

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – October 2015

**Thursday October 1, 2015**



### Australia

Troy Newman (U.S. citizen, prolife activist, visa revoked on [September 29, 2015](#) after pro-abortion activists falsely claimed that he advocated violence against abortion providers;  
**UPDATE:** entered the country to protest the revocation of his visa, detained)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/us-pro-life-leader-receives-heros-welcome-back-home-after-being-arrested-in>



### Pakistan: Lahore, Punjab province

**UPDATE:** The Muslim attorney of four Christians accused of blasphemy stated that the court's refusal to provide an escort for their upcoming court appearance - scheduled for October 16, 2015 - is intended to allow vigilantes the opportunity to lynch them

Pastor Aftab Gill

Unatan Gill

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/38581-ASIA\\_PAKISTAN\\_Christians\\_imprisoned\\_for\\_blasphemy\\_fear\\_an\\_extrajudicial\\_murder#.Vg9T\\_8Llsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38581-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Christians_imprisoned_for_blasphemy_fear_an_extrajudicial_murder#.Vg9T_8Llsfg)



### United States – Oregon: Roseburg

**Event:** A gunman with neopagan leanings deliberately targeted Christian students in a college classroom

Pastor Howard A Johnson (granddaughter shot in the leg, survived, name not released due to privacy concerns)

Jason Dale Johnson (aged 33, **shot dead**)

Lacey Scroggins (aged 18, daughter of Pastor Randy Scroggins, survived the attack without injury, protected by Treven Taylor Anspach, rendered aid to victims until police took her away)

Lucas Eibel (aged 18, **shot dead**)

Quinn Glen Cooper (aged 18, **shot dead**)

Rebecka Ann Carnes (aged 18, **shot dead**)

Sarena Dawn Moore (aged 44, **shot dead**)

<http://www.nrtoday.com/news/18480453-113/family-forever-grateful>

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue27023.html>

**Friday October 2, 2015**



**United Kingdom: Bradford**

Nissar Hussain (aged 49, convert from Islam, husband of Kubra; **UPDATE:** family has fled their home after more attacks and police inaction, has given up his career as a nurse due to depression and stress)

Kubra Hussain (aged 45, wife of Nissar Hussain)

Anniesa (aged 21, daughter of Nissar and Kubra Hussain)

Miriam (aged 17, daughter of Nissar and Kubra Hussain)

Leena (aged 14, daughter of Nissar and Kubra Hussain)

Isaaq (aged 7, son of Nissar and Kubra Hussain)

Sarah (aged 19, daughter of Nissar and Kubra Hussain)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3258159/Asian-family-converted-Christianity-driven-home-Muslim-persecutors.html>

**Saturday October 3, 2015**



### **Australia**

Troy Newman (U.S. citizen, prolife activist, visa revoked on [September 29, 2015](#) after pro-abortion activists falsely claimed that he advocated violence against abortion providers; entered the country on [October 1, 2015](#) to protest the revocation of his visa, detained; **UPDATE:** voluntarily left prior to his immigration hearing)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/us-pro-life-leader-receives-heros-welcome-back-home-after-being-arrested-in>



### **India: Majhgawan, Satna district, Madhya Pradesh state**

#### **Three Christians arrested for forced conversions**

Stephan Rajkumar (aged 40, arrested)

Harilal (aged 20, arrested)

Anil Kumar (arrested)

Archbishop Leo Cornelio (**UPDATE:** said "The police conducted the arrests on the basis of a simple 'complaint', without any investigation: this is a serious violation of human rights. Some fanatics put pressure on the police without any evidence of actual attempts at forced conversions. The agents then carry out the arrests. What happened is a serious violation")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Madhya-Pradesh,-three-Pentecostal-Christians-arrested-for-alleged-forced-conversions-35491.html>



### **Pakistan: Jamkay village, Cheema Tehsil Daska district, Sialkot**

Sameer Masih (aged 13, son of Tariq Masih, abducted by three Muslims at gunpoint and sodomized)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5657>



### **Egypt: Amiriya, Alexandria**

Handy Makanouti (**UPDATE:** ordered by a 'customary meeting' to not go into his land or to church for four months)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64584>



### **Germany**

Said (Iranian refugee, reported to have said: "In Iran, the Revolutionary Guards have arrested my brother in a house church. I fled the Iranian secret police, because I thought in Germany I can finally freely live by my religion. But in the home for asylum seekers, I can't even openly admit that I am a Christian. [Muslim Syrian refugees] wake me before dawn during Ramadan and say that I should eat before the sun comes up. If I refuse, they say, I'm a kuffar, an unbeliever. They spit at me. They treat me like an animal. And threaten to kill me", the Security Service would not help him because "They are also all Muslims")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20151002233049.htm>

**Sunday October 4, 2015**



### **Uganda: Jaguzi Island, Mayuge district**

Mulangira Ibrahim (aged 25, Islamic teacher, converted after being temporarily struck blind when he attempted to question a Christian pastor regarding a vision of his conversion, beaten by local Muslims)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/12/christian-uganda-lost-family-muslims-beaten-unconscious/>



