

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – July 2015

Wednesday July 1, 2015



China: Hong Kong

Rev Philip Woo Siu-hok (ordered on the day a new security law took effect to travel to Shenzhen and sign a 'notice of a rectification order' concerning his church training mainland clergy in 2014, threatened with punishment if he did it again)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/07/ejinsight-mainland-infringing-on.html>



India: Chhattisgarh state

Archbishop Victor Henry Thakur (**UPDATE:** announced that all Christian schools in the state would close for one day in protest over the [June 20, 2015](#) rape of a nun, said "Civil society is appalled and outraged at the violence against the nun, and whilst the administration is working towards capturing the culprits, people are not satisfied at the slow pace of the investigations, and want speedy justice. Around 30 different civil society organizations, and various women's groups, are working together because, as they put it, it is not only a Church issue. It is an issue affecting women and humanity...I have met the nun and her faith is unwavering. Even though she is going through a trauma, her dedication and commitment to Mission is resolute. She is filled with fortitude, evident in the way she recorded her statement. The sister is eager for the culprits to be brought to justice as this will send a strong message to perpetrators of such heinous crimes against women and will continue to serve selflessly for the dignity, equality and justice of women and girls")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Raipur-archbishop:-Catholic-schools-on-strike-to-protest-nun's-rape-34659.html>



Pakistan: Chak 460, Matikay village, Sheikhpura district, Punjab province

Christian families attacked after a transactional dispute over the sale of a 'flex' with pictures of books and Arabic lettering to a Muslim, after the dispute began the Muslim alleged that the lettering was Quranic, husband, wife, and sister-in-law beaten, heads shaved, faces blackened, forced to ride donkeys through the village, all Christians in the village threatened with death by arson

Awais Qamar aka Gareeba (husband of Rukhsana, father of Farzana, Waqas, Wickson and Sherry, son of Saraj Masih)

Rukhsana (wife of Awais Qamar, mother of Farzana, Waqas, Wickson and Sherry, sister of Rehana)

Rehana (wife of Ashraf Masih, sister of Rukhsana, mother of Chand and Sawera)

Pastor Asif (threatened with death for allegedly teaching Christians to desecrate the Quran, asked the mob to release the three accused of blasphemy and hold him instead)

Pakistan: Wazirabad

Aftab Masih (aged 40, father of five including Akash and Adnan, accused of blasphemy on [June 29, 2015](#) after he demanded that a local Muslim stop trying to convert his sons to Islam “I only defended my Christian faith but it was taken as blasphemy. Whenever my children went outside, Zain told them to convert to Islam. We draw our drinking water from the nearby mosque. Zain told my children that they could not take water until they convert to Islam; otherwise, they were defiling the taps. But respectable Muslims said that there was no other place for them, so they could fill up with water from here”, the local mosque leader agreed that he had not committed blasphemy after a Muslim witness testified in his behalf, a mob of 300 then surrounded his home, has had to leave his home for another city; **UPDATE:** the local mosque leader agreed that he had not committed blasphemy after a Muslim witness testified in his behalf)

Akash (aged 12, son of Aftab Masih, object of repeated attempts to convert him to Islam)

Adnan (aged 5, son of Aftab Masih, object of repeated attempts to convert him to Islam)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5445>

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/another-pakistani-christian-accused-of-blasphemy-awais-gamar-and-family-face-news-horrors/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4032430/>



Iraq: Bagdad

Qays Abd Shaaya (**killed**)

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



Russia: Elista, Kalmyk Republic

O Fioktistova (tried for illegally organizing a public religious event for handing out literature from a wheeled stand, acquitted)

K Tutinova (tried for illegally organizing a public religious event for handing out literature from a wheeled stand, acquitted)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2117



Nigeria

Monica Enoch (schoolgirl, abducted on [April 14, 2014](#) in [Chibok, Borno state](#) by Boko Haram gunmen; **UPDATE:** reported to have been **stoned to death** for refusing to convert to Islam)

Rev Enoch Mark (**UPDATE:** father of Monica Enoch, said of the report of his daughter's death "To die for the sake of Christ, that's the happiest thing for me. I'm grateful that she didn't change her religion")

Date: July 1, 2015

Source [with video]: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/international-persecution/in-heaven-because-she-refused-to-convert>

Thursday July 2, 2015



Australia: Albury, New South Wales

Greg (aged 70-plus, farmer, Vietnam veteran, reported to have had his jaw broken when punched by a younger man during a pro-life demonstration)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/breaking-70-year-old-aussie-pro-lifer-assaulted-outside-abortion-facility-t>



Pakistan: Wazirabad, Punjab province

Aftab Masih (aged 40, father of five including Akash and Adnan, accused of blasphemy on [June 29, 2015](#) after he demanded that a local Muslim stop trying to convert his sons to Islam “I only defended my Christian faith but it was taken as blasphemy. Whenever my children went outside, Zain told them to convert to Islam. We draw our drinking water from the nearby mosque. Zain told my children that they could not take water until they convert to Islam; otherwise, they were defiling the taps. But respectable Muslims said that there was no other place for them, so they could fill up with water from here”, the local mosque leader agreed that he had not committed blasphemy after a Muslim witness testified in his behalf, a mob of 300 then surrounded his home, has had to leave his home for another city; the local mosque leader agreed on [July 1, 2015](#) that he had not committed blasphemy after a Muslim witness testified in his behalf; **UPDATE:** a mob of 300 then surrounded his home, has had to leave his home for another city)

Akash (aged 12, son of Aftab Masih, object of repeated attempts to convert him to Islam)

Adnan (aged 5, son of Aftab Masih, object of repeated attempts to convert him to Islam)

Aftab Akash ('young boy', threatened with death when apparently tricked into converting to Islam and then recanted [the account is unclear as to details], family and all local Christians also threatened)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/wazirabad-mob-gathered-to-burn-christian-boy-alive-for-not-converting-to-islam/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4032430/>



Uzbekistan: Kattakurgan City, Samarkand region

Galina Podtikhova (stopped in a public park along with Nilufar Bulatova on [June 22, 2015](#), police found religious material on their tablet; **UPDATE:** fined US\$463)

Nilufar Bulatova (stopped in a public park along with Galina Podtikhova on [June 22, 2015](#), police found religious material on their tablet; **UPDATE:** fined US\$463)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2160



Uganda: Budaka district

Hassan Muwanguzi (convert, abandoned by his family, beaten, and fired from his teaching position for converting to Christianity; poisoned by relatives with insecticide on [March 31, 2014](#) in [Kadimukoli village, Budaka district](#), treated, refused further treatment due to financial hardship; victim of a home invasion in [Katira](#) on [June 16, 2014](#) by four Muslims who stated their intention to kill him, locked himself in a room, the men then attacked his

12 year old daughter Grace in an apparent attempt to force him to leave the room, knocked unconscious when he attempted to rescue his daughter who later died; met with a man on [June 29, 2015](#) who claimed to have important information, brought witnesses, the man confessed to have been hired to kill him; **UPDATE:** while he was away his home was invaded by a group of Muslims who stole personal items including his computer, neighbors threatened)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/07/islamic-extremists-in-uganda-try-to-kill-former-muslim-sheikh-who-survived-poisoning/>



Sudan: Khartoum

Event UPDATE: A judge ruled that sufficient evidence existed to charge two pastors with crimes punishable by death

Rev Peter Yein Reith

Rev Yat Michael

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/07/judge-in-sudan-says-south-sudanese-pastors-can-be-charged-with-crimes-punishable-by-death/>



Egypt: Alexandria

Fr Dawood Botros (reported to have been expelled from a hospital for attempting to give Communion to a critically ill patient at the request of the patient's family)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63524>



United States – Oregon: Gresham

Event: Christian couple found guilty on [February 4, 2015](#) of discrimination for refusing to bake a cake for a same sex wedding despite serving same sex couples in other ways, had already closed their business due to harassment; **UPDATE: ordered to pay \$135,000 in punitive damages, ordered to cease discussing their religious motivations for their actions**

Aaron Klein

Melissa Klein

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/oregon-christian-bakers-ordered-to-pay-135k-after-refusing-to-work-gay-wedding-told-to-stop-speaking-about-obeying-god-not-man-141137/>

Friday July 3, 2015



Jordan: Amman

Wael Suleiman (director of Caritas Jordan; **UPDATE:** said "The UN World Food Program warned a week ago that, due to the lack of resources, will stop sending funds for Syrian refugees, which already decreased in percentage last month. Yesterday the Jordanian media gave news that, unless we get more money from the UN, the distribution of food to 450 thousand people will be stopped. This means they will be forced to steal if they want to survive...This catastrophe is also an effect of policies and reckless military interventions made in the Middle East of foreign Powers. Now, after having contributed to the disaster, they wash their hands even from a humanitarian emergency point of view")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/38120->

