

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – September 2015

**Tuesday September 1, 2015**



### **China: Guiyang, Guizhou province**

Zhang Xiuhong (church board chairwoman, detained in [late July 2015](#); **UPDATE**: formally arrested on 'illegal business operations' charges)

### **China: Huludao, Liaoning province**

Pastor Yao Chunzhi (under pressure to join the official Three-Self Patriotic Movement, said church members have been intercepted and pressured while on their way to church)

### **China: Longwan district, Wenzhou, Zhejiang province**

Zheng Zhonghua (detained, interrogated)

### **China: Xuzhou, Jiangsu province**

Pastor Xu Changyong (ordered to return to the official Three-Self Patriotic Movement and to not meet with Pastor Zhang Mingxuan)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/09/two-house-churches-resist-pressure-to.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/09/zhejiang-authorities-posted-in-wenzhou.html>

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



### **Pakistan: Garra village, near Mandi Usmanwala, Kasur district, Punjab province**

#### **Construction material supplier accused of blasphemy by a business rival, arrested, legal team detained by police for two hours**

Pervaiz Masih (husband of Zarina Bibi, father of Amir, Prem, Anmol, and Sanam, accused of blasphemy)

Zarina Bibi (wife of Pervaiz Masih, mother of Amir, Prem, Anmol, and Sanam, family has received threats after her husband's arrest)

Amir (aged 9, child of Pervaiz Masih and Zarina Bibi)

Prem (aged 5, child of Pervaiz Masih and Zarina Bibi)

Anmol (aged 3, child of Pervaiz Masih and Zarina Bibi)

Sanam (aged 7 months, child of Pervaiz Masih and Zarina Bibi)

Jamshed Masih (brother of Pervaiz Masih, described his brother's arrest on blasphemy charges and how police invaded the homes of every Christian in the village and beat every one, including pregnant women, an eight day old baby, and the baby's mother who had been recovering from a C-section, all in an attempt to coerce his location)

Aneeqa Maria Akhtar (attorney, **UPDATE**: detained, released, said “Every Christian we met at Garra village had a similar story to tell us. They were all tortured by the police for no reason other than that they are poor Christians who cannot fend for themselves”)

Shahid Anthony (**UPDATE**: detained, released)

Napoleon Qayyum (attorney, **UPDATE**: detained, released)

Imran Zafar (detained, released)

Imran Barkat (detained, released)

Shamaun Masih (witness, detained, released)

Goga Masih (witness, detained, released)

Karamat (witness, detained, released)

Gilvaiz (witness, detained, released)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5584>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/09/police-hasty-brutal-in-arrest-of-christian-accused-of-blasphemy-in-pakistan/>



#### **Ethiopia: Guder village, Oromia state**

Dinke (abducted from her home by Wakefeta animists, strangled, left for dead, hospitalized, said “I don’t think I could ever think of returning to the village”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/10/4052246/>



#### **Egypt: Cairo**

Mariam Malak Zakry Tadros (aged 16, sister of Dr Bassem, student ranked first in her class, exams altered on or before [July 26, 2015](#) to give her a failing grade of zero; prosecutors have questioned her three times as of [August 23, 2015](#) in apparent retaliation for her

original complaint, appear to be building a case that her previous high grades were the result of cheating and fraud; **UPDATE:** the Education Ministry claimed that forensic analysis showed that the handwriting on the exam was Mariam's, claim denounced as a fraud by human rights activists, met with Muslim Prime Minister Ibrahim Mahlab who said she was the legal equal of his daughter and promised a full investigation of her case by an independent commission)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64210>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64182>

**Wednesday September 2, 2015**



**Laos: Nong-hang**

Bountheung Phetsomphone (aged 43, husband, father of three, evicted from his home, then arrested and imprisoned on [August 12, 2012](#); **UPDATE:** arrested for spreading Christianity)

Neuy (aged 40, husband, father of three, arrested for spreading Christianity)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Khammouane:-two-Laotian-Christians-arrested-on-charges-of-spreading-the-faith-35243.html>



**Egypt: Minya**

Kyrillos Farhan (police academy applicant, given notice of acceptance at the academy then rejected two hours later, no reason given)

**Egypt: Qena**

Anis Demitry (owner of two stores, both stores targeted by bombs, no one injured)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64218>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64220>

**Thursday September 3, 2015**



### **United States – Kentucky: Rowan county**

Kim Davis (aged 49, county clerk, jailed for contempt of court for refusing to issue same sex marriage licenses, court denied her request to remove her pro forma signature from the licenses, still being held despite the fact her office has complied with the law by issuing licenses, appeal underway)

### **United States – Oregon: Marion county**

Judge Vance Day (under investigation by the Commission on Judicial Fitness because he told his staff in 2014 that he would no longer officiate at any weddings due to his religious beliefs on same sex marriage)

### **United States - South Carolina**

Lt Commander Wes Modder (U.S. Navy chaplain, husband, father of four, accused on [December 6, 2014](#) by his superior officer at the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command, Goose Creek 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; **UPDATE:** the navy refused to allow the superior officer to bring charges to the Board of Inquiry, wrote that the officer's evidence that he demonstrated "substandard performance" does not meet the "standard of gross negligence or complete disregard of duty")

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/will-more-clerks-be-going-to-jail-2nd-christian-kentucky-clerk-defies-ruling-to-issue-marriage-licenses-to-gay-couples-144556/>

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/oregon-judge-hit-with-ethics-probe-after-refusing-to-do-gay-marriages>

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/navy-chaplain-exonerated-from-possible-discharge-after-expressing-biblical-beliefs-on-homosexuality-144810/>

**Friday September 4, 2015**



### **India: Hututag village, Palamu district, Jharkhand state**

#### **Christians attacked during a prayer meeting**

Mukh Dev (aged 60, attacked in his home with an axe, suffered a deep gash, had hosted the prayer meeting)

Associate Pastor Mitilesh Kumar (dragged from the home of Mukh Dev, ordered to stop worshipping Jesus, replied they were not doing anything wrong and would not stop, beaten with abrasions and a deep cut on his head)