### **Nigeria: Maiduguri, Borno state**

Raphael (aged 35, convert from Islam, threatened with death)

<http://www.nigerianbulletin.com/threads/boko-haram-marked-me-for-death-because-i-converted-to-christianity.125928/>

**Monday October 5, 2015**



**Bangladesh: Ishwardi, Pabna district**

Rev Luke Sarkar (aged 50, attacked by three Muslim men, throat cut but not seriously so, the attackers were frightened off and left their motorcycle behind)

Nirmal Rozario (**UPDATE:** said "We are very concerned about the attack. In the last two weeks, radical Muslims have killed two foreigners. We Christians are vulnerable in this country, as are other Muslim minorities. We can be attacked at any moment...The police must arrest the three assailants and impose an exemplary punishment")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Protestant-clergyman-in-stabbing-by-three,-possibly-Muslim-attackers-35500.html>



**Pakistan: Pernawa, near Phool Nagar, Kasur District**

Saddique Azam (school headmaster, beaten by three Muslim teachers who resented his position, eye seriously injured, police tried to avoid filing a report)

<http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/kasur-a-christian-head-teacher-beaten-and-tortured-for-his-faith/>



**Syria: Aleppo**

Archbishop Antoine Audo SJ (**UPDATE:** said "People have become destitute; many are sick. There is no money to buy food; everything is expensive...[Militants] issue their messages, to show that they are powerful and have the means to instill fear. And the West is in danger against these extremist groups")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-the-bishop-of-Aleppo,-the-destruction-in-Palmyra-is-a-warning-from-the-Islamic-State-to-the-West-35499.html>



**Egypt: Cairo**

Pope Tawadros II aka Wagih Sobhy Baqi Suleiman (**UPDATE**: said that the Christians who are running for political office with the Islamist Al-Nour party have no credibility)

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64585>

**Wednesday October 7, 2015**



**Philippines: Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte, Mindanao**

Rolando Del Torchio (aged 57, former priest and missionary, reported to have been abducted)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Rolando-Del-Torchio,-a-former-PIME-missionary,-abducted-in-Dipolog-City-35523.html>



**Italy**

Fr Mussie Zerai (former Eritrean refugee, stated that 90% of the survivors of an [October 3, 2013](#) boat sinking near Lampedusa in which at least 232 died and hundreds are missing are Christians who were fleeing persecution in Eritrea and Ethiopia; **UPDATE**: has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his work with refugees)

<http://news.yahoo.com/mussie-zerai-eritrean-priest-saves-migrants-phone-055745990.html>

**Thursday October 8, 2015**



**Pakistan: Maryam colony [ghetto], Sargodha, Punjab province**

Naveed John (aged 24, arrested on blasphemy charges after found with a sword inscribed with Quranic verses, had accepted the sword as a gift to avoid causing offense)

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/islamic-inscriptions-on-sword-found-on-christian-cause-his-arrest-under-blasphemy-charges>



### **Kazakhstan: Astana**

Yklas Kabduakasov (aged 54, father of eight, arrested in [Astana](#) by KNB secret police on [August 14, 2015](#) for spreading 'religious discord' by discussing his faith with others and offering Christian books to others, ordered held on [August 15, 2015](#) in a two-month pretrial detention; **UPDATE**: trial begun)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2110](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2110)



### **Syria**

Dr Abd Almasseh Enwea (son of Maream Gawreh, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera](#) village; **UPDATE**: reported to have been **shot dead**)

Ashour Fedor Ebrahim (abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Jazera](#) village; **UPDATE**: reported to have been **shot dead**)

Bassam Michael Issa (son of Gourget Malki, abducted by ISIL on [February 23, 2015](#) from [Tal-Shameran](#) village; **UPDATE**: reported to have been **shot dead**)

[https://www.catholic.org/news/international/middle\\_east/story.php?id=64763](https://www.catholic.org/news/international/middle_east/story.php?id=64763)



### **Egypt: Samalout, Minya province**

Amgad Emad Zikry (Eighth grade student, bullied by a Muslim student, home later invaded by a mob of 200 Muslims, mother and two others including his cousin Emad beaten)

Youssef Talaat Ayad (student, cousin of Amgad Emad Zikry, son of Talaat and Sameeha Ayad, defended his cousin from a Muslim bully at school, beaten by a Muslim mob that invaded his home)

Talaat Ayad (husband of Sameeha, father of Youssef Talaat Ayad and Ishak, stationary store looted by 200 Muslims after his son defended his cousin from a Muslim bully at school, hand broken, home invaded)

Ishak Ayad (aged 18, beaten by a Muslim mob that invaded his home)

Sameeha Ayad (wife of Talaat Ayad, mother of Youssef Talaat Ayad and Ishak, beaten by a Muslim mob that invaded his home, required 5 stitches in her head)

Emad (cousin of Amgad Emad Zikry, beaten by a mob of 200 Muslims, skull and leg fractured)

