi

Pastor Alexei Kolyasnikov (prayer service in a rented coffee shop room raided by FSB agents on [September 28, 2014](#), detained; fined US\$480 on [October 10, 2014](#); fine overturned on appeal on [December 2, 2014](#); **UPDATE**: fine reinstated)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2044



Ukraine: Horlivka

Archbishop Mitrophan (**UPDATE**: said "...it was not the Church that started this war. But the Church can do something to make it so that hatred may not increase and animosity may not get stronger; so that people, after all, would regard each other as human beings, and not as animals to be killed...The fact of the matter is that there is much prevarication in this war...our spiritual children are in both parties, there are Christians both here and there...")

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/75878.htm>



Macedonia: Skopje

Archbishop Jovan of Ohrid aka Zoran Vraniskovski (aged 48, sentenced on [July 3, 2013](#) to three years in prison and church property seized for alleged money laundering, charges widely viewed as resulting from his efforts to reunify the Serbian and Macedonian Orthodox Churches; **UPDATE**: still in prison, is suffering from diabetes)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2014/12/archbishop-jovan-vi-of-ohrid-three-years-in-prison/>

Saturday December 13, 2014



India: Singareny Colony, Sarurnagar, Hyderabad

Pastor Bhimudu Nayak (beaten by Hindu radicals along with fifteen other parishioners for singing Christmas carols, hospitalized in critical condition, four others hospitalized including his wife and son)

T Monohar (described the attack on Pastor Bhimudu Nayak and his parishioners while they were singing Christmas carols)

<http://www.persecution.org/2014/12/13/night-of-christmas-caroling-turned-to-terror-by-hindu-radicals-in-india/>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/12/christmas-season-brings-christianity-under-renewed-attack-in-india/>



Kazakhstan: Atyrau

Pastor Nurlubek Zhalgasbayev (said that his church has made repeated attempts in 2014 to register with the government, but each time an application is submitted the anti-terrorism police visit signatories and persuade them to remove their names from the application, then reject it because it has less than the 50 minimum names, said "we are afraid to worship or pray together because we may be punished, we also are hesitant to apply for registration, because we fear that the authorities will put more pressure on our members")

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2025



Uganda: Bwite

Saidha Naigaga (beaten by her father for converting to Christianity, hospitalized for a week, later taken by her father to a local church and left there with a document renouncing his parental rights)

Muwanguzi Hassan (convert, has taken Saidha Naigaga into his home, he and his wife have cared for 17 other youths who have been disowned for converting to Christianity)

http://www.persecution.com/public/newsroom.aspx?story_ID=%3d373430&featuredstory_ID=%3d343830

Sunday December 14, 2014



Iraq: Mosul

Abu Aasi (reported that Christians are being held and tortured by ISIL [Islamic State] fighters in occupied churches; added "These two churches [Bahnam Wa Sara and Al Kiama] are being used as prisons and for torture. Most inside are Christians and they are being forced to convert to Islam. ISIL has been breaking all the crosses and statues of Mary")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141214184134.htm>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141220162222.htm>



Kenya: outskirts of Nairobi

Rev Mahad H Birik (convert from Islam, married, father of two aged 15 and 2, followed by Somali men after Al-Shabaab rebels offered a reward for his death, said "My family is now living in a sleepless state. My life and that of my family is in imminent danger. It is very serious and real, as Muslim extremists are strategizing on having my head...The Al Shabaab have a sophisticated network. I do not know when they will hit me, I am sure I can no longer hide myself. I therefore want the Christian world as well as human rights groups to know that my life is in danger, and I need urgent rescue...I am sure if I am not rescued soon, then they will get rid of me. It only a matter of when")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/12/pastor-in-kenya-fears-his-life-is-in-imminent-danger-from-islamic-extremists/>



Nigeria: Benue state

Peter Elaigwu (home destroyed by Muslim Fulani herdsmen)

Ema Okpanachi (widowed in a previous Muslim Fulani attack, home destroyed)

Abiye Edo (widowed in a previous Muslim Fulani attack, home destroyed)

Sunday Oyigadu (said after the attack "It is sad that we spent a whole year running helter-skelter from Fulani herdsmen...The crisis has forced us into seeing the bitter side of life – we no longer have beds to sleep on. Some of us manage with the mats donated to us by some Christian brethren, and others whose houses were also burned down are still squatting with their relatives in Otukpo town or cities outside Benue state")

Bishop Michael Apochi (said after the attack "Life has become unbearable for Christians, as thousands of our members have been displaced in the past one year of intense attacks by Fulani gunmen and Muslim Islamists")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/12/islamist-herdsmen-mercenaries-attack-christians-in-benue-nigeria-from-nasarawa/>

Monday December 15, 2014



India: Delhi

Bishop Simon John (commented after leaked documents showed that the Federal government was considering creating a 'Good Governance Day' for schoolchildren on Christmas Day "The situation is alarming. This Christmas looks like it is not a pleasant one")

https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/12/article_3557921.html/



Kazakhstan: Sychevka

Yuri Morozov (director of a church operated drug and alcohol rehab center, fined US\$1,000 for illegal religious activities)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2034



Turkey

Paul Weaver (media and IT director of the Bible Correspondence Course, said that the likely arsonist was recorded on video, **UPDATE**: suspect was seen again on the premises, escaped)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/12/suspected-arsonist-sought-in-fire-at-bible-distribution-center-in-istanbul-turkey/>



Egypt: Shubra Al-Khaima district, Qalyoubiya

Merna Youssef Munir (aged 17, disappeared while on her way home from a learning center)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=58575>

Tuesday December 16, 2014



India: Nagpur, Maharashtra state

Rev Christopher Rajkumar (Executive Secretary of the National Council of Churches in India [NCCI] Commission on Justice, Peace and Creation, said they have decided to not invite the Chief Minister [Governor] of the state to the annual Christmas prayer meeting "We used to invite the chief minister every year. But to protest what is happening, we have decided not to invite him this year...This Christmas evokes not joy but fears. It should not happen. But is happening")

https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/12/article_3557921.html/



Iran: Rajai Shahr Prison

Pastor Saeed Abedini (**UPDATE**: still suffering from internal injuries from prison beatings, wrote in a Christmas letter to his family in the U.S. "These days are very cold here. My small space beside the window is without glass, making most nights unbearable to sleep...This is the first Christmas that I am completely without my family; all of my family is presently outside of the country. These conditions have made this upcoming Christmas season very hard, cold and shattering for me. It appears that I am alone with no one left beside me...We should be able to tolerate the cold, the difficulties and the shame

in order to serve God. We should be able to enter into the pain of the cold, dark world. Then we are able to give the fiery love of Christ to the cold wintry manger of those who are spiritually dead. It might be necessary to come out of the comfort of our lives and leave the loving embrace of our family to enter the manger of the lives of others, such as it has been for me for the third consecutive Christmas...the work of the Holy Spirit is a fiery rain of God's holiness and mercy that flows into our body, soul and spirit and brings the light of Christ into us and through us making this dark, cold, wintry world into radiant burning brightness. He is turning our world into a world full of peace, joy and love that is so different than the dark, cold and wintry world that we used to live in..")