Munni Devi (aged 60, beaten unconscious, both hands fractured, entire body covered with bruises)

Mani Matiya (aged 30, beaten unconscious with blows to the head with a spade)

Sarita Kumar (aged 18, sister of Pappu Kumar, sustained stomach wounds)

Pappu Kumar (aged 16, brother of Sarita Kumar, skin on his stomach cut open)

Pastor Sarvajit Bharti (verbally abused, motorbike vandalized, said of his parishioners “Four of them received treatment for 10 days, while the rest were given first aid and some medicines. Since April of this year we have been pressured to choose between Christ and our lives, and we are constantly threatened to be chased out from the village if we do not denounce Christ”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/09/christians-in-jharkhand-india-attacked-with-axes-clubs/>



#### **Azerbaijan: Baku**

Irina Zakharchenko (aged 54, widow, disabled, cited for distributing religious literature door to door in Pirallahi on [December 5, 2014](#), detained by the NSM secret police on [February 17, 2014](#) for a pretrial detention of three months', facing possible five years' imprisonment; pretrial detention extended another two months on [May 7, 2015](#); detention extended on [July 4, 2015](#) to September 17, 2015; **UPDATE**: pretrial detention extended another three months)

Valida Jabrayilova (aged 38, cited for distributing religious literature door to door in Pirallahi on [December 5, 2014](#), detained by the NSM secret police on [February 17, 2014](#) for a pretrial detention of three months', facing possible five years' imprisonment; specific charges still not made against her, request on [April 10, 2015](#) to be transferred from the NSM headquarters to house arrest denied, three Muslim prisoners with similar allegations granted house arrest; pretrial detention extended another two months on [May 7, 2015](#); detention extended on [July 4, 2015](#) to September 17, 2015; **UPDATE**: pretrial detention extended another three months)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2098](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2098)



#### **United States – Kentucky: Casey county**

Casey Davis (county clerk, said he will not issue same sex marriage licenses, is currently away on vacation, proposed to the legislature that the officiator of a wedding issue the license)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/will-more-clerks-be-going-to-jail-2nd-christian-kentucky-clerk-defies-ruling-to-issue-marriage-licenses-to-gay-couples-144556/>

**Saturday September 5, 2015**



**India: Amjhera, Dhar, Madhya Pradesh state**

Pastor Paras Bilwal (arrested with two parishioners and charged with forced conversions)

**India: Barkhat village, Bagh block, Dhar, Madhya Pradesh state**

Pastor Dayal Davar (threatened with death if he did not renounce Christ, reported the incident to police, police demanded that he stop all prayer meetings in the village)

Raju (arrested on forced conversion charges)

Roop Singh (arrested on forced conversion charges)

Rev Paul Munia (said "Pastor Bilwal and two Christians, Raju and Roop Singh, were visiting some church members in the Nankhodara area when the anti-Christian people manhandled them, threatened them with dire consequences if they visited the village again and filed a police complaint against them of forceful conversion")

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

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/10/pastor-beaten-unconscious-in-madhya-pradesh-india/>



**Syria: Al-Qaryatain**

Metropolitan Dionysius Jean Kawak (**UPDATE:** said that the 270 Christians abducted by ISIL have been allowed to return to their homes "The church knows everyone is alive and are back in their homes. We can also confirm the agreement, according to the Sharia law, that they are forcing a tax on our people, four golden dinars per person a year, about 17 grams of gold [US\$614] per adult. They are also preventing our people from building churches and monasteries in and around the town. We are not supposed to pray in public and if we are praying in the house we can not let anyone hear. Twenty out of the 270 were able to flee and leave the village and this is what they told us. They are in Homs and they spoke to the church")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150905013109.htm>



### **Egypt: Beni Suef**

Maher Fayez Habib (aged 18, secondary school student, reported on [May 18, 2015](#) to have been arrested on a charge of insulting Islam, held for 4 days in jail; judge ordered him held another 15 days on [June 12, 2015](#); reported on [June 29, 2015](#) to have been ordered held another 45 days, ordered held another 15 days on [August 9, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: ordered held another 15 days)

### **Egypt: Rashid, Beheira province**

Fr Luka Asaad (church demolished after shopkeepers broke through the adjoining wall and wrecked the church from the inside)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64290>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64258>



### **Norway: Oslo**

Shahrzad Sakiani (convert, wife of Mahmoud Mohammadi, arrested in [Stockholm, Sweden](#) on [June 23, 2015](#) after her asylum request was rejected, scheduled for deportation to Iran on [July 15, 2015](#), had previously been arrested in 2010 at a house church in Iran and fled the country while on bail; **UPDATE**: deported to Norway, Norwegian authorities put her on a plane to Iran within 24 hours of her arrival back in Norway, physically resisted, clothes torn, unable to stop screaming, lost control of her bladder, beaten on the flight by a Norwegian immigration agent of Iranian descent, cross necklace ripped from her upon her arrival in Tehran, Iranian officials refused to take custody of her when she refused to identify herself, returned to Norway, escaped from detention, now in an undisclosed location)

Mahmoud Mohammadi (convert, husband of Shahrzad Sakiani, reported on his wife's [June 23, 2015](#) arrest in [Stockholm, Sweden](#) after her asylum request was rejected and on her scheduled deportation to Iran on [July 15, 2015](#), had previously been arrested in 2010 at a house church in Iran and fled the country while on bail; **UPDATE**: deported to Norway)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=2490>

**Sunday September 6, 2015**



**India: Barkhat village, Bagh block, Dhar, Madhya Pradesh state**

**Three pastors told to stop preaching by local Hindus, tried to file a police report against the Hindus but found a report had already been filed against them, 100 parishioners went ahead with a service without the pastors and were attacked by 150 Hindus, 14 parishioners were arrested for disturbing the peace and "luring people to Christianity", police refused to file a report against the attackers**

Sagar Bai (aged 50, beaten)

Bhawanti (teenage girl, clothes torn)

Pastor Suresh Mandloi (described the attack)