Fr Istaphanos Shehata (described the attack)

Fr Sarophim (described the attack “After the victims arrived at the hospital the police and someone from the District Attorney’s office came to take their statements as a standard procedure. But no arrest warrant was issued, even though the criminals are known to everybody. As usual the police dealt with the situation with apathy”)

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/10/08/at-least-7-christians-injured-in-attack-on-christians-in-upper-egypt/>

**Friday October 9, 2015**



**Iraq: Ankawa, Kurdistan**

**Two religious sisters have moved into a refugee camp**

Sr Afnan

Sr Alice

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/38635->

[ASIA IRAQ Two Iraqi sisters go and live among the Christian refugees camped in Erbil#.VhiKDsLlsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38635-ASIA IRAQ Two Iraqi sisters go and live among the Christian refugees camped in Erbil#.VhiKDsLlsfg)



**Syria**

Archbishop Jacques Behnan Hindo (**UPDATE:** said "Moscow's intervention has been positive because they are really targeting ISIL and the militia are beginning to flee. They fled from the area in about 20 cars in a hurry in the direction of Iraq, leaving another 20 cars on site...On the night of Feb. 23, when ISIL attacked, the American planes flew over the area for a long time without intervening. Then for three days we saw no more jets, leaving the field open to the militants. This makes us think that in some way have been helped by the Americans and their ambiguous attitude...They [ISIL] have executed three [Christians] and they are preparing another three for an upcoming execution...People [in Deir ez-Zor] are dying of hunger, they lack food and medicine. Just think that today 50 kg of sugar costs as much as a car or a house. People sell the car to buy it. The ISIL has imposed a real blockade, men, women, elderly and children are starving")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Syrian-bishop:-Ambiguous-US-policy-favors-Islamic-state.-Fears-for-kidnapped-Christians-35543.html>

**Saturday October 10, 2015**



## **Pakistan**

Pervaiz Masih (husband of Zarina Bibi, father of Amir, Prem, Anmol, and Sanam, construction material supplier accused of blasphemy by a business rival in Kasur district, arrested on [September 1, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: released on bail)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5637>



## **Syria**

Fr Jacques Murad SJ (abducted in [Homs](#) on [May 18, 2015](#) by two armed men; **UPDATE**: escaped from ISIL captivity with the help of a Muslim friend, said "Almost every day, someone [from IS] would come into my cell and ask, 'Who are you?' I would answer, 'I am a Nazarene, i.e. a Christian'. At that point, they would shout, 'Then you're an infidel. And since you are an infidel, if you do not convert, we are going to cut your throat with a knife'. But I never signed a statement to renounce Christianity...Whilst I was a prisoner, I was waiting for the day of my death but with great inner peace. I had no problem with dying in the name of our Lord. I would not be the first nor the last, but one among the thousands of martyrs for Christ")

### **Syria: Tal Tamir**

Isho Jamo (aged 48, unemployed electrician, refugee, has fled Islamic militants several times)

Jan Abraham (aged 54, banker, mayor, said most Christians are too fearful of ISIL to return)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Joy-for-Fr-Mourad,-fear-for-the-fate-of-190-Christian-prisoners-held-by-the-Islamic-State-35568.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Nuncio-in-Damascus:-Fr.-Mourad-was-released,-is-resting-and-in-good-health-35554.html>

<http://www.aina.org/news/20151010185446.htm>



## **Haiti**

Roberta Edwards (aged 55, missionary, U.S. citizen, **shot dead** in her automobile, 4 year old boy in her care abducted)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/american-missionary-killed-haiti-child-kidnapped-147572/>

**Sunday October 11, 2015**



### **India**

Sr Mary Prema MC (Missionaries of Charity superior general, said that the Missionaries would be closing their adoption centers in India after the government issued new regulations that would allow nontraditional families to adopt)

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/missionaries-of-charity-nuns-to-close-adoption-centers-in-india/74417>



### **Argentina: Mar del Plata**

Martin Patrino (president of the pro-life group ArgentinosAlerta, condemned an attack by half-naked feminists on the cathedral in which parishioners were pelted with stones and bottles, said they were “running at the mouth talking about women's rights, but it seems they can't stand the right to religious freedom”)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/pro-abortion-madness-in-argentina-half-naked-activists-attack-cathedral-74923/>

**Monday October 12, 2015**



### **India: Balanagar village, Mahabubnagar district, Telangana state**

Rajath Pradhan (husband of Swapna Pradhan, hosted a prayer meeting in his home that was attacked by Hindu radicals)

Swapna Pradhan (aged 25, wife of Rajath Pradhan, expectant mother, beaten along with 40 other Christians during a prayer meeting, miscarried)

Pastor Anil Kumar (hit on the head with a bucket, suffered a deep cut, later said “Balanagar is [a] stronghold for the RSS and all its affiliates. It is becoming increasingly difficult to hold prayers in Christian homes. Even the Christians are afraid of hosting prayers in their homes”)

