

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – October 2017

Monday October 2, 2017



Philippines

Fr Antonio Moreno SJ (signed a statement by the Society of Jesus that read "We agree on the fact that the threat of illegal drugs is real and destructive. The imperative to overcome this evil does not belong only to the president, the Police, and the government. It belongs to all of us...the menace of drugs is not just a political or criminal issue. It is evil that attacks humanity, turns human beings into zombies, policemen into murderers, criminals into lords, and the poor into victims...This evil we must fight with insight, cooperation, cunning, the enlightened use of political and economic power, self-sacrifice, prayer and God's grace")

Archbishop Socrates Villegas (**UPDATE:** issued a statement regarding police officers who have requested church sanctuary after their participation in extrajudicial killings "...their consciences are troubling them. They have expressed their desire to come out in the open about their participation in extrajudicial killings and summary executions...If their preference is to stay with us in the church, will not be turned over to the state. Let us be guardian angels for one another")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/62995->

[ASIA PHILIPPINES Jesuits One cannot build a nation on the dead bodies of the Filipino people#.WdJaSVtSyM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/62995-ASIA_PHILIPPINES_Jesuits_One_cannot_build_a_nation_on_the_dead_bodies_of_the_Filipino_people#.WdJaSVtSyM8)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/filipino-police-seek-church-protection-over-drug-killings/80401>



Iraq

Sr Silvia OP (told how one-third of her religious community of sisters has died since the 2014 capture of the Nineveh Plain by ISIL "We pray for them every day as sisters. We pray for them, for those bringing peace, for our soldiers, for those who help people have a better life. This prayer helps us forgive – not to forget, because you can't forget, but to not hate the other person. If we hate others, that means that we're doing what the devil wants, not

what Jesus wants...My dream is to live in peace. Both my own peace, within myself – because we are also at war within ourselves – and the peace we physically live. Living in tranquility, in love, and helping the people know Jesus because he is love”)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/iraqi-nun-we-pray-for-members-of-isis-it-helps-us-forgive-80498>



Egypt: Barba, Assyut province

Mohsen Rizk (store owner, store reported to have been burglarized, police took no action)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/10/latest-attack-copts-egypt/>



Greece: Athens

Archbishop Ieronymos II aka Ioannis Liapis (aged 79, criticized the government for a new bill that would allow 15 year olds to change their gender, said “All that is game playing. The Church has its own views. Our homeland has its own traditions, it has the family, everything else is just contrivances so that we waste our time...Have you considered what the role of the Church is, not only in Europe but the entire world?...The [Church] has more to offer than all embassies”)

<http://greece.greekreporter.com/2017/10/03/archbishop-of-athens-criticizes-govt-over-gender-identification-at-15/>

Tuesday October 3, 2017



Uzbekistan: Urgench

Anvar Tajiyev (apartment raided by police but was away, tablet device seized, later returned to him)

Rinat Sultanov (tenant, present during the raid)

Murat Ayliyev (present during the raid)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2374



Turkmenistan: Seydi Labor Camp

Bahram Hemdemov (aged 54, father of Serdar Hemdemov, detained on [March 14, 2015](#) in [Turkmenabad](#), sentenced to 4 years' imprisonment on [May 19, 2015](#), tortured during pretrial detention; **UPDATE**: still imprisoned)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2320



Colombia: Rionegro

Fr Abelardo Antonio Munoz Sanchez (aged 41, **shot dead** during a street robbery)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/63006->

[AMERICA COLOMBIA Priest killed in Rionegro the second in Colombia in 2017 #.WdY3MltSyM8](#)

Wednesday October 4, 2017



Australia: Hobart, Tasmania

Archbishop Julian Porteous (**UPDATE**: warned of a “direct challenge to freedom of speech” after two venues cancelled scheduled meetings by supporters of traditional marriage, had planned to speak in support of traditional marriage)

Senator Cory Bernardi (**UPDATE**: had planned to speak in support of traditional marriage)

Kevin Andrews (Member of Parliament, had planned to speak in support of traditional marriage)

Lyle Shelton (Australian Christian Lobby managing director, had planned to speak in support of traditional marriage)

Marijke Rancie (blogger, had planned to speak in support of traditional marriage)

<http://ilsismografo.blogspot.com/2017/10/australia-freedom-of-speech-challenged.html>



Vietnam

Y-Man Eban (aged 30, Montagnard tribal, fled to Cambodia on [July 7, 2015](#); forced to return in [October 2015](#); **UPDATE**: under constant harassment and interrogation, said "Since I came back to Vietnam, the authorities have viewed me as a criminal. They despise us, they hate us so much. I can see it in their eyes whenever they come to my house")

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



Pakistan: Behawalnagar, Punjab province

Washaal Masih (arrested on [September 27, 2017](#) along with a Hindu coworker on blasphemy charges, had been burning trash and someone alleged that the trash contained Quranic verses; **UPDATE**: charges dropped)

Adil Saleem Masih (arrested on [September 27, 2017](#) along with a Hindu coworker on blasphemy charges; **UPDATE**: charges dropped)

<https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/dunga-bunga-blasphemy-charges-dropped-against-three-including-two-christians/>



Iraq: Qaraqosh

Christians have returned home to rebuild after ISIL destruction

Lawrence Janan (police officer, said "It's hard for Christians to go back to Mosul City, but here, at least, we were always a clear majority. We have to come to our areas. This is our land. If we don't watch over it, who will?")

Louis Yousif (law school graduate, businessman, has been building a bakery "We need help to create the conditions for people to come back. The international community must stand with Iraqi Christians. We don't want money for our pockets. We need help to rebuild...We are stuck between the Kurdish Regional Government [KRG] and the central government in Baghdad unable to make our own decisions. They call us a disputed area, but in reality there are no Kurdish families here. That's why we were abandoned in the hands of ISIS without a single shot being fired")

Khudr Baham Anab (liquor store owner, said "This is the most dangerous business as we are always targeted. If people see that I am here, that I came back and opened a liquor store,

regular citizens will be reassured. They will think it is safe, although in reality it is not safe")

Falah Baqus (said "We are Iraqi citizens, but the state has not granted us protection. It breaks my heart to see my town littered like this, but if I do not come back, things will never be restored")

Amir Toma (former print shop manager, fruit stand operator, home destroyed, said "Security here is a mixed salad. Some forces support the KRG. Others Bagdad. Us poor people are in the middle")

<https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Middle-East/2017/1004/Can-Christians-rebuild-their-own-homeland-in-Iraqi-Kurdistan>



Nigeria: Evbuotubu, Benin City, Edo state

Pastor Apostle Lucky Eni (husband of Pastor Itohan Eni (church burglarized and destroyed by arson)

Pastor Itohan Eni (wife of Pastor Apostle Lucky Eni)

Gladys Ajayi (parishioner)

Monday Efedhoma (parishioner)

<https://www.itvradionigeria.com/pastor-burnt-church-attributes-incident-criminal-act/>

Thursday October 5, 2017



India: Jamandlapalli village, Govindapuram, Telangana state

Pastor Banothu Seviya (aged 26, husband of Banothu Anusha, severely beaten by five drunken Hindu radicals in an apparent attempted murder, hospitalized in critical condition, in a coma for 48 hours with cerebral blood clots, suffered eye, ear, and 'brain coordination' injuries, later said "I didn't see where they came from. They pushed me off the bike and started beating me with sticks and kicking me. My nose and ears were bleeding. I lost my consciousness...I forgive the youth who attacked, and I am praying for them")

Banothu Anusha (wife of Pastor Banothu Seviya, said after receiving news of the attack on her husband "I immediately rushed to the hospital with my father-in-law. I was told my husband was found unconscious lying on the road by passengers of a State Road Transport Bus. They saw about 10 men fleeing from the scene, and one man lying

unconscious as the bus approached...They attempted to murder him. Doctors in Mahabubabad and Warangal districts told me he would die, and my father and father-in-law arranged for 100,000 rupees [US\$1,545] and shifted him to a private hospital in Hyderabad”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/11/hindu-extremists-beat-pastor-unconscious-southern-india-miraculous-conversions/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/10/indian-christians-beaten-with-rods-and-sticks/>



Mali

Fr Edmond Dembele (spokesman for the Episcopal Conference of Mali; **UPDATE:** reported to have said "The jihadists have started to target Christian communities and it is a worrying development. In the diocese of Mopti, in the center-north of the Country, there are at least three churches that have received the visit of jihadists who prevented the faithful from gathering to pray, sound bells, and have destroyed some furniture and sacred objects...last week some armed forces forced the door of the church in the village of Dobara, took crucifixes, pictures and statues of the Virgin Mary and burned them in the churchyard. Earlier in the village of Bodwal, Christians were expelled from the place of worship by armed men who threatened them, saying they would kill them if they had prayed again in church...The area of Mopti so far had not been affected by the actions of jihadist groups that have long been present there. What worries us is that these groups had not targeted Christians up till now. The situation has changed in the last few months and for this reason we have launched the alarm. This is a border area with Burkina Faso that has been attacked for some time by jihadists")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/63018->

[AFRICA MALI Christian churches targeted by jihadists A new and disturbing development#.WdY3_VtSyM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/63018-)

Friday October 6, 2017



China: Yunnan province

Christian missionaries were sentenced to 4 to 6 years' imprisonment, or released

Ju Dianhong (sentence unknown)

Liu Wei (sentence unknown)

Zhang Congying (sentence unknown)

Li Yunxiu (sentence unknown)

Li Min (sentence unknown)

Li Shudong (sentence unknown)

Pastor Peng Huifen (reported to have been released)

Tu Yan (detained on [October 22, 2015](#) for 'cult activity', released, arrested a month later on the same charge; **UPDATE**: case returned to prosecutors for further investigation)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/10/yunnan-christians-sentenced-4-to-6.html>



