

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – November 2017

Wednesday November 1, 2017



### India: Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu state

Rev Johnson Sathyanathan (described how Hindu extremists have shut down 10 churches and are threatening to shut down 20 more by claiming they require permits from the local tax collectors, said “[This] is a well-planned conspiracy against the Christian community, as the Hindu extremists know that it is not easy to approach the Collector's Office for permits. The time to get such approvals can stretch from a year and a half to many years. We wanted to organize a day of silent protest on 21 October, but we were denied permission”)

### India: Kalampalayam, Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu state

Pastor Charles (reported to have been ordered by police and 20 RSS paramilitary members to stop religious services until he received a permit)

### India: Sulur, Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu state

Pastor Selva Singh (reported to have filed a court case against police and the tax collector for demanding he obtain a permit to continue religious services, granted one month's extension)

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

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



### Nigeria

Blessing Eze (aged 15, abducted in [Ikara, Kaduna state](#) in [August 2017](#), forcibly converted to Islam, forcibly married; **UPDATE**: released)

### Nigeria: Gashua, Yobe state

Hauwa Dadi (aged 13, abducted)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/coe/nigeria-girl-13-kidnapped-to-be-converted-to-islam-freed-four-days-later/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2020/04/nigerias-kano-state-governor-converts-christian-under-age-girl-to-islam/>



### **United Kingdom: Nottingham**

Tajamal Amar (aged 45, food delivery driver, immigrant from Pakistan after being shot there, beaten into unconsciousness outside a restaurant in [Littleover, Derbyshire](#) by a Muslim gang on [October 20, 2017](#), nose broken, hospitalized; **UPDATE**: readmitted to the hospital with bleeding in the brain, discharged 3 days later)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/poppy-hero-tajamal-beaten-by-muslims-for-his-support-of-british-forces-is-admitted-back-into-hospita>

**Thursday November 2, 2017**



### **China: Yongjia, Zhejiang province**

Fr Thaddaeus Sun Zhenhua (aged 83, detained in [2010](#) for stopping the reading in church of a government letter of appointment of a bishop despite his status as a CPCA [non-underground] priest; **UPDATE**: [died in an accident on a pier](#))

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/chinese-priest-valued-by-open-and-underground-church-dies/80738>



### **India: Begusarai, Bihar state**

Pastor Ajay Kumar (husband, father of a 3 year old daughter, beaten by a Bajrang Dal [the RSS paramilitary youth wing] mob on [March 17, 2017](#), kicked in the face, ear, and abdomen, arrested on offending religious sensibilities charges, released, suffered pain from internal injuries including his ear, released; **UPDATE**: taken into custody despite police having no

evidence to support the accusation, denied bail despite another judge previously ruling that bail was appropriate)

Assaryav (Bible college student; **UPDATE**: aside from injuries same account as for Pastor Ajay Kumar)

### **India: Jharkhand state**

Bishop Vincent Barwa (**UPDATE**: said the situation has worsened since the passage of the state anti-conversion law in August 2017)

Gladson Dungdung (tribal rights activist, said of Hindu radicals and their use of anti-conversion laws "Now the media, law and order, and administration is in their hands so they can misuse it in any way they want...which is very unfortunate...[church activities have slowed to avoid the perception] they are in the process of religious conversion")

### **India: New Delhi**

A C Michael (United Christian Forum; **UPDATE**: said of the recent anti-conversion arrests "This is becoming a politically motivated pattern to harass Christians...deliberately done knowing very well that such accusations will not stand up in a court of law. But it is part of a strategy. Drain the energy, time and resources of Christians and tire them out so that they do not have a normal peaceful life to do what they should be doing")

Jaikar Christy (said "This year we've seen 27 cases in Madhya Pradesh, were Christians were falsely accused of conversion. We are in a democratic country but we live under fear")

Fr Denzil Fernandes SJ (**UPDATE**: said of the RSS paramilitary organization "They are into these kinds of tricks to tell the world that missionaries are here only to convert. If a person tells a lie a thousand time or so...people may believe him")

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/12/christians-india-strive-overcome-typical-entrapment-scheme/>

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/perversion-of-conversion-used-to-beat-down-christians/80675>



### **Pakistan: G7/1 Islamabad**

Adnan Masih (aged 17, son of Shaukat Masih, brother of Komal, **killed, throat slit**)

Shaukat Masih (father of Adnan Masih)

Komal (aged 24, sister of Adnan Masih)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/third-Christian-teenager-killed-by-muslim-in-three-months-as-pakistan-declared-unsafe-for-minorities>

### **Pakistan: Mansehra**

Mukhtar Masih (aged 70, father of Shaima Masih and Anjum Mukhtar, grandfather of Romilla, Nehmeia, and Shaima, arrested on blasphemy charges in [Lambanwali village, near Gujranwala](#) on [January 28, 2017](#) after a note was found at a mosque, beaten; released on

bail in [Gujranwala](#) on [May 16, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: hospitalized with a bleeding stomach ulcer, **died**, family still fears retribution for his arrest)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/pakistani-christian-blasphemy-accused-has-died-before-he-could-clear-his-name>



### **Nigeria: Gaambe-tiv village, Logo local government**

Saater Kwaghdom (**killed** in a Fulani Muslim attack)

Hingir Akaa Azemgbe (abducted)

Doosul Nambo (abducted)

Ladi Mhbahme (abducted)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/11/five-christians-killed-five-others-missing-muslim-herdsmen-attacks-nigeria/>



### **United Kingdom: Oxfordshire**

Joshua Sutcliffe (teacher, suspended after he said "Well done girls" to a group that included a girl claiming to be a boy, charged with misconduct despite immediately apologizing to the student and despite a history of successfully accommodating the student's wishes, stated that the school had offered no guidance or training to teachers on this matter, had moderated an after school Bible study with 100 students for 18 months until it was closed by the headteacher - the LGBTI, mindfulness, and qigong clubs were allowed to continue)

### **United Kingdom: Oxford University**

Breda O'Brien (Irish citizen, newspaper columnist, presentation on the upcoming Irish abortion referendum shouted down by pro-abortion activists, the event continued after moving to another room)

Georgia Clarke (member Oxford Students for Life, said "The irony was that the actions of Oxford SU's WomCam, which ought to represent women of the university, resulted in the harassment of many women present for the event, some of whom were driven to tears. As committee members we have a duty of care to those who attend our events and it was distressing not being able to provide the supportive and open environment we had promised. We invited students to hear speakers, not to be shouted at. The shouting essentially amounted to an attempt to no-platform our speakers. In being party to this protest, the Oxford SU is making us feel like neither we, nor our views, are welcome to even be heard in this university")

Anna Branford (member Oxford Students for Life, said “We had attempted to create an atmosphere in which all views were welcome and everyone would have a chance to speak, but were instead met with shouting, middle fingers and vitriol”)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/11/02/oxford-student-officials-disrupt-pro-life-event/>

<http://www.christianconcern.com/press-release/christian-maths-teacher-facing-disciplinary-hearing-after-calling-pupil-born-female-a->



## Venezuela

Archbishop Emeritus Roberto Luckert Leon (**UPDATE:** spoke out against the new hate speech law, The Law Against Hatred and Fascism: “[According to the government] it's the opposition that's violent. But when you go to a peaceful march to hand over documents to the prosecutor's office, you're met with the Bolivarian National Guard, the militias and pro-government thugs on motorcycles, so you can't fulfill a civic duty with a state agency. They're the violent ones...Right now they've hamstrung the news media. They're using the supply of newsprint to undermine us. The oldest newspaper in Coro is called La Manana. They can't print it because they're not giving them any newsprint, on the other hand, they gave to the paper that they founded a building, machinery, and newsprint, and it comes out every day. That's freedom of the speech? No...as a Venezuelan, the only solution for the country that I have is elections, but elections that are transparent and fair”, added that the Constituent Assembly that replaced the constitutional National Assembly “is an invention [President] Maduro brought in from Cuba”)

Cardinal Jorge Urosa Savino (**UPDATE:** called the Constituent Assembly “fraudulent and illegitimate...It's made up of political activists at the service of the government and it's not going to resolve the problems with the economy. What's needed here is to change the Marxist, totalitarian, and statist ideology that has brought the country to ruin...[President Maduro wants to] decapitate the opposition so there's just one political party...the situation in the country is worse than a month ago: disregard for human rights continues, there are still political prisoners and opposition leaders that won in the elections are being persecuted, childhood malnutrition has increased and diseases eradicated in the 1950s are coming back, such as malaria, tuberculosis and diphtheria”)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/venezuelas-hate-crime-law-seeks-to-silence-political-opposition-bishops-warn-75216>



Nicaragua: San Pablo 22, La Cruz de Rio Grande municipality, South Caribe

Bishop Silvio Fonseca (commented following a massacre of six peasants including two minors "The army must immediately clarify this situation, it must save its honor. If it was not one of them, then someone must tell us who he was, but this situation needs to be clarified as soon as possible. The army runs a serious danger, unless it clarifies this episode, it can be defined as an army of assassins...There are two serious aspects: first the crime that cries out to heaven, and then the silence, not only on behalf of the army but also by other state institutions that should be immediately ready to clarify the crime. This raises concern in the country, because it means we are insecure")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/63276-AMERICA\\_NICARAGUA\\_Mgr\\_Fonseca\\_Massacre\\_of\\_peasants\\_the\\_army\\_and\\_institutions\\_must\\_clarify#.WhbjXIWnGM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/63276-AMERICA_NICARAGUA_Mgr_Fonseca_Massacre_of_peasants_the_army_and_institutions_must_clarify#.WhbjXIWnGM8)

**Friday November 3, 2017**



#### **Vietnam**

Rev Nguyen Trung Ton (husband of Nguyen Thi Lanh, arrested on [July 30, 2017](#), charged with 'carrying out activities with the purpose of overthrowing the Peoples' administration'; **UPDATE**: still imprisoned)

Nguyen Thi Lanh (wife of the Rev Nguyen Trung Ton, wrote to the UN concerning her husband's imprisonment, detained after withdrawing money to pay family medical bills, money seized, accused of being funded by terrorists, said "My husband is an honest man and loves the people and motherland more than his life")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/jailed-pastors-wife-asks-for-un-intervention/80794>



#### **India: Indore, Madhya Pradesh state**

Anita Joseph (aged 50, mother of Sophia Francis, retired teacher, beaten and arrested on [October 23, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: released on bail)

Amrit Kumar Matera (aged 51, father of Alex Matera, parochial school teacher, beaten and arrested on [October 23, 2017](#), **UPDATE**: released on bail, said "We have become stronger in faith. It's a battle, and in the end Jesus Christ will come out victorious. Whatever has happened to us is for the glory of God. We want Him to be glorified")

#### **India: Jharkhand state**

Cardinal Telesphore Toppo (**UPDATE:** criticized the state government after it voted to ban from voting people who had more than 2 children "It is a human rights violation. Restricting our people, who generally have more than two children, to contest the election is blocking our people from coming up in life. The government wants to demoralize and suppress tribal people and crush any emerging leadership")