<http://www.charismanews.com/world/46478-american-pastor-writes-heartbreaking-christmas-letter-from-iranian-prison>



Jordan: Amman

Wael Suleiman (director of Caritas Jordan, said "Seventy percent of Christian refugees is concentrated in the Amman area. A thousand of them are housed in 18 parishes, others have found accommodation in houses. They live dreaming of escaping to America, Australia and Europe, this situation mainly has affects on school age boys and girls: they spend days doing nothing, also because, for bureaucratic reasons, they have no access to Jordanian schools...As Caritas Jordan we find ourselves in difficulty. We support the rents of Christian families, we distribute food and basic necessities, but within two months the funds allocated to these initiatives for assistance will end. We will have to tell these people to leave their homes and go to live on the street. So far we have been helped by Caritas Germany and the US")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/36980-ASIA_JORDAN_More_than_7_000_Christian_refugees_from_Iraq_Caritas_Jordan_in_two_months_we_will_not_have_anymore_resources_to_assist_them#.VJJUc8JTEfg



Ukraine: Boryspil

Metropolitan Anthony (condemned the seizure or pending seizure of 20 of his churches by a rival Orthodox Church)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/75877.htm>



United States – Wisconsin: Marquette University, Milwaukee

Dr John McAdams (professor of political science, suspended, banned from campus, and under formal investigation for defending a student's defense of traditional Christian morality on his blog)

<http://www.cardinalnewmansociety.org/CatholicEducationDaily/DetailsPage/tabid/102/ArticleID/3809/Professor-Who-Exposes-Catholic-Identity-Scandals-Is-Suspended-by-Marquette-Univ.aspx>

Wednesday December 17, 2014



India: Navipur, Pipraich, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Amit Kumar (arrested along with 15 parishioners while celebrating Christmas, all were released without charge 18 hours later except the pastor who was charged with 'disturbing the peace')

Liris Thomas (Alliance Defending Freedom-India, described the arrest of Pastor Amit Kumar and his parishioners)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/12/christmas-season-brings-christianity-under-renewed-attack-in-india/>



Nigeria: Maiduguri

Fr Gideon Obasogie (**UPDATE:** said "The situation of things within the Catholic Diocese of Maiduguri has had little or no improvement, because Adamawa regions that have been attacked in the previous raids of the Boko Haram are still held hostage by the insurgents")

Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme (**UPDATE:** has been sheltering 5,000 refugees from Boko Haram attacks in three parishes because the refugee camps are full, said "They can insult us, they can harm us and destroy our property, they can take our businesses and even take our lives, but they can never take away our faith")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/36984-AFRICA_NIGERIA_The_parishes_of_Maiduguri_cares_for_more_than_5_000_displaced_people_fleeing_Boko_Haram#.VJJRn8JTEfg



United Kingdom: London

Concepta Wood (aged 52, won an appeal on April 24, 2013 in Edinburgh that overturned a court ruling that she had to "watch over and sometimes assist with abortion procedures" because this was not "direct involvement in pregnancy terminations"; **UPDATE:** appeal overturned by the Supreme Court which ruled that the conscience exemption for medical professionals only applies to the actual abortion, all other acts such as referrals are not covered)

Mary Doogan (aged 58, won an appeal on April 24, 2013 in Edinburgh that overturned a court ruling that she had to "watch over and sometimes assist with abortion procedures" because this was not "direct involvement in pregnancy terminations"; **UPDATE:** appeal overturned by the Supreme Court which ruled that the conscience exemption for medical professionals only applies to the actual abortion, all other acts such as referrals are not covered)

United Kingdom: Corby, Northamptonshire

Br Damon Jonah Kelly (arrested in Cambridgeshire, Scotland on December 8, 2014 for publishing leaflets defending traditional Christian morality; **UPDATE:** has decided to continue to mail the leaflets even though he is likely to be jailed)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/uk-supreme-court-rules-health-care-workers-must-refer-for-abortion>

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/british-catholic-monk-expects-prison-for-promoting-christian-teaching-on-ho>

Thursday December 18, 2014



Malaysia: Tangkak

Fr Cyril Mannayagam (hymnals returned by police, had been seized two weeks earlier for containing the word 'Allah')

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/malaysia-police-return-seized-hymnals-to-catholic-priest/72660>



China: Nanle county, Henan province

Zhang "Shanshan" Linxin (**UPDATE**: described how her church was sealed by the authorities and the cross removed, and how earlier in the month the authorities withdrew US\$643,000 from the church's bank account without permission)

China: Xiaodian district, Taiyuan, Shanxi province

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**: released from prison)

Ren Lacheng (bookstore owner; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/12/nanle-county-christian-churchs-cross.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/12/christian-bookstore-employee-released.html>



India

Alwan Masih (church general secretary, said after leaked documents showed that the Federal government was considering creating a 'Good Governance Day' for schoolchildren on Christmas Day "We should be treated as equal citizens. And we should have the liberty of celebrating our Christmas without any intrusion and disturbance from anyone. But this is not happening... We are feeling threatened because it is like testing... how much people will react and how much they will go on bearing without much protest. It looks like this is testing for something bigger they might do to the [religious] minorities. That is the fear in the minds of the minorities")

<http://www.christiantoday.co.in/article/christians.feel.threatened.over.good.governance.day.on.christmas.controversy/17742.htm>



Kazakhstan: Astana

Tatyana Kostrygina (cited for street evangelization on [October 4, 2014](#), fined on [November 11, 2014](#), upheld on appeal)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2026



Iran: Karoun prison, Ahwaz

Hossain Danial Barro Zadeh (recent convert, beaten and arrested on [March 5, 2014](#) during a picnic in [Shush](#); **UPDATE**: reportedly released from prison)

Rahman Ziya Bahmani (recent convert, beaten and arrested on [March 5, 2014](#) during a picnic in [Shush](#); **UPDATE**: reportedly released from prison)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9573:four-non-trinitarian-christians-released-as-christmas-approaches&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan

Mariam (baby, daughter of Maisaa Karam and Munther, refugee, bed has been made from a plastic bag)

Maisaa Karam (wife of Munther, mother of Mariam, delivered her daughter in a refugee camp, had lost all four previous children to miscarriage)

Munther (husband of Maisaa Karam, father of Mariam)

David Thamir (young boy, refugee, said "I do not think Father Christmas will come this year because he does not know where we are living now, and we are always changing places. Father Christmas knows our house in Bartilla and he will go there, and there is nobody who will tell him where we are now. All our neighbors have left and our village is now empty, my father has told us")

Isaac Baho Daniel (aged 71, farmer, refugee, said of his children "I am not in a position where I can offer them anything. I am now in the position where I need a hand from others. Christmas is not a feast if I am in Erbil...this land of our exile and diaspora")

Sama Elias Albeer (aged 9, sister of Samir, schoolgirl, refugee)

Samir (brother of Sama Elias Albeer, schoolboy, refugee, asked for a bicycle for Christmas so he could ride home and rescue his guitar from the terrorists)

Rose Emanuel Rafael (baby, twin sister of Rahaf, refugee in a tent in winter, has cancer, unable to get urgent treatment)

Rahaf (baby, twin sister of Rose Emanuel Rafael, refugee in a tent in winter)

Sahar Mansour (aged 40, professor of chemistry, refugee camp resident, **UPDATE**: said "Iraqi Christians cannot put their life before their faith, The word 'martyr' literally means 'witness', and this is what we have dared to be. So if the purpose of being a Christian is to spread the Word, then the highest calling of Christianity is to die for the Word of God. Martyrdom is not the end for the soul of the martyrs or for the society they leave behind. Christian faith is a fact that is alive and operative, making us people who look for the meaning of their lives, people who are prophets and witnesses for that meaning. Iraqi Christians are capable of adding meaning to life, in spite of all the contradictions that emerge because of life's complexities and problems...Faith is a gift from God. Faith is

commitment, not a mere point of view. We believe in God as a fact, and are committed to our faith deeply and out of the core of our existence. Iraqi Christians are fully aware that Christianity has been under sustained attack from the moment of its birth, our Church in Iraq is a witness and martyr to this, and 'the blood of the martyrs is the seed of Christians'")