Pastor David (Independent Church, said “This is a cruel act carried out in the name of Hindu nationalism. Fringe Hindu radicals portray Christians as anti-nationals so innocent Christians are punished for no wrong doing”)

Rev Ronald John (President of the Telangana Christian Joint Action Committee, said “This is a highly condemnable act and the perpetrators should be punished under the law. The Christian community across the Mahabubnagar district are deeply distressed”)

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/11/20/pregnant-christian-woman-loses-child-after-beating-by-hindu-radicals-in-india/>

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/12/17/christian-persecution-reaches-new-heights-in-indias-telangana-state-as-country-debates-rise-in-intolerance/>

**Tuesday October 13, 2015**



**Indonesia: Aceh Singkil regency, Aceh province**

**At least 8,000 Christians fled Muslim attacks over 'illegal' temporary churches**

Fr Ipung Purwosuranto OSC (wrote "Dozens have arrived asking for asylum in St Michael's Parish in Tumajae, in the diocese of Sibolga. They are housed temporarily in the rectory and the house of the sisters")

Fr Dominikus Sibagariang OFM (said "Several Capuchin priests and local nuns helped them by bringing them food. This is a humanitarian mission. The priests' presence gives people a sense of hope and security")

Fr Alfons Pandiangan OFM Cap (has been sheltering refugees)

Rev Erde Berutu (church burned, **UPDATE:** said "The churches were already built in the 1930s. The youngest church was built in 2001, while the regulation first appeared in 2006")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Aceh:-thousands-of-people-flee-religious-violence-following-church-attacks-35595.html>

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/thousands-flee-religious-violence-in-indonesias-aceh-province/74434>



**China: Cao county, Shandong province**

Zhao Weiling (husband of Liu Cuiping, detained at a [June 25, 2014](#) worship service, accused of being a member of the Total Scope Church aka the Born Again Movement cult; sentenced on [May 28, 2015](#) to 4 years' imprisonment; **UPDATE:** has filed an administrative reconsideration suit for retrial)

Liu Cuiping (wife of Zhao Weiling, **UPDATE:** said of a possible retrial of her husband “An acquittal is impossible. That would show how ridiculous the original sentence was. Instead, it will be good if his sentence is reduced to one year”)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/10/upcoming-reconsideration-trial-for.html>



**India: Sandih, Khunti district, Jharkhand state**

Pastor Chamu Hasda Purty (**shot dead** by unknown assailants)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Jharkhand,-shooting-of-Pentecostal-pastor-an-offense-for-secular-India-35587.html>



**Israel: East Talpiot aka Armon HaNetziv**

Marike Veldman (repeatedly stabbed on a bus by a Muslim terrorist, hospitalized)

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-woman-survives-muslim-terrorist-stabbing-screaming-jesus-147860/>



**Germany: Brandenburg**

Farsad (aged 24, Afghan national, refugee, fled Iran after becoming a Christian, has been fighting deportation to Afghanistan)

<http://www.dw.com/en/my-piece-of-hope-afghan-refugee-clings-to-bible-dreams-of-university/a-18777048>

**Wednesday October 14, 2015**



**Sweden: Gothenburg**

**ISIL threats including 'Convert or die' have appeared on businesses owned by Assyrian Christians**

Markus Samuelsson (said "I felt a sudden chill down my spine. It's terribly painful, we feel threatened. Our family fled Turkey for Sweden in the 70s. What we're exposed to reminds us of the stories we were told as children. It's very real and threatening, and we're terrified")

Josef Garis (said "The persecution of the past feels near")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20151014145500.htm>

**Thursday October 15, 2015**



**Bangladesh: Dhaka**

Tapon Cruze (family driven from their home by a Muslim mob, said "They wanted to shoot me. They told us that they would kill us if we had opposed the expropriation of our house")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Expropriation-of-lands-in-Bangladesh:-100-Muslims-occupy-Christian-home-in-Dhaka-35610.html>



**Pakistan**

Aasiya Noreen aka Asia Bibi (aged 50 in 2015, wife of Ashiq Masih, mother of five including Isham, daughter of Soran Masih, still incarcerated on a 2009 blasphemy conviction and death sentence; **UPDATE**: has been placed in an isolation cell to protect her from vigilantism after the killer of Governor Salman Taseer lost his Supreme Court appeal)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?newsid=2024>



### **Iraq: Amadiya-Dohuc, Kurdistan**

Fr Samir Yousif Al-Khoury (with winter coming is appealing for aid for 3,500 refugees in his care)

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

Sr Hayat OP (aged 30, refugee, has been sleeping on the floor of a laundry, started a youth prayer group "They're asking God what He wants them to do. Should they migrate? Or should they stand firmly in this country, accepting what God is doing here? Pray that God opens doors for them and shows them which one to take")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Winter-is-coming-for-Mosul-refugees:-We-need-your-help-35591.html>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/10/4056288/>