[ASIA JORDAN The UN decreases aid to Syrian refugees The Director of Caritas Jordan the great powers have created the catastrophe and now they wash their hands#.VZdKOMLJAfg](#)



Egypt

Pope Tawadros II aka Wagih Sobhy Baqi Suleiman (**UPDATE:** security tightened due to terrorism fears)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1413&A=19366>



Nigeria: Abuja

Fr Patrick Tor Alumuku (**UPDATE:** said after Boko Haram attacks on two mosques "The new President, Muhammadu Buhari, a devout Muslim, wants to defeat Boko Haram. Buhari appears more decided than the previous President, who was a Christian, in the fight against Boko Haram. The measures taken by the Head of State have put in serious

difficulties the Islamist sect. For example the transfer of the command of military operations against Boko Haram from the federal capital, Abuja, to Maiduguri, capital of Borno State, is seen by Boko Haram as a non-acceptable challenge. All this is putting Boko Haram in difficulty, especially since the Muslim community are denouncing the atrocities committed by Islamists. Faced with the rebellion of Muslim communities, Boko Haram has decided to punish them, because in their ideology you are either with them or against them. But in the end this is a sign of weakness and not of strength")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/38118->

[AFRICA NIGERIA Boko Haram wants to punish Muslims who rebel against their violence says a priest from Abuja#.VZdLGMLJAfg](#)



Guatemala: Guatemala City

Ángel Ariel Escalante Perez (aged 12, thrown from a bridge on [June 18, 2015](#) by six gang members after he refused to kill a bus driver, **UPDATE:** [died](#) after 15 days in intensive care)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/this-guatemalan-boy-chose-to-die-rather-than-kill-48091/>

Saturday July 4, 2015



India: Sagar, Madhya Pradesh state

Rajesh Yadav (aged 45, convert, husband of Rosalin Yadav. [died after a long illness](#), denied a Christian funeral, body turned over to Hindu relatives)

Rosalin Yadav (widow of Rajesh Yadav, attempts to secure a Christian funeral for her husband were denied by the authorities)

India: Dhupera, Seoni, Madhya Pradesh state

Pastor Sumatlal Bihoniya (school destroyed, fled village, local police refused to file his complaint)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Indian-pastor-accused-of-illegal-conversions-in-Orissa-while-deceased-convert-to-Christianity-denied-Christian-burial>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4008171/>



Azerbaijan: Baku

Irina Zakharchenko (aged 55, 80% disabled with arthritis, cited for distributing religious literature door to door in [Pirallahi](#) on [December 5, 2014](#), detained in [Baku](#) by the NSM secret police on [February 17, 2014](#); **UPDATE**: detention extended to September 17, 2015)

Valida Jabrayilova (aged 38, cited for distributing religious literature door to door in [Pirallahi](#) on [December 5, 2014](#), detained in [Baku](#) by the NSM secret police on [February 17, 2014](#); **UPDATE**: detention extended to September 17, 2015)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2088



Syria: Yakubiyah village, Jisr ash-Shugur district, Idlib province

Fr Dhiya Azziz OFM (aged 41, Iraqi citizen, **UPDATE**: abducted possibly by Al-Nusra)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-the-Custody-of-the-Holy-Land,-Nusra-Front-might-be-holding-priest-seized-in-Syria-34698.html>

Sunday July 5, 2015



India: Raiguda village, Keonjhar district, Orissa state

Rev Sisir Nayak (arrested on false charges of conducting illegal conversions, denied bail)

India: Kesara, Mohana, Gajapati, Odisha state

Purna Mallick (father of five, **killed** by a mob which blamed his faith for the deaths of two villagers by illness, his children were bathed in cow dung)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Orissa,-a-Pentecostal-pastor-in-prison-on-false-charges-of-forced-conversions-34688.html>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4008171/>



Sudan: Khartoum

Twelve Christian women leaving a [July 2, 2015](#) church service were arrested for 'indecent dress', later stripped naked at the police station so that their clothing could be 'better inspected', UPDATE: the court fined one of the twelve women US\$84 for 'indecent dress' inside the courthouse

Pastor Felmon Hassan (called as a defense witness, said that the women's dress would be acceptable in Christianity)

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article55610>
<http://uncova.com/in-sudan-12-christian-girls-leaving-church-service-arrested-forced-to-strip-for-wearing-skirts-and-trousers>



Egypt: Luxor

Khalil Malak Khalil (police officer, transferred to reserve forces in preparation for a possible dismissal for "no reason")

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63811>



Nigeria: Potiskum, Yobe state

Garba Manu (described a suicide bombing on a church in which the pastor and four others, including two children, were killed)

Tabita Adamu (aged 44, mother of Haske and Nuhu, sister of Habila Adamu, **killed**)

Haske (aged 18, daughter of Tabita Adamu, **killed**)

Nuhu (aged 11, son of Tabita Adamu, **killed**)

Rev Daniel Dotun Okerinola (husband, father of three, **killed**)

Habila Adamu (brother of Tabita Adamu, wounded in a 2012 Boko Haram shooting; **UPDATE:** said his sister had forgotten money for the church collection and sent six of her children and her husband home to get it, saving their lives, surviving family members are in shock)

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2015/07/suicide-bomber-kills-rccg-pastor-5-others-in-yobe/>
<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/07/3921524/>

Nigeria: Jos, Plateau state

Rev Isaiah Oluwagbayibi (spoke of the arson attack on his church and a second church by local Muslims after a Boko Haram suicide bomber attacked their mosque "A bomb exploded in a mosque, and then they came to burn down our church – what has our church got to do with what happened in their mosque? Are Boko Haram terrorists members of our church? Why are they doing this to Christians in northern Nigeria? We love Muslims and have shown love to them in practical ways, but in return for our love for them, they repay us with evil attacks...I reported as the pastor of this church in March 2012, but prior to my coming, this worship auditorium was destroyed thrice by these Muslims. When I came, the church was completely destroyed. I had to write letters of appeal to other Christians soliciting funds to carry out major repairs. We're only able to worship here on Sunday under protection from the police. Right now I can only estimate that the destruction done to the church is about 5 million naira [US\$24,800]")

Rev Joshua Tuwan (aged 49, spoke of the arson attack on his church and a second church by local Muslims after a Boko Haram suicide bomber attacked their mosque "On Sunday night we pleaded with the security agencies to intervene to save our church from being destroyed. Quite a number of window glasses were destroyed. The quick intervention of soldiers led to prevention of major destruction on the church building by the Muslims...We've been forced to insure this church building instead of using the funds for missions, for we do know that the church has become an object of attack by the Muslims. And it is our desire that no matter the pressure, the hate, and the threat from these Muslims, we intend to ensure that the church remains standing in this place until Jesus comes. He really loves them, and He is the real author of peace. I have always prayed that Muslims in northern Nigeria would know Jesus, and I know that it shall come to pass as these same Muslims who are destroying the church of Jesus Christ, would have their children one day becoming followers of Jesus, and they shall use their resources to build the churches they are now destroying. That is my prayer for them, and we love them")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/07/boko-haram-unleashes-bloodshed-in-attacks-in-nigerias-central-northeastern-states/>



Brazil: Rio de Janeiro

Cardinal Orani Joao Tempesta (automobile stolen by several gunmen in a carjacking, had previously had an automobile carjacked in September 2014)

<http://www.catholicerald.co.uk/news/2015/07/10/brazilian-cardinal-carjacked-for-second-time-in-a-year/>

Monday July 6, 2015



Nepal: Kathmandu

Chari Bahadur Gahatraj (**UPDATE**: said of the new draft constitution “We want secularism to be institutionalized in such a way that it is an unchangeable provision in the new constitution. We want the constitution to ensure religious rights and form a religious commission”)

<http://www.aa.com.tr/en/politics/550887--nepal-s-christians-muslims-slam-draft-constitution>



Pakistan

Musarat Bibi (mother, abducted, raped, forcibly married and converted to Islam)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5495>



Azerbaijan: Baku

Goderdzi Kvaratskhelia (Georgian citizen, detained on [April 9, 2015](#) in a police raid a worship service in a private home, questioned, released; **UPDATE**: ordered deported)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2086



Ethiopia: Killo, Silte zone, Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' state