Pastor Ramesh Masaniya

Pastor Dayal Davar (**UPDATE**)

**India: Kesla Kala village, Seoni district, Madhya Pradesh state**

Rev Sunny Oommen (reported to have been arrested for leading prayers in a private home, released after 5 hours)

Rev John Alexander (reported to have been arrested for leading prayers in a private home, released after 5 hours)

Kapoor Chand Jairam (convert, home reported to have been raided by police, told then that he had invited Rev Sunny Oommen and Rev John Alexander to his home and that he had not been forced to convert)

Rev Jaykar Christy (described the arrest of Sunny Oommen and John Alexander)

Bishop Gerald Almeida (**UPDATE**: said "The law and order situation in the state has almost collapsed as government officials act [in a] biased manner against Christians. When a family cannot sit together and pray, you can imagine the situation...We cannot predict what will happened to us [but we will] continue to uphold the law of the land")

Richard James (said "the constitution guarantees following any religion of our choice and the radicals are infringing upon our rights")

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

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-bishop-calls-anti-christian-harassment-a-serious-worry/74221>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/10/pastor-beaten-unconscious-in-madhya-pradesh-india/>



**Iran**



Naghmeh Shariat Panahi Abedini (wife of Saeed Abedini, who has been sentenced to eight years imprisonment; **UPDATE:** announced that she will be fasting until September 26, 2015 for the release of her husband and all persecuted Christians around the globe, has asked others to join with her)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/pastor-saeed-abedinis-wife-naghmeh-fasting-21-days-for-husband-and-persecuted-church-asks-christians-to-join-her-144993/>

**Monday September 7, 2015**



**Philippines: Mindanao**

Rev Christopher Ablon (spoke about military harassment of the investigation of the murder of tribal peoples "The military harassed the group that investigated [a] reported massacre last week...The military's allegation [of communist sympathies] is meant to malign the credibility of the mission")

Sr Rowena Pineda (massacre investigator, said "Threats, harassment, and intimidation are not new")

Sr Noemi Degala SMSM (**UPDATE:** said "We are legal associations with proper documents")

Sr Theodora Bilocura OSB (demonstrated with tribal people after a massacre)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/church-groups-decry-military-harassment-in-mindanao/74220>



**China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province**

Oan Liyue (detained)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/12/detainees-released-in-zhejiang.html>



**India: Bharatnagar, Shahapur. Maharashtra state**

Bishop Peter Machado (condemned an attack on a Christian cemetery)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/india-a-christian-cemetery-attacked-by-vandals-several-graves-destroyed-crosses-uprooted/>



**Nigeria: Onicha-Ugbo-Ewohimi Road, Edo state**

Bishop Moses Tabwaye (abducted)

**Nigeria: Okene-Auchi road, Kogi state**

Fr Gabriel Oyaka CSSP (abducted)

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2015/09/anglican-bishop-kidnapped-abducted-bank-manager-rescued/>

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/38441-AFRICA\\_NIGERIA\\_Another\\_priest\\_kidnapped\\_more\\_and\\_more\\_religious\\_victims\\_of\\_road\\_ambushes#.VfJL9cLlsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38441-AFRICA_NIGERIA_Another_priest_kidnapped_more_and_more_religious_victims_of_road_ambushes#.VfJL9cLlsfg)

**Tuesday September 8, 2015**



**Philippines: Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao**

Archbishop Antonio Ledesma SJ (said that failure to pass a new basic law in Bangsamoro as required by the 2014 peace accord will fuel Islamic extremism)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/archbishop-in-mindanao-warns-against-rise-of-islamic-extremism/74229>



**China: Dongguan, Guangdong province**

Pastor Liu Peng (filed an appeal against the local government ban on his church meeting, summoned to the Religious Affairs Bureau and questioned on his church activities)

**China: Tongxiang, Jiaxing, Zhejiang province**

Pastor Zhang Chongzhu (possibly abducted by police)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/09/zhejiang-officials-extend-deacons.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/09/guangdong-pastor-appeals-official.html>



**Laos: Na-ang village, Chomphet district, Luang Prabang province**

Rev Singkeaw Wongkongpheng (**stabbed to death** by five men in his home, son pursued and severely injured one attacker who was hospitalized and identified as a possible police officer)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-clergyman-killed-in-bungled-abduction-involving-policeman-35320.html>



**Syria: Hassake**

Archbishop Jacques Behnan Hindo (**UPDATE**: said that ISIL is lowering the price to free the 230 Christians captured in February 2015 and that their freedom may now be possible)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/38427-ASIA SYRIA Archbishop Hindo the demands of the jihadists for the release of the Assyrian hostages are more accessible#.Ve-gU8Llsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38427-ASIA_SYRIA_Archbishop_Hindo_the_demands_of_the_jihadists_for_the_release_of_the_Assyrian_hostages_are_more_accessible#.Ve-gU8Llsfg)



**Uganda**

Siriman Kintu (convert from Islam, husband of Kanifa Namulondo, father of five, **beheaded**)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2021/05/muslims-burn-down-christian-widows-reconstructed-house/>



**Belarus: Brest**

Viktor Kalina (aged 23, indicted on **June 22, 2015** for refusing military service, had been exempted from military service the previous year due to heart disease, trial begun on **August 17, 2015**; **UPDATE**: acquitted)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2204](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2204)



### **United States – Kentucky: Rowan county**

Kim Davis (aged 49, county clerk, jailed for contempt of court for refusing to issue same sex marriage licenses, court denied her request to remove her pro forma signature from the licenses, still being held despite the fact her office has complied with the law by issuing licenses; **UPDATE**: released)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/kentucky-clerk-kim-davis-who-refused-marriage-licenses-to-same-sex-couples-released-from-prison-144819/>

**Wednesday September 9, 2015**



### **India: Sagarkatta village, Chaibasa municipality, Jharkhand state**

Rev Akash Nandi (described an attack on seven Christian families who were also prohibited from walking on the road or from using the village well “One baptized widow out of intense fear and pressure decided to return to Hinduism, and two men who started attending church services also promised not to take part in any of the Christian meetings again”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/09/christians-in-jharkhand-india-attacked-with-axes-clubs/>