### **Cuba: Camaguey**

Rev Bravo Denis (ordered on [September 18, 2013](#) to be evicted from his home; **UPDATE**: still fighting his eviction, home attacked by mobs in attempts to force his family to leave)

<http://www.csw.org.uk/2015/10/15/news/2813/article.htm>

**Friday October 16, 2015**



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

Pastor Huang Yizi (aged 41, arrested again on [September 12, 2015](#), charges unknown;

**UPDATE**: has been denied access to an attorney or his family)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/10/huang-yizi-denied-access-to-lawyers.html>



### **Vietnam: Kontum**

Bishop Michael Hoang Duc Oanh (**UPDATE**: protested government's plans to demolish small churches and chapels, including 22 in one district alone)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Religious-freedom-denied:-Bishop-of-Kontum-slams-church-demolition-35605.html>



### **Pakistan: Changa Manga, Punjab province**

Nabila Bibi (fiancée of Sajid Masih, daughter of Bashir Masih, abducted one month before her wedding, forced to convert to Islam and to marry a Muslim)

Bashir Masih (father of Nabila Bibi)

Sajid Masih (fiancé of Nabila Bibi)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5663>

**Monday October 19, 2015**



### **Pakistan: undisclosed location**

Amina (alias, aged 29, convert from Islam, wife of Salamat, mother of two, in hiding, unable to work)

Salamat (alias, aged 34, husband of Amina, father of two, shot in the leg, run over by a motorcycle, wound never healed properly, in hiding, unable to work)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/A-Pakistani-family-converted-to-Christianity-is-hounded,-victim-of-death-threats-35623.html>



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

Mamwikomba Mwanika (convert, wife of George Mwanika, mother of eight, attacked by local Muslims, **died in route to the hospital**)

George Mwanika (convert, widower of Mamwikomba Mwanika, brother of Samson Nfunyeku, said "I know that the attackers are looking for me. We are seeking God's protection and

His peace. May God give me the courage to continue sharing the love of Christ to those who are lost, as Jesus said we should love our enemies”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/10/bloodshed-in-eastern-uganda-continues-as-christian-mother-of-eight-is-slain/>

**Tuesday October 20, 2015**



### **Indonesia**

Pastor Gomar Gultom (**UPDATE:** said “The [October 12, 2015] meeting between the community and religious leaders was facilitated by the state [of Aceh Singkil], as if endorsing civil society to carry out violence” that followed)

Fr Mandius Mateus Siringoringo O.Carm (described the demolition of a mission station by the local government)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/10/4064222/>  
<http://www.ucanews.com/news/church-demolitions-follow-arson-attack-in-indonesias-aceh-province/74467>



### **Sweden: Gothenburg**

Yusuf Asmar (pizza store owner, has been threatened by the ISIL "convert or die" graffiti campaign)

Faisal Javaid (convert, Pakistani refugee, husband of Eka, father of two, threatened with deportation)

Herman Fernandez (Pakistani refugee, former teacher, had been abducted in Pakistan in 2011 with two colleagues who were beheaded, escaped, entered Sweden but was denied asylum, threatened with deportation, said "They don't see that my life is in such a danger in Pakistan...They will get me either from the airport or, oh, that would be the last of me!")

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/86937.htm>  
<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?newsid=2025>

**Wednesday October 21, 2015**



### **Kazakhstan**

Viktor Leven (German citizen, husband of Yelizaveta Leven, father of eight, application for Kazakh citizenship denied in 2009, fined and ordered deported as an unregistered missionary in October 2009 for having prayed with Kazakh Christians, decision reversed in Akmola in November 2009 but reinstated when prosecutors complained; **UPDATE:** the United Nations Human Rights Committee ruled that his human rights had been violated)

Yelizaveta Leven (stateless person, wife of Viktor Leven, mother of eight children younger than 15 who were all born in Kazakhstan)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2115](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2115)



### **Iraq**

Salwan Mochtar (aged 38, father of Daniel and Zachy, refugee for more than a year)

Daniel Mochtar (aged 4, son of Salwan Mochtar, refugee for more than a year)

Zachy Mochtar (aged 9, son of Salwan Mochtar, refugee for more than a year)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20151020204600.htm>



### **Jordan**

Albert (father of Jack, mechanical engineer, Syrian refugee)

Jack (aged 12, son of Albert, Syrian refugee)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20151020204745.htm>



**Egypt: Nozha district, Cairo**

Bibawi Farag Allah (aged 10, flogged 40 times by an Arabic teacher with an electric wire)

<http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/4167-cairo-pupil-receives-40-lashes-from-teacher>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64807>

<http://www.raymondibrahim.com/from-the-arab-world/teacher-savagely-whips-coptic-christian-boy-40-times/>

**Thursday October 22, 2015**



### **Pakistan**

Sarfraz Masih Gill (brother of Sajjad Masih Gill, who was convicted of blasphemy and sentenced to life imprisonment; **UPDATE**: attacked and threatened when returning home from visiting his brother in prison)