Six Christian parish council leaders were charged with inciting public disturbance, destroying public trust in government officials, and spreading hatred after sending a letter to the Prime Minister that documented employment discrimination, church burnings, physical attacks, and death threats

Yemariam Worke Teshager

Masresha Seife

Nigatua Lema

Mulugeta Aragaw

Habtamu Teka

Maru Lema

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/08/3982042/>



Egypt

Pope Tawardos II (**UPDATE**: a Muslim Brotherhood member reported to have announced on Facebook that the Brotherhood is going to assassinate him)

Fr Paul Halim (**UPDATE**: reported to have said that the church has not requested increased security for Pope Tawardos II)

Dr Naguib Gabriel (attorney; **UPDATE**: reported to have said that the Facebook posting is a violation of the new anti-terrorism law)

Egypt: Alexandria

Fr Dawood Botros (reported on [July 2, 2015](#) to have been expelled from a hospital for attempting to give Communion to a critically ill patient at the request of the patient's family;

UPDATE: the patient was ordered to leave the hospital after the priest file a complaint)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1414&A=19399>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63571>



United States – Ohio: Toledo

Judge C Allen McConnell (refused to officiate at a same sex wedding citing his “personal and Christian beliefs”)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/80551.htm>

Tuesday July 7, 2015



Vietnam

Y-Man Eban (aged 28, Montagnard tribal, fled to Cambodia)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/the-betrayal-of-vietnams-forgotten-christians/80364>



India: Isagarh, Ashoknagar, Madhya Pradesh state

Christian school invaded by Hindu fundamentalists

Sr 'Lata' (school principal, abused)

Fr 'Raj' (brutally beaten)

India: Ketulnaar, Bijapur, Chhattisgarh state

Pastor Bhima (aged 49, abducted by Maoist guerrillas, escaped, the guerrillas then threatened his family of 18 who then flee the village)

<https://speakoutagainsthate.crowdmap.com/reports/view/361>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4008171/>



Pakistan

Nasir Saeed (**UPDATE**: criticized a prime ministerial 'summary' which stated that it would be henceforth forbidden to translate sacred Arabic words such as allah, masjid, sala'at or rasool into their English counterparts [e.g., God, mosque, prayer, prophet] because it could result in more false accusations against non-Muslims)

Pakistan: Faisalabad

Pastor Ameen (reported on an attack by Muslims on a Christian family, despite attempts at reconciliation “Attackers want to attack again on them, they are trying to make it religious issue”, added that the entire Christian community is now fearful of attack)

<http://directory.ucanews.com/news/christians-concerned-over-pakistans-translation-rule/2412>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5465>



Iran

Bijan Farokhpour Haghighi (detained in Shiraz on [October 12, 2012](#) in a government crackdown that may have detained between 100 and 400 Christians; released on bail on November 1, 2012; sentenced to three years in prison on [July 16, 2013](#); **UPDATE**: bail reportedly revoked, will begin his sentence soon)

Eskandar Rezaie (detained in Shiraz on [October 12, 2012](#) in a government crackdown that may have detained between 100 and 400 Christians; sentenced to one year in prison on [July 16, 2013](#); **UPDATE**: bail reportedly revoked, incarcerated at Adelaba prison)

<http://www.csw.org.uk/2015/07/07/press/2653/article.htm>



Kenya: Soko Mbuji, near Mandera and Garissa

Samuel Kinywa (quarry worker, **killed** by al-Shabab terrorists)

Zacharia Wambugu (quarry worker, **killed** by al-Shabab terrorists)

Patrick Macharia (aged 29, father, quarry worker, shot in the back by al-Shabab terrorists, saw the terrorists kill his Muslim pregnant landlady because she tried to stop the killings, survived, permanently disabled, later said “My wife left me because I could not put food on the table. Life became hard and we went for a day or two without food. She could not bear the kind of life our family was living, so she decided to go back to her maternal home together with our two-year-old baby”)

Bishop Joseph Alessandro OFM Cap (Maltese national; **UPDATE**: said after an al-Shabab attack that killed 14 and injured 11 "Just like the attacks that took place before, workers coming from other areas of Kenya, therefore non-Somalis and non-Muslims are being targeted. Unfortunately it seems that this strategy is having success. Already several non-local workers have fled from Mandera in recent months. The most affected sectors are health and education. Throughout the north-east education is in serious difficulty because of the lack of teachers, coming from other areas of the Country, who refuse to go back to work there... We must say, however, that the Shabaab are also targeting several Muslim leaders who do not think like them and who support the government's action")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/38137->

[AFRICA KENYA The project of the Shabaab to liberate the north east from non Somalis continues said the coadjutor Bishop of Garissa#.VZyO3sLJAfg](#)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/07/al-shabaab-mounts-another-attack-on-non-muslims-near-mandera-kenya/>

<http://www.persecution.org/2016/04/28/persecution-in-kenya-destroys-lives-tears-families-apart/>

Wednesday July 8, 2015



China: Shanghai

Bishop Thaddeus Ma Daqin (**UPDATE**: has begun his third year of house arrest, the government has apparently transferred US\$14.3 million of the diocese's funds to its own and private accounts)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/millions-missing-from-shanghai-church-accounts/73900>

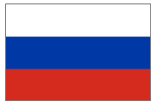


Iraq: Bagdad

Saher Hanna (Interior Ministry employee, abduction victim, **found dead** despite the payment of ransom)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63600#.VZ3vq8LJAfg>

Thursday July 9, 2015



Russia: Ekaterinburg

Nikolai Neuimin (described the desecration of the cross that marks the site of the remains of two of the Romanov family “This is now the third time that the memorial cross has been vandalized. The damage this time will not permit us to place it back in the ground, so we had to tie and nail it to a nearby tree”)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/80639.htm>



Egypt: Algalaa village, Samalout, Minya province

Crops destroyed on land owned by Copts

Nasser Al Fayez Hawwash

Nagah Shehata

Armiah Emad Girgis

Saeed Abdullah

Sharif Gamal Halim

Gamal Celine Atallah

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1417&A=19447>



Ukraine: Kirovskoe, Donetsk region

Archpriest George Tsyganov (reported on the attack in which a church was hit by a shell during an [August 23, 2014](#) vigil service, the church was destroyed, 3 killed, and 7 seriously injured; **UPDATE:** said “We mostly give food to the people who cannot take care of themselves...These are very different people: some of them were left by their relatives, others are simply very old, lonely and feeble people. We only bring food to some of them and they cook it themselves. Among them there are even several former 'big bosses' who once were mine superintendents, but now they are aged and needed by nobody. There is one old woman who during the World War II went through three concentration camps. All in all, we are helping everyone...We cook food at home and our volunteers deliver it to the houses of the most needy. Thus we provide over 50 people with food, and more than 20 people take regular meals in our dining-room. Our food is adequate. For those who are bedridden we even cook meals of milk and meat products. The 'Favor' charitable foundation has provided us with food, but our real problem is medicines. The pharmacies are near-empty, and what they have is extremely expensive”)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/80630.htm>

Friday July 10, 2015



China

Li Heping (husband of Wang Qiaoling, civil rights attorney, disappeared)

Wang Qiaoling (wife of Li Heping)

China: Beijing

Hu Shigen (church elder; **UPDATE:** disappeared)

China: Guangzhou

Pastor Cao Wen (church closed by the authorities in recent months, two other churches and three church affiliated schools also closed)

China: Tianjin

Gou Hongguo aka Ge Ping (husband of Fan Lili, father of Shaner, former military officer, businessman, detained)

China: Zhouzhi

Bishop Joseph Martin Wu Qinjing (aged 46, installed as bishop, had been ordained in 2005 and placed under house arrest in September 2007)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-activist-sentenced-to-three-years-for-subversion-38232.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bishop-Martin-Wu-of-Zhouzhi-installed-today,-10-years-after-his-episcopal-ordination-34741.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/09/beijing-church-elder-missing-for-nearly.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/07/three-more-guangzhou-churches-and-three.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/01/wife-of-detained-lawyer-says-happiness.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/08/wifes-letter-to-imprisoned-husband-with.html>



India: Taherpur, West Bengal state

Fr Satish Makhal (described the desecration of his church "He [the church watchman] and parishioners who came for morning prayers found the tabernacle missing. After a short search they found the tabernacle in the church compound. It was broken opened and the consecrated host was strewn around")

Bishop Joseph Suren Gomes (reported on the police investigation into the church desecration, said: "There is no history any communal tension in the area. They all live in peace and harmony")

Fr Joseph Chinnayan (Catholic Bishops Conference of India deputy secretary-general; **UPDATE:** said "The repeated attack on the churches and missionaries is a grave concern")