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/issues/december-19th-2014/christian-refugees-in-iraq-face-up-to-a-bleak-christmas/>



Egypt

Bishoy Armiya aka Mohammed Hegazy (aged 31, Egypt's 'most famous' convert, arrested again on [July 21, 2014](#) on 2009 charges of "defaming Islam", charges were filed after he attempted to have his religious affiliation changed on his government ID card; **UPDATE:** petition to the Egyptian ambassador to the U.S. in support of his release now online)

Egypt: Beni Mazar, Minya province

Remon Shawki (beaten by thugs after they were incited by a policeman with whom he had a trade dispute)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/take-action/advocacy-work/3201-action-alert-coptic-solidarity-launches-advocacy-campaign-for-imprisoned-christian-mohammed-hegazi>
<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=58636>



United States - North Carolina: Morganton

John Bailey Clark (aged 74, retiree, recluse, animal lover, **shot dead** in his sleep by an 18 year old neighbor who had pledged allegiance to ISIL aka the Islamic State)

<http://www.tributes.com/obituary/show/John-Bailey-Clark-102006541>
<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/local/article161716598.html>

Friday December 19, 2014



India: New Delhi

Event: Church leaders sign a joint statement condemning anti-Christian activities: "...This Christmas season, therefore, we come to you with a heavy heart and great concern of the sense of apprehension and fear in our community at the incidents of violence against our Churches and personnel in various parts of the country...These acts of violence do not stand alone, nor are they isolated incidents. They are quite part of a series of interconnected actions by various non-State actors closely associated with the ruling dispensation. The official celebrations of a good governance day on Christmas day as detailed in government circulars sent to educational institutions throughout the country to organise compulsory events on a day that is holy to us, Members of the Union Council of Ministers have called for national laws against conversion, and a Common Civil Code, politically targeting the Christian and Muslim communities without saying it in so many words...What is more dangerous, and threat to national peace and harmony, is the well thought out campaign in the name of Ghar Wapsi [Coming Home], which is organized not just by fringe elements, but by senior members of Parliament belonging to the ruling party. Their pronouncements question the identity and patriotism of India's several religious minorities"

Archbishop Anil Couto

Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara

Bishop Jacob Barnabas

Archbishop Youhanon Mar Demetros

Bishop Abraham Mar Paulus

Bishop Subodh Mondal

Bishop Samantroy

Bishop Simon John

Dr John Dayal

Rev Richard Howell

Rev Vijayesh Lal

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Christian-leaders,-the-government-needs-to-rid-itself-of-Hindu-radicals-because-India-is-not-a-theocracy-33008.html>



Kazakhstan: Aiyrtau

Maksim Volikov (father of six small children, fined US\$550 - at the level for an individual without a family - for passing out religious literature without permission in Novoukrainka on [August 21, 2014](#), seized personal religious literature included Bibles ordered to not be returned)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2026



Lebanon: Beirut

Fr Paul Karam (Director of Caritas Lebanon; **UPDATE:** said "The impression is that the whole system of international aid for Syrian and Iraqi refugees is on the brink of collapse. There are no more resources, and humanitarian organizations are no longer able to cope with such an emergency")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37007->

[ASIA_LEBANON_Appeal_of_the_Chaldean_Bishop_of_Beirut_for_displaced_Iraqi_Christians#.VJkL-qsjI](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37007-ASIA_LEBANON_Appeal_of_the_Chaldean_Bishop_of_Beirut_for_displaced_Iraqi_Christians#.VJkL-qsjI)

Sunday December 21, 2014



Syria: Derike

Fr Dajad Hagopian (aged 68, has refused to leave his town which has lost two-thirds of its people)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141221175250.htm>



Lebanon: Ras Al Baalbek

Rifaat Nasrallah (has been guarding his village from a possible ISIL [Islamic State] attack, said "We are living on a volcano...Our problem is that if these militants do a lightning attack, take our women, kill our children. That's our worry. We know that after the first blow, they will all be killed. Even if Hizbollah arrives we have lost...This year will not be like last Christmas")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141221183056.htm>



Sudan: Khartoum

Rev Yat Michael (arrested by NISS secret police without charge after delivering a homily)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/12/south-sudanese-pastor-jailed-after-preaching-at-north-khartoum-church/>



Libya: Sirte

Four Egyptian Christians abducted on August 25, 2014; UPDATE: still missing

Jamal Matta Hakim (brother of Rafat Matta Hakim and Romani Matta Hakim, cousin of Adel Sadiki Hakim)

Rafat Matta Hakim (brother of Jamal Matta Hakim and Romani Matta Hakim, cousin of Adel Sadiki Hakim)

Romani Matta Hakim (brother of Jamal Matta Hakim and Rafat Matta Hakim, cousin of Adel Sadiki Hakim)

Adel Sadiki Hakim (cousin of Jamal Matta Hakim, Rafat Matta Hakim, and Romani Matta Hakim)

<http://www.persecution.org/2014/12/21/sadness-overshadows-christmas-for-families-of-egyptian-christians-kidnapped-in-libya/>



United States - New York: New York City

Rafael Ramos (aged 40, police officer, husband of Maritza, father of Justin and Jayden, **shot dead** in his patrol car along with his partner by a Muslim with a history of mental illness, was to have been commissioned a chaplain later that day)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/nypd-officers-shot-and-killed-victim-revealed-as-christian-chaplain-in-training-president-of-chaplain-task-force-says-officer-viewed-job-as-ministry-131529/>

Monday December 22, 2014



India: Pune

Bishop Thomas Dabre (wrote ""We are aware of certain trends and events taking place in our beloved country. We hear of arson, burning of a church, imposition of Hindu practices and methods by means of *Ghar Wapsi* [reconversion]. Some recent events are disturbing, like moves to declare the Gita as India's national scripture, to declare 25 December, Christmas day, as Good Governance Day, or to employ pressure tactics not to call Christian priests as 'Father' but as *Acharya* or *Guruji*. They are unjust, forced attempts to imposed *sarasvati puja*. At present, the *Ghar Wapsi* campaign has created an atmosphere of fear and anxiety among Muslims and Christians...Conversion is a right enshrined in the Constitution and there can be no debate on this issue. Christians do not indulge in forced conversions. We neither practice nor recognize conversions by force, fraud and enticement. Forced conversions and their sensationalized and thus organized promotion are provocative..."")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Mgr-Dabre,-India-should-ensure-respect-for-the-rights-and-freedoms-of-all-citizens-33023.html>



Turkmenistan

Kerven Kakabayev (aged 18, sentenced to 2 years' corrective labor for refusing military service)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2196



Iraq: Dora suburb, Bagdad

Fr Timothaeus Issa (said "The people with families have left. The old people, some of them have stayed. All the young people have left. There are very few children here. As for me, in terms of my religious responsibilities, my job is to be father of my people here. I have to stay with these families. But personally, I'm thinking about it. I'm making my preparations...We are on the final step of the way now. Everyone wants to leave. That's it, now")

Pritcha (aged 3, refugee)

Mariam Ezzo (aged 4, refugee)

Shehed Picha (aged 6, refugee)

Sandra Nona (aged 5, refugee)

Samanta Nona (aged 2, refugee)

Fadi (aged 38, refugee)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141222181545.htm>



Syria: Aleppo

Giorgio Istifan (husband of Miriam, father of Benita, separated from his wife and daughter due to the fighting, injured in his left side by shrapnel from a mortar shell on November 8 2014, wrote "Life during the war in Syria has taught us Christians that faith is essential. As a result of this faith, there is trust in God. Despite the length and tragedy of this war, our faith has increased and so has our trust in the Lord. With the eyes of faith, we see every day the hand of God cure all of us, and take care of our daily needs. Even though we might suffer and experience gusts of wind, it seems that in this great storm of war, we are under the protection of great powerful wings")