**India: Jamshedpur, Jharkhand state**

Anabel Benjamin Bara (teacher, said "But the government knows that tribals have more than two children. Their concern is only taking over tribal leadership from local bodies. It is a conspiracy to stop the voices of the tribal people...First they tried to take over tribal lands, then they enacted the anti-conversion bill. It is all part of the game to make tribal people powerless and submissive")

**India: Lanji area, Balaghat district**

Mahendra Nagdeve (aged 45, convert, husband, father of three, ordered by the municipal government to stop religious services in his home)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-cardinal-opposes-move-to-marginalize-tribalpeople/80700>

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

<https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/indian-family-receives-notice-to-stop-christian-gathering-in-their-home/>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/11/christian-family-india-receives-notice-stop-worship-home/>



**Pakistan: Lahore**

**A Muslim judge was reported to have used derogatory anti-Christian slurs in court against a Christian attorney and his clients**

Kashif Alexander Rajpoot (attorney, challenged the judge's use of the anti-Christian slurs, the judge then repeated the slurs)

Rebecca Samuel

Aslam Samuel

Natasha Samuel

Zubi Samuel

Sania Samuel

Daniel Samuel

**Pakistan: Sukheki village**

Arshad Masih (aged 18, accused of blasphemy on Facebook, 5 Christian families fled their homes, police confirm there is no evidence for the accusation)

Naseer Ghulam (attorney, said he does not know to where the 5 families have fled)

<https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/muslim-judge-insults-christian-lawyer-and-his-clients-on-their-faith-in-court/>

<https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/blasphemy-allegation-christian-families-fled-the-area-to-save-their-lives/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/11/pakistan-christians-flee-village-death-threats-teenager-accused-blasphemy/>



### **Iraq: Bagdad**

Pastor Farouk Hammo (described his reaction to the U.S. announcement that it would bypass the UN and directly fund Christian refugees “The bottom line is that we do not recommend direct aid from the States to Christians. It will agitate our Muslim brothers negatively against the Christian community”)

### **Iraq: Kurdistan**

Ashty Bahro (described his reaction to the U.S. announcement that it would bypass the UN and directly fund Christian refugees "People are not happy with the UN, they are using money for administration. The help is coming from churches and Christian organizations. They are here in the area, they know what's happening, and they go immediately to help...the churches here are helping all, especially the evangelical churches. We have good relationships with everyone - pastors, priests, and mullahs. Here in our area, the Kurdish Muslims trust Christians. In Arab areas, I don't know")

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2017/november/usaaid-un-funding-persecuted-iraq-christians-arab-leaders.html>



### **Jordan**

Brother Khalaf (described his reaction to the U.S. announcement that it would bypass the UN and directly fund Christian refugees “It could backfire. People already say we are not Arabs, that we are aligned with the Americans against our own people. Maybe we will be targeted more. But in some countries, it can’t get worse”)

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2017/november/usaaid-un-funding-persecuted-iraq-christians-arab-leaders.html>





### **Eritrea: Asmara**

**The government has been reported to have ordered all parochial schools closed and has begun to arrest school employees who protest**

Fr Haile Paulos (arrested)

Sr Tinsaw SMC (arrested)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/11/24568/>

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/priest-arrested-students-clash-with-guards-as-eritrea-cracks-down-on-catholic-islamic-schools-206396/>



### **Syria: Hama**

Pastor Maan Bitar (described his reaction to the U.S. announcement that it would bypass the UN and directly fund Christian refugees “Christians receive only a trickle of the aid and other programs set for IDPs [internally displaced persons] inside Syria. In the camps and on the Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan refugee lists, they are virtually non-existent...They [Western aid agencies] want to bring you a basket of food and a blanket to cover yourself. But not to help you live in dignity. It is the minimum to live, not to make a strong nation...Muslims will be happy [if aid is used for education]. They like to send their children to schools run by Christians”)

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2017/november/usaid-un-funding-persecuted-iraq-christians-arab-leaders.html>



### **Lebanon: Beirut**

Martin Accad (Arab Baptist Theological Seminary chief academic officer, described his reaction to the U.S. announcement that it would bypass the UN and directly fund Christian refugees “The questions are endless and the concerns are many. Depending on how this initiative is presented, churches and Christian groups may be wise to turn down this ‘kindness’”)

### **Lebanon: Zahle**

Archbishop Issam Darwish (described his reaction to the U.S. announcement that it would bypass the UN and directly fund Christian refugees “If the U.S. can help Christian organizations directly, it will be good - if it can be done without discrimination. They must serve Muslims and other minorities also. We live together, and want to remain together in our communities”)

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2017/november/usaaid-un-funding-persecuted-iraq-christians-arab-leaders.html>



### **Israel: Nazareth**

Boutros Mansour (Baptist school director; **UPDATE:** described his reaction to the U.S. announcement that it would bypass the UN and directly fund Christian refugees “Having the US transfer funds directly to persecuted Christians could be a good thing, but American politics will surely mingle in. They will want to brag about the aid to show their success, and to prove to the Christian Right that [President Trump] delivers on his promises...The fuel [of future persecution] will be the high-profile appearance of US aid, bringing opposition and resentment. American politics and the good of Christians do not necessarily overlap”)

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2017/november/usaaid-un-funding-persecuted-iraq-christians-arab-leaders.html>



### **Egypt**

Fr Rafik Greich (**UPDATE:** described his reaction to the U.S. announcement that it would bypass the UN and directly fund Christian refugees “There is a danger that some will speak of the West, of Crusades, and try to make trouble. It depends on what is funded. If it is a real project — like education — it should work”)

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2017/november/usaaid-un-funding-persecuted-iraq-christians-arab-leaders.html>



### **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 as of [October 20, 2017](#) has been threatened with banishment from campus as a hate group; **UPDATE:** the student government voted 8-4 to not banish Love Saxa, wrote “The Student Activities Commission was right to continue to recognize us as a student organization in light of the fact that we hold views consistent with Georgetown’s own Catholic identity. We hope that the outcome of this situation means that any and all other student groups at Georgetown which hold to beliefs

consistent with Georgetown's founding values will likewise be protected from unwarranted demands that they be dissolved")

### **United States - New York: Roosevelt, Long Island**

Deacon Patrick Logsdon (aged 70, manager of a transitional residence for men released from prison, **stabbed to death** by a resident)

### **United States - North Carolina: Durham**

Sara T Pedro (emergency room nurse, filed suit against her hospital after she faced retaliation and discrimination following her refusal to participate in abortions)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/11/07/catholic-student-group-escapes-punishment-for-supporting-traditional-marriage/>

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/lawsuit-duke-university-punished-catholic-nurse-who-refused-to-do-abortion>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/04/nyregion/deacon-stabbed-long-island.html>

**Saturday November 4, 2017**



### **Pakistan: Fazliya Colony [Ghetto], Lahore**

Iqbal Masih (aged 65, husband of Rubina Iqbal, father of Shamsa, Zafar Shamas, Bobby, Aster, Chanda, Guriya, Asshi, Heera, and Hina, mentally ill, went into a tirade after Bobby died, abused a Muslim neighbor [the report is unclear how but it appears to have been verbal], the neighbor accused him of blasphemy, arrested, up to 300 Muslim radicals attempted to burn the entire extended family to death as blasphemers but were stopped by Muslim neighbors)

Rubina Iqbal (aged 60, wife of Iqbal Masih, mother of nine)

Bobby (aged 35, son of Iqbal Masih and Rubina Iqbal, **died in a hospital of natural causes**, death triggered his father's breakdown)

Shamsa (daughter of Iqbal Masih and Rubina Iqbal)

Zafar Shamas (son of Iqbal Masih and Rubina Iqbal)

Aster (daughter of Iqbal Masih and Rubina Iqbal)

Chanda (daughter of Iqbal Masih and Rubina Iqbal)

Guriya (daughter of Iqbal Masih and Rubina Iqbal)

Asshi (daughter of Iqbal Masih and Rubina Iqbal)

Heera (daughter of Iqbal Masih and Rubina Iqbal)

Hina (daughter of Iqbal Masih and Rubina Iqbal)

Samuel Sadiq (aged 57, husband of Rubina Bibi, brother of Iqbal Masih, reported on his arrest)

Rubina Bibi (wife of Samuel Sadiq)

Shoukat Mashi (husband of Parveen Bibi, brother of Iqbal Masih)

Parveen Bibi (wife of Shoukat Mashi)

Patras Sadiq (husband of Josepheen, brother of Iqbal Masih)

Josepheen (wife of Patras Sadiq)

Sheebili (nephew of Iqbal Masih)

Shamsa (niece of Iqbal Masih)

Sadiq (nephew of Iqbal Masih)

Silviya (niece of Iqbal Masih)

Jennifer (niece of Iqbal Masih)

John (nephew of Iqbal Masih)

Maria (niece of Iqbal Masih)

Peter (nephew of Iqbal Masih)

Aneeqa (niece of Iqbal Masih)

Sumera (niece of Iqbal Masih)

Issac (nephew of Iqbal Masih)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6679>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/11/pakistani-christian-sent-prison-insulting-islam-despite-mental-ill-health/>



### **Uganda: Kabuna village, Budaka district**

Hassan Muwanguzi (Christian elementary school director; **UPDATE:** beaten by a former teacher who had been suspended after it was discovered the teacher had lied about his religion - he was Muslim - and had tried to convert students to Islam, face and right hand injured, hospitalized for two days)

Eric Kakonge (Christian elementary school head teacher, witnessed the attack, said “He [Hassan Muwanguzi] is still unwell and may need further specialized treatment...The Muslims have complained that the school every evening makes noise in praising, worshiping and praying. We need prayers at this trying moment for quick recovery for our school director, and that this criminal act will be brought to book”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/11/muslim-posing-christian-teacher-school-uganda-attacks-director-sources-say/>



## **Cuba**

Misael Diaz Paseiro (husband of Ariana Lopez Roque, home raided on [October 22, 2017](#), Bibles, crucifixes, and rosaries seized; **UPDATE**: beaten by political police, arrested, denied access to a Bible or clergy, later sentenced to 3 and a half years' imprisonment)

Ariana Lopez Roque (wife of Misael Diaz Paseiro, underwent a hunger strike until she received assurances her husband would see his rights respected in prison)

Pastor Barbaro Guevara (twice prevented by police from visiting Ariana Lopez Roque after her husband's arrest)

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

**Sunday November 5, 2017**



## **China: Jingmen**

Zhai Lili (detained along with 12 others who were worshipping in her home)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/11/christian-post-13-christians-detained.html>



## **Nigeria: Gashua, Yobe state**

Hauwa Dadi (aged 13, abducted on [November 1, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: recovered unharmed by police from the local emir's palace, had been taken for forced conversion and marriage)

## **Nigeria: Zanwra village, outside Jebu Miango, Plateau state**

Bulus John (aged 30, husband of Lami Bulus, father of three, **killed** by Fulani Muslims)