### **Pakistan**

Sarfraz Masih (brother of Sajjad Masih, who was sentenced to life imprisonment on blasphemy charges on July 13, 2013, said "All my efforts to prove his innocence have so far been in vain and I have become a target for fanatics. An appeal is now pending in the Lahore High Court. But it may take years for the hearing to begin. I have resisted four years of intimidation, including death threats, while pursuing my brother's case vigorously. But I can't take it anymore. Our family has decided to go to Sri Lanka and apply for asylum. We are well aware of the risks involved and pray to Jesus that things will be different for us in Sri Lanka")

Pastor Rafaqat Sadiq (said of the plight of Pakistani refugees in Thailand "Owing to poverty and lack of resources, some young girls are forced into prostitution to make a living. But they

are still clinging to the hope that they will be granted refugee status by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees")

Kashif A Javed (said "I know many others who have either left [the country] or are giving it serious consideration")

Nadeem John (aged 38, shopkeeper, sold everything and fled to Thailand, the Thai government scheduled his asylum interview for 2019, spent his savings, returned to Pakistan)

### **Pakistan: Islamabad**

Boota Masih (aged 38, husband, father of six, attacked by a mob that locked his family in their home and set it afire, said "I was terror stricken, the mob was threatening to kill me and my family. They had weapons in their hands and started to brandish them before me. I thought they would kill all of us. I refused to leave my home – I had paid for it fairly and they had no right to ask me to leave...[After the fire was set] I broke the door down using all my strength, desperate to live and to save my family. Soon other local Christians came to rescue us, they put out the flames and called the fire brigade", family left terrified, Christian neighbors are afraid, police have refused to file a report)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/persecution-sees-more-pakistani-christians-seeking-asylum-abroad/74236>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5607>



### **Iran: Karaj**

Esmaeel Falahati (**UPDATE:** released from jail on bail, said "The Revolutionary Guard interrogators told me that it would be better for me to leave the country when I'm released temporarily, otherwise they would harm me and my family")

Mehdi Haj Mola-Hosseini (arrested on August 7, 2015, released from jail on bail)

Hayedeh Shadnia (**UPDATE:** released from jail on bail a few days after Esmaeel Falahati and Mehdi Haj Mola-Hosseini)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=2680>

**Thursday September 10, 2015**



### **China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province**

Jiang Xianyun (detained)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/09/persecution-rises-as-number-detained-in.html>



### **Thailand: Bangkok**

Mehwish Anna (wife of Sajjad Chand, mother of Sataish and Priscila, Pakistani refugee, arrested for overstaying her visa)

Nargis Maqsood (aged 50, Pakistani refugee, detained)

Pervaiz Ghori (aged 53, Pakistani refugee, father of six daughters, arrested on a visa violation despite having a tumor and heart condition)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/no-hope-in-hell-another-pakistani-christian-dies-in-thai-detention-center/>

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/another-pakistani-christian-asylum-seeker-dies-in-brutal-thailand-immigration>

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/Pak-Christian-Asylum-seeker-set-free-after-9-month-incarceration-in-brutal-Thai-detention-centre>

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/emergency-appeal-for-release-of-desperate-pakistani-christian-asylum-seekers-in-thailand>



### **India: Fattiguda, Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh state**

#### **Hindu radicals attacked a prayer meeting, police initially refused to file a report**

Pastor Ajmer Singh Damor (husband of Runita Damor, father, beaten, unconscious for 5 hours)

Runita Damor (wife of Pastor Ajmer Singh Damor, beaten by Hindu radicals who attacked a prayer meeting, fled with her 18 month old baby)

Dillu Bhai (beaten, received stitches in his head)

Illiya Vasunia (beaten, has hosted the prayer meeting in his home, goat killed)

Amiya Jal (described the attack on the prayer meeting led by Pastor Ajmer Singh Damor)

Rev Sam Francis (described the attack on the prayer meeting led by Pastor Ajmer Singh Damor)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Brutally-beaten-and-falsely-accused-Indias-Christians-suffer-spate-of-attacks>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/10/pastor-beaten-unconscious-in-madhya-pradesh-india/>



### **Kazakhstan: Arkalyk, Kostanai region**

Gennadi Zhirov (arrested for distributing religious literature, released after 5 hours of questioning, literature seized)

Yuri Bekker (arrested for distributing religious literature, released after 5 hours of questioning, literature seized)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2176](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2176)

**Friday September 11, 2015**



### **China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province**

Jiang Xianyun (detained on [September 10, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: released)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/09/persecution-rises-as-number-detained-in.html>



### **India**

#### **Christian leaders spoke out against the state of Maharashtra's introduction of a religious conversion bill**

Pramod Singh (**UPDATE**: said "This law will give the legitimacy [to persecute Christians] in the hands of the state and the non-state actors also, who would, or may be, holding the majority [intolerant] opinion...it has the tacit support of the government. These are the forces which want the society to be polarized. It basically comes...to control people, to control their destinies, to control their choice, subjugate them, to interfere in their very personal decisions")

Franklin Caesar (**UPDATE**: said "[Under] the Anti-Conversion Law, it is easy to convert Dalit Christians to Hinduism, Christians to Hinduism, whereas converting people from Hinduism to Christianity is very tough")

#### **India: Chhattisgarh state**

#### **Three church ministers and employees have been arrested on sexual abuse charges at the instigation of Hindu radicals**

Fr Joseph Dhanaswami (high school principal, arrested)

Sr Christ Maria CSS (arrested)

Philomina Kerketta (school maid, arrested)

Fr Antony Bara (said that the charges were made under pressure from the Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad)

Bishop Patras Minj (said that police were clearly aware that the charges were false and were acting under pressure to tarnish Christians)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4008146/>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/church-workers-accused-of-sex-abuse-in-central-india/74266>



### **Kazakhstan: Arkalyk, Kostanai region**

David Leven (charged by police after distributing religious material)