Miriam Istifan (wife of Giorgio, mother of Benita, educational psychologist, separated from her husband due to the fighting)

Benita Istifan (aged 18 months, daughter of Giorgio and Miriam Istifan, separated from her father due to the fighting)

Fr Ibrahim Alsabagh (**UPDATE:** helped Giorgio Istifan write his account)

Archbishop Jean Clement Jeanbart (**UPDATE:** wrote "Christians all over the world are preparing the beautiful feast of Christmas with its humble and heavenly scenes bringing joy, warmth and hope to the hearts of young and old, everywhere in our disenchanted and sad world! We also in Syria are wishing for a Christmas of joy and consolation in the midst of this shameful war which has ravaged our country for almost four years now...Truly, we are suffering greatly because of what is happening to us but with the humblest and the poorest, we wait anxiously but with patience and great hope for the Lord to bring us this year the gift of PEACE for the happiness of our people and for all the nations suffering in the world...")

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/a-christmas-message-from-aleppos-bishop-hope-for-joy-peace-70967/>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Aleppo:-Christmas-among-Christian-families-broken-by-war,-praying-for-peace-33022.html>



Palestine: Gaza

Patriarch Fouad Twal (**UPDATE:** said "We have always been moved to read in the Gospels that Mary and Joseph found no room in the inn, and that baby Jesus was born in a grotto. Today, among the millions of refugees, there are many children who desire to be able to sleep in a grotto like the one in which the Savior is born. For them it would be a luxury")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37014->

[ASIA HOLY LAND Patriarch Twal visits Gaza today for many refugee children it would be a luxury to live in the grotto where Jesus was born#.VJkLOqsjI](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37014-ASIA_HOLY_LAND_Patriarch_Twal_visits_Gaza_today_for_many_refugee_children_it_would_be_a_luxury_to_live_in_the_grotto_where_Jesus_was_born#.VJkLOqsjI)



Uganda: Kisaba, Bukasa Island, Lake Victoria

Pastor Sarah Kalaja (church attacked by shamans and sorcerers with clubs and sticks, 30 Christians hospitalized, Bibles destroyed along with furniture, doors, and other property)

Uganda: Kalangala

Bishop Godfrey Muyanja (condemned the attack on the church led by Pastor Sarah Kalaja, said "The action of the rowdy group of witchdoctors attacking, raiding and demolishing the house of God is evil and uncalled for. Most of the church faithful sustained injuries in the attack and are receiving treatment in different clinics, while others have fled the landing site for fear of another attack")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/12/african-shamans-in-uganda-injure-christians-damage-church-building/>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/12/african-shamans-in-uganda-injure-christians-damage-church-building/>



Egypt: Fayoum

Mina Thabet (**UPDATE:** said "People now pray in the ashes of the churches. The churches have been destroyed and praying on the streets can cause problems")

Egypt: Minya

Fr Sidarous Macca (described the intricate wood carvings that were destroyed by arson on August 14, 2013, **UPDATE:** said that many Muslim neighbors donated money to rebuild the church)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141222180945.htm>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141222034717.htm>



Turkey

Petrus (spoke about persecution "When I'm at church, I'm okay. It's life outside church that's difficult. I'm sad that I can't study our theology outside the monastery")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141222180945.htm>



Russia: Orel

Pastor Pavel Pilipchuk (fined US\$557 on [August 11, 2014](#) for illegally organizing an outdoor Palm Sunday worship service despite testimony that he was not present; appeal rejected on [September 29, 2014](#); **UPDATE**: fine doubled for non-payment)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2059



Ukraine: Sarny diocese

Metropolitan Anatoly (condemned the desecration of seven churches since the beginning of December)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/76026.htm>



Mexico: Ciudad Altamirano, Guerrero state

Fr Gregorio Lopez Gorostieta (seminary professor, abducted, **murdered**)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/12/27/third-priest-in-a-year-murdered-in-mexican-state-of-guerrero/>

Tuesday December 23, 2014



India: Kerala

Catholicose Baselios Paulose II (condemned forced conversions as violations of the Constitution)

India: Delhi

Rev Phil Oswald (U.S. citizen, missionary, has been repeatedly targeted by Hindu nationalists in apparent entrapment attempts, has still had trouble renewing his visa)

India

Rev Bhupendra Kohra (**UPDATE**: said “Christians in India are apprehensive of having a peaceful Christmas amid this wave of attacks as the right-wing groups are also becoming more aggressive in their mass conversion program that is taking place in different parts of India. We are fearful but we are praying”)

India: Akleshpur village, Mahabubnagar district, Telangana state

Gangamma (aged 60, convert, widow, home invaded by 100 Hindu radicals, family assaulted, possessions including a calendar with Bible verses thrown into the street, told "You either choose the village or you choose Jesus", grandson abducted and held for three days, released)

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/24/world/asia/india-narendra-modi-hindu-conversions-missionaries.html?_r=1

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/12/christmas-season-brings-christianity-under-renewed-attack-in-india/>

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/03/06/icc-investigated-one-of-indias-toughest-districts-for-christians/http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2014/12/catholicos-of-the-east-forced-conversions-will-dismantle-interreligious-harmony/>



Pakistan: Punjab state

Napoleon Qayyum (rights advocate with World Vision in Progress Foundation; **UPDATE**: said that he has never seen the government so serious about prosecuting the Muslim murderers of non-Muslims as it has become with the killers of Shazad Masih and Shama Bibi, eleven suspects have been denied bail including one of the Muslim clerics accused of inciting the mob with the mosque's loudspeakers, the coroner's report confirms the married couple were still alive when they were thrown into the brick oven on [November 4, 2014](#))

https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/12/article_3565050.html/



Iraq: Bagdad

Ayad Imad (aged 22, family will be leaving the country soon)

Fr Mokhlasee (spoke on the Christian exodus from the country "If it stays this way we will shrink to nothing. We believe that God wants us here for diversity in the region. Unfortunately, people are afraid of the future, and they are leaving")

Yonadam Kanna (member of parliament, **UPDATE:** spoke on the French and U.S. governments' granting of visas to Christians "It's a disaster. Violence and discrimination and corruption are kicking us out, then others are pulling us out. The international community is encouraging Christians to leave. This is destroying our community here")

Fr Miyassir (said in an Advent homily "We are becoming fewer in number. We ask God that we can keep our churches, keep our country. We have a message that people should stay in this country" but later privately admitted "Even my family is leaving")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141222200357.htm>



Jordan: Amman

Milad (aged 26, mother of a 1 year old daughter, Iraqi refugee, said "We want a new life, a new future. We want to stop moving around. There is no stability here. There are no guarantees")

Hanna Massad (aged 54, Palestinian minister, said of the Iraqi refugees "You try to encourage them with a Christmas party, but they're thinking how to survive, pay rent and get food for their children. They are hurting deeply")

Rev Ala Nadim al-Alamat (said he does not think Christians should leave the Mideast, but added "But I can't just moralize at people. If I had daughters, and ISIL came for them, I would go")

Anwar Daoud (aged 59, Iraqi refugee, said "We are Christians, and we will always be Christians. We are proud. But in these 10 years it's been death, terror, killings. We were patient, but khalas, enough. There is no future in our hearts for Mosul. We just want to get out")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141222230513.htm>