Lami Bulus (aged 25, widow of Bulus John, mother of three, said "We had to leave the village after my husband was killed as we received death threats from the herdsmen for reporting

the killing of my husband to security agencies. Please, I need your prayers for strength and for means to care for my children”)

Moses Chohu (church elder, later said “We found some bullets from an AK-47 gun at the scene where Bulus John was shot. The case was reported to the Bassa police authorities, and the corpse was taken away by the police. Four months after the incident, nothing has been heard again, and the police have not said anything about the incident to Lami, nor contacted her to find out how she’s coping with life”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/03/christian-woman-hiding-muslim-fulani-herdsmen-kill-husband-nigeria/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/coe/nigeria-girl-13-kidnapped-to-be-converted-to-islam-freed-four-days-later/>



### **Argentina: San Isidro Labrador**

Bishop Vicente Bokalic CM (signed a statement opposing a church arson attack)

Auxiliary Bishop Enrique Martinez Ossola (signed a statement opposing a church arson attack)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/63196->

[AMERICA\\_ARGENTINA\\_A\\_church\\_burned\\_and\\_smeared\\_why#.WgVB-ltSyM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/63196-AMERICA_ARGENTINA_A_church_burned_and_smeared_why#.WgVB-ltSyM8)



### **United States – Texas: Sutherland Springs**

**Twenty-six people were shot dead and thirty wounded during a church service of nearly 60 people, the gunman's former in-laws were occasional attendees**

Annabelle Renee Pomeroy (aged 14, daughter of Pastor Frank Pomeroy and Sherri Pomeroy, **shot dead**)

Crystal Marie Hill Holcombe (aged 36, wife of John Holcombe, widow of Peter Hill, mother of Philip, Greg, Emily, Megan, and Evelyn Hill, and expecting a sixth child, daughter in-law of Karla and Bryan Holcombe, **shot dead**)

Carlin Brite Holcombe (unborn child of Crystal Marie Hill Holcombe and John Holcombe, **died**)

Associate Pastor Bryan Holcombe (aged 60, husband of Karla Holcombe, father-in-law of Crystal Holcombe, prison minister, awning business owner, **shot dead**)

Karla Holcombe (aged 58, wife of Bryan Holcombe, mother-in-law of Crystal Holcombe, **shot dead**)

Marc Daniel Holcombe (aged 36, son of Bryan and Karla Holcombe, father of Noah, **shot dead**)

Noah (aged 18 months, daughter of Marc Daniel Holcombe, **shot dead**)

Emily Hill (aged 11, daughter of Crystal Holcombe, **shot dead**)

Megan Hill (aged 9, daughter of Crystal Holcombe, **shot dead**)

Greg Hill (aged 13, son of Crystal Holcombe, **shot dead**)

John Holcombe (widower of Crystal Holcombe, stepfather of Philip, Greg, Emily, Megan, and Evelyn Hill, son of Bryan and Karla Holcombe, injured, hospitalized)

Richard Rodriguez (aged 51, husband of Therese Rodriguez, father of Regina Rodriguez, **shot dead**)

Therese Rodriguez (wife of Richard Rodriguez, **shot dead**)

Joann Ward (aged 30, mother of Brooke Ward and Emily Garza, stepmother of Rhianna and Rylynd, **shot dead**)

Brooke Ward (aged 5, **shot dead**)

Emily Garza (aged 7, **shot dead**)

Rylynd Ward (aged 5, brother of Rhianna Ward, shot four times, hospitalized)

Rhianna Ward (aged 9, glasses broken by a bullet, otherwise uninjured, hid under a pew)

Michael Ward (uncle of Rylynd and Rhianna Ward, treated the wounded at the scene)

Robert Corrigan (husband of Shani Brauher Corrigan, medical staff instructor, **shot dead**)

Shani Brauher Corrigan (wife of Robert Corrigan, **shot dead**)

Hailey Krueger (high school freshman, **shot dead**)

Robert Scott Marshall (husband of Karen Marshall, mechanic, first time church visitor, **shot dead**)

Karen Marshall (wife of R Scott Marshall, retiree, first time church visitor, **shot dead**)

Lula Woicinski White (aged 71, grandmother of the gunman's ex-wife, **shot dead**)

Peggy Lynn Warden (aged 56, grandmother of Zach Poston, shielded her grandson with her body, **shot dead**)

Zach Poston (aged 18, shielded a child with his body, shot, hospitalized)

Dennis Johnson (aged 77, husband of Sara Johnson, **shot dead**)

Sara Johnson (aged 68, wife of Dennis Johnson, **shot dead**)

Tara Elyse McNulty (aged 33, housemate of Bryan and Karla Holcombe, **shot dead**)

Keith Allen Braden (aged 62, husband of Debbie, **shot dead**)

Debbie Braden (widow of Keith Allen Braden, shot, hospitalized along with their wounded 6 year old granddaughter)

Evelyn Hill (aged 7, daughter of Crystal Holcombe, wounded, hospitalized)

Joaquin Ramirez (injured with shrapnel, later said the gunman shot babies when they cried)

Joanne Solis (shot in the arm)

Stephen Willeford (witnessed the shooting, shot the gunman after he exited the church, persuaded a passing motorist to help him pursue the gunman, later said "I'm a Christian...and I believe at this point...the Holy Spirit was on me because I had the presence of mind to look at what was going on")

Philip Hill (aged 15, son of Crystal Holcombe, not present during the shooting)

Regina Rodriguez (daughter of Richard Rodriguez, unable to find her father after the shooting, said "I just lost my father")

Pastor Frank Pomeroy (father of Annabelle Renee Pomeroy, husband of Sherri Pomeroy, not present during the shooting, later said "I don't understand, but I know my God does")

Sherri Pomeroy (mother of Annabelle Renee Pomeroy, wife of Pastor Frank Pomeroy, not present during the shooting, texted "We lost our 14-year-old daughter today and many friends. Neither of us has made it back into town yet to personally see the devastation. I am at the charlotte airport trying to get home as soon as I can", later said "And one thing that gives me a sliver of encouragement is that [our daughter] Belle was surrounded yesterday by her family that she loved fiercely...[we were not] members or parishioners [but a] very close family. We ate together, we laughed together, we cried together, and we worshiped together. Now most of our church family is gone, our building is probably beyond repair and the few of us that are left behind lost tragically yesterday. As senseless as this tragedy was, our sweet Belle would not have been able to deal with losing so much family")

Amanda Mosel (age 34, parishioner, not present during the shooting, 13 year old goddaughter shot)

Nick Uhlig (parishioner, cousin of Crystal Holcombe, not present during the shooting, said of his cousin "She doesn't even drink, smoke or nothing. She just takes care of kids, she raises goats and makes homemade cheese. That kind of thing, you know? They don't go out dancing or anything like that. They're real old-fashioned, down-to-earth")

Hunter Green (aged 16, parishioner, not present during the shooting)

Makayla Roberson (aged 15, sister of Cody, parishioner, not present during the shooting)

Cody Roberson (aged 16, brother of Makayla, parishioner, not present during the shooting)

Joe Holcombe (aged 86, father of Associate Pastor Bryan Holcombe, said "We're strong. We'll be with Bryan and his wife and the whole family one of these days — and we look forward to that", said of the gunman "I don't hold any resentment to him. I wish he hadn't of done it, but all I can say is that he is going to be rewarded for what he did — and he's not going to like that reward. I don't hate him by any means, I just feel sorry for him")

Claryce Holcombe (mother of Associate Pastor Bryan Holcombe)

Sara Slavin (sister of John Holcombe, later wrote to her friends "If something you say makes me burst into tears, please just let me cry. Don't apologize. It doesn't mean you said the wrong thing. Don't try to cheer me up. Just love me and let me cry. Hug me if you want but let me go if I try to pull away. Cry with me if you feel it. Love you all")



<http://www.expressnews.com/news/local/article/Worst-mass-shooting-in-Texas-History-claims-26-at-12333530.php>  
<http://www.expressnews.com/news/texas/article/The-Latest-Sheriff-says-church-shooter-has-been-12333560.php>  
<http://www.expressnews.com/news/local/article/For-Sutherland-Springs-a-day-of-trauma-and-tears-12334221.php>  
<http://www.expressnews.com/news/local/article/Eight-members-of-one-family-killed-in-massacre-at-12336156.php>  
<http://www.expressnews.com/news/local/article/Sutherland-Springs-survivors-describe-terror-at-12337007.php>  
<http://www.faithwire.com/2017/11/06/they-lost-a-child-grandchild-and-great-grandchildren-during-the-texas-church-massacre-heres-their-powerful-response/>  
<https://www.christianpost.com/news/pastor-14-year-old-daughter-died-texas-church-shooting-i-dont-understand-but-i-know-my-god-does-205734/>  
<http://www.dailywire.com/news/23254/hero-stephen-willeford-used-ar-15-take-down-texas-james-barrett#>  
<http://www.cnn.com/2017/11/06/us/texas-church-shooting-victims-list/index.html>  
<https://www.christianpost.com/news/public-funeral-for-9-members-of-one-family-slaughtered-in-texas-church-massacre-set-for-wednesday-206543/>

**Monday November 6, 2017**



## **Nepal: Kathmandu**

### **Christian leaders protested the new anti-conversion law with a petition submitted to the Prime Minister**

Pastor Chari Bahadur Gahatraj (president of the Christian Federation of Nepal; **UPDATE:** said "Christians have been cheated in the past with assurances that have never been put into practice...We are not just going to be used as vote banks as in the past. We demand an immediate amendment to the law to ensure freedom of conversion and choice. Everyone is free to choose their faith and practice it")

Fr Silas Bogati (**UPDATE:** said "We want respect as we respect other faith groups. The State cannot impose itself on the free practice of the Christian faith...Some religious fundamentalists are spreading rumors in which they dream of a South Asia that is a Hindu region. This is impossible. Religious freedom for all, including for Christians, has to be guaranteed not only in words but also in practice")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Nepali-Christian-leader-says-no-to-anti-conversion-law-42252.html>



### **Egypt: Beni Suif**

Said Potros (aged 30, reported to have left home for work, later **found dead**)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=2019&A=32882>



### **Nigeria: Delta state**

**Four British missionaries were abducted for ransom on **October 13, 2017**; UPDATE: three freed**

Dr David Donovan

Shirley Donovan

Alanna Carson (optician)

Ian Squire (aged 57, optician, reported to have been **shot dead** after singing Amazing Grace)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/11/06/briton-kidnapped-nigeria-killed-three-others-freed/>  
[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](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)  
<http://mattersindia.com/2017/11/british-aid-worker-shot-dead-in-nigeria-after-singing-amazing-grace/>

**Tuesday November 7, 2017**



### **Nigeria: near Gako village, Riyom local government area, Plateau state**

**Nine Christians were killed by Fulani Muslims while returning home from market**

Daniel Shom (**shot dead**)

Dachollom Shom (**shot dead**)

Emmanuel Gyang (**shot dead**)

Daniel Niri (**shot dead**)

Felix Gwom (**shot dead**)

Reuben Danbwang (**shot dead**)

Sunday Danbwang (**shot dead**)

Dagam Danbwang (**shot dead**)

Bitrus Chunwang (**shot dead**)

Samson Dagwom (driver, survived by pretending to be dead)

Maria Joseph (witnessed the attack)

Rev Soja Bewarang (**UPDATE**: sent his condolences to the families of those killed, called on security forces to “keep a closer and diligent watchful eye on Riyom, Barakin Ladi [the neighboring LGA] and other hotspots in the state”)

Daniel Dem (state House of Assembly member, said “We have been under siege. Some weeks back, Fulani herdsmen complained that one of them was killed, which we didn’t know about, and they said they were going to attack this community, and now they have taken the laws into their hands and truly attacked...If somebody comes out clearly before the STF [Special task Force] and said he is going to attack a community and the people were later ambushed after a week and killed, the person who gave the threat should be arrested and interrogated. The leaders of Fulani in Riyom should be arrested and interrogated by the Defense Headquarters. Enough of these mass killings!”)