Gennadi Zhiron (arrested in [Arkalyk, Kostanai region](#) on [September 10, 2015](#) for distributing religious literature, released after 5 hours of questioning, literature seized; **UPDATE:** charged by police after distributing more religious material)

Robert Leven (charged by police after distributing religious material)

Yuri Bekker (arrested in [Arkalyk, Kostanai region](#) on [September 10, 2015](#) for distributing religious literature, released after 5 hours of questioning, literature seized; **UPDATE:** charged by police after distributing more religious material)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2176](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2176)



### **South Sudan: near Makur Hagar and Agany villages**

Fr Placide MCCI (Congolese national, shot in a road ambush, underwent surgery in Nairobi, Kenya)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/38473->

[AFRICA SOUTH SUDAN A Comboni Congolese missionary wounded in a road ambush#.VfjZsLlsfg](#)

**Saturday September 12, 2015**





## **China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province**

Pastor Hu Mingjin (detained, released)

Pastor Huang Yizi (aged 41, taken into custody on [August 2, 2014](#) while resisting the demolition of his church's cross; released from prison on [August 1, 2015](#), in good spirits but physically weak; officials forced themselves into his home on [August 25, 2015](#) and placed his family under house arrest for 24 hours, then began 24 hour surveillance of his activities; **UPDATE**: arrested again, charges unknown)

Elder Zheng Jinyuan (detained, released)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/09/released-zhejiang-pastor-taken-into.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/09/persecution-rises-as-number-detained-in.html>



## **Egypt: Alexandria**

Fr Demetrios Nasr (said that the government has postponed the demolition of his church after local Christians protested)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64345>



## **United Kingdom**

Most Rev Justin Welby (Archbishop of Canterbury, **UPDATE**: said that the government's plan to accept 20,000 Syrian refugees from camps will discriminate against Christians since Christians avoid refugee camps due to fear of targeting by Islamist groups inside them)

Archbishop Emeritus George Carey (former Archbishop of Canterbury; **UPDATE**: wrote “The frustration for those of us who have been calling for compassion for Syrian victims for many months is that the Christian community is yet again left at the bottom of the heap. Mr Cameron’s policy inadvertently discriminates against the very Christian communities most victimized by the inhuman butchers of the so-called Islamic State. Christians are not to be found in the UN camps, because they have been attacked and targeted by Islamists and driven from them. They are seeking refuge in private homes, church buildings and with neighbors and family”)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11860902/Archbishop-warns-Cameron-over-Syrian-refugees.html>

**Monday September 14, 2015**



**China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province**

Cai Xiaobing (detained)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/09/persecution-rises-as-number-detained-in.html>



**Nigeria: seven villages in Foron and Fan districts, Barkin Ladi local government area, Plateau state**

James Pam (described a Muslim Fulani attack that killed 20 Christians)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/09/attacks-in-plateau-state-nigeria-kill-38-displace-5000/>



**Mexico: La Chachalaca village, Santiago Camotlan municipality, Villa Alta region, Oaxaca state**

Lauro Nunez Perez (reported to have been detained three times since July 2015 for refusing to convert to traditionalist Catholicism, fears that leaving his home will result in another arrest, officials refuse to register his children for school)

<http://www.csw.org.uk/2015/09/14/news/2762/article.htm>

**Tuesday September 15, 2015**



**India: Delhi**

Dr John Dayal (Christian activist and member of the National Integration Council; **UPDATE:** has seen an increase in death threats, Hindu radicals have obtained his cell phone number and posted it on the internet)

Pramod Singh (president of the Christian Lawyers Association; **UPDATE:** met with the Delhi police chief to express concern over the threats to John Dayal)

Abraham M. Pattiyani (governmental member of Delhi Minority Commission, met with the Delhi police chief to express concern over the threats to John Dayal)

Fr Savarimuthu Shankar (spokesperson of the Archdiocese of Delhi; **UPDATE**: met with the Delhi police chief to express concern over the threats to John Dayal)

Karuna Dayal (daughter of John Dayal, online newspaper editor, wrote "John Dayal, my father, an Indian citizen, journalist and minority rights activist. I have seen his activism grow each day, and his savings getting depleted because he is too voluble, too opinionated, and too unafraid to be employed as the full-time journalist that he once was. That was his choice to make. He lives by the choice, and makes a living with the spare writing or speaking assignment that comes his way. However, what should not be a choice is his right to live fearlessly in his own country. His activism does not give permission, to those who do not agree, to unleash threats and abuse online")

### **India: Haldibadi, Chhattisgarh state**

#### **Church vandalized**

Fr Joshi Varghese (said "They managed to break one window of the sanctuary and attempted to defile the holy place by throwing stones inside it)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Death-threats-for-Christian-activist-John-Dayal:-Hindu-conspiracy-behind-my-public-humiliation-35318.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/church-workers-accused-of-sex-abuse-in-central-india/74266>



### **Nigeria: Sarkin Kudu, Taraba state**

Rev Caleb Ahema (**UPDATE**: described a Muslim Fulani attack that killed 9 Christians "The attack on Sarkin Kudu is a continuation of the systematic attacks by the Fulani herdsmen on Christian communities in this area, where many have been killed and many more displaced")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/09/attacks-in-plateau-state-nigeria-kill-38-displace-5000/>

**Wednesday September 16, 2015**



### **China: Tongxiang, Jiaxing, Zhejiang province**

Deacon Zhang Zhi (reportedly still not released after the end of his administrative detention)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/09/zhejiang-officials-extend-deacons.html>



**Nigeria: Kadunung, Mangu local government area, Plateau state**

Charles Matcho (described a Muslim Fulani attack that killed at least 18 Christians and caused 5,000 to flee their homes “Many people have been killed, and among them is a man and his six children”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/09/attacks-in-plateau-state-nigeria-kill-38-displace-5000/>

**Thursday September 17, 2015**



**Thailand: Bangkok**

Teena Khan (Pakistani asylum seeker, reported to have written to Pope Francis "I am a Pakistani Christian woman living in Bangkok since 3 years with my family as Asylum seeker. There are also hundreds of other Christian victim families from Pakistan who have applied for Asylum but unfortunately we are not getting any response from UNHCR. The visas of almost all the families have been expired due on which Thai immigration and police arrest the families who are in jails...")