Syria: Aleppo

Bishop Antoine Audo SJ (**UPDATE:** wrote "I will do my best to spread hope in Aleppo this Christmas, but it is hard to celebrate when your city is in ruins...It is desperately cold this winter, with no heating or electricity across the city. Every evening it gets dark early. Here in my bishopric, we light a stove, using chairs for firewood, chopping up and burning one per night. When I go to bed, it is often so cold that I struggle to sleep. But even as I lie shivering under my blankets, I remember how lucky I am compared with my brothers and sisters who have nowhere safe to rest: so many of them are in desperate need of food, health care and shelter...What gives me hope this Christmas? The compassion of people who take care of each other. The small signs of humanity as people share what little they have. The solidarity of my brothers and sisters around the world. Most of all, what gives me hope is my faith. I say prayers in the morning, and read the Word of God, and it gives me the conviction that we can carry on..."")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141222202833.htm>



Belarus: Borisov, Minsk region

Andrei Kuzin (home raided by police during a [November 20, 2014](#) worship service, **UPDATE:** fined US\$250, has appealed)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2035



Libya: Sirte

Dr Magdy Sobhi Tawfik (Egyptian citizen, **handcuffed and killed** along with his wife, 18 year old daughter Catherine abducted and later killed, two younger girls left behind, valuables and cash left behind on a table)

Dr Sahar (wife of Dr Magdy Sobhi Tawfik, mother of Catherine, **killed**)

Catherine Magdy (aged 18, daughter of Doctors Magdy Sobhi Tawfik and Sahar, abducted after her parents were murdered, **found dead**)

Dr Samir Sobhi (uncle of Catherine Magdy, described the murder of his niece and her parents Dr Magdy Sobhi Tawfik and his wife)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/3215-coptic-doctor-and-wife-killed-daughter-kidnapped-in-libya>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=58736>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=58740>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=58751>



United Kingdom: Wrexham

Mark Vening (missionary at Youth With A Mission, called on its supporters to write Members of Parliament concerning the Visa & Immigration offices suspension of its sponsored visas, 350 missionaries and their families may be deported by April, said that his organization is the third Christian missionary group to be targeted in the last year as apparent "soft targets" in an effort to reduce immigrant visas)

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/gleanings/2015/january/350-ywam-missionaries-fear-forced-exit-from-united-kingdom.html>

Wednesday December 24, 2014



China: Baoma Town, Langzhong, Sichuan province

Pastor Li Mingxing (described a police raid on a home church meeting, three members detained, musical instruments seized)

Ma Yuying (given a five day administrative detention, later released)

Chen Deying (detained, not released)

Li Chengxi (**UPDATE**: detained, not released, musical instruments seized)

He Shili (home raided by police, not detained)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/12/three-sichuan-church-members-detained.html>



India: Panaji

Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrao (raised concerns over several recent actions by Hindu radicals including an attempt to force Catholic schools to install a statue of the goddess Saraswati)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/Treatment-to-Christians-worries-archbishop/articleshow/45622781.cms>



Iraq: Bagdad

Fr Maysar Bahnam (said "The situation in our city is very difficult...We can't do anything outside the church")

Rev Andrew White (**UPDATE**: wrote on Facebook from outside Iraq "I will never forget the day in Baghdad when we had some visitors. They had come to see what it was really like for Christians in Iraq. They were so surprised by how happy the thousands of people were in our congregation. 'How can you be so happy when you are surrounded, suicide bombs, mortar's rockets and such violence.' One of our young people answered the statement: 'You see when you have lost everything, Jesus is all you have got left'")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141224180342.htm>



Lebanon: Beirut

Fr Youssef Denha (Iraqi refugee, assists with the distribution of food to the refugees, said "This is a holiday of sadness, not happiness. Daesh [ISIL] has left us with nothing")

Ragged Israel (aged 33, wife, mother of three boys and a girl all under 11 years of age, Iraqi refugee, arrived after spending months sleeping in open fields to escape ISIL, said "Islamic State is in my village, and I'll never go back to Iraq")

Bishop Michel Kassarji (said his church was supporting 1,800 Christian refugee families and the number has been growing by 25 per week "It's very difficult...As a church, we do everything to make the people here happy, and we try to help them with their food")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141223203426.htm>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141224180342.htm>



Central African Republic: near Bangui

Archbishop Dieudonne Nzapalainga (**UPDATE**: travelled to camps holding former Seleka rebels, distributed food, soap, and children's clothing, said "For two hours, I listened to their complaints, because they repeatedly stated that no one goes to visit them")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37036->

[AFRICA_CENTRAL_AFRICA_Archbishop_of_Bangui_pays_a_visit_to_former_Seleka_rebels_again#.VKdimcJTEfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37036-AFRICA_CENTRAL_AFRICA_Archbishop_of_Bangui_pays_a_visit_to_former_Seleka_rebels_again#.VKdimcJTEfg)



Nigeria: Chibok, Borno state

Sarah Yaga (daughter of Samuel and Rebecca, abducted by Boko Haram along with over 200 other schoolgirls on [April 15, 2014](#))

Samuel Yaga (husband of Rebecca, father of Sarah and five siblings, automobile mechanic, said of Sarah's abduction "She is brilliant. She liked reading. Always she loved going to school...Every Christmas we used to be complete and happy but now one of us is not there, how can it be the same? They [Sarah's siblings] keep asking me, 'When is she coming back?' But I keep telling them to keep trusting God. Maybe He will hear us")

Rebecca Yaga (wife of Samuel, mother of Sarah and five siblings, said of Sarah's abduction "She used to tell me one day she will finish school and become somebody. She used to assist the younger ones with their homework. She loved studies. She used to fall asleep with her books in her arms")

<http://thenationonline.net/new/bad-christmas/>



Canada

Mary Wagner (released from jail in Toronto, Ontario on June 12, 2014, had been held for almost two years on a probation violation because she refused to agree to not demonstrate in front of abortion clinics; **UPDATE**: arrested for demonstrating at an abortion clinic)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/150-poles-protest-outside-canadian-embassy-to-support-mary-wagner>

Thursday December 25, 2014
Christmas – Western Calendar



China: Beijing

Zhou Jinxia (detained after displaying a placard reading "God, who loves the world, is calling [President] Xi Jinping and [his wife] Peng Liyuan", taken to a psychiatric institute)

China: Mingguang, Bozhou, Anhui province

Pastor Lu (**UPDATE**: house church told to not celebrate Christmas or sing hymns, said “In the past few years, our church has been suppressed by the government on a continuous basis. Our former Party Secretary told the public security bureau leaders to harass us. Yet, all the harassment has not reduced the number of our worshippers. Instead, the number of church members has increased”)

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/gospel-12262014130035.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/01/anhui-officers-threaten-house-churchs.html>