#### **Nigeria: Lagos, Lagos state**

Pastor Chukwudi Okoh (aged 52, received death threats from a cult)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/11/nigeria-9-dead-as-suspected-fulani-herdsmen-ambush-christians-in-plateau/>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/12/occult-groups-nigeria-kill-kidnap-christians>



#### **Argentina: Crespo, Entre Rios province**

Fr Julio Faes (church defaced with graffiti, said the vandalism was an "x-ray of what is happening and we are living as a society where the vital value of life ceases to exist, it is a society that has lost its way")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/63196-AMERICA\\_ARGENTINA\\_A\\_church\\_burned\\_and\\_smeared\\_why#.WgVB-ltSyM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/63196-AMERICA_ARGENTINA_A_church_burned_and_smeared_why#.WgVB-ltSyM8)

**Wednesday November 8, 2017**



### **China: Hefei, Anhui province**

Yu Jiafang (house church raided by police and the RAB [religious affairs bureau], books seized)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/12/anhui-officials-ban-church-confiscate.html>



### **Nigeria: Tudun Wada Dankadai, Kano state**

Joseph Opeyemi Ibinkule (aged 41, said of the [September 2007](#) attacks “The Muslim students attacked Christian students, and soon they were joined by Muslims in this town. All eight churches were destroyed, Christians were displaced, and many Christians were also killed. I personally saw three corpses of members of the St. Mary’s Catholic Church who were killed by the Muslim attackers”; **UPDATE**: reported that Muslim leaders in his village have refused to allow the eight churches that were destroyed in September 2007 to be rebuilt: “Christians who have braved it and returned after the attacks in 2007 have no worship buildings up to today. The reason is that the government of Kano state has banned us from rebuilding our churches”, added that no Christian clergy now live there and only two visit “These are the ECWA pastor and the Catholic priest. Both of live in the city of Kano and only come to conduct services under trees for their members”)

Rev Murtala Marti Dangora (**UPDATE**: said “The Kano state government stopped us from rebuilding the destroyed ECWA church in Tudun Wada, so we have taken the matter to court, and we hope we shall get justice at the end of the case”)

Rev Ayuba Hassan (said “We currently worship under a tree and have continued to insist that we be allowed to rebuild our place of worship. The government is not ready to allow us do so, as they claim that the Muslims in the town do not want to have any church there. We are waiting for the outcome of the case in court”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/11/decade-church-burnings-nigeria-officials-forbid-rebuilding/>

**Thursday November 9, 2017**



### **China: Jiangmen, Guangdong province**

Pastor Li Wanhua (**UPDATE**: home invaded by police, religious items and poetry seized, detained for 4 hours, interrogated, ordered to close his church and threatened with arrest)

if he refused, said “At the very beginning they were fierce and did not disclose which police station they came, their names were not clearly stated, and they did not show their identification cards. When they wrote the statement, they did not let me change it. I disagreed and said that when they interrogate me, they should turn on the recorder to monitor the situation according to the law. I said, ‘You are not following the law like this.’ Afterwards, they turned on the law enforcing recorder, and we wrote the interrogation transcript”)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/11/pastor-interrogated-home-raided.html>



## Kenya

Rachel Gikonyo (shot seven times in her stomach and chest during the [April 2, 2015 Garissa University College](#) Islamic terror attack, paralyzed from the waist down; **UPDATE:** now attending college, uses a wheelchair, said “The burden has not been easy for our family because I am still using adult diapers that are very expensive and my sister is in school too. This education assistance will go a long way in releasing the heavy load on my unemployed father”)

Anatstaciah Mikwa (student, wounded in the [April 2, 2015 Garissa University College](#) Islamist attack; as of [February 12, 2016](#) has been able to regain the ability to walk with crutches after 28 surgeries; **UPDATE:** now attending college, said “The ICC [International Christian Concern] has always shown unmatched care and support from the time I was discharged from the hospital. They have visited me at home, bought us food and provided transport for my hospital checkups. Now they have cleared my full academic year tuition fee. What an awesome feeling I have right now. May God bless you and all the effort you are doing in praying and supporting Christians who are suffering”)

<http://www.persecution.org/2017/11/08/icc-assists-garissa-university-victims-with-educational-goals/>



## Egypt: Shubral-Kheima, Qalyubiya district, north Cairo

Bishop Marcos (**UPDATE:** requested that Christians end a vigil and vacate an unlicensed and uncompleted church after local Muslims threatened to attack it, the police have been suspected of plans to close the church in response to the threats and have gut off electricity to the church)

<https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2017/11/11/11014/>



### **Algeria: Ain Turk**

Rev Mahmoud Haddad (**UPDATE**: criticized government closure of a church as “unfounded” and that the government's statement was full of “anomalies and falsehoods”: “Firstly, this community is indeed affiliated to the Protestant Church of Algeria, which has been officially recognized by the government since 1974 and is accredited with both the Ministry of the Interior and the local government. Also there is no printing activity of Gospels or Christian publications inside these premises”)

Youssef Ourahmane (board member, said of the church closure “I am very saddened by this injustice and persecution we are facing in Algeria. The notification of the Prefect is based on false motives”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/11/algerian-church-closed-illegally-printing-bibles-material-intended-evangelism/>

**Friday November 10, 2017**



### **Philippines: Labo-Labo village, Shariff Aguak town, Mindanao**

Fr Eliseo Mercado Jr OMI (**UPDATE**: condemned an arson attack on a chapel, called it "the work of few extremists that need to be rooted out" and compared it to the 1970s rebellion when "Muslim rebels respected places of worship in the area")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/vandalizing-of-chapel-in-mindanao-sparks-outrage/80764>



### **Sri Lanka: Thakur Para village, Rangpur district**

Bishop Sebastian Tudu (condemned attacks by Muslim mobs that left one Hindu dead and 15 Hindu families homeless: "We have seen such attacks in the past but no justice done. The silence and inaction of the authorities encourages attackers and frustrates minorities, which is unacceptable")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/police-arrest-53-for-attacks-on-bangladeshi-hindus/80768>



### **India: Sagar district, Madhya Pradesh state**

Bishop Anthony Chirayath (**UPDATE**: voiced opposition to the Hindu nationalist group Dharam Jagaran Samanwaya Samiti [religious awakening co-ordination committee] torchlit march in which it called for the closure of a church owned boarding school, said "We are under tremendous pressure...We are afraid, we can be attacked at any time. Our schools, institutions and orphanages can be harmed. Help us!...Our number has not grown in years, still we are accused of converting people...[in a] false and malicious [media] campaign [that is] creating an atmosphere of hostility against us, spreading fake news through newspapers, television channels, brainwashing")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/%E2%80%9CHindu-radicals-want-to-eliminate-us.-Help-us,%E2%80%9D-says-the-bishop-of-Sagar-42340.html>

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/christians-call-for-protection-after-fiery-protest/80781>



### **Uzbekistan: Andijan**

Irina Stepanova (home raided by police, Christian books seized)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2341](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2341)



### **Lebanon**

Ninar (analyst for the U.S. based group In Defense of Christians, wrote "Saudi Arabia appears eager to start another proxy war with Iran in the Middle East — one that will imperil millions of Christians and all Lebanese...On Saturday, Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri said in a TV broadcast from Saudi Arabia that he was stepping down because of an alleged assassination plot, as well as Iranian involvement in the Lebanese government though its proxy militia-turned-political-party and U.S.-designated terrorist organization: Hezbollah...It is clear the Saudi government is moving to escalate its proxy war with Iran by using Lebanon as a battlefield. This is of particular concern for IDC and people of goodwill who have watched Saudi Arabia and Iran's proxy war lead multiple large scale humanitarian crises, such as in Syria and Yemen. In both countries, starvation, massive refugee crises, and disease has let thousands of children to fend for themselves and led to hundreds of thousands of deaths")

<https://indefenseofchristians.org/saudi-iran-conflict-will-destroy-christianity-lebanon/>



### **Congo, Democratic Republic: Kinshasa**

Cardinal Laurent Monsengwo Pasinya (**UPDATE**: accused by government officials of conducting a 'black mass' after he met with local artists in the cathedral, the officials appear to be responding to widespread discontent with their postponement of elections)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/63243-AFRICA\\_DR\\_CONGO\\_Cardinal\\_Pasinya\\_accused\\_of\\_black\\_masses\\_when\\_politics\\_exploits\\_religion#.WhL0QVWnGM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/63243-AFRICA_DR_CONGO_Cardinal_Pasinya_accused_of_black_masses_when_politics_exploits_religion#.WhL0QVWnGM8)



### **Algeria: Oran**

Pastor Rachid Seighir (bookstore ordered closed, livelihood lost)

<http://morningstarnews.org/2020/01/order-issued-to-close-church-building-in-oran-algeria-christian-leaders-say/>

**Monday November 13, 2017**



### **China**

Pastor Wang Yi (husband of Jiang Rong; **UPDATE**: prevented from travelling to Indonesia to attend a celebration of the Reformation)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/11/speakers-call-for-action-amid.html>



### **India: Uttar Pradesh state**

Auxiliary Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas SFX (**UPDATE**: criticized Chief Minister [state governor] Yogi Adityanath for rejecting secularism and equating the government of Prime Minister Modi with a Hindu deity)



<https://www.ucanews.com/news/bishop-criticizes-politicians-for-branding-indias-secularism-a-lie/80848>



### **Pakistan: Lahore**

Iqbal Masih (aged 65, husband of Rubina Iqbal, father Shamsa, Zafar Shamas, Bobby, Aster, Chanda, Guriya, Asshi, Heera, and Hina, mentally ill, went into a tirade after Bobby died on [November 4, 2017](#), abused a Muslim neighbor [the report is unclear how but it appears to have been verbal], the neighbor accused him of blasphemy, arrested, up to 300 Muslim radicals attempted to burn the entire extended family to death as blasphemers but were stopped by Muslim neighbors; **UPDATE**: released on bail, entire family has been moved to a safe house)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6684>