Malaysia: Selangor

Hannah Yeoh (state assembly Speaker, subject of a police complaint of “trying to preach Christianity” due to her 2014 autobiography in which she mentioned her faith)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/10/malaysia-muslim-only-laundrette-and-uproar-over-christian-book-show-growing-bias-against-minorities/>



India: Latehar, Jharkhand state

Dilip Ekka (school headmaster, accused by Hindu nationalists of organizing boycotts of Hindu shops, has denied the charges)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/In-Jharkhand,-Hindu-extremists-accuse-a-Catholic-headmaster-of-boycotting-their-shops-41979.html>



Afghanistan: Kabul

Farid (aged 32, convert, deported from Norway after spending 9 years seeking asylum, had left the country as a child with his parents, said “I feel like I’ve fallen from the sky. I don’t believe I’m here...I am scared. I don’t know anything about Afghanistan. Where will I go? I don’t have funds to live alone and I can’t live with relatives because they will see that I don’t pray [to Allah]”)

Sadi (aged 24, convert, deported from Sweden, said “I am very scared that someone will recognize me and kill me”, added that he will try to return to Europe)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/10/eu-wilfully-blind-risks-deporting-christian-converts-back-afghanistan/>



Syria: near Deir Ezzor

Two Russian mercenaries [or covert soldiers] were reported to have been executed by ISIL after refusing to convert to Islam

Grigory Tsurkanu (aged 38, **executed**)

Roman Zabolotny (aged 39, **executed**)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4955614/Two-Russian-mercenaries-executed-ISIS.html>

Saturday October 7, 2017



Pakistan: Sindh province

Prof Anjum James Paul (**UPDATE**: criticized another employment advertisement that specified sanitation positions as 'non-Muslim')

<https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/minorities-troubled-by-for-non-muslims-only-affrontation/>



Turkey: Kiriklar Prison

Pastor Andrew Brunson (U.S. citizen, husband of Norine Brunson, detained as a 'national security risk' in Izmir on **October 7, 2016**; confirmed to be a hostage at a **September 28, 2017** press conference by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the President explicitly called for the U.S. government to exchange him for Sufi cleric and U.S. resident Fethullah Gulen; **UPDATE**: visited in prison by a United States Commission on International Religious Freedom [USCIRF] delegation, confined 24 hours a day in his cell and has lost 50 pounds, said “I wish to thank everyone who is advocating and praying for me. Knowing that I am not forgotten is important to me”)

Kristina Arriaga (USCIRF Vice Chairman, visited Pastor Andrew Brunson in prison, said “The government of Turkey has fabricated charges against Pastor Brunson, largely based on a purported ‘secret testimony’. He should be released immediately”)

Sandra Jolley (USCIRF Vice Chairman, visited Pastor Andrew Brunson in prison, said "He lives in a world of psychic and physical dislocation. Despite a public veneer of a legal process, the truth is Pastor Brunson has had no due process, no true information about the charges against him, unreliable court dates, and no idea when he ever again will see his children or his country")

<http://www.uscirf.gov/news-room/press-releases/turkey-uscirf-delegation-visits-imprisoned-us-citizen-pastor-andrew-brunson>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/10/andrew-brunson-still-prison-one-year-thanks-people-praying/>

Sunday October 8, 2017



United States - Washington: Seattle

A homosexual coffee store owner was reported to have ejected a group of Christians from his store

Jonathan Sutherland (said to the store owner "So you're not willing to tolerate our presence?", was told in reply "If I go get my boyfriend and [expletive] him in the [expletive] right here you're going to tolerate that?")

Caleb Head (said to the store owner after he said the Christians had to tolerate a public sex act "Well, we don't want to watch that", was told in reply "Well then I don't have to [expletive] tolerate this! Leave! All of you. Tell all your [expletive] friends, don't [expletive] come here")

Caytie Davis (said to the store owner "Just know that Christ can save you from that lifestyle", was told in reply "I'm not going to be saved by anything. I'd [expletive] Christ in the [expletive]. OK? He's hot")

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/gay-coffee-shop-owner-kicks-christians-out-goes-on-vulgar-rant-about-things-hed-do-to-jesus-202059/>

Monday October 9, 2017



China: Urumqi, Xinjiang

Li Aijie (wife of imprisoned human rights attorney Zhang Haitao, beaten by her family after she refused their demands that she divorce her husband, suffered a black eye and possible brain damage with headaches and nausea, family had been under pressure from the government)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/10/christian-woman-beat-by-family-for.html>
<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/10/christian-woman-beat-by-family-for.html>



Vietnam: Khanh Hoa province

Mary Magdelene Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Quynh (aged 38, mother of two, arrested while visiting a prisoner on **October 10, 2016**; sentenced on **June 29, 2017** to 10 years' imprisonment for anti-government internet postings; **UPDATE**: still imprisoned)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/rights-group-demands-release-of-catholic-activist/80521>



India

Auxiliary Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas SFX (**UPDATE**: wrote "It is with great sadness and sorrow that we have learnt from sections of the National Press of an unfortunate incident in which members of a sect calling themselves Christians, have burnt images of Hindu deities and our Indian National Flag in Lunglie District of Mizoram. We have been in touch with the local Catholic Bishop of Aizawl, Bishop Stephen Rotluanga, who is upset about the happenings... We are shocked that anyone could show disrespect to members of another religion in the name of Christ. We remind these misguided youth about the episode in the Bible when Jesus wanted to visit a Samaritan village, the people of the village refused to accept him and two of his close disciples asked him 'Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?' And the Gospel says – 'But Jesus turned and rebuked them. And they went to another village'... We exhort the miscreants to give up their wrong ways and pray that they may see the light. God bless India")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Catholic-bishops-denounce-burning-of-Hindu-deities-in-Mizoram:-it-is-fundamentalism-42000.html>

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-bishops-denounce-burning-of-national-flag-hindu-idol/80473>



Pakistan: Jabhran village, Sheikhpura district, Punjab province

Arslan Masih (aged 17, son of Mushtaq Masih, 8th grade student, **beaten to death** by at least 6 police officers in front of 60 students after he had refused to convert to Islam)

Pakistan: Bahawalpur

Pastors of house churches were reported to have been arrested, churches closed

Rev Arslan-ul-Haq

Rev Munir Masih

Rev Arshd Baghicha

Rev Javad Veru

Rev Mubashir Maqsood

Rev Patress Nawab Gill

Rev Shoukat Masih

Rev Arshad Rehmat

Pakistan: Rawalpindi

Sumaira (reported to have been abducted, raped)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/city-bans-christian-prayer-in-homes>

<https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/sheikhpura-christian-student-perishes-of-gruesome-torture-by-police/>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/63044->

[ASIA PAKISTAN A Christian student tortured and killed by the police#.WdzB9FtSyM8](#)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6646>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6648>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6647>



Niger

Fr Mauro Armanino SMA (**UPDATE**: commented after 9 soldiers including 4 U.S. Green Berets were killed in an ambush "There have been several attacks in an area, about 120 miles from Niamey. For some time, that area, bordering Mali, is rather unstable. The other area of strong instability is located near Chad Lake, where Boko Haram raids continue. At the border with Libya, the Tubou are trying to arm themselves to try to contain human trafficking. This increases the risks of destabilization of the area where Tuaregs also live without having a good relationship with the Tubou, especially when there are reasons of interest such as controlling illegal or illicit traffic")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/63036->

[AFRICA NIGER A surprise attack against US soldiers The presence of foreign soldiers is likely to destabilize the area says a missionary#.WdzCrVtSyM8](#)



United States - New Jersey: Highland Park

Indonesian asylum seekers face deportation

Arthur Jemmy (aged 40, husband of Silfia Tobing, unable to work due to surgery following a workplace accident)

Silfia Tobing (wife of Arthur Jemmy)

<http://www.app.com/story/news/politics/2017/10/10/indonesian-couple-sanctuary-highland-park/750300001/>

Tuesday October 10, 2017



China: Guiyang, Guizhou province

Pastor Li Guozhi aka Yang Hua (husband of Wang Hongwu; detained on [December 9, 2015](#); sentenced on [January 5, 2017](#) to two and a half years imprisonment; **UPDATE**: has brought a civil suit against the local government for their recent actions against him and his church)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/10/imprisoned-pastor-sues-government.html>



Uzbekistan: Urgench

Anvar Tajiyev (apartment raided by police on [October 3, 2017](#) but was away, tablet device seized, later returned to him; **UPDATE**: summoned by police to the local Mahalla committee [which regulates religious activity], severely beaten by a suspected NSS secret police officer for four hours, wife and fellow believers threatened with rape and death, forced to sign a document stating police had not mistreated him, the following day went to a hospital in Tashkent but was refused treatment when they discovered the police were

the perpetrators, hospitalized the day after that, diagnosed with a concussion, has since suffered loss of hearing in one ear and recurrent headaches)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2374



Iran: Qal'a Sayyed district, Dezful, Khuzestan province

Mohammad Ali Torabi (convert, detained by security agents while in his office, whereabouts unknown)

<https://en.radiofarda.com/a/iran-arrests-christian-torabi/28795432.html>



Nigeria: Kpachudu village, Plateau state

Solomon Elisha ('young man', killed by Muslim Fulani gunmen)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/10/christians-recount-terror-herdsmens-nine-day-massacre-plateau-state-nigeria/>



United Kingdom: Balliol College, University of Oxford

Rev Richard Cunningham (director of the Christian Union college fellowship, which was banned from an event because its presence might alienate some students, reported to have said "We are however concerned that the current desire to provide safe spaces on campus does not infringe on the core liberties of freedom of speech and freedom of association which are surely foundational to the university experience and indeed to basic human flourishing")