India: Delhi

Dr John Dayal (Christian activist and member of the National Integration Council; **UPDATE**: wrote "On December 18, India's National Minorities Day, Rajeshwar Singh, the head of the Dharm Jagran Manch [Faith Awakening Forum] declared on national television news channels that his organization had set a 2021 deadline to cleanse India of 'alien Islam and Christianity'. Another group said Christians would not be allowed in Himalayan regions that are sacred to Hindus...The Indian government has not indicated whether Singh is being prosecuted under India's strict laws against religious discord. So far the laws have been largely used to target Christian pastors, and in recent months, Muslim youths venting their anger against the government on Facebook...Meanwhile, members of the Council of Ministers and spokesmen for the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP], which controls many Indian state governments, have been vocal in support of the Sangh Parivar. The Parivar is a large and almost omnipresent family of Hindu militant organizations created by the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh [RSS paramilitary organization] in the past two decades. The Dharma Jagran Manch, the Bajrang Dal [youth organization] and the powerful Vishwa Hindu Parishad are among the more prominent of its groups with aggressive cadres...RSS affiliated groups have launched a campaign to convert poor Christians and Muslims to Hinduism, a process they call Ghar Wapsi, or homecoming. They argue that every Indian is actually a Hindu, and Christians and Muslims are those who strayed, or were bought by missionaries...Protestant pastors are being beaten up, home churches raided almost as a matter of routine, with the police looking on, or actively participating. Santa Claus, of course, has been proscribed...The fact that the Sangh Parivar runs over 57,000 ideology-based schools for children in villages across several states, especially in areas populated by tribal and Dalit groups, makes available a cadre of youth and their parents ready to do their bidding...The federal minister for education, former TV actress Smriti Boman Irani, has ordered a revision of text books, particularly of history, to incorporate more ancient Indian traditions including references to Hindu sacred texts. Various important councils in the ministry are now chaired by luminaries wedded to the thesis that India is the fountainhead of all knowledge in the world. The BJP and the minister hold that Hindu sacred texts are a 5,000-year-old source of knowledge on such diverse subjects as plastic surgery, aviation, nuclear weaponry and genetic engineering...Muslims and Christians feel they are being strangled by a tightening noose, in the villages and small towns by Sangh cadres who have the police on their side,

and nationally by the federal and state governments who seem to endorse the hate campaigns and the violence...All too many people in office and heading Sangh groups have said that the constitution is an inheritance from Britain that has no place in Hindu Rashtra, the Land of the Hindus. This is something that must worry not just Indian religious minorities, but the world")

India: Aligarh

Osmond Charles (attorney, **UPDATE:** said "People are nervous about the new government at the center as they feel such activities [as mass forced conversions to Hinduism] will be condoned")

Navneet Kedar (attended Christmas service despite Hindu activities)

Prem Taj Masih (pensioner, said "My forebears have been coming to this church since it was established in 1868. There is no sense of fear from the Hindu masses")

Sachin Sahay (network engineer, said "So far, I don't feel insecure, but we should be free to follow our own faith")

Ghanishka Kedar (aged 12, said "We never talk about such issues [as religious differences] in school")

Abraham Varghese (aged 25, said "What is the meaning of this 'homecoming'? We are already in our home")

Fr Sunil Luke (said there were no incidents this year)

India: Balisuda, Sundergarh district, Orissa state

Three pastors and six other Christians arrested on charges of forced conversions during their Christmas celebration

Pastor R Mahanta (arrested)

Pastor J Das (arrested)

Pastor Kaila Badaika (arrested)

India: Deogarh, Khandua district, Madhya Pradesh state

A Christmas celebration is attacked by 100 Hindu radicals

Brother Jibaratna Bira (husband of Siporah Singh, Christmas celebration attacked, threatened with death, fled into the jungle with 25 parishioners, found the next day and beaten along with his daughters, charged with forcible conversions by the police and jailed)

Siporah Singh (wife of Brother Jibaratna Bira, Christmas celebration attacked, threatened with death, fled into the jungle with 25 parishioners, found the next day and beaten along with her daughters, charged with forcible conversions by the police and jailed)

India: Sukta Dam, Khandwa district, Madhya Pradesh state

Shamlal (hosted a Christmas celebration in his home with 13 Christians, chased from his home by a Hindu mob, all were rescued by police then arrested for forcible conversions)

Geetanjali (young mother, chased from a Christmas celebration by a Hindu mob, rescued by police then arrested for forcible conversions)

Abhilasha (aged 8 months, chased from a Christmas celebration by a Hindu mob, rescued by police then arrested for forcible conversions)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/world-must-act-against-hindu-plan-for-christian-muslim-free-india/72688>

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/12/uneasy-christmas-india-christians-20141227114118694377.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christmas-in-jail-for-Christians-in-Orissa-and-Madhya-Pradesh-33059.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christmas-in-jail-for-Christians-in-Orissa-and-Madhya-Pradesh-33059.html>

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/01/08/as-the-world-celebrated-thirteen-christians-in-india-spent-their-christmas-in-jail/>



Iran: Roudehen, Tehran province

House church raided, nine Christians arrested

Mehdi Kian (arrested)

Ali Sadraddin (arrested)

Mohammad Kazemi (arrested)

Azin Faroudi (arrested)

Mohammad Hossein Moridian (arrested)

Maryam Narimani (arrested)

Alireza Nasiri (arrested)

Brother Matin (arrested)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141229144417.htm>



Iraq: Bagdad

Sabrina Yousef (mother, refugee, said that the children "don't really understand what is happening in their villages" after the ISIL takeover)

Samir Bihnam (aged 46, refugee, said of Christmases past and present "It was all first-class food, and clothes. The church was beautiful and it was full of happiness. Now it is full of sadness. You can't see the friends you used to know. They are either dead or have left the country...We believe everything in the world has a beginning and an end. But not in Iraq. There is no end")

Nour Faleh (aged 12, refugee)

Theresa (kindergartner, refugee, said "I want to go back to my home")

Fr Nabil Yako (spoke fatalistically concerning the possibility of an attack on his church)

Samir Bassem (aged 9, refugee)

Chaeen Bassem (aged 7, refugee)

Fullah Falah (aged 9, refugee)

Amil Noaman (aged 53, refugee, said "We want to travel. Even an animal lives better than us")

Falah Saaed (aged 50, said of his 4 year old daughter "She says Daesh [ISIL] will come for us. I can't say anything, my heart breaks...We used to be like brothers with the Muslims. Then when Daesh came, they turned against us. You don't know who's your friend or your enemy")

Shema Karomi (aged 55, refugee, said "This Christmas we are not happy because of the instability in Syria and Iraq. People living in these countries are frightened for their future")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141225043035.htm>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141224235532.htm>



Russia

Fr Gleb Yakunin (aged 80, married, father of Maria, Alexander, and Anna, arrested by the KGB on [August 28, 1980](#) for anti-Soviet agitation; released in [March 1987](#); **UPDATE: died after a long illness**)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue25850.html>



Vatican City: St Peter's Square

Fr Frederico Lombardi (director of the Vatican Press Office; **UPDATE: condemned an attack by a half-naked FEMEN member on the creche in St Peter's Square following the Papal Christmas blessing: "[FEMEN has] intentionally, repeatedly and gravely violated the right of the faithful to see their legitimate religious convictions respected"**)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150105151709.htm>



United States – Massachusetts: Haverhill

Brenda Burns (donated an infant Jesus figurine to replace the one stolen from a manger and replaced with the head of a pig)

Fr Allen Rash (asked for the return of the original infant Jesus figurine)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/vandals-replace-baby-jesus-in-mass-churchs-nativity-display-with-pigs-head-police-investigate-possible-hate-crime-131717/>

Friday December 26, 2014



Iran

Pastor Farshid Malayeri Fathi (aged 35 in 2014, in jail since December 2010; sentenced to six years imprisonment for "being the chief agent of foreign organizations in Iran and of administrating funds for foreign organizations"; **UPDATE:** wrote in a Christmas letter "Although the beauty of Christmas or the signs of Christmas cannot be found in this prison, with the ears of faith I can hear the everlasting and beautiful truth that: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel.' Your captive brother who is free in Christ")

Iran: Tehran

Pastor Victor Beth Tarmez (husband of Shamiram Isavi, father of Ram-eil, bodily searched during a police raid on his home, arrested)

Shamiram Isavi (wife of Pastor Victor Beth Tarmez, mother of Ram-eil, bodily searched during the police raid on her home)

Ram-eil (son of Pastor Victor Beth Tarmez and Shamiram Isavi, bodily searched during the police raid on his home)