### **Egypt**

Fr Makari Yunan (accused of contempt of Islam on or before [May 23, 2017](#) after he responded to an Islamic scholar who called Christianity corrupt by saying Islam was spread by the sword, may be indicted; reported on [July 26, 2017](#) to have been arrested, charged with contempt of Islam, spreading hatred, and inciting sedition; **UPDATE**: reported to have been acquitted)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=2024&A=32981>



### **Nigeria: Azdege village, Logo local government area, Benue state**

Ortse Kwaghdo (killed in a Fulani Muslim attack)

### **Nigeria: Igouriakhi, Edo state**

Sr Roseline Isiocha (abducted)

Sr Aloysius Ajayi (abducted)

Sr Frances Udi (abducted)

### **Nigeria: Isho village, Guma local government area, Benue state**

Apesuu Uhula (killed in a Fulani Muslim attack)

**Nigeria: Wereng village, Riyom local government area, Plateau state**

Christopher Dung (**killed** in a Fulani Muslim attack)

Bulus Dantoro (**killed** in a Fulani Muslim attack)

Gyang Dahoro (church elder, said “The two did not return to the village on Sunday evening. A search was organized, and their corpses were found in bushes the following morning with bullet wounds and machete cuts”)

Rev Dachollom Datiri (**UPDATE**: said “These armed Fulani herdsmen have continued with their attacks, and the church is at the receiving end. We have lost our members to these unprovoked attacks. We are on our knees praying for God’s mercy”)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/archbishop-is-the-nigerian-government-looking-for-missing-nuns-98615>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/11/five-christians-killed-five-others-missing-muslim-herdsmen-attacks-nigeria/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/11/nigeria-fulani-christians-call-for-peace-as-violence-continues-in-plateau/>

**Tuesday November 14, 2017**



**Uzbekistan: Urgench, Khorezm region**

Stanislav Kim (**UPDATE**: home raided by anti-terrorism police during a worship service, worshippers were arrested and questioned for two hours at the police station, Christian books seized)

Oybek Rahimov (husband of Gulnara Rahimov, detained at the home of Stanislav Kim, admitted under questioning that he read Christian books, home then raided by police, Bibles, songbooks, CDs, and laptop seized)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2341](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2341)

**Wednesday November 15, 2017**



**Australia: Melbourne**

Archbishop Denis J Hart (**UPDATE:** stated after a government postal survey showed 61% of voters in favor of same sex marriage “Parliamentarians must recognize and respect the concerns of the more than 4.8 million Australians who opposed a change to the definition of marriage by putting in place strong conscience and religious freedom protections. These protections must ensure that Australians can continue to express their views on marriage, that faith-based schools can continue to teach the traditional understandings of marriage and that organizations can continue to operate in a manner that is consistent with those values”)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/australian-bishops-dont-let-same-sex-marriage-limit-religious-freedom-28397>



#### **Indonesia: Timika district, Paupa**

Bishop John Philip Saklil (**UPDATE:** expressed concern after a policeman was killed by rebels and asked the rebels to reopen a road to villages in the mountains near a gold mine)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/tensions-threaten-to-boil-over-in-papua/80806>



#### **China: Shanghai**

Yang Tianshui (former journalist, sentenced in **Zhejiang** to 12 years' imprisonment on **May 16, 2006**; **UPDATE:** reported to have **died of an untreated brain cancer** during the previous week)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/11/democracy-activists-death-follows.html>



#### **India: Haryana state**

**A Hindu man beat his entire family and then as of **September 25, 2017** disowned them for converting to Christianity; **UPDATE:** the father fabricated evidence that they beat him and attempted to forcibly convert him, the family has three times been questioned by police**

Sunita (convert, wife of Ramesh Kumar, mother of Neeraj, Sapna, Pardeep, and Gaytari)

Neeraj (aged 23, convert, son of Sunita and Ramesh Kumar, lost his employment due to his father's allegations)

Sapna (aged 19, convert, daughter of Sunita and Ramesh Kumar, student, unable to afford school expenses)

Pardeep (aged 17, convert, son of Sunita and Ramesh Kumar, student, unable to afford school expenses)

Gaytari (aged 15, convert, daughter of Sunita and Ramesh Kumar, student, unable to afford school expenses)

Pastor Ramesh (under threat of arrest for converting the family)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/hindu-patriarch-beats-family-and-throws-them-out-of-his-home-for-converting-to-christianity>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6687>



### **Kenya: Jogoo area, Kisii town**

Joseph Otworu (church elder, church destroyed in an arson attack)

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201711170249.html>



### **United Kingdom**

Bishop Gavin Ashenden (**UPDATE**: wrote to the Times of London "Your leading article [Nov 13, 2017] tells us of a 1,000 per cent increase in referrals of trans children in the past six years at the Tavistock clinic in London, suggesting a causal link between publicizing gender fluidity and the increase of mental disorientation among the young...At stake lies not only the virtues that have underlain the best parts of our culture but the mental health of our most fragile children. As a society we urgently need to reject the politicizing of gender identity and exaggerated notions of fluidity. We must allow our children to be safe in the given biology of their bodies")

### **United Kingdom: Scotland**

Anthony Horan (director of the Catholic Parliamentary Office; **UPDATE**: reported to have written regarding a proposed Scottish law that would change the minimum age for a gender reassignment certificate from 18 to 16 and remove the requirement for a medical evaluation "The suggestion that 16- and 17-year-olds should pursue a change of gender at a time of their life fraught with confusion and vulnerability is deeply disturbing")

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/11/15/catholic-lobby-group-condemns-scottish-governments-plan-to-make-legally-changing-gender-easier/>

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/church-of-england-and-the-gender-debate-xbsf3lt3m>

**Thursday November 16, 2017**



**Philippines: Jabonga, Agusan del Norte**

Pastor Perfecto Hoyle (**shot dead** by gunmen)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/rage-grief-sweep-philippines-after-murder-of-priest/80983>



**India: Arasur, Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu state**

Pastor Suresh Kumar (church ordered closed on [September 3, 2017](#) by the local revenue office, said an officer from the revenue department came and told us that the revenue office received a complaint from Mr Murgeshan [a leader of the Hindu Munnani] regarding our church. He said I had to stop worship and close down the church. Despite this, we continued our worship as we did not get anything in writing from the officer concerned”; church closed on [September 27, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: said “To my surprise, more than 50 police personnel were deployed to the church for three Sundays following the [September 27, 2017] letter. Members of my church couldn’t visit me in my house as police did not allow anyone to come in. When I asked the inspector why people cannot come to my house, the inspector threatened that he would file an FIR and send me to jail. They had video cameras with them to get footage if anyone came to my house. Even some police followed me wherever I went making sure I didn’t conduct prayers in any other place”, obtained a four week stay from the state High Court at a cost of US\$240, said "I praise God that I could resume the worship in my church again. But, I am still worried that I can only have worship for two more weeks, as the stay expires soon”, cannot afford more interim stays)

**India: Charoda, Durg district, Chhattisgarh state**

**A three day Gospel meeting attended by 1,000 Christians was stopped by Hindu radicals**

Pastor Vijay Jogi (aged 45, father of two, beaten, forced by police to sign an apology, said “The activists slapped Pastor Santosh Rao thrice and beat us both. By then we understood that these people will not let us conduct prayers...In the pamphlets we distributed earlier inviting people to attend the meeting, I quoted Luke chapter 7 and verses 22 and 23. The Hindu activists began arguing with us, ‘You are promoting blind beliefs. How can lame walk? How can deaf hear? How can you raise the dead? When your God can do all this, why are you people going to the doctors then?’. They told me it is very wrong that I have written these lines. I said, ‘I did not write these words. It’s a verse taken from the Holy

Bible and applies to the entire humankind...The police told me to settle the matter here and stop the event immediately. I was cautioned while Pastor Rao and I were in the police station that the activists are tearing and burning the banners, breaking the tube lights, chairs and dismantling the stage. The police officer told us even if he lodged a case [against the extremists], it would go strongly against us, and that even he can't help it. The police did not register an FIR...My daughters, ages 13 and 5, ask me, 'Why is there so much opposition to the gospel, Dad? Why do they hate Jesus? They hate us because we are Christians?'. I tell them, 'They may hate Him, but the Lord still loves them. And, we must love everyone just as our Lord is loving us')

Pastor Santosh Rao (falsely accused of forcible conversion in 2012; **UPDATE**: beaten, said "There is very little hope for Christians in a situation like this. In the police station, we were forced to sign a letter handwritten by the activists under the supervision of BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] worker Rajguru Ghosale. The letter said by conducting this meeting we hurt the feelings of Hindus, we sincerely apologize for it and cancelling the event. They slapped me to sign it")

Pastor Amos James (described the attack "Pastor Vijay Jogi and Pastor Santosh Rao were receiving the people at the entrance. Suddenly a mob of 70 Hindu Dharm Sena and Bajrang Dal activists gheraoed [encircled] the entrance, and Pastor Jogi and Pastor Rao were beaten and summoned to the police station")

<http://www.persecution.org/2017/11/16/a-new-and-dangerous-threat-for-house-churches-in-southern-india/>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/12/hindu-extremists-beat-pastors-stop-gospel-event-chhattisgarh-state-india/>



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

Mulangira Ibrahim (aged 27, convert, former Islamic teacher, converted after being temporarily struck blind on [October 4, 2015](#) when he attempted to question a Christian pastor regarding a vision of his conversion, beaten that day by local Muslims; **UPDATE**: ambushed near a church and beaten, said "On my way to the church premise, four people stopped me and then got hold of me and started threatening me that if I do not recant Christianity and return to Islam, then they were going to kill me. I did not answer them, and one began slapping me, while another hit me with a blunt object. As I started screaming for help, I received more blows and from there I lost my consciousness")

Pastor Charles Musana (brought Mulangira Ibrahim to a clinic, said "Ibrahim suffered backache, head and leg injuries, and we found him in a pool of blood. We rushed him to a Jaguzi dispensary, and the following day we recorded the incident with the police...The attack was so severe that it will take more than a month for Ibrahim to recover from the multiple injuries")

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

Friday November 17, 2017



### China: Fengxiang, Shaanxi province

Bishop Lucas Li Jingfeng (aged 95, arrested and sentenced to forced labor in 1959; released in 1980; disappeared for a few weeks in November 2001, forced to attend indoctrination classes on government regulations on religion; **UPDATE: died of natural causes**)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Msg.-Lucas-Li-Jingfeng-has-died.-The-memory-of-a-young-Catholic-42344.html>



### Malaysia

Archbishop Julian Leow (**UPDATE:** wrote that a proposal for a government agency to translate the Bible into the Malay language [Bahasa Malaysia] to be a violation of the constitution: "The Holy Bible, and the Al-Kitab in Bahasa Malaysia, form part of the sacred patrimony of Christians, and any attempt by any person not authorized by the Christian churches to provide an authoritative version will be firmly rejected...This is not just an outrage to Christians and their sensibilities. It will be a most heinous form of offence against what all Christians believe to be divinely inspired scriptures, the word of God")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/bible-translation-proposal-riles-malaysian-christians/80835>