<http://www.ecumenicalnews.com/article/oxford-university-college-ban-on-christian-group-at-freshers-fair-stirs-backlash/60431.htm>

Wednesday October 11, 2017



India

Archbishop Thumma Bala (**UPDATE**: reported to have condemned a televised attack on Mother Teresa by Swami Parpoornanda Saraswathi, in which the Hindu leader accused her of the trafficking of 50,000 women)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/63045-ASIA_INDIA_Condemnation_of_the_Bishops_Hindu_leader_offends_Mother_Teresa#.Wd4VPtSyM8



Uzbekistan: Gulbahor

Marifat Topilova (home raided by police, book 'Love and Marriage' seized)

Uzbekistan: Yangiyul

Guzal Jumabayeva (home raided by police, book 'Love and Marriage' seized)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2326



Algeria: Constantine prison, near Jijel

Slimane Bouhafs (aged 49, arrested in [Setif](#) on blasphemy charges on [July 31, 2016](#), suffers from inflammatory rheumatism, sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment on [August 7, 2016](#); sentence reduced on [September 7, 2016](#) to 3 years' imprisonment, fine of US\$900 dropped; reported on [November 11, 2016](#) to have been threatened with assault after prison inmates saw a video of a Muslim preacher calling for non-Muslims to be "punished"; reported on [May 26, 2017](#) to have been transferred to another prison near [Jijel](#) where there are fewer Christians, family fearful for his safety; **UPDATE**: began a hunger strike after having been denied conditional release, has demanded a transfer back to prison in Bejia)

<https://www.premier.org.uk/News/World/Christian-on-hunger-strike-after-rejection-of-conditional-release-request>



United States – Michigan: near Detroit

Ghandi Shaba (aged 40, brother of Ghiyda Salman, facing deportation to Iraq, came to the U.S. in 1983 at age 5, said "I only know American life, I have always identified as American. I don't remember Iraq and never studied Arabic. All my family is here, and all but one of my family are U.S. citizens. I don't know how I would survive in Iraq - I couldn't even communicate there - and even if I did, it wouldn't be for long. I would be killed. Christians are a minority there")

Ghiyda Salman (sister of Ghandi Shaba, said "We live in fear for Ghandi. Yes, he was guilty of bad judgment as a young teen and he hung with the wrong crowd. But every day now he's scared about what will happen and when. He spends much of his time praying")

<http://www.aina.org/news/20171011130027.htm>

Thursday October 12, 2017



Malaysia: Kuala Lumpur

Lim Lip Eng (member of parliament, filed criminal charges against an Islamic Development Department officer who called Christians infidels and unclean and who criticized a Muslim leader for opposing a Muslim only laundromat)

<http://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2017/10/12/dap-reports-zamihan-for-labelling-christians-infidels-chinese-unclean/>



Egypt: El-Marg district, Cairo

Fr Saman Shehata (husband of Marian Salib, father of four including two young girls, **stabbed to death** by a pedestrian while driving to a conference)

Marian Salib (widow of Fr Saman Shehata)

Fr Beimen Moftah (witnessed the attack on Fr Saman Shehata)

Gerges Kamel (driver of Fr Saman Shehata, witnessed the attack)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Coptic-priest-killed-in-stabbing-incident-in-Cairo-outskirts,-executed-by-an-extremist-42044.html>

<https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2017/10/12/breaking-coptic-priest-killed-in-stabbing-incident-in-cairo-outskirts/>

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=2008&A=32682>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/10/coptic-orthodox-bishop-killed-outside-cairo-egypt/>



Nigeria: Benin City, Edo state

Fr Maurizio Pallu (aged 63, Italian citizen, abducted on [October 13, 2016](#), released after a few hours; **UPDATE**: abducted with four others)

Cardinal John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan (**UPDATE**: said "Authorities are doing everything to locate him. The kidnappers should let him go soon, because it is not easy to bring an Italian around in the forest without being seen")

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/reports-italian-priest-kidnapped-southern-nigeria-50466404>

Friday October 13, 2017



Philippines: Manila

Fr Jose Ramon Villarin SJ (president of Ateneo de Manila University, issued a statement which read "We call on everyone in the community to defend our democratic institutions...Let us urge our leaders in government to allow full independence for these constitutional bodies to implement their crucial mandates by desisting from any form of intimidation in the guise of legal action...[this is] not even a matter of political partisanship or persuasion. It is a call that is borne out of our conviction about what is right and just and truly democratic")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/students-of-jesuit-university-called-on-to-guard-democracy/80546>



China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Yan Xiaojie (detained in a 'black' jail in [Longwan district, Zhejiang province](#) as of [October 29, 2015](#); released on [February 2, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: wrote of his treatment since his release "What kind of crime did I commit? In this period, Wenzhou authorities keep harassing me, asking me to report to the police station every day and coming to my home daily.

They seriously disturb my family's life — especially that of my two elderly [parents] — my life, and my work...In the end, I don't know why?...[In 2015], they captured me for no reason, and I was shut for half a year in a small, black room. Inside, I was constantly hurt and attacked. I have not exposed them to the world, because they do not allow me to tell about the things that happened inside the prison. I have not yet started to protest and complain...Do we Chinese people have human rights at all?")

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/10/pastor-missionary-faces-persecution.html>



India: Chhattisgarh state

Pastor Khel Prasad Kurre (beaten by three or four Hindu extremists, hospitalized, required twelve stitches in his head, cell phone stolen, later found that the attackers had filed a forced conversion charge against him with the police)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/10/indian-christians-beaten-with-rods-and-sticks/>



Kazakhstan: Astana

Teymur Sultan ogly Akhmedov (aged 61, bus driver, husband, father of three sons, arrested on [January 18, 2017](#) for sharing his religious beliefs with KNB secret police informants, held in pre-trial detention, denied cancer treatment; sentenced on [May 2, 2017](#) to 5 years' imprisonment followed by 3 years' prohibition on preaching, said he will appeal; **UPDATE:** appeal filed)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2331



Tajikistan: Qurghonteppa, Khatlon region

Daniil Islamov (aged 18, conscientious objector, forcibly conscripted in [April 2017](#) despite serious health issues; **UPDATE:** sentenced to six months' imprisonment, appeal underway)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2327



Iraq

Muhammed (convert, husband of Sanar, customs official, reported to have been **killed** by his family after refusing to renounce his conversion)

Sanar (convert, widow of Muhammed, reported to have led neighboring women to Christ)

Jemima (widow [husband was martyred for Christ], mother of two daughters, reported to have emigrated to the U.S., converted)

Nabil Omiesh (Bible Society of Iraq program director, reported on the stories of Muhammed, Sanar, and Jemima)

<https://www.ternitynews.com.au/good-news/husbands-killed-for-faith-but-these-women-persevere/>



Nigeria

Archbishop Matthew Hassah Kukah (**UPDATE**: said in [Liverpool, United Kingdom](#) “From my own experience, I find that the British high commissioner [ambassador], the ambassadors from European countries, the American ambassador — they are pandering more to Islam than to Christianity, because most of them have turned their backs on Christianity... We can’t go to the Irish ambassador or the Spanish ambassador and say, ‘This is for the Catholic Church. People are not interested...In Ramadan, the ambassadors of Islamic countries are very keen to come to the Muslim celebrations in a way and manner that the Irish or any of these ambassadors are not likely to do for [Christmas] midnight Mass or the Easter celebrations...Before our election, John Kerry came to Nigeria. John Kerry, when he was secretary of state, left the U.S. and came straight to see the sultan of Sokoto. It was a visit that nobody could explain. John Kerry claims to be a Catholic. This is the perfect example. He landed in Abuja. The American Embassy is in Abuja. There is a cardinal in Abuja, and a very visible cardinal for that matter, but it doesn’t cross the mind of John Kerry to even see out of courtesy the cardinal. He takes another plane to Sokoto and goes to the palace of the sultan, the head of the Muslims...The reaction of the Nigerian Christian community was very interesting. They thought Kerry was pushing the Islamic agenda. This was ahead of the elections, and they thought he was giving the Muslim candidate a leg up...In a country like Nigeria, influence is peddled, and we are not there at the table. We have not trained our people for roles in public life...we are still very shy of the public space, and we are not aware of how much things have moved on”)

Bishop Albert Ayinde Fasina (said in [Liverpool, United Kingdom](#) “In the spirit of the new evangelization, you are required to put your creativity to work...by engaging the media tools for catechesis. The church needs to be concerned for, and be present in the world of communications, in order to dialogue with people today and help them encounter Christ”)

Bishop Godfrey Igwebuike Onah (**UPDATE**: said in [Liverpool, United Kingdom](#) “If we do not blow our trumpet, no one will blow it for us. We need a kind of media that can serve as a

watchdog of the society as well as be the gadfly that can bring us to our toes when we go wrong”)

Nigeria: Delta state

Four British missionaries were abducted for ransom

Dr David Donovan

Shirley Donovan

Alanna Carson (optician)

Ian Squire (aged 57, optician)

Nigeria: Zanwrua village, Plateau state

Dauda Samuel Kadiya (aged 38, church elder, described the Muslim Fulani attack on his village “Every one of us ran to save his life. I was shot at, but the bullet only bruised my hand...All Christians in villages around here have been displaced, and worship buildings have been abandoned. Some of the church buildings were destroyed by the attackers”)

Agado Aura (aged 63, said “Myself and my wife were still sitting in front of my house chatting at about 11 p.m. in front of my house when the attackers came. We could not go to bed early, because the previous night a village near ours, Tafigana, was attacked by the herdsmen. Suddenly, we heard gunshots from the eastern part of the village. We ran into some of the nearby rocks close to my house and hid there. They broke the doors to our rooms and then set fire on my house. Having set fire on my house, they went to the next house and did the same. They continued burning houses until they were done, before they left”)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/10/13/bishop-western-politicians-damage-african-christianity-by-pandering-to-islam/>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/10/christians-recount-terror-herdsmens-nine-day-massacre-plateau-state-nigeria/>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/3-britons-kidnapped-in-nigeria-are-freed-1-is-killed/2017/11/06/87d8b8a4-c2fa-11e7-9922-4151f5ca6168_story.html?utm_term=.223511ab2859