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/help-us-a-pakistani-christian-woman-seeking-asylum-in-thailand-writes-to-pope-francis/>



**India: Palai, Kottayam district, Kerala state**

Sr Amala Valummel O.Carm (aged 69, retired nurse, **beaten to death** in her room at her convent)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-nun-found-murdered-in-kerala-convent/74286>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/38498->

[ASIA\\_INDIA\\_A\\_Carmelite\\_nun\\_killed\\_in\\_Kerala#.Vf470sLlsfg](#)

**Friday September 18, 2015**



### **Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan**

Bishop Gewargis Sliwa (aged 73, elected 112th Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East, announced that he will take the name of Mar Gewargis III and return the patriarchal see back to Iraq from Chicago)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150918141220.htm>



### **Tanzania: Kiwengwa, Zanzibar**

Khamis Bakar Sheikh (convert from Islam, stabbed by his three brothers for converting, hospitalized)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Tanzanian-convert-to-Christianity-attacked-by-his-brothers>



### **Nigeria: Kissayip area of Bassa, Plateau state**

Pastor Segun Towobola (Christian Center partially demolished by local Muslims, said "My wife, kids, and other students were holding classes on the premises when Mohammed and his group carried out the destruction on our property. I immediately rushed to the church to see them carrying out the destruction. I had to call in the police, who arrested him and his group...Mohammed Uduans since his arrest and detention by the police, and after being released by the police, has boasted that he has relations in the government and the money to take possession of our property, as he said he would never allow a church near his house", is now the defendant in a civil suit that claims wrongful possession of the property)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/12/muslim-who-attacked-ministry-building-in-nigeria-attempts-to-seize-property/>

**Saturday September 19, 2015**



### **Vietnam: Thanh Hoa prison**

Marie Ta Phong Tan (aged 43, convert, former policewoman, detained since [September 2011](#) after blogging against government corruption, mother committed suicide by self-immolation in protest on [July 30, 2012](#) in [Bac Lieu](#); sentenced on [September 24, 2012](#) in [Hanoi](#) to 10 years with 5 additional years of house arrest for spreading anti-government propaganda on the internet; **UPDATE**: released under a 'temporary suspension')

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Vietnamese-Catholic:-In-communist-prison,-faith-in-God-conquerd-abuses-and-suffering-35380.html>



### **Belarus: Glubokoye, Vitebsk region**

Valery Shirei (detained for passing out religious literature in the street, said "Officers were polite and tolerant in the police station")

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2132](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2132)

**Sunday September 20, 2015**



### **China: Mingguang, Chuzhou, Anhui province**

Pastor Lu Jingxiang (**UPDATE**: administratively detained for 15 days, second detention for the same 'offense')

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/10/anhui-pastor-detained-second-time-for.html>



### **Vietnam:**

Marie Ta Phong Tan (aged 43, convert, former policewoman, detained since [September 2011](#) after blogging against government corruption, mother committed suicide by self-immolation in protest on [July 30, 2012](#) in [Bac Lieu](#); sentenced on [September 24, 2012](#) in [Hanoi](#) to 10 years with 5 additional years of house arrest for spreading anti-government propaganda on the internet; released from [Thanh Hoa prison](#) under a 'temporary suspension' on [September 19, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: arrived in the United States)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Vietnamese-Catholic:-In-communist-prison,-faith-in-God-conquerd-abuses-and-suffering-35380.html>



## Syria

Patriarch Ignatius Ephrem Joseph III Yonan (**UPDATE:** said “We, what we call the message, we patriarchs usually extend to our flocks — either Chaldean Syriac Catholics, Iraq Orthodox, Assyrians — aid to respect their choice. We don't impose on them the choice of remaining in the country or emigrating. However, we can do nothing to stop the exodus of our people because we have been abandoned, even betrayed by the Western countries, and we really blame our Christian brethren in the West, either in North America or in the European Union, to just ignore us in our own country”)

<http://www.churchmilitant.com/video/episode/intv-2015-10-01>



## Egypt: Beni Suef

Maher Fayez Habib (aged 18, secondary school student, reported on [May 18, 2015](#) to have been arrested on a charge of insulting Islam, held for 4 days in jail; judge ordered him held another 15 days on [June 12, 2015](#); reported on [June 29, 2015](#) to have been ordered held another 45 days; ordered held another 15 days on [August 9, 2015](#); ordered held another 15 days on [September 5, 2015](#); **UPDATE:** ordered held another 15 days)

## Egypt: Amiriya, Alexandria

Fr Poktor Nashed (called police after a Muslim mob attacked his church with parishioners inside after police returned land seized by a Muslim to the Christian owner)

Handy Makanouti (landowner, land stolen in 2012)

Mousa Zarif (nephew of Handy Makanouti, said “After the security forces left the area, they attacked our homes but our moderate Muslim neighbors intervened and protected us from them”)

Demian Maher (attacked, spine broken, hospitalized)

Therese Hanna (attacked, suffered a serious head injury, hospitalized)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1470&A=20397>

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1472&A=20430>

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/09/23/coptic-christians-hospitalized-homes-attacked-families-flee-village-after-attack-over-land-dispute/>



### **United States – Alabama: East Selma**

Pastor Earl Carswell (aged 61, shot in the leg as he wrestled with a parishioner who had begun shooting in the church, the man was disarmed by other parishioners)

<http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/pastor-churchgoers-hailed-as-heroes-in-us-church-shooting/ar-AAexibx?ocid=ansmsnnews11>

**Monday September 21, 2015**



### **China: Foshan, Guangdong province**

Tan Xiuhong (British attorney, detained with five others)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/07/30-christians-held-by-police-in.html>