India: Kochi

Christopher Joseph (journalist, wrote "It is 25 years since the Indian media reported what they then called the first rape case involving Catholic nuns in Independent India. No one has yet been punished for the crime. Police did arrest four men in connection with the July 13, 1990 rape of two nuns in their convent in Gajraula, near Delhi. However, the trial proved farcical when it was determined they were in jail when the crime was committed...Between 1990 and 1995, New Delhi's Theological Research and Communication Institute recorded 20 more cases of murder, rape and assault on Catholic clergy and nuns in India. Since then the number of incidents has grown with about 100 attacks being recorded in recent years. In the last year the figure has doubled to more than 200, since Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party came to power...It remains a fact that not a single Hindu Brahmkumaris nun has been sexually attacked in all these years")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/church-desecrated-in-eastern-india/73912>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/twenty-five-years-of-violating-indian-nuns-with-impunity/73909>



Iraq: Bagdad

Quais Abdul Shaya (reported to have been abducted, **murdered** despite payment of a US\$25,000 ransom)

Dr Bashar al-Ghanem Akrawi (reported to have been abducted, freed by police)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/38168-ASIA_IRAQ_In_Baghdad_Christians_kidnapped_and_killed_despite_the_payment_of_ransom#.VaCRT8LJAfg



Syria

Fr Dhiya Azziz OFM (aged 41, Iraqi citizen, abducted in **Yakubiyah village, Jisr ash-Shugur district, Idlib province** on **July 4, 2015** possibly by Al-Nusra; **UPDATE**: released)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Syria-Franciscan-priest-Dhiya-Azziz-released-34746.html>



Libya: Sirte or Noufliyah. Cyrenaica

Bekhit Nageh Efrank Ebeid (aged 21, Egyptian citizen, captured by ISIL)

Adeola Ibrahim (Nigerian citizen, abducted by ISIL)

Sekyere Kofi Frimpong (Ghanaian citizen, abducted by ISIL)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/07/christian-family-awaits-word-on-copt-kidnapped-in-libya-by-islamic-state-affiliate/>

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/3841-one-copt-and-two-christian-africans-captured-by-is-in-libya>

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2015/07/20/isis-kidnap-three-african-christians-in-libya/>

Saturday July 11, 2015



Pakistan: Village 136/16-L, Mian Chanu, Khanewal district

Allah Dita (shot and beaten after he prevented two Muslims from harassing Christian girls on the way to church, hospitalized in critical condition)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5541>

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/a-christian-man-who-tried-to-save-christian-girls-from-street-harassment-severely-beaten-and-shot-by-two-muslim-men/>



Iran

Pastor Behnam Irani (husband of Kristina Irani; **UPDATE:** granted a 15 day leave from prison, his first since his arrest in 2010)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=2369>



Syria: Aleppo

Archbishop Jean Clement Jeanbart (**UPDATE:** said "A major attack is being carried out by jihadists on the province through intense shelling as if all means are used to frighten people and urge them to leave")

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63633>



Egypt: Alexandria

Fawzi Osama Ibrahim (aged 16, arrested for distributing food and Christian literature to Muslims during Ramadan)

Stephen Boutros Fayed (aged 21, arrested when he came to the police station to see Fawzi Osama Ibrahim)

Shady Saeed (aged 20, arrested when he came to the police station to see Fawzi Osama Ibrahim)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63669>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/02/case-dropped-against-christians-arrested-for-evangelizing-in-alexandria-egypt/>



Nigeria

Victoria Oyekpen (magistrate, wife of a bishop, abducted by three armed Muslims, testified to her abductors about Jesus)

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/international-persecution/speaking-of-jesus-in-the-midst-of-kidnapping>

Sunday July 12, 2015



China

Zhuang Daohe (attorney and Zhejiang University professor, sent a letter to the governor of Guizhou province asking for the release of his Christian clients from detention for cult activities, particularly the ones who were visiting from outside the province and who need to return to work)

Xu Guotao (**UPDATE**: still detained)

Kang Chengju (**UPDATE**: still detained)

Dai Xiaoqiang (government employee, **UPDATE**: has completed detention, police have requested an arrest warrant)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/07/lawyer-for-zhejiang-christian-detained.html>



India: Nawagad, Jaitalkhar, Kondagoan, Chhattisgarh state

Six female converts ordered to stop attending church, four refuse, beaten, flee the village

Savitri Korram

Lalita Korram

Phulo Netam

Subai Netam

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4008171/>



Pakistan

Waqar Peter Gill (spokesman for a group newly founded to provide churches with security from terror attacks)

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/young.christians.in.pakistan.form.group.to.protect.their.churches.from.terrorist.attacks/58777.htm>



Syria: Shahba, Sweida

Fr Antoine Boutros (aged 50, husband, father of one daughter, missing with his driver Saud Alabdon)

Saud Alabdon (driver for Fr Antoine Boutros, missing)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63676>



Nigeria

Victoria Oyekpen (magistrate, wife of a bishop, abducted on July 11, 2015 by three armed Muslims, testified to her abductors about Jesus, **UPDATE**: escaped)

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/international-persecution/speaking-of-jesus-in-the-midst-of-kidnapping>

Monday July 13, 2015



Egypt: Alexandria

Fawzi Osama Ibrahim (aged 16, arrested for distributing food and Christian literature to Muslims during Ramadan; **UPDATE**: released on bail)

Stephen Boutros Fayed (aged 21, arrested when he came to the police station to see Fawzi Osama Ibrahim; **UPDATE**: released on bail)

Shady Saeed (aged 20, arrested when he came to the police station to see Fawzi Osama Ibrahim; **UPDATE**: released on bail)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/02/case-dropped-against-christians-arrested-for-evangelizing-in-alexandria-egypt/>

Tuesday July 14, 2015



China: Tumen, Jilin province

Peter Hahn (aged 74, U.S. citizen, operator of a Christian NGO specializing in aid to North Koreans, arrested on [November 20, 2014](#) on charges of embezzlement and counterfeiting invoices; **UPDATE**: trial reported to be scheduled for July 28, 2015, health has improved in prison as the weather has warmed, all charges except counterfeiting receipts have been withdrawn)

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/china-set-to-try-jailed-u/1983626.html>



Kenya: Madera county

John Muriuki (quarry worker, shot in the right hand and left forearm during an al-Shabaab terror attack)

<http://www.persecution.org/2017/03/08/a-christian-laborers-long-road-to-recovery-in-kenya/>



Egypt

Fr Abdel Quddus (reported on the attack on a nun "An unknown person stalked a sister in the diocese of Fashn, Beni Suef, and attacked her last week with a bladed weapon while she was outside her residence. He then hit her head against the wall and fled")

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63660>



South Africa: Capetown

Zizipho Pae (student at the [University of Capetown](#), reportedly removed as acting president of the Student Representative Council after posting a comment on her personal Facebook account 'regretting' the U.S. Supreme Court's decision legalizing same-sex marriage, shared office vandalized - scriptural quotes on the wall were ripped down, said "Being an SRC member in my view does not mean that you need to abandon your Christian convictions and your faith. Christ in my life comes before all political positions or political thoughts, so I definitely won't be retracting what I said")

<http://www.charismanews.com/world/50540-christian-student-threatened-for-opposing-gay-marriage-on-facebook>

Wednesday July 15, 2015



India: New Delhi

Two security guards at a Christian school killed by robbers, US\$315 taken

Sunil Kumar (aged 36, brother of Anil Kumar, former student, **killed**)

Anil Kumar (aged 32, brother of Sunil Kumar, former student, **killed**)

Pushpa Devi (aunt of Sunil and Anil Kumar)

Darwin Prashad (school principal, said "It raises serious security concerns for us. I don't rule out a communal [i.e. religious sectarian] angle to the incident")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/two-security-guards-found-murdered-in-indian-christian-school/73938>



Pakistan: Youhanabad, Lahore, Punjab province

More Christians have been released from jail, all were arrested following the March 15, 2015 riot in Youhanabad that was triggered by the attempted suicide bombing of

two churches, all reported that police tortured them and attempted to get them to incriminate church leaders in the riots or to convert to Islam

Riaz Masih (aged 24, son of Javed Masih)

Nazir Masih (aged 33, son of Javed Masih)

Arshad Masih (aged 22, son of Javed Masih)

Tariq Masih (aged 26, son of Naseem Hayat)

Naeem Bhatti (son of Naseem Hayat)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5479>