Saturday October 14, 2017



Ukraine: Chervonopartizansk, Donbass region

Vladimir Safarov (met with up to 30 others for prayer and Bible study, apartment raided by police, personal items of all were seized without an inventory taken, detained at a police station with four other parishioners, forced to sign a document under duress)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2401



Belarus: Lepel

Andrei Fokin (husband of Tatyana Fokina, detained while operating his church's street library, charged with an illegal demonstration)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2338



Ireland: Dublin

Katie Ascough (college student, student union president, removed information on obtaining illegal abortions from the student handbook, said “I must state that the call for my impeachment is without legitimate cause. We don’t have to agree on the issue of abortion, but we should be able to respect each other...It was clear from the outset that some students didn’t want to give me a chance as President because of my views on abortion...The main reason that a group of students are calling for my impeachment is because of my decision to not break the law and illegally distribute abortion information. [We] sought legal advice regarding the abortion information from the Union’s long-standing lawyer [who] advised that it would be prudent to avoid proceeding with the current handbook”)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/attempt-to-oust-pro-life-student-union-president-denounced-as-bullying-tactic-65613>

Sunday October 15, 2017



Australia: Melbourne

Two churches were vandalized by same sex marriage advocates

Pastor Drew Mellor (church vandalized with cross=swastika and 'vote Yes, bash bigots' graffiti despite having no position on the referendum, said "To see Christians in that light, that somehow we hold a view that if people don't agree with us then we're going to do something to diminish them, that's not what people of the Gospel think")

Pastor David O'Brien (church vandalized with 'crucify No voters' graffiti, said "It was a shock. I really couldn't take it seriously. Some people blame religion and wish to have some measure of payback for what is perceived to have been slights in the past. It also shows we live in an era where tolerance is lessening, which is a sadness and a great tragedy of our age")

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4981608/Anglican-church-sprayed-Vote-Yes-bash-bigots.html>



India: Jarpara, Chhattisgarh state

Three hundred Hindu radicals attacked a church, all including women and children were beaten, nine were injured, some of the women were stripped, furnishings were set afire, police initially refused to file a report

Raju Sodi (hospitalized in critical condition)

Sangetha Kartami (hospitalized in critical condition)

India: Mathampalayam, Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu state

Pastor Vinod Kumar (church service interrupted by 25 RSS paramilitary radicals)

<http://www.persecution.org/2017/10/19/christians-hospitalized-in-india-following-mob-attack-on-church/>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/300-Hindu-radicals-attack-Chhattisgarh-Protestant-church:-two-seriously-injured-42094.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Tamil-Nadu-authorities-stop-worship-in-ten-Protestant-churches-42215.html>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/11/officials-police-tamil-nadu-state-india-halt-worship-10-churches/>



Greece: Kalavryta and Aigialeia

Metropolitan Ambrose Lenis (aged 79; **UPDATE**: issued a statement signed by his priests against a new law that will allow 15 year olds to change their official gender without psychological evaluation "It is an outrageous inspiration for someone to change his gender in a few minutes, with a simple declaration, so contrary to what God has gifted people with", ordered all churches to ring their bells each day at noon for a week in protest)

<http://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/10/19/greek-orthodox-clergy-ring-church-bells-to-protest-transgender-law/>

Monday October 16, 2017



Philippines

Bishop Carlo Morales (husband of Maria Teofifina Morales, arrested with others at a police checkpoint in [Gango](#) on [May 11, 2017](#) while travelling with an alleged member of a rebel group; **UPDATE**: still jailed, has been charged with illegal possession of explosives)

Bishop Joel Porlares (said "We found the allegation against our good bishop [Carlo Morales] malicious and ridiculous")

Philippines: Manila

Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Soncuaco Pabillo (**UPDATE**: spoke on government rumors of a 'destabilization plot': "I do not know if there is or there is none...If they [in government] do not do their work well. then they should fear the dissatisfaction of the people...Why don't they solve the killings when they have the police and the intelligence fund? Or are they conditioning the minds of the people for an eventual martial law?")

Fr Jerome Secillano (**UPDATE**: said "The Church is not one to take steps to destabilize the institution or to undermine the president. I hope the public will not think that the Church is doing this to undermine the president or the government")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/german-churches-seek-release-of-filipino-bishop/80502>

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/students-of-jesuit-university-called-on-to-guard-democracy/80546>



China: Chengdu, Sichuan province

Ding Shuqi (detained at the airport while travelling to Hong Kong for a church conference, released later that day)

Ran Yunfei (detained at his home while travelling to Hong Kong, released later that day)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/10/two-chinese-christians-held-for-24.html>



India: Gondi village, Simdega district, Jharkhand state

**Six Christians were arrested on September 16, 2017 after praying for a sick Hindu woman;
UPDATE: four were released on bail**

Kalender Majhi (aged 20)

James Ba (aged 30)

Balmuni Kumari (aged 19, university student, said “Even in the prison, I prayed and worshipped with other Christians. Every Sunday believing sisters from outside visited us and led us in prayer and worship”)

Jagdish Majhi (aged 50)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/11/christians-india-praise-god-spite-police-brutality-month-jail/>



Nepal

Pastor Tanka Subedi (**UPDATE:** said of a new law that prohibits religious conversions and 'hurting religious sentiment': "We are deeply saddened that this Bill is now law. Our appeals to the president and other policy makers to amend this have been ignored. Nepali government have taken a regressive step as this law severely restricts our freedom of expression and our freedom of religion or belief")

<http://www.christiantimes.com/article/nepals-president-approves-legislation-that-limits-religious-conversion/73071.htm>



Iraq: Nineveh plain

Fr Salar Kajo (said "We hope very much that - in spite of the violence we have just seen - a peaceful path will be pursued between the Kurds and the Iraqi federal authorities. We must pray that, whatever happens, war does not break out. If full-scale war were to return to Iraq, we are afraid that Christians would not survive it")

<http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1508219431.html>



Tanzania: Zanzibar

Pastor Yahana Madai (church service in Zanzibar disrupted by a 9 year old Muslim girl on [November 10, 2014](#); arrested on [November 11, 2014](#) after the girl's father alleged that he

had touched her breast and removed her veil when he stopped her disruptions the previous night, released the next day, case closed a few days later due to lack of evidence; charges refiled in [early March 2017](#); charges dismissed on [April 6, 2017](#), rearrested on unspecified charges while leaving the courthouse; **UPDATE**: judge failed to attend a hearing on the molestation charges, said “The court is dragging this case out, which is really becoming costly and hurting the church. Why should a hearing be called off at the last minute? I am hurt by the alleged assault labeled against me, which is stressing my family members as well as the church. Some of my members have left the church due to bad soil that the Muslims have smeared on me”)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/10/muslims-target-pastor-criminal-accusation-zanzibar-tanzania/>



South Africa: Magaliesburg

Pastor Martin Beneke (aged 45, **found dead** in his truck with his hands tied behind his back, burned beyond recognition)

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/south-african-pastor-burned-beyond-recognition-hands-tied-behind-back-203446/>



Nigeria: Nkiedonwhro, Plateau state

Sunday Abdu (National President of the Irigwe Development Association, spoke after a massacre that killed over 27 who had been taken to a primary school for protection by the military “How then did the attackers come and killed the women and children without the soldiers knowing? It is either that the soldiers are conniving with the attackers to annihilate our people or they ran away and left our people to their fate”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/10/northern-christians-condemn-killings-plateau-urge-nigeria-government-intervene/>



United States - New Hampshire

Nearly 2,000 Christian asylum seekers face deportation to Indonesia from the state

Meldy Lumangkun (husband of Eva Lumangkun)

Eva Lumangkun (wife of Meldy Lumangkun, said "We are afraid to go home. We fear for the safety of our children. Here our children can live safely")

Jacklyn Lele (aged 37, had fled Indonesia after her brother was killed, said "My son [who was born in the U.S.] does not really want to go over there, he keeps saying 'I'm American,")

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/indonesian-christians-in-nh-face-deportation-in-crackdown-we-are-afraid-to-go-home-203140/>

Tuesday October 17, 2017



China: Wenling, Zhejiang province

Dr Li Baiguang (human rights attorney; **UPDATE:** abducted by 10 Communist Party agents, taken to a forest, beaten 'severely', threatened with death by dismemberment)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/10/christian-attorney-threatened-with.html>



India

Event UPDATE: Seven Christians falsely accused of the 2008 murder of Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati, which led to the Kandhamal pogrom in which nearly 100 Christians were killed, are still imprisoned

Bijay Kumar Sanseth

Gornath Chalanseth

Durjo Sunamajhi

Bhaskar Sunamajhi

Budhadeb Nayak

Munda Badamaji

Sanatan Badamajhi

India: Gondi village, Simdega district, Jharkhand state

Six Christians were arrested on September 16, 2017 after praying for a sick Hindu woman; UPDATE: the last two were released on bail

Sajan Majhi (aged 25)

Dasrath Karketta (aged 35, cancer survivor, said “We spent one month in jail joyously – we sang hymns, read the Bible, prayed and worshipped together in jail. We shared the gospel with other inmates in the district jail. There also, people came to Christ. We strongly felt the Lord was using us for His work and were happy about it”)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/63075->

[ASIA INDIA Prayer for seven innocent Christians of Orissa who are imprisoned#.WeX9IVtSyM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/63075-ASIA_INDIA_Prayer_for_seven_innocent_Christians_of_Orissa_who_are_imprisoned#.WeX9IVtSyM8)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/11/christians-india-praise-god-spice-police-brutality-month-jail/>