Amin (convert, detained by police after the raid on the home of Pastor Victor Beth Tarmez)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9622:a-jailed-iranian-pastors-christmas-prayer&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141229144417.htm>

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9635:several-christians-arrested-at-christmas-in-tehran-their-celebration-interrupted&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Iraq: Bagdad

Fr Thair Abdul Masih (said "The recent conditions have left us with a bit of sadness for our brethren, be they Christian or non-Christian, those who were displaced and harmed")

Fadi Rafaat (aged 27, assistant to Fr Thair Abdul Masih, said of the war's refugees "They live in misery...yet we still exchange blessings and congratulations of Christmas and the New Year. We celebrate the happiness of Christmas, but deep inside we carry the sadness of Iraq")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141225193015.htm>



Jordan: Amman

Saif (Iraqi refugee, newlywed, said "I don't have a future in Iraq. There are other countries where they know about human rights")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141225193436.htm>

Saturday December 27, 2014



Iraq: Dohuk

Dr Kamal Yusef (refugee, is planning to leave the country, said "You have to change your religion to stay there")

Tedy (refugee, said "I am not an Iraqi, I am a Christian, and I don't have anyone to support me. We like Iraq, but Iraq doesn't like us")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20141227130357.htm>



Nigeria: Tattaura, Ancha district, Kaduna state

Pastor Mike Maikarfi (described an attack by gunmen on a Christmas celebration that killed 10 and severely injured 5)

Joel Ambo (killed)

Yakubu Ambi (killed)

Yamu Idzi (killed)

Anche Ishaku (killed)

Misalai Ngbo (killed)

Ishaya Anche (killed)

Monday Samson (killed)

Joel Anzah (killed)

Jonathan Anche (killed)

P-Square (nickname, young man, killed)

Mike Sanga (**UPDATE:** said “Muslim Fulani herdsmen carried out both attacks [June 23 and December 27 2014]”)

Thomas Adams (said “At about 10 p.m. the Fulani herdsmen, armed with sophisticated weapons, invaded our village. Ten Christians were killed on the spot, and five others sustained injuries from gunshots”)

<http://thenationonlineng.net/new/10-killed-kaduna-post-christmas-celebration/>
<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/01/attacks-by-islamic-extremists-in-nigeria-leave-at-least-28-christians-dead/>

Sunday December 28, 2014



Indonesia: Surabaya

Park Seong-beom (aged 37, missionary, South Korean citizen, husband of Lee Kyung-hwa, father of Park Yuna, apparently **died** in the crash of AirAsia QZ8501)

Lee Kyung-hwa (missionary, South Korean citizen, wife of Park Seong-beom, mother of Park Yuna, apparently **died** in the crash of AirAsia QZ8501)

Park Yuna (aged 11 months, South Korean citizen, daughter of Park Seong-beom and Lee Kyung-hwa, apparently **died** in the crash of AirAsia QZ8501)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/airasia-flight-qz8501-found-young-family-of-christian-missionaries-among-162-people-onboard-131857/>



India: Gaya district, Bihar state

Shiv Shankar Masih (convert, dalit [untouchable], said that a member of parliament offered him a government job if he would revert to Hinduism, the previous evening RSS paramilitaries attacked the hamlet of 45 Christian dalit families but were driven off)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/Dalit-Christian-converts-in-Bihar-seek-police-protection-accuse-Sangh-of-intimidation/articleshow/45677670.cms>



Pakistan

Fr James Channan, OP (director of the Dominican Peace Center; **UPDATE**: has been working to support the orphaned children of Shahzad Masih and Shama Bibi)

Poonam (aged 1, youngest daughter of Shama Bibi, pulled from her mother's arms and thrown on the floor when he mother was seized by the mob, orphaned after her parents were burned alive; **UPDATE**: has been provided with a new home)

Salman (aged 5, son of Shahzad Masih and Shama Bibi, orphaned after his parents were burned alive; **UPDATE**: has been provided with a new home)

Sonia (aged 3, daughter of Shahzad Masih and Shama Bibi, orphaned after her parents were burned alive; **UPDATE**: has been provided with a new home)

<http://www.ecumenicalnews.com/article/pakistan-blasphemy-victims-children-get-christmas-reprieve-law-unchallenged-27675>



Jordan: Annam

Dr Imad Ibraheem Daood (aged 47, husband of Sajida, father of four, surgeon, Iraqi refugee, said “We are living in a very bad situation. We are afraid of diseases, getting sick. There is some difficulty in our food supply: every day becomes less and less, especially the dinners. Most of the time we don’t have one...We are nearly every day going to the church here. We are praying. Still we have the faith. We lost many things, but still we have the faith. Still there is hope”)

Sajida (wife of Dr Imad Ibraheem Daood, mother of four, Iraqi refugee)

Ibad (aged 20, son of Dr Imad Ibraheem Daood and Sajida, Iraqi refugee)

Yusif (aged 13, son of Dr Imad Ibraheem Daood and Sajida, Iraqi refugee, said “We trust in God”)

Valentin (daughter of Dr Imad Ibraheem Daood and Sajida, Iraqi refugee)

Mareo (Iraqi refugee, father killed in a church bombing in 2006, said “We pray to make the situation more calm”)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/in-refugee-limbo-iraqi-christians-keep-the-faith-78905/>



Egypt: Minya

Bishoy Armiya aka Mohammed Hegazy (aged 31 in 2014, Egypt's 'most famous' convert, arrested again as he was being released on [July 21, 2014](#) on 2009 charges of "defaming Islam", charges were filed after he attempted to have his religious affiliation changed on his government ID card; **UPDATE:** all but one charge dismissed on appeal, sentence reduced to one year, may be released as he has been jailed since before [December 5, 2013](#))

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=58786>

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/3225-appeals-court-sentences-hegazy-to-one-year-jail-instead-of-five>



Greece: Greek territorial waters, Strait of Otranto, Adriatic Sea

Fr Ilia Kartoziya (Georgian citizen, monastery Abbot, **drowned** during the evacuation of the burning MS Norman Atlantic ferry, consoled other passengers and refused to take a lifeboat seat until others had been saved)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/76559.htm>

Monday December 29, 2014



India

Rev Madhu Chandra Singh (spoke against government discrimination against Christian Dalits [untouchables] "After their conversion, Dalit Christians begin to suffer religious persecution from religious fanatics but also a denial of Scheduled Caste benefits because of the Schedule Caste Order of 1950, which I term a double discrimination of Dalit Christians")

Franklin Caesar (**UPDATE:** said "This system is against the fundamental rights provided to all India's citizens in the Constitution. The Presidential Order of 1950 has destroyed fundamental and constitutional rights of Dalits from Christian and Muslim backgrounds; the benefits must be delink from religion")

India: Borgaon-Bujurg village, Khandwa district, Madhya Pradesh state

Shyamlal (home raided by police after allegations of forced conversions made, police said no evidence of forced conversions was found but ten Christians were arrested including three children under the age of six for having insulted Hinduism)

Dhurubhai Bharatan (said that Hindu extremists pelted the Shyamlal's house and tried to bring down a wall "The police told the Christians that they will be provided protection but arrested them")

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/millions-of-indian-christians-forced-to-choose-between-faith-and-government-benefits-for-untouchables-131782/>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/10-christians-arrested-for-insulting-hinduism-in-khandwa/>



Pakistan: Rawalpindi

Pastor Qamar Ul Zaman (described the burning of his church)

Pastor Tariq Masih (described the burning of his church, cause under investigation, police have been uncooperative)

Ghazala Saleem (heard sounds in the church, called to report the fire, the Fire Brigade did not respond)

Elder Shah Masih (suspected arson in the burning of his church, saw evidence of a chemical accelerant)