Sudan: North Khartoum

Two young women who had been arrested with 10 others on June 25, 2015 and had been forced to undress at the police station were convicted and fined, threatened with prison if the fines are not paid within 30 days, a church leader said “They have targeted these girls because of their faith and their race”

Ferdoos Eltoum (aged 19, fined US\$85 for 'indecent dress')

Rehab Omer Kalkom (aged 18, fined US\$85 for 'indecent dress')

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/07/two-young-christian-women-in-sudan-fined-for-indecent-dress/>



Venezuela: road near Ciudad Bolivar

Fr Alex Pinto OFM (disappeared)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/38218-AMERICA_VENEZUELA_The_body_of_a_Franciscan_who_died_a_few_days_has_been_found#.Va8ZKcLJAfg



Colombia: Barrio Sucre, Monteria

Fr Luis Alfonso Leon Pereira (Spanish national, **killed** when he interrupted a burglary by a homeless man in the church sacristy just prior to Mass, neck injured with a broken bottle)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/38194->

[AMERICA COLOMBIA Priest murdered in the sacristy as he was about to celebrate mass#.Vah0lcLJAfg](#)

Thursday July 16, 2015



India: Leelatola, Rajendargram, Anuppur, Madhya Pradesh state

Pastor Chetan Meravi (beaten and robbed at a bus station, attacker accused him of forcible conversions)

Pastor Bacchudas (beaten and robbed at a bus station, attacker accused him of forcible conversions)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4008171/>



Pakistan: Youhanabad, Lahore, Punjab province

More Christians have been released from jail, all were arrested following the March 15, 2015 riot in Youhanabad that was triggered by the attempted suicide bombing of two churches, all reported that police tortured them and attempted to get them to incriminate church leaders in the riots or to convert to Islam

Tariq Masih (aged 26, son of Javed Masih)

Asif Masih (aged 27, son of Javed Masih)

Ishafaq Masih (aged 20, son of Javed Masih)

Yousaf (son of Mashooq)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5479>



Nigeria: Maiduguri

Fr Gideon Obasogie (**UPDATE:** said "I passed through this road to Maiduguri from Jos on Wednesday July 15. A lot of cars were intercepted and burnt down. A good number of

the residents of most villages along the Maiduguri - Damaturu highway had fled their communities for fear of further attacks. ...The rate of the Boko Haram attacks in the past few weeks have become worrisome and dangerous. This remains the only route linking Maiduguri city with the other parts of the world. One can only imagine, what it would look like, if the terrorists succeed in cutting us off from the other part of Nigeria...The group has also planted landmines on the roads, killing several travelers")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/38196->

[AFRICA NIGERIA If Boko Haram succeed in cutting us off from the other part of Nigeria Maiduguri is doomed#.Vahq4cLJAfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38196-)



Spain: Serville

Fr Carlos Martinez Perez (aged 75, **stabbed to death** after Mass by his former brother-in-law)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/38198->

[EUROPE SPAIN Priest stabbed to death on the doorstep#.VanJOcLJAfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38198-)

Friday July 17, 2015



Indonesia: Tolikara regency, Papua

Dorman Wandikmo (denied media allegations that Christians prevented Muslims from praying “We never [prohibited] the Muslim congregations from praying. We sent a notification to the local police office about a special church event two weeks beforehand [as it coincided with the Eid al-Fitr festival], recommending [that] both the church and mosque not use loudspeakers to avoid disturbing each other”, when the mosque used loudspeakers Christian youth asked them to turn down the volume, police responded with gunfire wounding 12 and killing a 15 year old boy)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/08/3963098/>



Iraq

Christina Khidr Ebada (aged 4, daughter of Khader and Ayda Ebada, abducted on [August 22, 2014](#) from her mother's lap by ISIL militants in [Qaraqosh](#); **UPDATE**: reported still missing)

https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/07/article_3937106.html



Egypt: Wasty

Christine Essam (aged 19, reported to have disappeared on her way to work, phone turned off)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1423&A=19550>

Saturday July 18, 2015



India: west Delhi

Ayaid Prasad (home invaded by RSS paramilitary members when three pastors gathered to pray over his ill daughter)

Pastor Harchand Singh (beaten, said “The police asked us uncomfortable questions, like how much money we offered to people to convert them to Christianity”)

Pastor Rajan Gill (manhandled along with two other pastors, said “Hurling verbal abused against us, about 15 extremists rushed towards me and started to push, kick and slap me, and they tore my shirt and beat me up. When one church member, Ranjinder Masih, came to defend me, he was mercilessly beaten up...The police simply told the crowd that they have beaten us enough, and that they will take us inside the police station now. I asked one police officer why they did not intervene when the mob beat us up right in front of the police station. He replied that it was not his duty to intervene outside the police station”)

Ranjinder Masih (aged 36, beaten for 15 minutes in front of the police station by the RSS mob before police intervened, eardrum damaged)

India: Bandholi, Rajasthan state

Malkeeth Singh (evangelist, family threatened)

India: Piprod, Raipur, Chhattisgarh state

Christian conference attacked by up to 50 Hindu extremists, attendees beaten, vehicles vandalized

Pastor Sushant Gyanic (beaten)

<http://www.ndtv.com/delhi-news/pastors-in-west-delhi-allege-harassment-783089>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/07/police-complicit-in-attack-on-christians-in-west-delhi-india-sources-say/>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/08/death-threats-forced-conversions-of-christians-cited-in-india/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4008171/>



Pakistan: Lahore

Sikander Inyat (aged 27, church security volunteer, rickshaw driver, only son and caregiver for his ageing father, lost his right eye in the explosion in the [March 15, 2015](#) terror attacks in Lahore, left leg fractured, as of [June 16, 2015](#) requires surgery on his left eye and a prosthetic right eye; **UPDATE:** still requires surgery, is in danger of total blindness)

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/bomb-blast-hero>



Tajikistan: Bobojon-Gofurov district, Khujand, Sugd region

Christians arrested during a raid on a private home, detained for several hours, authorities demanded they renounce their faith and return to Islam

Nazira Oripova (home raided during a worship service, Bibles seized, detained)

Bimavlyuda Yokubova (detained)

Yusufjon Yakubov (detained)

Umeda Mansurova (detained)

Abdujamol Bobojonov (detained)

Tillakiz Yakubova (detained)

Kimarbon Bobojonov (detained)

Farogat Muhiddinova (detained)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2085

Sunday July 19, 2015



India: Nakhnool village, Rajasthan state

Pastor Pratap Singh (forced with his family to worship idols)

Rajamman Johnson (described the Hindu extremist attack on the family of Pastor Pratap Singh

“The extremists had been following the movement of Pastor Singh closely for a long time, and then they dragged him back from his hiding place to forcefully convert him along with 10 members of his family to Hinduism in an hour-long Ghar Vapsi ceremony. About 600 people gathered in front of Pastor Singh’s house, put up the idol of the Hindu god Hanuman, forced Pastor Singh and 10 family members to worship the idol and forced him to sign a paper which said, ‘I am willing to be a Hindu’. They forced them to drink water procured from the Ganga River and put kumkum [red marks] on their foreheads to show that they were now Hindus...The extremists boldly claimed that they were the ruling [BJP] party in the state, and that they can stop whatever they like. The support they get from the police and the village head emboldened their actions”)

Anil Masih (said "The extremists threatened to socially boycott the Christians if they continue to worship Christ and threatened to kill them if they submit a police complaint against anyone”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/08/death-threats-forced-conversions-of-christians-cited-in-india/>

Monday July 20, 2015



Indonesia: Purworejo, Central Java

Rev Ibnu Prabowo (church heavily damaged by arson in retaliation for an arson attack on a mosque, the second such attack in two days)

Fr Neles Tebay (dean of the Fajar Timur Institute of Philosophy and Theology, said that the arson attacks run counter to popular animist beliefs and called on the police to thoroughly investigate all of the attacks)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Two-Protestant-churches-torched,-possibly-in-retaliation-for-the-burning-of-mosque-in-Papua-34828.html>



Uzbekistan: Urgench, Khorezm region

Stanislav Kim (home raided by police, passport, books, and automobile seized, detained, interrogated, released at 1 AM, summoned the next day for more questioning)

Mirzabek Kuranbayev (present when police raided the home of Stanislav Kim, detained, interrogated, released at 1 AM, summoned the next day for more questioning)

Dmitry Krasnokutsky (aged 15, present when police raided the home of Stanislav Kim, detained, interrogated, released at 1 AM, summoned the next day for more questioning)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2087