Iraq: Erbil, Kurdistan

Stephen Rasche (diocesan aid coordinator, U.S. citizen, **UPDATE:** said “If real fighting were to break out in Nineveh, that would be the end of Christians in Nineveh; they would not wait this out. They would leave, and be unlikely to return...[Nineveh is] split down the middle: on one side is the [Kurdish] Peshmerga, on the other are Iraqi forces including the [Shia] Hashd [militias]. Christians are on both sides of the divide”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/10/iraqi-kurdish-violence-push-christians-survived-flee-good/>



Nigeria: Edo state

Fr Maurizio Pallu (aged 63, Italian citizen, abducted on [October 13, 2016](#), released after a few hours; abducted with four others in [Benin City, Edo state](#) on [October 12, 2017](#); **UPDATE:** released)

Nigeria: on the road between Imojo and Oye Ekiti, Ekiti and Ondo states

Rev David Ayeola (aged 26, abducted, ransom of US\$275,368 demanded)

Bishop Samuel Ojo (said of the abduction of the Rev David Ayeola “Our driver attempted to turn back, but he discovered that members of the gang were also coming from the back. He suddenly drove into the forest. Myself, my wife, the priest and the driver ran into the bush. I told them to run for their lives, and we fled in different directions. I crawled in the forest like a snake for hours...The kidnappers started calling me from the priest’s phone number,” he said. “From their accents, they sounded like Fulani. They were threatening to kill him if we didn’t pay the money. When I offered them 500,000 naira [US\$1,375], they insulted me and the church”)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/kidnapped-priest-in-nigeria-released-doing-well-59371>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/10/christian-woman-son-daughter-killed-plateau-state-nigeria/>



United Kingdom: Tunbridge Wells, England

Wayne Harris (national director of CrossTeach, which has been banned from a Church of England primary school after non-Christian parents discovered materials that mentioned sin and social media comments by Crossteach volunteers which mentioned "Christ's saving blood", the parents called these views "extremists")

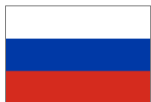
Dan Turvey (school headmaster, wrote to the parents that CrossTeach would no longer participate in school assemblies but would still assist with a school club, also wrote "The main thrust of the argument has been that by inviting a Christian charity called CrossTeach and individuals from St John's Church to deliver assemblies/collective worship, we have knowingly allowed your children to be exposed to extremist beliefs and that as a result some children have been upset and disturbed emotionally...I do not believe CrossTeach has done anything wrong. They do not deserve the tarnishing of their good name and allegations of extremism that have taken place over the last few months")

Rev Dick Farr (said parents needed to remember the school was a church school)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2017/10/17/church-england-headteacher-hits-parents-forced-extremist-christian/>

<https://youtu.be/NLScafJwyd8?t=879>

Wednesday October 18, 2017



Russia: Sverdlovsk

Raufi (convert, Iranian citizen, monastery worker, detained after his asylum application had been rejected, deportation could result in his prosecution in Iran)

<http://orthochristian.com/109016.html>



Nigeria: Dorowa village, Werh district, Barkin Ladi local government area, Plateau state

Moses Gwom (reported to have been **killed** in his home)

Corporal Chimezie Goodluck (soldier, reported to have been **killed**)

Rhoda Dauda (businesswoman, reported to have been **killed**)

Rev Soja Bewarang (**UPDATE**: said "The Miango killings in Bassa Local Government is becoming a very serious matter of concern that if nothing is done urgently, it may reverse the history of peace that is currently enjoyed in Plateau. I call upon the security to increase their networking until the perpetrators of the wicked and inhuman acts are caught and brought to book")

Rev Yakubu Pam (wrote "Plateau is home to millions of Nigerians from all walks of life and I call on all warring groups to lay down their arms")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/10/northern-christians-condemn-killings-plateau-urge-nigeria-government-intervene/>

Thursday October 19, 2017



Thailand: Bangkok

Khurram Ashig (aged 36, husband of Saira Khurram, father of Mariyam and Musa Khurram, Pakistani refugee, **died of a heart attack**)

Saira Khurram (widow of Khurram Ashig, Pakistani refugee, said "My children and I have not even been able to see my dead husband's body because his corpse is being held by Thai Police - we cannot even mourn properly...Khurram was young and relatively healthy, we fled Pakistan because we were being persecuted but in Thailand we have been treated much the same. Khurram has now lost his life and I feel totally helpless")

Mariyam Khurram (daughter of Khurram Ashig and Saira Khurram)

Musa Khurram (son of Khurram Ashig and Saira Khurram)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/36-year-old-pakistani-christian-father-of-two-dies-in-brutal-bangkok-incident>



Iran: Dezful, Khuzestan province

Abdol-Ali Pourmand (convert, arrested, called home a few days later to say he would be released soon)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3774>



Azerbaijan

Hamid Shabanov (husband of Hinayat Shabanova, home raided by police during a [November 26, 2016](#) worship service, 26 people detained for 5 hours; found guilty in [Zakatala](#) on [December 5, 2016](#), fined US\$993, no written decision issued, fine not assessed; appeal denied in [Sheki](#) on [June 21, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: has filed an appeal with the Constitutional Court, as a native Georgian he was legally required to have translations from Azeri in his appeal proceedings but was denied them)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/10/azerbaijan-no-fair-trial-house-church-leader-appealing-constitutional-court/>

Friday October 20, 2017



Indonesia: Yogyakarta

Pastor Stephen Tong Eng Tjong (**UPDATE**: forced to cancel an open-air prayer service to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation after the stadium venue received threats by Islamic radicals)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/muslim-protests-force-cancelation-of-protestant-celebration/80600>



Philippines: Manila

Fr Jerome Secillano (**UPDATE**: criticized the government for not renewing the licenses of Catholic radio stations, said "It's the voice of the people and our search for truth that's being undermined by Congress")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/philippine-catholics-fear-silencing-of-54-radio-stations/80584>



Uzbekistan: Tashkent

Pastor Fathulla Ibrahimov (husband of Nargiza Ibrahimova, home in [Tashkent](#) raided by police without warrant on [August 23, 2017](#), property seized, detained, refused to sign the police report; fined US\$1,797 on [September 14, 2017](#) in [Yangiyul district](#); **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

Nargiza Ibrahimova (wife of Pastor Fathulla Ibrahimov; **UPDATE**: same account as her husband's)

Kholiskhon Nishanova (home in [Gulbahor](#) raided by police on [August 23, 2017](#), property seized; fined US\$72 on [September 14, 2017](#) in [Yangiyul district](#); **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2341



Belarus: Lepel

Andrei Fokin (husband of Tatyana Fokina, detained on [October 14, 2017](#) while operating his church's street library, charged with an illegal demonstration; **UPDATE**: issued a warning in a court hearing)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2338



United Kingdom: Littleover, Derbyshire

Tajamal Amar (aged 45, food delivery driver, immigrant from Pakistan after being shot there, beaten into unconsciousness outside a restaurant by a Muslim gang, nose broken, hospitalized, later said "Several times local Pakistani people in Derby have taken offense from the fact that I am Christian, when they first find out many stop talking to me. My wife and I have often been shunned...On the day of my attack the visible display of a cross in my car and two poppies just below the front bonnet, triggered the violence against me. I know this, because for a few days before the attack the same men, glared at me after they notice my Christian paraphernalia...I fled from Pakistan to escape violence such as this, but more and more the same violence is coming into Britain. Freedom of religion should be the right of any British citizen but today I feel unsafe, even then nothing will stop me going to church. I will pray for my attackers and hope they will change their hard-line approach to faith which is very dangerous for our society")

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/pakistani-christian-hospitalized-by-muslims-for-displaying-cross-in-vehicle>



United States - District of Columbia: Georgetown University

Amelia Irvine (college student, president of the campus group Love Saxa which supports traditional marriage and which therefore is threatened with banishment from campus as a hate group)

United States - New Mexico: Kirtland Air Force Base

Colonel Leland B H Bohannon (reported to have been stripped of his command and promotion to Brigadier General reversed after he declined to sign a thank you certificate for a retiring airman and his husband, had obtained the signature of a superior officer in an approved religious accommodation)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/air-force-punishes-colonel-who-wouldnt-affirm-gay-marriage>

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/georgetown-pro-marriage-group-faces-sanctions-after-students-complain-70278>

Saturday October 21, 2017



Pakistan: Karachi

Jamshaid Masih (husband of Uzma Jamshaid, sanitary worker, reported to have been seized by police during a 3:15 AM raid on his home, beaten, whereabouts unknown)

Uzma Jamshaid (wife of Jamshaid Masih, sanitary worker, reported to have filed a police request for the return of her husband)

<https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/christian-sanitary-worker-brutally-injured-and-abducted-by-police-in-karachi/>



Nigeria: Ekiti and Ondo states

Rev David Ayeola (aged 26, abducted [on the road between Imojo and Oye Ekiti, Ekiti and Ondo states](#) on [October 17, 2017](#), ransom of US\$275,368 demanded; **UPDATE: shot dead** by his captors during an attempted police rescue)

Bishop Samuel Ojo (**UPDATE**: said after the murder of the Rev David Ayeola “I ordained him in 2015. He was the best at the college of theology in his set. He was an excellent and vibrant preacher of the gospel. We are all saddened by his death. We want the police to get the suspects and bring them to book. This is a great loss to the church”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/10/christian-woman-son-daughter-killed-plateau-state-nigeria/>

Sunday October 22, 2017



Kenya: Muhoroni

Fr Evans Juma Oduor (**found unconscious in a sugar cane field with severe head injuries, died in the hospital**, two weeks earlier had appealed to the government to stop the killing of the Luo ethnic group)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/63121-AFRICA_KENYA_Catholic_priest_killed_tension_increases_on_the_eve_of_the_presidential_vote#.We9FxVtSyM8