### Kazakhstan

Kaken Dostayev (conscientious objector, pretrial investigation underway as of September 22, 2017; **UPDATE:** case not forwarded to police)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2333](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2333)



### Kenya: outside Nairobi

Hadiya Ali (aged 54, Somali refugee, widow, mother of eight; **UPDATE**: children aged 13, 17, and 21 beaten by local Muslims for attending church, two require more medical treatment, said “We are living in great fear and experience sleepless nights. It is not safe for us to stay in this particular place...My family has experienced difficult times since the time we embraced the Christian faith, but God has been always coming to our rescue and meeting our needs. We are grateful to the church and good Samaritans who have stood with my family in trying moments. We are at crossroads. But how long will this kind of life and persecution continue?...We will not recant the Christian faith. We will continue putting our faith in God”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/11/somali-muslims-break-beat-children-christian-widow-kenya/>



### **Egypt: Shubral-Kheima, Qalyubiya district, north Cairo**

Amir Aiad (aged 42, pharmacist, spoke on the closure of his church by joint agreement with police and Bishop Marcos “We were not used to praying in this church regularly, but after we submitted all the legal papers and notified the authorities, we started opening the church and holding daily [Divine Liturgies] on Nov. 3. There were no objections, nothing happened. On the contrary, local Muslims stood on our side, supporting our right to build a church. I can’t find a justification for what happened”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/11/christians-egypt-lose-worship-sites/>

**Saturday November 18, 2017**



### **Indonesia: Jakarta**

#### **Christians on college campuses met to counter Islamic extremism**

Br Heribertus Sumarjo (organized the meeting)

Adrianus Meliala (professor of criminology, said "Extremism is a huge threat to this country, and it is more worrying if students as future leaders have a radical mindset. Catholic lecturers cannot remain silent but must make concerted efforts to clean universities of radical-minded people")

Fransisco Budi Hardiman (philosophy school lecturer, said "It's not only against radicalism, lecturers should also play an important role in fighting against moral ills, such as casual sex and drugs")



<https://www.ucanews.com/news/indonesian-lecturers-unite-to-take-on-radical-students/80840>



**United Kingdom: Stevenage, London**

Bishop Angaelos (UK resident, Egyptian national; **UPDATE**: enthroned as the Coptic Bishop of London)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/bishop-angaelos-enthroned-as-the-first-coptic-orthodox-bishop-of-london/>

**Sunday November 19, 2017**



**Kuwait: Mangaf**

Rev Shibu Mathew (aged 42, Indian citizen, husband, father of four, arrested for defending Christianity in an ecumenical debate, trial verdict expected)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/indian-pastor-arrested-in-kuwait-faces-judgement-sunday>



**Mexico: San Cristobal de las Casas**

Archbishop Emeritus Felipe Arizmendi Esquivel (**UPDATE**: denounced violence over a disputed border between two municipalities)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/63254-AMERICA\\_MEXICO\\_War\\_among\\_the\\_poor\\_continues#.WhLzBFWnGM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/63254-AMERICA_MEXICO_War_among_the_poor_continues#.WhLzBFWnGM8)

**Monday November 20, 2017**



### **China: Changsha, Hunan province**

Jiang Tianyong (aged 46, human rights attorney, abducted by police on [November 22, 2016](#); charged with 'subversion of state power' on [May 31, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/11/christian-human-rights-lawyer-receives.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-lawyer-Jiang-Tianyong-condemned-to-two-years-prison-for-'subversion'--42373.html>



### **India**

Sajan K George (**UPDATE**: described the November 15, 2017 arrest of a Christian in Balod district, Chhattisgarh state, the November 19, 2017 arrest of 19 Christians in Damoh district, Madhya Pradesh state, and fallout from the October 23, 2017 incident in which Christian children were pulled from a train by Hindu radicals: "It is really encouraging that the Madhya Pradesh High Court has rebuked the police and ordered the opening of an investigation into the case of children who were attacked")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Sajan-K-George:-arrested-Christians,-India%E2%80%99s-vulnerable--42367.html>



### **Russia: Oryol**

Dennis Christensen (Danish citizen, husband of Irina, arrested on [May 25, 2017](#) for 'continuing the activities of a banned extremist organization', ordered held for 2 months pending trial; detention extended on [July 20, 2017](#) to November 23, 2017; **UPDATE**: denied bail, detention extended to February 23, 2018)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2339](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2339)



### **Yemen: Aden**

Bishop Paul Hinder (**UPDATE**: described the desecration of a Christian cemetery including the graves of the nuns murdered in March 2016 "This is not the first time that such a thing

happens, but the damage to a cemetery is a serious thing. Of course, such episodes of violence do not only affect Christians, but they confirm the ongoing difficult situation and violence...One of the main problems is represented by the [Saudi] blockade that prevents aid, whether food or medicines, from entering. We need to act to provide humanitarian assistance, which is vital for the survival of the population")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/-Yemen-disaster:-Aden%E2%80%99s-Christian-cemetery-desecrated,-Vicar-of-Arabia-says-42390.html>



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

Fr Frederico Trincheri OCD (**UPDATE:** wrote "The war seemed to be over, but unfortunately it is not over everywhere. The relatively quiet situation in Bangui - where there have recently been episodes of violence - is apparently misleading. In the inland areas of the country the picture is quite different. Since May, groups of rebels - not always identifiable with regards to their origin and targets - resulted in hundreds of deaths, houses burned, and thousands of refugees in several cities and villages. This state of affairs has been dragging on for too long. There is a risk of getting used to war, as if it were inevitable...Two unequivocal data express, more than any other analysis, the dramatic situation in which Central Africa finds itself. Eighty percent of the territory is, in fact, still occupied, or in any case controlled, by rebel groups who dictate law in place of the State. The absence of the State in areas far away from capital was one of the reasons that triggered the war in 2013. Ignoring it may not be a good strategy. The election of a new president, the massive presence of the United Nations, the interest and copious contributions from the international community seemed a propitious opportunity to turn page. The results have disappointed expectations. We have not been able to move forward...The second point is about poverty. According to the latest UN report, Central Africa is now ranked 188th out of 188 countries in the Human Development Index. We are therefore the poorest Country in the world")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/63255-AFRICA\\_CENTRAL\\_AFRICA\\_80\\_of\\_the\\_country\\_in\\_the\\_hands\\_of\\_rebels\\_a\\_mission\\_ary\\_We\\_are\\_the\\_poorest\\_State\\_in\\_the\\_world#.WhLxPVWnGM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/63255-AFRICA_CENTRAL_AFRICA_80_of_the_country_in_the_hands_of_rebels_a_mission_ary_We_are_the_poorest_State_in_the_world#.WhLxPVWnGM8)



### **Nigeria: Temu village, Lagos state**

Iyabo Alaba (mother of David Alaba and Rachael Alaba, **killed** in her church by a cult)

David Alaba (aged 4, son of Iyabo Alaba, **killed** in his church by a cult)

Rachael Alaba (aged 8, daughter of Iyabo Alaba, **killed** in her church by a cult)

Adesina Idowu (reported on the murders)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/12/occult-groups-nigeria-kill-kidnap-christians>

**Tuesday November 21, 2017**



### **Philippines: Manila**

#### **Church leaders have come under internet attack by supporters of the government's extrajudicial murders**

Fr Luciano Ariel Felloni (Argentine citizen, said "By using social media to explain that our work has no political color, and that it is our contribution to the war against drugs, people change their opinion, they understand...Ignore the trolls, it's obvious that they are fake")

Bishop Pablo Virgilio David (**UPDATE:** said of his social media efforts "As a church leader, I would feel amiss in my leadership if I allow the consciences of people to die...If you don't react to these statements, soon they become like Gospel truth. Truth has become a more serious concern in the context of so much untruth in things that we hear or read...God works also through social media. That's also a forum for truth and empathy. That's what empathy is also about. It leads to compassion")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/deadly-philippine-drug-war-wages-on-social-media/80829>



### **China: Jian, Jianxi province**

Bishop John Baptist Li Suguang (asked priests of his diocese to spread news of a raid on a church by municipal officers [not police] in which four elderly parishioners were assaulted and statues and icons were destroyed, a protest march occurred the next day, the municipal government responded with a promise to investigate the incident and compensate for any loss)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/by-law-officers-assault-elderly-catholics-in-jiangxi/80929>



### **Thailand: Bangkok**

**An entire family of Pakistani Christian refugees were detained and incarcerated**

Asif Hasro (aged 46, husband of Aneela, father of Eliasaph, Elias, Rebecca, and Jasmine)

Aneela (aged 43, wife of Asif Hasro, mother of Eliasaph, Elias, Rebecca, and Jasmine)

Eliasaph (aged 25, son of Aneela and Asif Hasro)

Elias (aged 23, son of Aneela and Asif Hasro)

Rebecca (aged 22, daughter of Aneela and Asif Hasro)

Jasmine (aged 20, daughter of Aneela and Asif Hasro)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/family-of-6-pak-christian-asylum-seekers-arrested-in-thailand>



### **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:** the arresting officer again failed to appear in court**

Pastor Ayoub Tilian

Rev Ali Haakim Al Aam

Pastor Ambrator Hammad

Evangelist Habill Ibrahim

Elder Abdul Bagi Tutu

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/11/accuser-five-church-leaders-sudan-fails-appear-court-hearing/>



### **Nigeria: Katsinawa village, Tudun Wada local government area, Kano state**

Aminu Sallau (aged 60; **UPDATE:** said "the gunmen again sent a letter to me saying they were not yet done with me. They stated in the letter that I should keep aside 3 million naira [US\$8,253] for them, as they'll be coming for the money at any time, and that failure on my part to give them the money would mean death for me. I am prepared to die if that is the only price I have to pay for being a Christian")

### **Nigeria: Kwanti village, Kaduna state**

Madami Agiya (aged 60, husband of Martha Madami, father of Suzie Madami, Eli Madami and Hassan Madami, abducted in [March 2017](#), ransom paid, released; **UPDATE:** home attacked by Muslim Fulanis, said "They started shooting, and as we made efforts to run

out of the house they shot and killed two of my sons...We pray God will convict our attackers and make them to repent from these evil acts against us. Pray for us, as we have been forced to abandon our homes. We do not know what to do, as security agencies in Kaduna State are unable to stop the attacks on us”)

Eli Madami (aged 30, son of Madami Agiya and Martha Madami, brother of Suzie Madami and Hassan Madami, **shot dead**)

Hassan Madami (aged 25, son of Madami Agiya and Martha Madami, brother of Suzie Madami and Eli Madami, abducted in **November 2016**, ransom paid; **UPDATE: shot dead**)

Martha Madami (aged 50, wife of Madami Agiya, mother of Suzie Madami, Eli Madami and Hassan Madami, abducted)

Chili (aged 22, niece of Madami Agiya and Martha Madami, abducted)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/11/kidnappings-threats-massacre-terrorize-christians-kano-state-nigeria/>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/12/muslim-fulani-kidnappers-ravage-village-kaduna-state-nigeria/>