Syria: Aleppo

Pastor Ibrahim Nasir (**UPDATE:** said that two-thirds of Syrian Christians have now fled the country. many of those remaining are internally displaced)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63718>



Egypt

Bishoy Armiya Boulous aka Mohammed Hegazy (aged 32, Egypt's 'most famous' convert, arrested before [December 5, 2013](#) in Minya province and charged with "inciting sedition by communicating to a US-based [Coptic] channel unfounded information on Copts persecution in Egypt"; released on bail on July 20, 2014, 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; completed his sentence in [December 2014](#), still incarcerated in [Tora Prison, South Cairo](#) as of [May 27, 2015](#), has been beaten and dragged on concrete floors almost daily; **UPDATE:** has been told that he is to be allowed only one visit per month from his attorney)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63719>



Spain: Cenicientos

Fr Jorge Gonzalez Guadalix (reported to have criticized as "sectarianism" the removal of a public Way of the Cross by a municipal government because it showed a 'lack of respect for unbelievers and those who profess the Muslim religion and culture', despite the fact that

they displayed only Roman numerals, said "How could stone steles without any religious symbol insult a Muslim. He doesn't even know their importance. If naked stones already offend, how much more must then churches and chapels 'insult'? Will they demolish them tomorrow?", added an allusion to the Spanish Civil War "The truth is that you want to make an end to Catholics and with everything that reminds us of the Church. This is an old aim under which Spain has already suffered greatly. The 'fruits of this tolerance' we know all too well")

<http://eponymousflower.blogspot.co.uk/2015/07/stations-of-cross-removed-lack-of.html>



Venezuela: road near Ciudad Bolivar

Fr Alex Pinto OFM (disappeared on [July 15, 2015](#); **UPDATE: body found, had been set on fire, possibly had been shot dead**)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/38218-AMERICA_VENEZUELA_The_body_of_a_Franciscan_who_died_a_few_days_has_been_found#.Va8ZKcLJAfg

Tuesday July 21, 2015



Syria: Hassake

Archbishop Jacques Behnan Hindo (has become the 'almost-mayor' of his city while it has become tied down in fighting between the ISIL and Kurdish militias, said "I have become responsible for the cleaning, the waste emergency, the pest control and all the services that have to do with public health. The conflict puts the population in danger and at risk of epidemics. It all becomes even more complicated with the summer heat. I have taken charge of these needs because I saw that no one would do it, and I coordinate a team of 130 operators - including almost 100 Muslims - who work in neighborhoods inhabited by 400 thousand people, and do not ask for any money...We need trucks to collect waste. But now we do not know exactly where to find them")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/38221-ASIA_SYRIA_Archbishop_Hindo_becomes_almost_mayor_of_Hassake#.Va8X-8LJAfg



United Kingdom

Archbishop Emeritus George Carey (**UPDATE**: accused the British government of ignoring the persecution of Christians by ISIL and refusing to grant them refuge)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/uk-criticized-for-denying-refuge-to-christians-of-syria-and-iraq-fleeing-isis/>



United States – Louisiana: St Francisville

Anna Harrington (wife of Fr Matthew Harrington, delivered her fourth child Irene one month early in a complicated surgery, received 31 units of blood)

Irene (newborn daughter of Anna and Fr Matthew Harrington, diagnosed with hemifacial microsomia)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/80777.htm>

Wednesday July 22, 2015



India

Pastor Krupiah (aged 70, husband of Rodemma, bled profusely from blows to his head during an armed attack on a [June 4, 2013](#) pastoral meeting in [Thukkugudu, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh state](#), hospitalized, required five stitches; **UPDATE**: **died from progressive organ failure as a result of the 2013 beating**)

Rodemma (aged 65, widow of Pastor Krupiah)

Pastor Timothy (leader of a local pastor's fellowship, said, "More often it is the rural pastors who are the targets of the right wing Hindu nationalist groups. These pastors have no medical insurance and without adequate support, which will make things more difficult when they become victims of persecution")

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/07/30/christian-pastor-dies-two-years-after-beating-by-hindu-radicals/>



Pakistan: Islamabad

Aasiya Noreen aka Asia Bibi (aged 50, **UPDATE:** the Federal Supreme Court has ordered a stay of execution and a new hearing on the 2009 blasphemy charges)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/After-Supreme-Court-stays-Asia-Bibi's-execution-and-orders-new-hearing,-Paul-Bhatti-hopes-to-see-her-free-34834.html>



Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan

Fr Bashar Kthea (aged 39, fled Qaraqosh in August 2014 during the ISIL assault, lived in his automobile for 3 months, said that life in the refugee camps had led to "moral corruption" due to lack of work, married couples "losing patience" with each other, the young feel they cannot further their education or marry)

Sahar Mansour (aged 41, professor of chemistry, refugee camp resident, **UPDATE:** wrote "When you talk to Fr Bashar, you notice that he is fatigued, exhausted. You can easily notice the bitterness in Fr Bashar's face or in his voice, but he works with total dedication. He always says that we are created in order to work, that we are soldiers of Christ, that we want to cultivate love and peace, that we want future generations to live better than we lived, and that we do not want to inherit the culture of violence")

Iraq: Kirkik, Kurdistan

Marolin Sabri (aged 28, mother of three, refugee, said "I have to laugh. So many people have come from the government saying they will help us, but we are only surviving on the help from NGOs and the church...Our kids keep asking, 'When will we go home? It is like a prison for them")

Bernan Petros (aged 47, said "We were almost the last family to leave [Bartella]. We left everything behind, even our money. Without my money, how can I make plans? Everything I had is under the control of ISIL...We don't have work. We just survive on what they give us")

Anoutha Ishak (said "We became depressed and psychologically unwell. I was a nurse. I left my job, my belongings, my house, and all our money. Of course after we came here our life changed", now spends most of her time in church)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150722004750.htm>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150722173642.htm>



Cameroon: Maroua

Fr Giuseppe Parietti PIME (saw two 15-year old suicide bombers kill 13 and injure 32: “I was just a few hundred meters from the blast, in Maroua’s central market. We heard a bang, and then a minute later, another. People ran everywhere. Later we heard that the bombers were two girls. Sadly, violence has come here too. And it might be just be the beginning. This is scary...For our part, as missionaries, we have to be with people, even if the situation is not quiet. This is our work”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/As-Islamic-extremism-comes-to-Maroua,-PIME-missionary-bears-witness-34850.html>

Thursday July 23, 2015



China: Wenzhou

Bishop Vincent Zhu Weifang (aged 88, Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association [official church] member, **UPDATE:** led a demonstration against the government demolition of churches along with 26 priests and many laity, a priest called for people to recite the Divine Mercy prayers to support the church in China)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Wenzhou:-90-year-old-bishop-and-26-priests-protest-against-cross-demolitions-34864.html>



India

Rev Ronald John (**UPDATE:** said “There has been double standard and a bias when it comes to filing cases on the perpetrators dealing with attacks on religious minorities. We demand both union and state government to ensure impartial actions both by administration and police”)

Cardinal Telesphore Toppo (**UPDATE:** said "The government has not come out to protect and defend. The Prime Minister has only once spoken in defense of the constitution and he promised to protect the Christians and other minorities. But that was only a promise")

India: Masupally village, Mahabubnagar district, Telangana state

Pastor Aharon (reported being accosted by Hindu radicals before Sunday services, said “The situation is such that I cannot give a guarantee that I will go back to my family when I go to conduct worship in Masupally. On more than one occasion, the members of Hindu Vahini, threatened to kill me if I continue to hold prayers in the village. They surround

me and they use abusive language and manhandled me. They have warned me not to come back”)

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/07/23/indias-christians-call-for-reforms-as-modis-promises-lack-action/>



Pakistan: Lahore, Punjab province

Tarfa Younis (aged 12, orphan, sold into sexual slavery by her two brothers at age 11, escaped)

Pakistan: Burj Mahalam Chak No.35, Pattoki

Fouzia Sadiq (aged 30, wife, mother of three, abducted by her employer and forcibly married and converted to Islam)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/a-12-year-old-christian-girl-sold-to-a-muslim-who-repeatedly-raped-her/>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5495>



Israel / Palestine: Jerusalem

Patriarch Fouad Twal (said of the refugee crisis resulting from war in Iraq and Syria dragging on and on: “Now everyone is tired. The parish priests are tired, the donors are tired, the people are tired and losing their enthusiasm. At the beginning, they were happy to help. But now the future? Caritas does not have the resources to give three meals a day to each person”)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2015/07/23/donor-fatigue-is-hurting-efforts-to-help-christian-fleeing-isis-says-latin-patriarch/>



South Africa: Durban

Fr Samuel (Ethiopian citizen, **killed** in a xenophobic attack)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2015/07/ethiopian-orthodox-priest-killed-in-durban/>



Niger: Niamey

Rev Jacques Kanginde (church destroyed in the [January 17, 2015](#) rioting, **UPDATE:** services now held in a tent, said “Since these incidents, it is as if life had stopped,. The church has become a source of curiosity for passers-by and a hide-out for idlers. Unfortunately our current church finances don’t allow us to begin the reconstruction”)

Pastor Zakaria Jadi (**UPDATE:** said “When I returned to assess the scale of the damage [from the [January 17, 2015](#) rioting], I started to step across our remaining personal belongings along the way, such as books, kitchen utensils and clothes. I felt very bad, such an indescribable feeling when I saw my ripped-up Bible on the ground. For a pastor, it was like my entire life was torn apart. I could not stop shedding tears...It was truly hurting, but I was well supported by brothers and sisters who have encouraged me a lot. And I received my greatest encouragement from God, he has really strengthened me in order to overcome that ordeal. And he also allowed me to support those who were in tears. This painful experience shows also how it is not good for a man to place all his hope in the things of this world. If my life consisted of material belongings, maybe I would not be here today?”)