Zimbabwe: Mutoko, Mashonaland East province

Sr Ruvadiki Plaxedes Kamundiya (aged 49, sexually assaulted and **killed** by a mentally ill man)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/63127-AFRICA_ZIMBABWE_A_nun_killed_the_murderer_arrested_a_young_man_with_mental_disorders#.WfDr8ltSyM8



Sudan: Omdurman

Five church leaders were arrested after refusing a police order to stop a worship service, all were released that evening

Pastor Ayoub Tilian (**UPDATE**)

Rev Ali Haakim Al Aam

Pastor Ambrator Hammad

Evangelist Habill Ibrahim

Elder Abdul Bagi Tutu

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/10/five-church-leaders-sudan-arrested-refusing-cancel-worship-service/>



Ukraine: Kolomiya, Transkarpatya region

Archpriest Vasily Kobelsky (**UPDATE:** Divine Liturgy disrupted and parishioners attacked by Greek Catholics in the continuing church dispute)

Ukraine: Nagolno-Tarasovka village

Pastor Vasily Logvinenko (church banned by police)

<http://orthochristian.com/107474.html>

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2401



Cuba

Misael Diaz Paseiro (husband of Ariana Lopez Roque, home raided, Bibles, crucifixes, and rosaries seized)

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/cuban-christian-man-jailed-police-confiscate-bibles-told-our-god-is-fidel-castro-215136/>

Monday October 23, 2017



India: Indore, Madhya Pradesh state

Two Christians were beaten by Hindu radicals and arrested at a railway station on forced conversion charges of minors, the Christian children in their care were detained, the children's parents were also beaten when they attempted to recover their children

Anita Joseph (aged 50, mother of Sophia Francis, retired teacher, beaten and arrested)

Amrit Kumar Matera (aged 51, father of Alex Matera, parochial school teacher, beaten and arrested, **UPDATE:** said “I am shocked at the way the Hindu extremists take law into their hands with impunity knowing that the government is theirs...Three men caught me from behind and started to hit me with their legs and boots. I could not even see who was holding me and what they were beating me with. They beat me all the way through, while they dragged me to the GRP [Government Railway Police] police station from the platform. There was a mob waiting at the platform with media persons clicking pictures, recording videos and asking all kinds of questions. The presence of the media and the crowd was evidence enough that the Christians were ambushed with a well-planned strategy...They tried to force us to hail Hindu gods, and when we did not, they beat us. They intimidated the children to repeat the slogans or else face the beating. The 5-year-old boy and girl were made to chant the slogan, ‘Hail lord Ram’ repeatedly. We felt so helpless as they intimidated the little children before our eyes, and we could do nothing to help them”)

Sophia Francis (aged 19, forced off the train, detained, released that evening)

Alex Matera (aged 19, son of Amrit Kumar Matera, nephew of Anita Joseph, beaten, detained, released that evening, said “They interrogated us as if they were from the Crime Branch and recorded the entire episode on their mobile phones. They gathered the children from where they were seated and collected them all at one place, interrogating and intimidating Anita without even giving her the chance to reply. The children were pushed and pulled in the most ruthless manner...We were astonished. We don’t know how these people got to know about the travel plans. They alleged we convert children forcibly. The tickets were pre-booked for return journey on Oct. 26 from Mumbai to Indore. That was not enough to convince them”)

Dennis Micheal (father of three of the children on the train, severely beaten by the Hindu radicals when he went to the police station following the arrest of Anita Joseph and Amrit Kumar, later filed a habeas corpus petition for their release but the court took a week to hear and grant the petition)

Tanna Machado (called to the train station, said “The 13-year-old boy was hit on his back and on his leg so severely that he developed swelling on his leg...The Hindu Jagran Manch [an affiliate of the RSS paramilitary organization] workers assaulted the Christian men in the presence of the police staff, who stood there as mere spectators. I along with another girl tried to rescue the men but to no success...What was inhuman was that the children were not allowed to use the restrooms since the time they were detained until 7 p.m. at night. They were neither given anything to eat until late night”)

Aman Chauhan (father of a 5 year old boy on the train, beaten, accused of changing his religion)

Rev Vijayesh Lal (**UPDATE:** said “[Law enforcement agencies are working under pressure from non-state political actors] and go the extra mile to placate them, while Christians pay the price. This must stop, and the chief minister [governor] must intervene to restore confidence among the Christian community, which has been unnecessarily targeted by the abuse of the so-called Freedom of Religion Law as an excuse”)

India: Nagpur

Anil Sathe (led a protest against government inaction on expansion of a Christian cemetery)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Two-Christians-arrested-in-Madhya-Pradesh-for-%E2%80%9Cforced-conversions%E2%80%9D-of-minors-42137.html>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/madhya-pradesh-forcible-conversion-high-court-hands-over-children-to-parents-4914578/>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/11/christians-charged-serious-crimes-hindu-extremists-police-detain-children-india/>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/christians-take-to-streets-demand-land-for-cemetery/articleshow/61192273.cms>



Iran: Dezful, Khuzestan province

Mohammad Ali Torabi (convert, detained on [October 10, 2017](#) by security agents while in his office; **UPDATE**: still missing)

http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3772&utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

Tuesday October 24, 2017



Pakistan: Sheikhpura, Punjab province

Meshal (aged 12, reported to have been abducted, raped by 3 men, burnt with cigarettes, police refused to file a report or take any other action)

<https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/another-christian-teenager-girl-kidnapped-and-raped/>



Syria

Patriarch Youhanna X aka Youhanna Yazigi (aged 62, brother of abducted Bishop Boulos al-Yazigi; **UPDATE**: said in [Washington DC](#) "We cannot ignore the fact that, without the Christians in the Middle East, there is no Middle East. The church is the beacon of truth in this educated world. We will continue to witness to that truth even if we are hanged on the cross")

Syria: Tel Tamer

Carolyn (aged 14, daughter of Abu Elias, reported to have been taken by ISIL fighters in 2015 [at age 12] for an unspecified 'duty', forced to convert to Islam, whereabouts unknown)

Abu Elias (husband, father of six, described the 2015 ISIL takeover of his town and their abduction, said “I am, of course, praying that my daughter is still alive somewhere”)

<https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2017/10/24/syrias-christians-driven-to-the-edge/>
<http://www.aina.org/news/20171030191417.htm>



Nigeria: Jol village, Riyom local government area, Plateau state

Rebecca Daniel Choji (mother of Joel Choji and Suzanna Daniel Choji, shot by Muslim gunmen, hospitalized)

Suzanna Daniel Choji (aged 16, son of Rebecca Daniel Choji, sister of Joel Choji, **shot dead** by Muslim gunmen)

Joel Choji (aged 29, son of Rebecca Daniel Choji, brother of Suzanna Daniel Choji, **shot dead** by Muslim gunmen)

Dachung Yakubu (shot by Muslim gunmen, hospitalized in critical condition)

Gyang Dahoro (aged 55, wrote “We have been under attack constantly from these Fulani herdsmen because we are Christians. Our villages have been ravaged, and our houses and churches destroyed, and in most cases these herdsmen have taken over the villages where Christians have been displaced”)

Dachalom Datiri (said “We are saddened by yet another attack on our defenseless members in Jol who were on their way to visit a health care center. All we can do is to keep praying for an end to these attacks and hope that Nigerian government can halt these senseless killings”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/10/christian-woman-son-daughter-killed-plateau-state-nigeria/>



United Kingdom

Richard Page (aged 71, Justice of the Peace in **Kent**, disciplined on **January 16, 2015** after he admitted that his Christian faith influenced his adoption rulings; reported on **March 10, 2016** to have been removed from his position as a National Health Service financial director one month before retirement after giving a **January 2015** interview in which he said that there was not enough evidence to show that adoption by same sex couples was in a child's interest, the interview was for a documentary on Christians being forced out of public life; **UPDATE**: case against his former employer dismissed by the Employment Tribunal, said “I am very disappointed by this outcome but I am determined to appeal.

This case is much bigger than me now. It is about how ordinary folk, just like me, are becoming increasingly fearful to speak out against the homosexual agenda. They bully, intimidate and force you out of your job. It is time for this to stop”)

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns, **UPDATE:** wrote “The court claims that Mr Page was not being dismissed because of his views per se, but because of the expression of those views in the public space...this is a distinction without a difference, and amounts to a perverse attempt to silence Christian beliefs...There is no real difference between suppressing dissent and suppressing an expression of dissent. To split hairs in this way makes no sense...Each time someone takes part in a television debate or interview, personal beliefs are expressed. Yet most people do not lose their jobs for doing so. It seems that the NHS bosses and liberal judges cannot tolerate the expression of Christian views on morality – particularly on sexual morality. It is clear that appearing on TV would not, in itself, have led to Mr. Page being dismissed. Had he spoken about the weather, or the plight of the near-extinct white rhino, for example, he would not have found himself on the receiving end of the NHS’ wrath. He was not targeted for the expression of beliefs, but rather for the expression of certain beliefs – namely, belief in the traditional family...The Tribunal asserted that Mr Page’s actions 'were clearly in conflict with the protection of health'. It is ludicrous to suggest that people are not using NHS Kent [hospitals] now because of Mr Page appearing on Good Morning Britain, or to suggest that Mr Page’s expression of his views had any impact on the ability of NHS Kent to provide health services to the entire community...According to the European Court of Human Rights, bound up in the right to freedom of religion is the right to communicate a belief to others. This right is engaged regardless of the platform on which the belief is expressed. Indeed, without the right to communicate a belief, the individual cannot enjoy the full protection granted to freedom of religion...Yet in a remarkable comment, the Tribunal noted that 'Expressing his views in that context [in the press and on national TV] was not something that...was intimately linked to his religion or his beliefs'. In other words, Mr Page’s Christian views were inherently protected if stated during daily life, but could not be expressed on national television. By appearing on national television then, he inadvertently sacrificed his fundamental right to freedom of religion, as enshrined under domestic and international law. This is not what the drafters of the Convention on Human Rights intended. They would not have conceived of a forum in which the individual was beyond the scope of their right to religious freedom. If the tribunal is suggesting that there are places in which an individual does not enjoy the fundamental right to freedom of religious expression, this is a cause for concern and could have a chilling effect on freedom of belief and expression. This judgment makes a mockery of freedom of thought, freedom of speech, and the rule of law...Judgments like this do enormous damage to people’s confidence in the administration of justice. We will of course appeal this judgment which clearly contravenes Mr Page’s human rights, and we will appeal any number of times until we get justice”)