### **Laos**

Mr Tiang Kwentianthong (married, father of six, detained after praying with Ms Chan while she was dying in [Saisomboon village, Atsaphangthong district, Savannakhet province](#), accused of murder after her death on [June 22, 2014](#) and held in handcuffs and wooden stocks; murder charges dropped on [August 6, 2014](#); convicted of 'unlicensed professional medical care' on [February 12, 2015](#) for having prayed for the dying Ms Chan; sentenced to nine months' imprisonment and together with the other defendants fined US\$2,758; objected on [April 24, 2015](#) to a Pakse, Savannakhet province court document which stated that he was withdrawing his appeal of his conviction, said that his signature on the document had been forged; **UPDATE**: reported to have **died in prison**, had been denied medical care for his diabetes)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Arrested-for-praying,-Laotian-Christian-dies-in-prison-for-lack-of-treatment-35373.html>

**Tuesday September 22, 2015**





## India

Sajan K George (president of the Global Council of Indian Christians; **UPDATE**: condemned a Hindu employer who cut out the tongue of a Hindu employee who had asked for a raise, police refused to file a report because they said the injury could have been an accident, also condemned a Hindu extremist threat to cut out the tongues of two Hindu writers who were critical of Hindu epic poems, said "these provocative statements encourage sectarian tensions and provoke a sense of insecurity among the minorities. India is a secular democratic republic and these comments endanger social peace in the country")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Offending-gods-or-asking-for-just-wage-could-cost-you-your-tongue-35389.html>



## Iran: Rajai Shahr prison

Pastor Saeed Abedini (aged 35, convert, US citizen, husband of Naghmeh Shariat Panahi Abedini, father of Rebekka and Jacob, convicted on [January 27, 2013](#) of undermining the government by spreading Christianity and sentenced to eight years in prison; **UPDATE**: beaten, tased, and threatened with new charges including contact with anti-government groups)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/09/u-s-iranian-pastor-abedinis-ordeal-in-iran-tests-builds-faith-of-wife-children/>

Wednesday September 23, 2015



## China

Senior Judge Li Jianfeng (arrested for 'subverting state power in [February 2002](#); witnessed the beating death of Huang Chuanchan in prison in [2012](#); released in [April 2013](#); **UPDATE**: accepted in Canada for asylum)

## China: Sheshan

Bishop Thaddeus Ma Daqin (ordained as bishop in [Shanghai](#) on [July 7, 2012](#), then disappeared after stating in his first homily that he would resign from the state-sponsored church, still under house arrest; **UPDATE**: noted on his blog that Pope Francis and China's President

Xi Jinping will both be in Washington DC on September 24, 2015 and wrote “Will President Xi and Pope Francis, now in the US, have an opportunity to meet in an unexpected way, and will they have an expected friendly handshake? I look forward to their shaking hands. If these two influential and prominent leaders in the world really have a friendly handshake, not only would I, a little man at the foothill of Sheshan, on the outskirts of Shanghai, be moved, but so would the whole world”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Shanghai-Bishop,-a-handshake-between-Xi-and-Francis-would-move-the-world-35393.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/09/christian-judge-granted-asylum-in.html>



### **Tanzania: Bukoba region**

Rev Vedasto Athanas (Living Waters church destroyed by arson, said "What is worrying us is that the burning of the three churches happened within a span of two hours. What is even more worrying is that we have been receiving threats from Muslim extremists that they want churches reduced in this area")

Rev Emmanuel Narsis (Buyekera Pentacostal church destroyed by arson)

### **Tanzania: Kibeta, Bukoba region**

Rev Kabonaki (Evangelical Assemblies of God church destroyed by arson)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4034845/>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/09/three-church-buildings-torched-in-tanzania/>



### **Uganda: Kalampete village, Kibuku district**

Samson Nfunyeku (aged 59, evangelist, father of seven and grandfather of 16, **killed** after debating Muslim clerics)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/10/evangelist-in-eastern-uganda-killed-after-muslim-christian-debate/>

**Thursday September 24, 2015**



## **Indonesia: Jakarta, West Java**

### **A church has been prohibited from using its church building since 2008, has completed its 100th service in front of the presidential residence**

Adhi Nugroho Chandra (said "I'm worshipping here in front of our presidential palace because the GKI Yasmin church in Bogor cannot worship on Sundays")

Dwiati Novita Rini (**UPDATE**: said "It's very hard to be a minority in Indonesia, and we have to fight for our rights. It's not easy but it will not affect my faith...The mayor, who, I think, is the key person who can decide what happens in Bogor, still has people around him who are intolerant...the leader of the group GARIS, which protested against our church, is in jail, and the protests against us are now getting lower and lower")

Pastor Chandra Juliar (said "I think the problem remains because the president did not dare to take action. The leader should have the courage to take action and enforce the law. We can't afford, as a nation, to let this problem remain if we want peace in Indonesia...We are often asked how long we will struggle. We have to carry on until we get justice. Yes, we are very tired and our hope at times starts to fade, but as believers, we won't give up. Our struggle is not only for our needs, but also for others who deserve peace. So we will achieve our goal to build our beloved Indonesia to be a peaceful country")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4027630/>



## **China: Yulin, Shaanxi province**

Gao Zhisheng (aged 51, Christian human rights attorney; released from prison on [August 7, 2014](#); has been described by his attorney on [August 15, 2014](#) as "utterly destroyed" by his captivity - he is unintelligible and speaks only in single words, shows no emotion, and lost almost all of his teeth due to malnutrition; **UPDATE**: detained after accounts of torture while in prison became public, released but under house arrest, denied medical access)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/09/china-aid-learns-gao-zhisheng-is-back.html>

**Friday September 25, 2015**



## **Belarus: Glubokoye, Vitebsk region**

Valery Shirei (detained on [September 19, 2015](#) for passing out religious literature in the street, said "Officers were polite and tolerant in the police station"; **UPDATE**: acquitted)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2132](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2132)

**Saturday September 26, 2015**



**Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan**

Fr Behnam Benoka (aged 37, **UPDATE**: reported to have been operating two clinics out of tents for refugees, reported on a shortage of medicines)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20150925205851.htm>