Ramiz Gill (son of Sarfraz Masih Gill, nephew of Sajjad Masih Gill, attacked and threatened when returning home from visiting his uncle in prison)

### **Pakistan: Changa Manga, Punjab province**

Bashir Masih (father of Nabila Bibi, held against his will by his daughter's abductors)

Sajid Masih (fiancé of Nabila Bibi, held against his will by his fiancée's abductors)

Antzar Masih (cousin of Sajid Masih, held against his will by his cousin's fiancée's abductors)

Qaisar Masih (cousin of Sajid Masih, held against his will by his cousin's fiancée's abductors)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5663>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5703>



### **Syria**

Archbishop Jean Clement Jeanbart (**UPDATE**: said in [London, United Kingdom](#) "If nothing is done, it is not impossible that all the Christians in Syria may be wiped out...There is a fundamental threat to Christianity from ISIL. They have killed plenty of us. There is an existential crisis...Many people have been abducted, many people have been killed, many people have been beheaded, many people have been persecuted, it is a terrible situation...I am going back to Aleppo, it is my country. I am responsible for the Christians, I have to stay beside them and I will never leave them alone. A good shepherd never leaves his sheep...I would sacrifice my own life to be in Syria")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20151021223921.htm>



**Egypt: Al-Swafy manor, Dafsh village, Samalout, Minya province**

Kastor Amir Bushra (aged 5, reported to have been abducted, US\$12,461 ransom demanded;

**UPDATE:** recovered after a ransom of US\$5,607 was paid)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1493&A=20813>

<http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64771>



**Ukraine: Sumy**

Anatoly Pavlovich Borisenko (church security volunteer, beaten on church grounds by a drunken National Guardsman, hospitalized in a coma)

<https://orthochristian.com/131180.html>

**Friday October 23, 2015**



**China: Chenghai district, Guangdong province**

Ms Guo (church leader, church sealed by the Religious Affairs Bureau on [August 18, 2015](#), appealed their action, the RAB officials conceded the seals were not legal and removed them, but then pressured the landlord to terminate the church's lease, said “Even more appalling is that, after we left, the religious affairs bureau had the public security bureau place closed-circuit surveillance cameras at the door to my home ... Right now, I haven’t done anything. I want to sue them”)

**China: Zunyi, Guizhou province**

Mou (church employee, church building reportedly built in May 2014 with official approval, local land ministry sued on [July 1, 2014](#) to close the church, court decided against the church, appellate court ruled in [August 2015](#) against the church, another appeal is planned, said that they would have been approved if they joined the Three-Self Patriotic Movement [the official government church]: “They wanted me to go to the religious affairs bureau and register. They tried to force us”)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/10/officials-force-landlord-to-end-churchs.html>  
<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/10/guizhou-house-church-appeal-rejected.html>



**Pakistan: Changa Manga, Punjab province**

Bashir Masih (father of Nabila Bibi, held against his will by his daughter's abductors, **UPDATE:** escaped)

Sajid Masih (fiancé of Nabila Bibi, held against his will by his fiancée's abductors, **UPDATE:** escaped, in hiding after receiving threats)

Antzar Masih (cousin of Sajid Masih, held against his will by his cousin's fiancée's abductors, **UPDATE:** escaped)

Qaisar Masih (cousin of Sajid Masih, held against his will by his cousin's fiancée's abductors, **UPDATE:** escaped)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5663>

**Sunday October 25, 2015**



**China: Haidian district, Beijing**

**Four Christians detained after praying in a public park**

Guan Shanyue

Huang Danyi

Sun Huibo

Zeng Miao

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/10/church-members-of-persecuted-beijings.html>



**Vietnam: Ho Chi Minh City**

Fr Ngo Gia The (described how Catholics, Protestants, Buddhists, and Cao Dia believers united to prevent the government demolition of a Catholic school)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Ho-Chi-Minh-City,-Buddhists-and-Protestants-defend-Catholic-school-from-demolition-35700.html>



**India: Kohkameta, Chhattisgarh state**

Pastor Mehtu Karma (aged 31, beaten unconscious by a Hindu mob that attacked a church service, blood was seen to stream from his ear, several parishioners also beaten)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/11/4091689/>



**Pakistan: Bonga Ghanda Singh Wala, Kasur**

Sardar Mushtaq Gill (attorney; **UPDATE:** reported on the gang rape of a hearing impaired Christian woman in her home)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5664>



**Syria: Azizieh quarter, Aleppo**

Bishop George Abu Khazen OFM (**UPDATE:** described the shelling of a church during Mass “It was about 5.50 in the evening, inside the church there were at least four hundred people and it was the moment of Holy Communion. Had the shell exploded inside the church there would have been a massacre. Instead only seven of the faithful present were slightly injured by falling rubble and the roof was damaged. We thank the Lord and the Blessed Virgin Mary. Thanks also to other members of the faithful who live nearby and rushed to the scene to assess the damage and tidy up the church and this enabled us to celebrate our daily morning Mass here today”)