Rev Samaila Labo (church and home destroyed in the [January 17, 2015](#) rioting, **UPDATE:** has built a provisional chapel, said “It’s a great relief for me to see our members protected from rain and wind. This has also challenged us, that we will not stop our efforts until we rebuild our damaged church”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/07/3942521/>



United States - Washington state

Kevin Stormans (pharmacy owner, ordered to sell abortifacients, said "With 33 pharmacies stocking the drug within five miles of our store, it is extremely disappointing that the court and the state demand that we violate our conscience or lose our family business. All we are asking is to be able to live out the beliefs that we hold, as Americans have always been able to do, and to be able to refer patients for religious reasons, as the medical and pharmaceutical associations overwhelmingly recommend")

<http://www.charismanews.com/us/50695-christian-pharmacy-forced-to-sell-abortion-drugs>

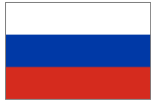
Friday July 24, 2015



Uzbekistan: Karshi, Kashkadarya region

Gulzhahon Kuzebayeva (home entered and searched by police without warrant on July 11, 2014, friends under constant questioning by police; reported on April 14, 2015 to have been in hiding since July 2014 due to fear of torture under interrogation, police have been unable to arrest her; police visited the homes of relatives every day between May 7-16, 2015 in a search for her, finally attempted on May 18, 2015 to force entry to her home but left after seeing they were video recorded; **UPDATE:** police arrived at her home and accused her of abducting her grandson for three days, the boy had been left there voluntarily)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2087



Russia: Perm

T Ganzha (tried for illegally organizing a public religious event for handing out literature from a wheeled stand, convicted, fined US\$302)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2117



Brazil: Guaratingueta, Sao Paulo state

Sr Irma Odete Francisca (aged 65, **stabbed to death** during a burglary at her convent, had worked at a drug rehab center)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/38247-AMERICA_BRAZIL_Franciscan_Sister_murdered#.VbXHgsLJAfg

Saturday July 25, 2015



Indonesia: Tolikara regency, Papua

H K (accused of instigating a riot on July 17, 2015)

J W (accused of instigating a riot on July 17, 2015)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/08/3963098/>



Ukraine: north Kiev

Fr Roman Nikolaev (shot outside his home, hospitalized in critical condition)

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/80956.htm>



Egypt: Cairo

Bishoy Kamel Gergis (teacher in [Sohag](#), arrested on [July 30, 2012](#) for posting defamatory cartoons of Islam and Muhammad on his Facebook page, he claims the account was hacked; convicted, sentenced on [September 18, 2012](#) to 6 years imprisonment;
UPDATE: sentence repealed)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63764>



United States - Kentucky

Rev David Wells (reported to have been dismissed as a volunteer religious counsellor for state youth services after declining to sign a form stating that he would not describe homosexual activity as 'sinful')

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/a-us-state-forbids-pastors-to-call-homosexuality-sinful/>

Sunday July 26, 2015

China: Jinhua, Zhejiang province

Authorities detained seven Christians from the official Three-Help Church on embezzlement charges after they had tried to prevent the demolition of a cross on their church, pastoral licenses revoked

Bao Guohua (spouse of Xing Wenxiang, detained)

Xing Wenxiang (spouse of Bao Guohua, detained)

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/demolition-08052015110651.html>



India: Pangalipdar village, in Kandhamal district, Odisha state

A Christian couple was killed by the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] in a rape attempt, blood and ripped pieces of clothing found at their last known location, local media reported it as a clash with Maoists

Dhubaleswar Nayak (aged 50, 'well liked' Christian leader, Vice President of Kandhamal Baptist Union, husband of Bhubudi Nayak, father of Rahul, Saul, Paul, two girls, and one other, **shot dead** by the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force])

Bhubudi Nayak (aged 45, wife of Dhubaleswar, mother of Rahul, Saul, Paul, two girls, and one other, **shot dead** by the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] during a rape attempt)

Rahul Nayak (aged 26, son of Dhubaleswar and Bhubudi Nayak, was speaking on the phone when they were killed "I could hear my mother shrieking and protesting as if somebody was trying to [rape] her. My father was also shouting. Then I heard gunshots and the last words of my father: 'I am dying'. Afterwards, there was no response from the phone and soon it was switched off. It was a murder")

Fr Ajaya Kumar Singh (director of the Odisha Forum for Social Action [OROSA], said "This is absolutely false. They were not Maoists, but ordinary Christians, killed in cold blood...This is a predominantly Christian village. After the violence of 2008, young people migrated to other states in search of work. Often people have to go to the top of the hill to get a signal and call the world. Dhubaleswar and his wife were ordinary Christians, not Maoist militants")

Sukant Challanset (had left Dhubaleswar and his wife after a prayer service, accosted by armed CRPF officers, questioned at gunpoint, released after disclosing the whereabouts of Dhubaleswar and his wife)

Jibed Challanset (had left Dhubaleswar and his wife after a prayer service, accosted by armed CRPF officers, questioned at gunpoint, released after disclosing the whereabouts of Dhubaleswar and his wife)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/The-cold-blooded-killing-of-a-Christian-“Maoist”-couple-brings-back-fears-of-pogrom-in-Kandhamal-34886.html>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/08/3976958/>



Pakistan

Arif Yousaf (aged 29, brother of Tariq Yousaf, arrested the week previous to [October 30, 2013](#) after Tariq was charged with blasphemy; **UPDATE**: acquitted, released)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/arif-yousuf-the-victim-of-blasphemy-law-in-pakistan-released/>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5500>



Tajikistan: Khujand, Sugd region

Two women detained for conversing with a police agent on the street about their faith, hit and slapped when they refused to sign a confession

Gulnora Tegniyeva

Chaborkhon Bozorboyeva

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2085



Egypt: Minya

Mariam Malak Zakry Tadros (aged 16, sister of Dr Bassem, student ranked first in her class, exams altered to give her a failing grade)

Dr Bassem (brother of Mariam Malak Zakry Tadros, reported on her altered exam grades)

Egypt: Faragallah village, Samalout, Minya province

Galil Farouk (aged 42, farmer, home attacked with Molotov cocktails)

Egypt: Beni Suef

Michael Gabriel (farmer, land seized)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63772>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63776>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63778>

Monday July 27, 2015



Iran: July 27, 2015

Alireza Seyyedian (beaten in [Evin prison, Tehran](#) on [April 17, 2014](#) by Revolutionary Guards who then prohibited prison doctors from treating the inmates until 'trusted' doctors from the intelligence services arrived; illegally transferred on [October 8, 2014](#) from Evin prison in Tehran to [Rajaei-Shahr prison in Alborz province](#), will likely be denied access to each other or to other Christians; **UPDATE**: released from prison)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/iran-a-convert-to-christianity-imprisoned-over-being-baptised-released-from-prison/>



Kenya: Garissa

Esther (mother of three, laborer, has moved her family out of the city, said: "It is because of Al-Shabaab that I moved out of Garissa. You can be shot anytime while you are walking. Even when we're at home they can just come from the bush")

Patrick Gitau (said "Every Sunday I'm here it's my cathedral. Yeah I'm here I was baptized in this church")

Bishop Joseph Alessandro OFM Cap (Maltese national, shot in the hip on a bus by outlaws in 1993; **UPDATE**: said "We are people of God, we are people of faith. God never abandons us and maybe in moments when we feel that we are left on our own. There are those moments that God might be very close to us. Even if we don't feel him")