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/employment/employment-tribunal-allows-censorship-of-christian-beliefs>

Wednesday October 25, 2017



Philippines: Marawi, Mindanao

Sam Mangumpit (student, taken hostage by Islamic militants in May 2017, reported to have been killed)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/63129->

[ASIA PHILIPPINES The Bishop We mourn for two Catholic students but Marawi will be re built#.WfDoPVtSyM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/63129-ASIA_PHILIPPINES_The_Bishop_We_mourn_for_two_Catholic_students_but_Marawi_will_be_re_built#.WfDoPVtSyM8)



China: Taishan, Guangdong province

Zheng Shaoyun (home invaded by police, worship service interrupted, 20 Christians identified, Christian materials seized, son threatened with denial of a civil service position)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/10/house-church-raided-leader-summoned-by.html>



Uzbekistan: Kungrad

Christians were prosecuted for 'teaching religion without permission'

Bakhrom Kalbayev (fined US\$18)

Akhmadjon Nazarov (fined US\$18)

Atabek Safarbayev (issued a warning)

Bastzhan Yerniyazov (issued a warning)

Ziyaddin Baltabayev (issued a warning)

Rustam Kalbayev (issued a warning)

Azima Yerniyazova (issued a warning)

Sardorbek Janabayev (issued a warning)

Sanobar Khudaybergenova (issued a warning)

Nabira Khudaybergenova (issued a warning)

Bakhitzhan Allaniyazova (issued a warning)

Timur Khojaniyazov (issued a warning)

Gennadiy Chen (**UPDATE**: issued a warning)

Uzbekistan: Nukus

Abatbay Doszhanov (husband of Zarina Olimova, fined US\$179 for possession of illegal religious material)

Yesnazar Zhumanazarov (fined US\$359 for possession of illegal religious material)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2341



Nigeria: Plateau state

Sunday Abdu (**UPDATE**: said of recent Fulani Muslim attacks “We have continually woken up to news of attacks each day leaving tears, sorrow, despair and apprehension...It is painful to note that all these happened despite useful, timely information provided to security personnel, regarding movement and mode of operation of the assailants”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/10/christians-recount-terror-herdsmens-nine-day-massacre-plateau-state-nigeria/>

Thursday October 26, 2017



Sudan: Omdurman

Five church leaders were arrested on **October 22, 2017** after refusing a police order to stop a worship service, all were released that evening; **UPDATE: all were summoned to court and charged with noise pollution**

Pastor Ayoub Tilian

Rev Ali Haakim Al Aam

Pastor Ambrator Hammad

Evangelist Habill Ibrahim

Elder Abdul Bagi Tutu

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/10/sudanese-church-christ-leaders-charged-sound-pollution-noisy-services/>



Ukraine: Hrybovytsia village, Ivanychi region, Volhynia province

Archpriest Igor Margita (home seized by members of a competing Orthodox church)

Archpriest Oleg Tochinsky (reported on the illegal eviction of Archpriest Igor Margita and his family)

<http://orthochristian.com/107587.html>



Nigeria: Jos, Plateau state

Rebecca Daniel Choji (mother of Joel Choji and Suzanna Daniel Choji, shot by Muslim gunmen in Jol village, Riyom local government area, Plateau state on October 24, 2017, hospitalized; UPDATE: died)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/10/christian-woman-son-daughter-killed-plateau-state-nigeria/>

Friday October 27, 2017



Philippines: Manila

Rev Eddie Villanueva (criticized President Duterte for the police killing of drug addicts "No one has the right to take another person's life")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/dutertes-evangelical-backers-join-outcry-against-killings/80652>



Myanmar

Event: Two Christians who disappeared on December 24, 2016 after reporting on the destruction of a church were convicted of defaming the military and of connection with outlawed groups

Assistant Pastor Dom Dawng Nawng Latt (aged 64, cousin of La Jaw Gam Hseng; **UPDATE:** sentenced to 4 years' and three months' imprisonment)

La Jaw Gam Hseng (aged 35, cousin of Dom Dawng Nawng, church youth leader; **UPDATE:** sentenced to 2 years' and three months' imprisonment)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Two-Kachin-clergymens-conviction-is-punishment-for-telling-the-truth,-Catholic-activist-says-42171.html>



Belarus: Lepel

Andrei Fokin (husband of Tatyana Fokina, detained on [October 14, 2017](#) while operating his church's street library, charged with an illegal demonstration; issued a warning in a court hearing on [October 20, 2017](#); **UPDATE:** fined US\$350)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2338



United Kingdom

Felix Ngole (aged 39, reported on [February 29, 2016](#) to have been expelled from graduate school at Sheffield University after he posted a defense of traditional Christian morality on Facebook; **UPDATE:** dismissal from graduate school upheld in court, the court ruled that the dismissal was extreme but the law gave him no protection, said “I am very disappointed by this ruling which supports the university’s decision to bar me from my chosen career because of my Biblical views on sexual ethics. I intend to appeal this decision which clearly intends to restrict me from expressing my Christian faith in public”)

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns; **UPDATE:** commented “The court has ruled that though Felix is entitled to hold his Biblical views on sexual ethics, he is not entitled to express them. But freedom to believe without freedom of expression is no freedom at all. Many views are frequently expressed by students on social media and in other contexts. It is the expression of Biblical morality that has been singled out for sanction by the university. The university, in investigating Felix's personal Facebook posts and disciplining him for them, is acting as if they are thought police”)

<http://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/education/court-rules-student-can-be-expelled-for-quoting-bible-on-facebook>



Ireland: Dublin

Katie Ascough (college student, student union president, removed information on obtaining illegal abortions from the student handbook; **UPDATE**: impeached and removed from office by 69% of the voting student body, said "This is a sad day for me, but it is also a sad day for our university")

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/10/27/students-at-university-founded-by-john-henry-newman-vote-to-impeach-pro-life-union-president/>

Saturday October 28, 2017



India: Dudhi, Uttar Pradesh state

Sajan K George (**UPDATE**: described a police raid on a meeting of 1,500 Christians which had been approved by local authorities "Hindu radicals put pressure on the police to stop organizers. Christians were not doing anything illegal, they were not breaking the law, or creating problems for public order. By contrast, the extremists caused confusion with their fabricated allegations. Nighttime arrests and detention are a serious violation of religious freedom", seven were charged and released the next day)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Pentecostal-missionaries,-seven-Christian-children-arrested-then-released-42203.html>



Belarus: Lepel

Andrei Fokin (husband of Tatyana Fokina, detained on [October 14, 2017](#) while operating his church's street library, charged with an illegal demonstration; issued a warning in a court hearing on [October 20, 2017](#); fined US\$350 on [October 27, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: arrested while operating the street library, jailed)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2338

Sunday October 29, 2017



Vietnam: Son Hai, Quynh Luu district, Nghe An province

Several Christian leaders were verbally attacked by government-sponsored motorcycle-riding Red Flag militants

Fr John Baptist Nguyen Dinh Thuc (**UPDATE**: said "We reiterate that this is a plot to carry out violent provocations and suppress parishioners in the Catholic community of Van Thai. As a result, we protest all the dangerous plans that are intended to divide Catholics from non-Catholics...[We call] on the government to respect and enforce Vietnam's laws, as well as protect the lives and properties of its citizens...Every protest by the faithful against the [Red Flag] group's provocations, even if it is in self-defense, is very dangerous. Therefore, the government must be held fully accountable for all the situations that cause damage and disturbance in the area")

Fr Anthony Dang Huu Nam (**UPDATE**)

Bishop Paul Nguyen Thai Hop (**UPDATE**)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Catholics-in-Ngh%E1%BB%87-An-still-targeted-by-Red-Flag-militants-42204.html>



Pakistan: Talwinda Musa Khan, Gujranwala

Sidhra (aged 20, wife of Sunny Masih, mother of Maryam, daughter of Sajjida Bibi, abducted by 3 men in front of her mother's home)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/christian-woman-gang-raped-and-brutalized-by-three-men-for-two-days-escapes-kidnap>



Kazakhstan: Ekibastuz, Pavlodar region

A worship service in a meeting hall was raided by police, each parishioner was later fined US\$339

Pastor Aleksei Asetov (husband of Tatyana Asetova, later fined US\$678)

Tatyana Asetova (wife of Pastor Aleksei Asetov)

Vasilij Bunyak

Sofya Bunyak (**UPDATE**)

Aleksandr Neyman (husband of Tatyana Neyman)

Tatyana Neyman (wife of Aleksandr Neyman)
Vladimir Sergazin (husband of Tatyana Sergazin)
Tatyana Sergazin (wife of Vladimir Sergazin)
Olesya Kuvayeva
Nadezhda Raseva
Kamil Safarov
Roman Andrienko (husband of Anastasiya Andrienko)
Anastasiya Andrienko (wife of Roman Andrienko)
Dmitri Martynenko
Andrey Proshina (husband of Liliya Proshina)
Liliya Proshina (wife of Andrey Proshina)
Lyubov Andrienko (husband of Tatyana Andrienko)
Tatyana Andrienko (wife of Lyubov Andrienko)
Vladimir Boinov
Tatyana Savchuk
http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2334