**Wednesday November 22, 2017**



## **Philippines**

### **Church leaders have come under internet attack by supporters of the government's extrajudicial murders**

Fr Alvin Platon (said "We hope and pray that Christians being persecuted through social media will stand in their faith and not give up their being Christian")

Archbishop Socrates Villegas (**UPDATE:** said of social media "Whenever we [in the church] call for respect of human life and dignity, we are tagged as an enemy and become targets of trolls")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/filipino-catholics-facing-persecution-on-social-media/80867>



## **India: Bhandaria, Garhwa district, Jharkhand state**

James Kujur (a cross in a cemetery was vandalized)

<https://persecutionrelief.org/cross-in-cemetery-vandalized-jharkhand/>



### **Iran**

Mohammad Ali Torabi (convert, detained on [October 10, 2017](#) by security agents while in his office in [Qal'a Sayyed district, Dezful, Khuzestan province](#); **UPDATE**: released on bail of US\$60,000)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3799>

**Thursday November 23, 2017**



### **Philippines: Marawi, Mindanao**

Bishop Edwin de la Pena (spoke on the aftermath of the fighting in his city which included hundreds abducted and missing "As a pastor, it is incumbent on me to look for my own people, find them and their state of life")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/catholic-bishop-leads-search-for-missing-marawi-christians/80863>



### **Turkey: Tur Abdin, Mardan province**

Kuryakos Ergun (**UPDATE**: thanked the government for the impending return of the legal ownership of the 1,600 year old Mor Gabriel Monastery to its community)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20171123112928.htm>



### **Nigeria: Lagos**

Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor (past president of the Christian Association of Nigeria; **UPDATE**: "If there has ever been a time for the unity of the church, it's now. We can't afford to stay away from each other because the church is one...Jesus in John Chapter 17 mentioned 5

times 'That we all be one'. If something is mentioned several times in one chapter in the Bible, then it is serious...We do things that we shouldn't do to each other in the name of religion but what we don't seem to realize is that we are weakening the church. We use all sorts of media platforms including social media and available means to write and pull down each other even to the extent of destroying each other. Looking at all these, I wonder, if we don't read Bible anymore...With all these, we don't have the strength to face the challenges that are coming against the church. The church is getting weaker every day")

Senator and retired General Ike Nwachukwu (said "It's high time we wake up to our responsibility as a church and embrace love for one another. People are more concerned about building structures and forget about evangelizing. If all Christians fail to pay heed to the call, we will soon lose our identity as Christians in the country. We need to remember that God is one and we can influence our brothers from other denominations to worship with us by our character and attitude")

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201711230273.html>

**Friday November 24, 2017**



### **India: Gujarat state**

Archbishop Thomas Ignatius Macwan (**UPDATE**: issued a letter to various communities regarding the upcoming elections: "The forthcoming legislative elections in the state of Gujarat will affect the future of our country. We are aware that the secular and democratic fabric of our country is at stake, where human rights are violated and constitutional rights trampled. There are episodes in which churches are attacked, ecclesiastical staff, faithful or institutions are affected. There is growing sense of insecurity among minorities. Nationalist forces are about to conquer the country. The election results of the State Assembly of Gujarat can make a difference...The Bishops of the State of Gujarat invite you to organize prayer liturgies in your parishes and convents, hoping that the people who are elected will remain faithful to our Indian constitution and respect every human being without any discrimination")

### **India: Jharkhand state**

Fr Nicholas Barla SVD (said that an animist religious group's threat to protest Christmas celebrations was fostered by the ruling Hindu BJP party in an attempt to divide the tribal vote in upcoming elections)

Nabore Ekka (said that the BJP opposed Christian support of tribal people who had seen their land seized)



Gladson Dungdung (**UPDATE:** said that the Hindu BJP party has succeeded in dividing the tribal electorate into two factions)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/63289->

[ASIA INDIA The Bishops of Gujarat In the elections the secular and democratic fabric of our Country is at stake#.Whg5nFWnGM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/63289-ASIA_INDIA_The_Bishops_of_Gujarat_In_the_elections_the_secular_and_democratic_fabric_of_our_Country_is_at_stake#.Whg5nFWnGM8)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/indias-indigenous-people-threaten-to-protest-against-christmas/80884>



### **Pakistan: Lahore**

Nadeem Samson (aged 44, brother of Michael Javed, mentally ill, arrested on blasphemy charges, tortured)

Michael Javed (brother of Nadeem Samson, in hiding with his family)

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6735>



### **Kyrgyzstan: Barskoon**

Ulam Kaliyev (aged 48, convert, **died of kidney failure**, the previous day, burial in the local state-owned cemetery denied by local Muslims, Christians present at the family home were threatened, buried the following day in a Christian cemetery 35 miles away)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2349](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2349)



### **Iran: Tehran**

Naser Navar Gol-Tapeh (aged 46, convert, arrested on **June 24, 2016**; sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in Tehran on **June 22, 2017**; **UPDATE:** appeal reported to have been denied)

Bahram Nasibov Alkan Oglu (aged 38, Azeri citizen, husband, father, detained in a **June 24, 2016** police raid on a Tehran engagement party; released on bail on **October 29, 2016**; left the country on **November 6, 2016**; sentenced *in absentia* on **June 22, 2017** to 10 years' imprisonment; **UPDATE:** appeal denied)

Eldar Gurbanov (aged 49, Azeri citizen, husband, father, same account)

Yusif Farhadov Talt Oglu (aged 53, Azeri citizen, husband, father, same account)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/11/iran-christian-convert-loses-appeal-10-year-sentence-missionary-activities/>



**Egypt: Alexandria**

Pope Tawadros II aka Wagih Sobhy Baqi Suleiman (**UPDATE**: condemned an attack by Islamic terrorists on a Sufi mosque in the Sinai that killed 305, ordered the cathedral to play sad music on its bells)

**Egypt: Assiut**

Mariam Fahmy (aged 19, reported to have disappeared after calling her husband and stating she would be home in 10 minutes)

**Egypt: Ismailia**

Bishop Serafim (condemned an attack by Islamic terrorists on a Sufi mosque in the Sinai that killed 305)

**Egypt: Minya**

Bishop Makarios (**UPDATE**: condemned an attack by Islamic terrorists on a Sufi mosque in the Sinai that killed 305, cancelled an ordination of new priests, and ordered all churches to play sad music on their bells)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=2033&A=33129>

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=2034&A=33148>

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=2034&A=33150>

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=2034&A=33151>



**Turkey: Malatya**

Pastor Tim Stone (U.S. citizen; **UPDATE**: church stained glass window broken, posted a sign near the window that read “‘Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.’ – Jesus Christ”, said “This is a chance for our church to live out our faith, to respond with love and forgiveness. This is how we act on Jesus’ words, not just say them”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/11/turkish-protestant-church-vandalised-second-time-malatya/>



### **Nigeria: Ore town, Odigbo local government area, Ondo state**

Pastor Oluwafemi Komolafe (father of Timileyin Komolafe, **shot dead** in a roadside ambush)

Timileyin Komolafe (son of Pastor Oluwafemi Komolafe, abducted with two others, all later freed in a police raid)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/12/occult-groups-nigeria-kill-kidnap-christians>



### **Norway: Skien**

Dr Katarzyna Jachimowicz (Polish citizen, fired from her job in **Sauherad** in **2016** after refusing to implant IUDs; **UPDATE**: an appellate court ruled her termination was illegal, said "God won")

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/god-won-doctor-fired-for-pro-life-stance-wins-major-court-case-in-norway>

**Saturday November 25, 2017**



### **India**

Fr Cedric Prakash SJ (**UPDATE**: wrote "...the citizens of India have much to be concerned about!...the Election Commission of India [ECI], an independent Constitutional body, delays announcing the dates of the Assembly Elections in Gujarat for no explicable reason. Several cases and complaints of how the Electronic Voting Machines [EVMs] can easily be tampered with to benefit the ruling party are not looked into with the urgency and importance they deserve...Justice A.P. Shah, the former head of the Law Commission has called for an investigation into the mysterious death of CBI Special Judge B. H. Loya in December 2014. Loya was the presiding Judge of the high-profile Sohrabuddin Sheikh encounter killing case, in which the prime accused was Amit Shah the President of the BJP [the Hindu nationalist political party]. The Judge, who succeeded Loya, discharged Amit Shah...Several media persons, who have stood up for justice and truth, like Gauri Lankesh have been killed... As seen in the utterances of BJP functionaries like [governor] Yogi and others from the [Hindu supremacist umbrella organization] Sangh Parivar there are sufficient indicators today pointing towards the possibility of a change of some of the key elements of the Constitution. As long as the ruling political dispensation does not have the required numbers in Parliament, then the

country is indeed safe. However, given the political machinations, the manipulations and corruption in high places anything can happen in the run-up to 2019..."

<http://mattersindia.com/2017/11/constitutional-concerns/>



### **Pakistan: Islamabad**

#### **Nationwide rioting has been reported over a proposed change to the oath of office for elected officials that has been construed as blasphemy**

Mehwish Bhatti (British Pakistani Christian Association officer, wrote "The outrageous violence on our streets is typical of the increasingly radical Muslim majority. A minor change of words on an electoral candidate form has led to the calling for our Minister for Law to be declared a blasphemer. This is a predictable exaggeration of slightly altered words that for all intents and purposes hold to the exact same assertions...The protestors are smashing buildings and vehicles, they have caused huge transport delays and people are extremely frightened about what will happen next. Christians and Ahmadiyyah's are most at threat, we are already hated but through no fault of our own the animosity towards us has become more animated...Christian and Ahmadiyyah communities are gearing up for an imminent attack but it was not our communities that requested the change to the form")

### **Pakistan: Kalar Kahar**

Leighton Medley (British citizen, husband of Pana Medley, British Pakistani Christian Association officer, wrote "I am stranded at a service station in Kalar Kahar. I have been left here for 24 hours after our bus could no longer journey on to Islamabad. There is an evening curfew that has been placed across many cities in the country imposed by the military here too but it fills me with little confidence for my safety. To me it seems as Pakistani Authorities took too late in getting themselves in order and allowed this debacle to ensue...Its frightening, I stand out a mile off with my pale skin and protestors have been heard shouting anti-western and anti-minority slogans. Our return flights are on Thursday and for now we cannot even find a way back to Lahore...It's hard to fathom why these protest are so violent or even why they are so well supported. The Law Minister has admitted a clerical error and the Election Bill 2017 changes that caused offence have now been resolved. This reaction simply does not make sense and the riots illustrate to the world just how intolerant Pakistani Muslims have become")

Pana Medley (wife of Leighton Medley, stranded)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/11/iran-christian-convert-loses-appeal-10-year-sentence-missionary-activities/>



## Iran

Abdol-Ali Pourmand (aged 38, convert, arrested in [Dezful, Khuzestan province](#) on [October 19, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: released on bail of US\$60,000)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3805>