**Central African Republic: Bangui**

Rev Nicolas Guerekoyame-Gbangou (**UPDATE**: targeted for assassination by rioting Muslims after a Muslim youth was killed in a 'Christian' neighborhood, Muslims responded by killing a dozen in that neighborhood, assassins missed finding him due to a prior commitment, home looted, son threatened with death, two refugees in the church compound were killed, family now in hiding, and the anti-balaka militia then responded by destroying a Muslim radio station, a Catholic church was also looted)

Pastor Vincent (daughter and son-in-law murdered in their home by rioting Muslims, "cries his eyes out")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/38563->

[AFRICA\\_CENTRAL\\_AFRICA\\_REPUBLIC\\_Bangui\\_in\\_chaos\\_the\\_reconstruction\\_of the accidents towards an uncertain future#.VgtRjsLlsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38563-AFRICA_CENTRAL_AFRICA_REPUBLIC_Bangui_in_chaos_the_reconstruction_of_the_accidents_towards_an_uncertain_future#.VgtRjsLlsfg)

<https://barnabasfund.org/news/Anti-Christian-violence-in-Central-African-Republic-creates-carnage>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4035895/>

**Sunday September 27, 2015**



## **Iraq: Bagdad**

Saad Salioh Namaat (**killed**)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64515>



## **Palestine: Bethlehem**

Sobhy Makhoul (condemned the arson attack on St Charbel Maronite Monastery)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Arson-attack-at-Bethlehem's-St-Charbel-Monastery,-probably-the-work-of-Islamic-fundamentalists,-says-Maronite-leader-35435.html>

**Monday September 28, 2015**



## **Bangladesh: Dhaka**

Cesare Tavella (aged 50, Italian citizen, foreign aid worker, **assassinated** by ISIL agents using silenced firearms)

<http://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/2716/0/fears-for-christians-as-isis-kills-aid-worker-in-bangladesh>

[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/30/world/asia/-isis-bangladesh-cesare-tavella.html?smid=tw-nytimesworld&smtyp=cur&\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/30/world/asia/-isis-bangladesh-cesare-tavella.html?smid=tw-nytimesworld&smtyp=cur&_r=1)



## **India: Bisara village, Uttar Pradesh state**

Auxiliary Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas (**UPDATE**: condemned the murder of a Muslim man and the near-deadly beating of his son by Hindu radicals for allegedly eating beef in his home "What is happening in our beloved country is really distressing. Divisive forces seem to be taking the upper hand")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Man-beaten-to-death-by-mob,-who-suspected-him-of-having-eaten-beef-35453.html>



## Iran

Naghmeh Shariat Panahi Abedini (**UPDATE**: released a statement while in [New York City, United States](#) after the President of Iran said the release of several Iranians in prison for nuclear activities would "perhaps" result in "the right atmosphere" for her husband's release: "President Rouhani's demand that America release 19 criminals in exchange for his consideration of releasing individuals like my husband, imprisoned solely for his faith, demonstrates that the Iran of today is no different than the Iran who took Americans hostages during the Iranian revolution")

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/09/u-s-iranian-pastor-abedinis-ordeal-in-iran-tests-builds-faith-of-wife-children/>

**Tuesday September 29, 2015**



## Australia

Troy Newman (U.S. citizen, prolife activist, visa revoked after pro-abortion activists falsely claimed that he advocated violence against abortion providers)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/breaking-australian-gvmt-denies-us-pro-life-leader-entry-after-smear-campai>



## Philippines: Tanjay, Negros Island

Fr Antonio Magalso (aged 44, **stabbed to death**, attacker was reportedly mentally ill)

Fr Nathaniel B Gomez (reported on the murder of Fr Antonio Magalso)

Bishop Julito Cortes (consoled the parishioners of Fr Antonio Magalso after his murder)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/38576-ASIA PHILIPPINES Priest stabbed to death in central Philippines#.VgyXLcLlsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38576-ASIA_PHILIPPINES_Priest_stabbed_to_death_in_central_Philippines#.VgyXLcLlsfg)



## India

Sajan K George (**UPDATE**: reported on attempts by the Hindu nationalist group Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP] to ban the sale of beef in Jharkhand state - the slaughter of beef is already prohibited “Banning beef in BJP ruled states is an ominous sign of growing intolerance and communal division. Since the BJP’s landmark victory under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the aspirations and actions by Hindu majority groups and organizations that support the idea of a Hindu state have gained prominence...The beef ban is specifically aimed at minorities, many of their members would be deprived of their livelihood as well as staple food”)

### India: Karmeri village, Baster district, Chhattisgarh state

Bingu Baghel (aged 50, said "We are living in a panic situation. We are harassed. We do not know what will happen and when. We don't do any harm to anybody, but we are constantly threatened by Hindu militant groups in the village")

Rev Bhupendra Khora (said “We are overwhelmed with this crisis situation. At times, nobody dares to visit the victims when there is an assault on the Christians. The victimized Christians are so vulnerable that they don't dare to report it anywhere. Mostly, they silently suffer”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hindu-extremists-plan-more-attacks-if-beef-ban-not-enforced-35447.html>

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/09/29/democracy-derailed-religious-freedom-denied-to-chhattisgarhs-christians/>

**Tuesday September 30, 2015**



### India: Belgaum, Karnataka state

Bishop Peter Machado (**UPDATE**: condemned an attack on a Christian cemetery, some of the dead had to be reburied)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/38575-ASIA\\_INDIA\\_Catholic\\_cemetery\\_vandalized\\_and\\_violence\\_against\\_the\\_faithful#.VgyYYcLlsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38575-ASIA_INDIA_Catholic_cemetery_vandalized_and_violence_against_the_faithful#.VgyYYcLlsfg)



## Iran

Amir (alias, convert, printer, fled the country to Turkey by 2013, reported to have immigrated to the United States)

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue27015.html>



### **Tanzania**

Annette (Bukoba Pastors Fellowship secretary, said “Since 2013 we have had over 13 churches torched here in Kagera and no one has been held accountable. This is not acceptable”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4034845/>



### **Nigeria: Sokoto**

Patience Paul (aged 15, abducted and forcibly married and converted to Islam)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/11/4727148/>

**September 2015, date unknown**