Egypt: Minya

Rev Boulos Moussa Salib (church reopened after the government granted a permit after 22 years of denials, said “the congregation is very happy that they can now return to their church”, the permit was likely granted in response to a planned state visit by U.S. Vice-President Mike Pence)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/11/egypt-church-reopening-22-years-geopolitical-gesture-us/>

Monday October 30, 2017



India

Auxiliary Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas SFX (**UPDATE**: reacted to a newspaper editorial which called for India to become a Hindu state "India is a secular country and it will also remain so. It was not born out of religion and we do not want it to turn it into some religion-based country")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/bishop-dismisses-call-to-make-india-a-hindu-nation/80697>



Pakistan: Talwinda Musa Khan, Gujranwala

Sidhra (aged 20, wife of Sunny Masih, mother of Maryam, daughter of Sajjida Bibi, abducted on [October 29, 2017](#) by 3 men in front of her mother's home; **UPDATE**: found by her mother and family unconscious, bound and gagged in a chair in a Muslim neighbor's home, rescued by her family, showed signs of having been drugged and raped, abandoned by her husband, in hiding, said "I am totally distraught, a visit to my mother has become a day of ruin for me. I have suffered a brutal kidnap and rape by disgusting men with no shame. I have lost my husband and now my daughter and I will have to survive on our own and my elderly parents have had to endure so much pain for me. The thought of what the men done to me makes me shudder, I have nightmares and feel like my whole world has collapsed. I am terrified of walking on the streets at night and am finding it hard to cope with a deep depression that has consumed me. I had a happy life and that has been taken away from me, but the cruel men who stole my joy will soon be released to threaten me and to attack other women like me. There is no justice in this country")

Sunny Masih (aged 22, husband of Sidhra, father of Maryam, abandoned his family after his wife's abduction and rape, has been counseled to return to his family)

Maryam (aged 2, daughter of Sidhra and Sunny Masih)

Boota Masih (father of Sunny Masih, father-in-law of Sidhra)

Sajjida Bibi (mother of Sidhra, informed by a domestic worker that her daughter had been seen tied and gagged in a chair in a Muslim neighbor's home, led her daughter's rescue)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/christian-woman-gang-raped-and-brutalized-by-three-men-for-two-days-escapes-kidnap>



Sudan: Khartoum

Rafat Samir (church building committee chairman, arrested in [April 2016](#) following accusations by his predecessor of trespassing, criminal possession and illegally impersonating the chairman - the accuser in fact was illegally reappointed to the position by the government and has sold church property to government-connected business interests; **UPDATE**:

convicted of criminal misappropriation and trespass in the ongoing dispute, fined US\$750)

Daniel William (church building committee vice chairman, convicted of criminal misappropriation and trespass in the ongoing dispute, fined US\$750)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/11/sudan-two-church-leaders-fined-trial-five-others-postponed/>



Egypt: Cairo

Andrew Nassif (blogger, reported to have been convicted on terrorism charges for his internet postings, sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment)

Egypt: Sheikh Alaa', al-Qesheri, al-Karm, and Ezbet Zakariya villages, Minya province

Bishop Makarios (**UPDATE:** issued a statement after police closed three churches and appear about to close a fourth due to Islamic threats "It is as though worship is a crime that Copts have to be penalized for...[the additional travel now required for church attendance] places an added burden on their shoulders for the mere reason that they wish to worship...When Copts are attacked, the response of the officials concerned is invariably disillusioning: churches are closed and Copts are pressured' into accepting the injustice...Despite the bitterness that fills Copts on account of the recurrence of incidents such as the above, we cite our confidence that Minya Governor and Minya security officials and apparatuses concerned would during the coming days work to lift the agony of Copts")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/63159-AFRICA_EGYPT_A_Christian_condemned_to_prison_under_the_new_anti_terrorism_laws

<https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2017/10/30/anba-macarius-of-minya-is-prayer-a-crime/>



Belarus: Lepel

Andrei Fokin (husband of Tatyana Fokina, detained on [October 14, 2017](#) while operating his church's street library, charged with an illegal demonstration; issued a warning in a court hearing on [October 20, 2017](#); fined US\$350 on [October 27, 2017](#); arrested on [October 28, 2017](#) while operating the street library, jailed; **UPDATE:** fined US\$295)

Tatyana Fokina (wife of Andrei Fokin, fined US\$236)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2338



United States - District of Columbia

Trevor Neil McFadden (aged 39, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, federal court nominee, questioned by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse on [June 28, 2017](#) regarding his membership in a church that prohibited homosexual clergy and opposed same sex marriage;
UPDATE: nomination confirmed by the full Senate on a 84-10 vote)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trevor_N._McFadden
<https://youtu.be/7I4PpUQRzC4?t=126>

Tuesday October 31, 2017



Pakistan: Rawalpindi

Samina Iqbal (aged 17, daughter of Iqbal Barqat, sister of Venus Iqbal, reported to have been stalked for 4 years by a Muslim who has demanded she marry him, stopped attending school, did not leave her home for any reason for an entire year, threatened with an acid attack after she took a job in a salon, quit her job, police did nothing after the stalker threatened a police officer with a knife)

Venus Iqbal (aged 19, daughter of Iqbal Barqat, sister of Samina Iqbal, reported to have been attacked by her sister's stalker when he forced his way into their home, clothes torn)

Iqbal Barqat (father of Samina and Venus Iqbal, reported to have made numerous complaints to the police regarding Samina's stalker with little result, was told to "resolve this matter in a peaceful manner")

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/depraved-stalker-who-raised-knife-at-police-officer-continues-to-threaten-life-of-17-year-old-chr>



Kazakhstan: Zhaksy, Akmola region

Yuri Bekker (arrested in [Arkalyk, Kostanai region](#) on [September 10, 2015](#) for distributing religious literature, released after 5 hours of questioning, literature seized; charged by police on [September 11, 2015](#) after distributing more religious material; fined US\$252 on [March 24, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** convicted on a criminal charge for refusing to pay his fine,

sentenced to one year imprisonment, sentence suspended, may be imprisoned or have his home seized if he continues to refuse to pay the fine)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2331



Iran: Dezful, Khuzestan province

Abdol-Ali Pourmand (aged 38, convert, arrested on [October 19, 2017](#), called home a few days later to say he would be released soon; **UPDATE**: reported to have been transferred to Ahwaz, still not charged, judge told family that they could not hire an attorney to represent him)

Mohammad Ali Torabi (convert, detained on [October 10, 2017](#) by security agents while in his office; **UPDATE**: reported to have been transferred to Ahwaz)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3780>



Jordan

Anahed (mother, Iraqi refugee, husband abducted in [Bagdad](#) in [2006](#), paid a ransom but her husband never returned)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/10/jordan-charity-restoring-dignity-to-iraqs-refugees/>



United Kingdom

Dr Martin Parsons (Barnabas Aid researcher, accused the government of "shocking behavior" in allowing only 70 Christian and 22 Yazadi refugees into the country in 2015-2016 from Syria out of a total of 10,801)

United Kingdom: Batley, Kirklees, West Yorkshire

'Nikki Hurst' (aged 32, alias, beaten by three Muslim youths, police report contained uncorrected inaccuracies and police did not follow up investigation despite the fact that two wore uniforms which identified their school, lost her job while recuperating)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20171031122834.htm>

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/woman-whose-head-was-smashed-by-three-muslim-youth-in-an-unprovoked-attack-is-stunned-by-the>



United States - District of Columbia

Amy Coney Barrett (law school professor, mother of 7, federal appellate court nominee, told by Senator Dianne Feinstein on [September 6, 2017](#) "When you read your speeches, the conclusion one draws is that the dogma lives loudly within you" [pundits replied that the Senator sounded like Star Wars' Yoda], also questioned by Senator Dick Durban as to whether she was an "Orthodox Catholic"; **UPDATE**: nomination confirmed by the full Senate on a 55-43 vote)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/pro-lifers-laud-us-senates-confirmation-of-judicial-nominee-45944>

October 2017, date unknown



Cameroon

Abdul (convert from Islam, father of seven, threatened with eviction and death for his conversion, said "I just told them, 'If you want to behead me because of Jesus, you might as well start right away'", released)

<https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/stories/familys-murder-attempts-embolden-cameroon-disciple-leaders-faith/>



Nigeria: Nzherenvi, Nzherivo, and Aribakwa villages, Plateau state

Dozens killed in multiple attacks by Muslim Fulani gunmen between [October 8-17, 2017](#)

Arivure (aged 2, **killed**)

John Audu (aged 25, **killed**)

Kure Dah (aged 31, **killed**)

Sunday Vire (aged 22, **killed**)

Voh Te (aged 20, **killed**)

Garba (aged 28, **killed**)

Zhu (aged 41, **killed**)

Jerry Simon (aged 34, **killed**)

Tegwi Mba (aged 30, **killed**)

Wura Hwei (aged 27, **killed**)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/10/christians-recount-terror-herdsmens-nine-day-massacre-plateau-state-nigeria/>



United States – Arizona: Phoenix

Two Christian artists filed suit in **May 2016** to block a municipal ordinance that would require them to cater to same sex weddings; the court ruled against them in **September 2016**;

UPDATE: the court ruled again against them

Breanna Koski

Joanna Duka

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/artists-ask-arizona-high-court-for-protection-from-law-forcing-them-work-same-sex-weddings-225899/>

Today's Martyrs

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<http://todaysmartyrs.org/events/>

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