Elder Mubashir Zain Iqbal (said that the police appear to be trying to assign the cause of the church fire as electrical without any evidence)

Karamat Masih (church security, always turned off electricity when closing the church)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5127>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5138>



Iran: Tehran

Pastor Farshid Malayeri Fathi (aged 35 in 2014, in jail since December 2010; sentenced to six years imprisonment for "being the chief agent of foreign organizations in Iran and of administrating funds for foreign organizations"; **UPDATE**: sentenced to an additional year in prison, sentence appears related to a Revolutionary Guard raid on his prison in which alcohol was found in an adjacent ward)

http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9637:christian-prisoner-farshid-fathi-receives-an-additional-year-in-prison&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279



Iraq: Bagdad

Yonatan Betkolia (member of parliament, said that the Iranian government is working to send aid to Christian refugees)

Iraq: Ankwara, Kurdistan

Fr Douglas Bazi (**UPDATE**: said "I care about my people. I don't care about the 'Middle East.' The Middle East for almost 2,000 years has been the same. It's the same war, the same conflict. So, why do I have to put my people inside that war? Why?...I am angry because I know Islam very well. In Baghdad they blew up my church. I drove by three bombings, and twice my car was destroyed. I got shot in my leg by an AK-47 – by Islam, and they kidnapped me for nine days...You know who represents Islam very well? ISIL. They are the true Islam. So if someone says, 'No, they do not represent Islam, Hamas does not represent Islam, Hezbollah does not represent Islam.' Who's left then? Come on guys. Come on. Wake up. You know, stop saying those stupid things – it's just stupid. What for? If I lose the last drop of our blood [by encouraging Christians to stay], what is the point of that?")

Baidaa Alias (mother of Marvin Bashar, was likely the first woman to give birth in the refugee camp after fleeing ISIL, said "Yesterday I passed one of the tents, and I saw a lady, she's a grandma, preparing clothes for a new baby to be born. I hate myself in this situation. When the new baby comes, what should I write where they put date and place of birth? 'Tents'?"")

Rabia Soran (aged 37, veterinarian, refugee, manages refugee housing in an uncompleted mall)

Ayad Neha (cement worker, refugee, lives with his family of five and 21 other persons in a three room office, said of ISIL "We still want to know why they kicked us out. We are peaceful people. We have not hurt anyone. Christians are peaceful people. We did not make problems. We do not know why they came there")

Namrud Elyas Hanna (aged 52, said "I want to go back home today. But we can't. We're so frustrated here, so hopeless. Our villages are destroyed, our homes are burnt. Living here is too hard")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/37031->

[ASIA IRAN Iranian aid convoys for Iraqi Christians ready to leave#.VKIq8qsjI](#)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2014/12/displaced-iraqi-christians-ponder-an-iraq-without-christians/>

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/opinion/3222-it-s-a-black-christmas-for-the-christians-of-the-middle-east>



Egypt

Rev Refaat Fekry (Chairman of the Committee on Information and Publishing in Evangelist Synod, criticized the government for banning the 'Zionist' film *Exodus: Gods and Kings*)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1278&A=17022>

Tuesday December 30, 2014



India

Cardinal Baselios Cleemis Thottunkal (Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malankara-rite Catholic Church, called on Prime Minister Modi to intervene against forcible conversions to Hinduism)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/12/30/cardinal-protests-against-forced-conversion-of-christians-to-hinduism/>



Iran

Prison officials scheduled a Christmas celebration in prison, then removed several Christians from the celebration before it began

Pastor Farshid Malayeri Fathi

Ebrahim Firouzi

Rasoul Abdollahi

Sergik (Armenian citizen)

<http://vocir.org/2015/01/10/christian-prisoners-were-deprived-to-attending-of-the-christmas-celebrating/>



Libya: al-Mawarda

Seven Egyptian Coptic Christians were abducted while trying to leave the country

Samuel Wilson

Ezzat Bushra Nassif

Luqa Nagati

Essam Baddar Samir

Malak Farag Ibrahim

Sameh Salah Farouq

Gaber Mounir Adly

Badar Samir (father of Essam Badar)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=58847>

<http://en.wataninet.com/coptic-affairs-coptic-affairs/sectarian/seven-copts-kidnapped-in-libya/12839/>



Nigeria: Kantoma, Mangu Local Government Area, Plateau state

Ulama Joseph (described an attack by Muslim Fulanis that killed 3 Christians, one by beheading)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/01/attacks-by-islamic-extremists-in-nigeria-leave-at-least-28-christians-dead/>

Wednesday December 31, 2014



India

David Dayalan (Asian Access India Director, said of the anti-Christian and anti-Muslim campaign "I wasn't surprised at what's happening, but I'm really surprised at the speed at which the BJP is moving...This is our time. God uses persecution, where you get these determined Christians, focused Christians, unified Christians, and they get after it")

India: Sukta Dam, Khandwa district, Madhya Pradesh state

Shamlal (hosted a Christmas celebration in his home with 13 Christians, chased from his home by a Hindu mob, all were rescued by police then arrested for forcible conversions;

UPDATE: released)

Geetanjali (young mother, chased from a Christmas celebration by a Hindu mob, rescued by police then arrested for forcible conversions; **UPDATE:** released)

Abhilasha (aged 8 months, chased from a Christmas celebration by a Hindu mob, rescued by police then arrested for forcible conversions; **UPDATE:** released)

India: Appampally village, Mahabubnagar district, Telangana state

Raju (aged 22, beaten by 15 Hindu radicals in an attempt to force his conversion to Hinduism)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue25863.html>

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/01/08/as-the-world-celebrated-thirteen-christians-in-india-spent-their-christmas-in-jail/>

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/03/06/icc-investigated-one-of-indias-toughest-districts-for-christians/>



Niger

Mounira (convert, mother of Maoule, beaten unconscious by her husband for her conversion, divorced, threatened with death)

Maoule (convert, son of Mounira)

<http://www.persecution.org/2014/12/31/threatened-with-death-because-of-christ/>



United States

Dr Albert Mohler (Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, denounced an upcoming front page Newsweek article that calls evangelicals and fundamentalists frauds, said "Newsweek's cover story is exactly what happens when a writer fueled by open antipathy to evangelical Christianity tries to throw every argument he can think of against the Bible and its authority. To put the matter plainly, no honest historian would recognize the portrait of

Christian history presented in this essay as accurate and no credible journalist would recognize this screed as balanced")

Bill Donohue (Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, denounced an upcoming front page Newsweek article that calls evangelicals and fundamentalists frauds)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/southern-baptist-leader-albert-mohler-denounces-newsweek-piece-calling-evangelicals-gods-frauds-131921/>

December 2014, date unknown



Turkmenistan

Akmurad Nurjanov (sentenced to prison for refusing military service, sentence suspended)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2196



Syria

Fr Nawras Sammour SJ (Director of Jesuit Refugee Services; **UPDATE:** said in [Toronto, Canada](#) “None of the possible solutions for the Syrian crisis includes the Christians. None of it. If you are talking, for example, about a divided Syria, you have a region for the Kurds, another region for the Sunni, a third region for Alawite and a fourth region for Druze. Christians? They would be around... Now I would say we are completely ignored...Because we are threatening nobody, not considered a threat to anybody, considered as nobody, we would be able to work with everybody. Then we could be something like the salt of the land, everywhere in a very hidden way”)

<http://www.catholicregister.org/item/19494-christians-maintain-hope-in-syria-s-bleakness>



United States – Indiana: Corydon

Linda G Summers (county clerk, fired for requesting a religious accommodation for same sex marriage license issuance)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/80858.htm>