Sr Evelyn Ingoshe (said "I knew that there was a danger in coming to this place of the country for a non-Muslim but I followed my heart and wanted to do it")

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/07/26/world/garissa-color/>



Syria

Female ISIL captives have been forced to appear in videos in which they said if they were not ransomed then they would be sold as sex slaves

Susan Elias

Hannaa Assaf Youssef

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3199105/ISIS-post-pictures-Christian-women-kidnapped-Syria-threatening-sex-slaves-ransom-not-paid.html>



Russia: Perm

O Belokon (tried for illegally organizing a public religious event for handing out literature from a wheeled stand, convicted, fined US\$151)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2117



United States – Colorado: Florence

Pastor Randy Pfaff (church denied rental use of a public school on Sunday)

<http://christiannews.net/2015/07/30/church-booted-from-public-school-after-district-settles-lawsuit-filed-by-jewish-teacher/>

Tuesday July 28, 2015



China: Chuxhou, Anhui province

Pastor Lu Jingxiang (**UPDATE:** youth summer camp raided by police, said “They snatched our cameras, and the principals took our students away. I asked them ‘Why do you need to send your special police for children this young? Why do you treat us like terrorists?’ After that, they finally left”, one church member detained and released)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/08/anhui-officials-raid-house-churchs.html>



India: Pangalipdar village, in Kandhamal district, Odisha state

A Christian couple was killed by the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] in a rape attempt, blood and ripped pieces of clothing found at their last known location, local media reported it as a clash with Maoists; **UPDATE: bodies released by the police after protests**

Dhubaleswar Nayak (aged 50, 'well liked' Christian leader, Vice President of Kandhamal Baptist Union, husband of Bhubudi Nayak, father of Rahul, Saul, Paul, two girls, and one other,

shot dead by the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force]; **UPDATE:** body released by the police after protests)

Bhubudi Nayak (aged 45, wife of Dhubaleswar, mother of Rahul, Saul, Paul, two girls, and one other, **shot dead** by the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] during a rape attempt; **UPDATE:** body released by the police after protests)

Sushant Nayak (President of Kandhamal Baptist Union, said "This is a clear murder. The hair of the lady had been cut to give the impression that she was a Maoist. All the testimonies we have heard point to fact it was [a] rape attempt [by the CRPF]")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/08/3976958/>

Wednesday July 29, 2015



Syria

Patriarch Gregorios III Laham (aged 81, **UPDATE:** said "If [the West] helps moderates in Syria in a direct way, [it is] helping ISIL in an indirect way. If you give money to the weak, moderate groups one day, it will get into the hands of the powerful, militant groups the next. We see this happening every day")

<http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1438132938.html>



Ukraine: Kiev

Fr Roman Nikolaev (aged 40, shot outside his home in **north Kiev** on **July 25, 2015**, hospitalized in critical condition; **UPDATE:** **died**)

Sr Alevtina (aged 62, **found murdered**, hands were tied and evidence of torture found)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2015/07/priest-attacked-in-kiev-dies/>
<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2015/07/nun-of-ukrainian-orthodox-church-of-the-moscow-patriarchate-murdered-in-kiev/>



Egypt: al-Shorouk, Cairo

Girgis Kamal (aged 30, brother of Avon Kamal, quality engineer, reported to have had several charges fabricated against him by police to force him to retract a complaint he made against the relative of a police officer, detained and tortured)

Avon Kamal (sister of Girgis Kamal, pressured by police to waive complaints)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63805>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63817>

Thursday July 30, 2015



Pakistan: Lahore, Punjab province

Aleem Masih (aged 28, husband of Nadia, brother of Naeem Masih, abducted and **shot dead** by his wife's family)

Nadia (aged 23, convert from Islam, widow of Aleem Masih, abducted and shot by her family for having converted to Christianity and marrying a Christian, left for dead but survived)

Naeem Masih (brother of Aleem Masih, husband of Parveen Naeem)

Parveen Naeem (wife of Naeem Masih, reported that she heard people celebrating the murder of Aleem Masih and that they could send their sons to death more happily if they kill more Christians)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5512>



Kazakhstan: Almaty region

Pastor Sergei Li (described a police raid on a church youth camp and questioned children and adults from morning to late evening "[Police] pounded on the doors with such force that the children became nervous and frightened. The officials continued speaking very loudly, and broke into the bigger hall, where there was also a lesson for children. They behaved like they were detaining some criminals...Officials questioned the minors without the presence of their parents, One seven-year old girl was frightened and cried, and after that I told them to stop questioning the children...all the material – posters, signs, and other study materials from the walls, as well as all the presents and prizes[were confiscated]")

Nadezhda Kogay (parent of a church youth camp attendee, said parents were "fully satisfied with the Church" with the operation of the camp and that parents "they gave their permission for giving their children the English lessons")

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2089



Iraq

Patriarch Louis Raphael I Sako (**UPDATE:** published a prayer that he asked all Christians worldwide to pray on August 7, 2015: "Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to pray to the Father in your name, and you assured us that whatever we asked for, we would receive. Therefore, we come to you with complete confidence, asking you to give us the strength to stand fast in this violent storm, to reach peace and security before it is too late")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150730182501.htm>



United Kingdom

Colin Hart (Christian Institute director, **UPDATE:** wrote a letter to the Education Secretary which stated that Ofsted [the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills] has been refusing to investigate cases of anti-Christian bullying: "You will see they include anti-Christian chanting in assemblies, GCSE pupils who opted to learn Christianity being left to teach themselves, and Christians being called 'ignorant' or 'liars' by teachers")

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/11771487/Ofsted-accused-of-ignoring-the-bullying-of-Christian-students.html>

Friday July 31, 2015



North Korea: Pyongyang

Pastor Lim Hyeon-Soo (aged 60, Canadian citizen, disappeared after his [January 31, 2015](#) entry to the country; **UPDATE:** confessed to attempting to overthrow the state)

<http://www.charismanews.com/world/50817-canadian-pastor-confesses-to-trying-to-overthrow-north-korean-state>



China

Fr Ambrose (along with 20 of his 2001 seminary classmates condemned the cross demolition campaign and compared it to the persecution during the 1966-67 Cultural Revolution)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/protests-over-chinas-cross-removals-gain-steam/74018>



Ethiopia

Tofik (alias, convert from Islam in 2002, nearly beaten to death, said "Persecution isn't all bad, it has some good...We need to start by loving people. We need to love them and show them love. In an Islamic context we cannot just see each other when we have needs to support. We need to always socialize with them. We need to be patient and slowly they will come to faith in Christ")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/07/3953898>



Egypt

Wael Adel Aziz (aged 30, abducted at gunpoint, US\$256,000 ransom demanded)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1433&A=19733>

July 2015, date unknown



China: Guiyang, Guizhou province

Zhang Xiuhong (church board chairwoman, detained in [late July 2015](#))

China: Hong Kong

Rev Ng Wah (disappeared)

China: Nanming district, Guiyang, Guizhou province

Deacon Zhang Xiuhong (arrested for 'illegal business operations', church bank accounts totaling US\$15,660 frozen)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/12/guizhou-pastor-investigated-for.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/09/christian-womans-trial-to-take-place.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/hong-kong-pastor-prosecuted-on-mainland-for-printing-christian-books/75683>



Pakistan: Chak No. 189, GB Patli, Toba Tek Singh

Elderly couple forced out of their home of 40 years and onto the streets by a mob, **UPDATE: a pro bono attorney recovered most of their assets four months later**

Gulzar Masih (husband of Hadayat Bibi)

Hadayat Bibi (wife of Gulzar Masih)

Sadaf Saddique Khokhar (attorney; **UPDATE: successfully defended Gulzar Masih and Hadayat Bibi**)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5480>



Egypt: eastern Alexandria

Mariam Atef Aziz (aged 17, missing in [late July 2015](#))

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64053>



Belarus: Minsk

Archbishop Sviatoslav aka Viachaslav Lohin (leader of the Belarusian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, Ukrainian citizen, U.S. legal resident, denied entry into the country, no reason given)

Archpriest Leonid Akalovich (reported on the government's refusal to allow Archbishop Sviatoslav Lohin entry into the country on a pastoral visit)

Belarus: Rechitsa, Gomel region

Dmitry Chorba (aged 23, conscientious objector, criminal case opened on [June 11, 2015](#) against him; **UPDATE**: case closed, fears he may be called up again in the autumn)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2094

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2104