Fr Ibrahim Alsabagh OFM (**UPDATE:** described the artillery attack on his church “Just at that moment I was preparing to administer the Eucharist to the faithful. Suddenly everything began to shake, and all kinds of debris fell down inside the church. There was so much dust that we couldn’t see one another. If it had blown a hole through the dome, it could have been a tragedy. And even if it had only caused the chandelier to fall, it could have killed as many as ten people. As I said to my congregation, it was the mantle of the Blessed Virgin that protected us...It certainly wasn’t any accident that the attack took place during the Sunday evening Mass, when there were 400 people inside the church”, after determining that there were no serious injuries he continued the Mass: “Some of

them were astonished by my reaction. But it is in the Lord that we find our strength, in union with Him through prayer", said that the next day the people returned for Mass: "There were so many of them, and we joyfully listened once again to the sound of our bells")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/38747->

[ASIA SYRIA A shell hits Latin Church in Aleppo during the celebration of Mass Bishop Abou Khazen it could have been a massacre#.VjAzN8Llsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38747-)

<http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1446068637.html>

**Tuesday October 27, 2015**



### **Jordan**

Bassam Jacob (husband of Maysoon Jacob, father of three, Iraqi refugee, said "We were happy with the American presence. For us, when they left, it got worse. They should have kept our soldiers there. They should have stayed until things were stable", fled after ISIL threatened to abduct his children, added "God will compensate them according to what they have done. We don't think of those who've wronged us. When we decided to leave, our Muslim neighbors didn't want us to go. They were our friends")

Maysoon Jacob (wife of Bassam Jacob, mother of three, Iraqi refugee, fled after ISIL threatened to abduct her children, said "My faith has never, never, never become less. Sometimes I am tempted to doubt. But we are believing family. Jesus has been in this house from the beginning...We want you to pray. Pray for the good people - Christians and Muslims - who are suffering")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20151027151750.htm>



### **Syria: Aleppo**

Giries Na'oum (alias, aged 45, husband, father of three, reported to have said "We want Christians all over the world to know what is happening in Syria without misrepresentation. This war is for the profit of the big powers. So far, more than half the Christians of Aleppo have left. If the war continues, there will be no more Christians. Everyone is thinking about emigrating. Will it be possible to help those who remain in Aleppo to travel? This is a crucial question to look at in the future. Our greatest wish is that someone intercede with your governments to end the war...Few talk about peace. Pope Francis has been asking for it incessantly and loudly. He calls for peace in Syria and

throughout the Middle East. His is a very important voice. It shows his closeness to the people in this moment of distress, providing support in daily life. It is a source of hope and comfort for the people")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-a-Christian-and-a-Muslim-family-in-Aleppo-the-pope-is-a-source-of-hope-for-peace-in-Syria-35704.html>



**United States - Washington state: Bremerton**

Joe Kennedy (assistant football coach, suspended by his school for refusing to stop public prayer, the school stated it was afraid of a lawsuit should he continue)

<http://www.persecution.org/2015/10/30/washington-school-district-places-football-coach-on-leave-until-he-stops-praying-on-field/>

**Wednesday October 28, 2015**



**China: Beijing**

Hu Shigen (church elder, disappeared [on July 10, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: still missing, attorney has filed papers with the police requesting a meeting with his client)

**China: Tongzi county, Guizhou province**

Mou (**UPDATE**: described a Religious Affairs Bureau and local police raid on a church training session, church now prohibited from meeting)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/11/guizhou-house-church-raided-by.html>  
<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/12/lawyer-petitions-for-meeting-with.html>



**Pakistan: Lahore, Punjab province**

Aslam Masih (shot in both legs after he refused to retract a police report against the shooter for an April 4, 2015 home invasion in which Easter decorations were destroyed)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5686>

**Thursday October 29, 2015**



**China: Longwan district, Zhejiang province**

Pastor Yan Xiaojie (reported to have been detained in a 'black' jail)

**China: Lucheng District, Zhejiang province**

Elder Zhou Aiping (reported to have been detained in a 'black' jail)

**China: Zhejiang province**

Wen (reported to have said “After a year, the cross demolitions had mostly finished. Then came the persecution, as pastors were caught and are still unreleased. The officials are becoming more arrogant and more powerful. The thing we need most is to have people who will step up to stop these kinds of things from happening. These people, can we fight for their release?”)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/10/zhejiang-christians-detentions-upgraded.html>



**Kyrgyzstan: Osh**

**Event UPDATE: Two Christian women won their appeal that confirmed the dismissal of fraud charges, NSC secret police attempted twice to detain their attorneys prior to the hearing, then invaded the judges' chambers in an attempt to influence or delay the ruling**

Nadezhda Sergienko (aged 56, mother of Oksana Koryakina, under house arrest on [March 20, 2013](#) on fraud charges after her church filed registration applications; acquitted on all charges on [October 7, 2014](#), judge called the case 'fabricated'; **UPDATE**: released from house arrest)

Oksana Koryakina (aged 35, daughter of Nadezhda Sergienko, under house arrest on [March 20, 2013](#) on fraud charges after her church filed registration applications; acquitted on all charges on [October 7, 2014](#), judge called the case 'fabricated'; **UPDATE**: released from house arrest)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2116](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2116)



### **Kenya: Tiribe**

Pastor Francis Mutuku (church buildings destroyed in an arson attack)

Pastor Peter Nyawa (church building destroyed in an arson attack)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2015/11/armed-muslims-take-wife-children-from-christian-in-kenya/>



### **Sudan: Gadaref, East Sudan, and Omdurman**

Bishop Yagoub Boutros (said that the targeting of churches for destruction has become a general issue following the [October 17, 2015](#) arson of one of his churches and the [October 22, 2015](#) demolition of another, and following the government's statement that no more permits for church construction would be issued)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/10/4077326/>



### **Central African Republic: Bangui**

Fr Moses Otii Alir MCCI (described the rioting that began with the murder of three Muslims “On their way to the parish, they started looting and burning all the houses and shops. They gathered in front of the parish gate, wanting to destroy the church and butcher all of us...The shootings and the burning of houses lasted almost 10 hours”, one UN peacekeeper protecting the church was wounded)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2015/11/06/central-african-republic-priest-they-wanted-to-destroy-the-church-and-butcher-all-of-us/>



### **Canada Toronto, Ontario**

Leye Oyelani (Christian event coordinator, denied a permit for 2016 because the event included songs that contained the name of Jesus and thus violated the city's anti-proselytizing policy)

Peter Paresh (Christian event coordinator)

Rev David Lynn (**UPDATE:** founder of Christian Positive Space & Stop Bullying Christians Now, called the refusal to grant the permit “blatant discrimination” against Christians, said “How’s a Christian at a Christian event not to say the name of Jesus in their songs?”)

## Canada: Welland, Ontario

Fr Raymond Fenech Gonzi (reported on church buildings vandalized with anti-Christian and pro-abortion graffiti)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/toronto-bans-music-festival-from-city-square-over-christian-songs>

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/happy-abortions-vandal-attacks-catholic-church-with-anti-life-graffiti>

**Saturday October 31, 2015**



## India

Arun Pannalal (**UPDATE**: condemned a call by the RSS paramilitary group for the government to enact strict population controls on religious minorities)

Dr John Dayal (**UPDATE**: said of the RSS proposal "This criminalizes both Christians and Muslims, leading to a rhetoric of poisonous hate against the two communities")

Sajan K George (Global Council of Indian Christians; **UPDATE**: said after the RSS paramilitary organization called for the government to enact strict population controls on religious minorities "Raising the Muslim bogey by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is dangerous and divisive. [Extremists] are twisting the data to stir fears among Hindus about Muslims")

Samuel Jaykumar (National Council of Churches in India; **UPDATE**: said that the RSS proposal "is trying to make these different [Indian] identities into one, which is a very dangerous trend that will take away the diversity of the country")

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/hindu-hard-liners-decry-indias-demographic-imbalance/74546>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hindu-paramilitary-group-calls-for-policy-change-to-contain-harmful-minorities-35779.html>



## Iran: Evin prison, Tehran

Maryam Naghash-Zargaran aka Nasim (aged 37, began serving a four years imprisonment on [July 15, 2013](#), apparently has had a heart attack in Evin prison, transferred to Modares hospital on [September 29, 2013](#), condition unknown; subjected to an extremely invasive and public strip search upon returning to Evin prison on [November 12, 2014](#) after a four

day furlough, health has been precarious; **UPDATE:** granted a leave for medical treatment on [October 27, 2015](#), forced to return to Evin Prison midway through her treatment)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=2608>

### October 2015, date unknown



**China:** Wenming village, Daguan town, Qianxi county, Guizhou province

**Event:** Three sisters of a detained pastor are detained in [mid-October 2015](#) for a second time

Xu Guoqin (attended a [May 24, 2015](#) church service at the home of Xu Guoqing and Zhou Xunmin which was raided by police without warrant, arrested, beaten after refusing to sign a confession; released on [May 29, 2015](#); **UPDATE:** detained again)

Xu Guoyan (detained for 7 to 15 days, released on [June 24, 2015](#), detained again)

Xu Guoying (attended a [May 24, 2015](#) church service at the home of Xu Guoqing and Zhou Xunmin which was raided by police without warrant, arrested; **UPDATE:** detained again)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/10/sisters-detained-in-continuing.html>



**Vietnam**

Y-Man Eban (aged 28, Montagnard tribal, fled to Cambodia on [July 7, 2015](#); **UPDATE:** forced to return)

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



**India:** Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Rampal (aged 55, convert, bicycle repair shop owner, forced into a Hindu temple and forced to bow before idols)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2016/03/persecuted-pastor-in-uttar-pradesh-india-keeps-sights-on-christ/>



**Nigeria: Gwoza, Borno state**

Esther (aged 17, alias, reported to have been abducted by Boko Haram militants, father killed)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/12/25770/>