**Sunday November 26, 2017**



## India: Gujarat state

Archbishop Thomas Ignatius Macwan (issued a letter on [November 24, 2017](#) to various communities regarding the upcoming elections: "The forthcoming legislative elections in the state of Gujarat will affect the future of our country. We are aware that the secular and democratic fabric of our country is at stake, where human rights are violated and constitutional rights trampled. There are episodes in which churches are attacked, ecclesiastical staff, faithful or institutions are affected. There is growing sense of insecurity among minorities. Nationalist forces are about to conquer the country. The election results of the State Assembly of Gujarat can make a difference...The Bishops of the State of Gujarat invite you to organize prayer liturgies in your parishes and convents, hoping that the people who are elected will remain faithful to our Indian constitution and respect every human being without any discrimination"; **UPDATE**: accused of generating "fear" in his letter, accused of violating the Model Code of Conduct in a complaint filed with the state Election Commission)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Gujarat-Election-Commission-accuses-archbishop-of-generating-%E2%80%9Cfear%E2%80%9D-42433.html>



## Nigeria: Bangai village, Bachi district, Riyom local government area, Plateau state

Pastor Victor Kanayo (husband of Gloria, father of Goodness, **murdered** in his home while he slept by a cultic group)

Gloria Kanayo (wife of Pastor Victor Kanayo, mother of Goodness, seriously wounded)

Goodness (aged 10 months, child of Gloria Pastor Victor Kanayo, seriously wounded)

## Nigeria: Offin, Igbogbo, outside Ikorodu, Lagos state

Pastor Victor Kanayo (**murdered** in his home by a cultic group)

<http://www.persecution.org/2017/11/27/pastor-murdered-in-his-home-in-lagos-by-cultist-group/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/12/nigeria-northern-christian-leaders-claim-government-lacks-political-will-to-stop-fulani-herdsmens-impunity/>  
<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/12/occult-groups-nigeria-kill-kidnap-christians>

**Monday November 27, 2017**



### **Bangladesh: Bonpara**

Fr Walter William Rozario (aged 41, assistant pastor, secondary school headmaster, brother of Premol Rozario, disappeared, ransom demanded)

Fr Subroto Purification (pastor, later said "He went to the Bonpara church. He then went to the market for some publications and other duties for the parish, but he did not come back and his phone has been turned off. We are very worried for him. We are praying for his return in good conditions. Now I am at the police station for help. We want my assistant back as soon as possible. They want 300,000 Taka [more than US\$3,600] for his release. We're collaborating with the police")

Premol Rozario (brother of Fr Walter William Rozario, said "When we heard the news of my brother's disappearance we visited all hospitals and many other places, but we did not find him. We can't sleep from all the worry")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/As-priest-goes-missing-in-Bonpara,-fear-grows-among-Catholics-on-the-eve-of-papal-visit-42455.html>



### **India**

#### **Christians spoke on their government's failure to invite Pope Francis to visit**

Cardinal Baselios Cleemis Thottunkal (**UPDATE**)

Cardinal George Allencherry

Johana Xalxo (aged 52, school principal, said a new generation had grown up since the last papal visit)

Fr Nicholas Barla SVD (**UPDATE**: said that a papal visit would have helped Christians and Muslims who face persecution)

Peter Lobo (aged 59, retired police officer, said that the government failed to invite the Pope "to keep the Hindu nationalists in good humor")

M D Lawrence (college principal, said the government lost a great opportunity since the Pope was loved by people of other faiths)

Shaji George (said "The government and BJP [the Hindu nationalist party] simply lost a chance to express solidarity with a globally accepted spiritual leader and his efforts for world peace")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-catholics-feel-left-out-as-pope-francis-visits-myanmar/80899>

**Tuesday November 28, 2017**



## **India**

Auxiliary Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas SFX (**UPDATE:** said "It was with a heavy heart, we received the news that the Holy See cannot visit India. A Holy Visit would have been a prestige for the whole country in the eyes of the world. The Pope is visiting two smaller countries and not India: as an Indian, it hurts...In this climate of vigilantism and murderous lynchings, the Pope would have come as a Messenger of Peace, bringing a salve to the people who are powerless in the face of the forces of hate and evil, we are really disappointed that the Pope Francis will not visit India. The Prime Minister and Foreign Minister have never said 'no' to a papal visit, only that they are always considering it. I am hopeful the Holy See can visit us soon as we are in continuous talks with the government. A papal visit would be a pride for India and all Indians")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/63302-ASIA\\_INDIA\\_The\\_Pope\\_will\\_not\\_visit\\_India\\_Catholic\\_community\\_disappointed#.Wh1ow1WnGM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/63302-ASIA_INDIA_The_Pope_will_not_visit_India_Catholic_community_disappointed#.Wh1ow1WnGM8)



## **Pakistan: Faisalabad, Punjab province**

Sicilia Myra (aged 6, daughter of Waris Masih, shot by a Muslim after her father was unable to repay a debt, hospitalized, **died**)

Waris Masih (husband of Reena, father of Sicilia Myra, Saira and Naira, shot at during an attempted murder over an unpaid debt)

Reena Masih (aged 26, wife of Waris Masih, mother of Sicilia Myra, Reena, Saira and Naira, said "I wish I had died, not my daughter. I was with Reena, who asked me to take her to the toilet when the shooting suddenly began...My lovely, bright intelligent daughter was

taken away from me by a cruel and brutal man. She was the eldest sibling for my younger children and such a good example to them. She was so excited by the birth of Naira, my youngest daughter, and loved to dress her up. She said Naira was her living doll, but now she will not see her sister grow up...Her sister Saira keeps asking me where Myra is. I have told her that Myra is playing with the angels in heaven—this gave her some solace. She has been traumatized by the murder of her sister...I cannot express the pain I feel. I am deeply depressed and find it hard to carry on. I feel as if I have failed my daughter. It is my responsibility to my remaining children and my husband that keeps me going and the knowledge that God is now caring for my daughter in heaven, where one day I will see her again and ask her to forgive me. I will cry and mourn my daughter every day till the day I am reunited - she will never be forgotten”)

Saira (aged 3, sister of Sicilia Myra)

Naira (baby sister of Sicilia Myra)

<https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/6-year-old-pakistani-christian-girl-shot-dead-over-financial-issue/>

<https://www.charismanews.com/world/68521-6-year-old-christian-girl-shot-to-death-over-father-s-debts>



### **Tajikistan: Dushanbe**

Daniil Islamov (aged 18, conscientious objector, forcibly conscripted in [April 2017](#) despite serious health issues; sentenced in [Qurghonteppa, Khatlon region](#) on [October 13, 2017](#) to six months' imprisonment; **UPDATE:** Supreme Court sent his case back to court due to 'mistakes in the decision' but did not cite those mistakes)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2337](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2337)



### **United Kingdom**

Tim Farron (Member of Parliament, resigned as leader of the Liberal Democrats on [June 14, 2017](#); **UPDATE:** said "...What appears now to be happening is that while the absence of faith is still thought to be the neutral position, holding a faith is only considered to be tolerably eccentric if it is merely cultural. But if your faith actually affects your world view in any way that puts it at odds with the mainstream, then your faith is considered to be malign and intolerable...If you actively hold a faith that is more than an expression of cultural identity, a faith that forms the center of your world view, you are deemed to be far worse than eccentric. You are dangerous. You are offensive...So, if we relegate Christianity then we hollow out liberalism. Liberalism has eaten itself because it has eaten the very world view [Christianity] that gave birth to it...")



<https://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/in-the-news/2037/11/28/what-kind-of-liberal-society-do-we-want-theos-annual-lecture-2017-full-text>



### **United States - District of Columbia**

Ed McFadden (archdiocesan secretary for communications, explained the lawsuit against the district for its refusal to allow religious bus ads “Really the issue here isn’t so much our specific ad, or how we present it. It’s shutting down our ability to promote our faith or to share our faith in the public square, that is really what we’re talking about here. [It removes] any respectable promotion of faith in the public square. We believe that that’s just a violation of our First Amendment rights”)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/what-are-banned-from-dc-buses-catholic-christmas-ads-85556>

**Wednesday November 29, 2017**



### **India: Begusarai, Bihar state**

Pastor Ajay Kumar (husband, father of a 3 year old daughter, beaten by a Bajrang Dal [the RSS paramilitary youth wing] mob on [March 17, 2017](#), kicked in the face, ear, and abdomen, arrested on offending religious sensibilities charges, released, suffered pain from internal injuries including his ear, released; taken into custody on [November 2, 2017](#) despite police having no evidence to support the accusation, denied bail despite another judge previously ruling that bail was appropriate; **UPDATE**: released on bail, said “Tensions in jail were heated during the first 10 days as the inmates got to know we were charged with defiling worship places of Hindus. We suffered there, too. They tortured us. In the middle of the night at around 12 a.m., we woke up and prayed till 3:30 a.m., we meditated on the chapters in Revelation and Psalms. We devoted our time for prayer and worship...Amazingly, after 10 days of observing us pray and meditate, they understood that we are framed in a false case...God moved their hearts – when we bowed down to pray, the inmates would break down wailing and crying. They confessed they are sinners and came to Christ. God has done wonderful works inside the prison. We were 42 members in our ward, and over 30 of them came to Christ”)

Assaryav (Bible college student; **UPDATE**: aside from injuries same account as for Pastor Ajay Kumar)

Devesh Lal (coordinator of the Bihar Christian Leaders Fellowship, said “It has become a new trend of violence, where assailants approach the Christians unarmed but with a plan, frame them in false charges and put them behind the bars,” he said. “The apprehension and fear of threats and communal disturbances is very much there in the church and Christians”)

Senior Pastor Bob Raj (said of such attacks “They don’t appear as one of great physical injury, and there is not vandalizing or destruction of structures or material, and all the assailants are very young, aged below 25. In most of the cases, they are unarmed and their main motive is to create that psychosis of fear in the hearts of Christians. If we quantify the loss these false charges have led to in terms of money, it can be put as a huge sum, but the mental agony an accused Christian goes through cannot be quantified”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/12/christians-india-strive-overcome-typical-entrapment-scheme/>



### **Pakistan: Islamabad**

Elisha (aged 12, daughter of Iqbal Masih, abducted and forced into an Islamic marriage)

Iqbal Masih (father of Elisha, said after her abduction “In order to stop us from going to seek legal assistance in this matter, Ismail’s family got my wife and I locked up in the local police station for a day after filing false charges, which is why since November I am now living with my relatives and leading life in hiding”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/02/pakistani-christian-says-12-year-old-daughter-was-abducted-forced-to-convert-to-islam-and-marry/>



### **Tajikistan**

Pastor Bakhrom Kholmatov (arrested in [Khujand](#) on [April 10, 2017](#) by the NSC secret police on charges of 'extremism', condition unknown; reported on [July 14, 2017](#) to have been sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment for 'singing extremist songs in church and so inciting religious hatred', friends and family threatened with arrest if they disclose details of the trial; **UPDATE**: has decided to not appeal)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2337](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2337)



**Nigeria: Rakung village, Ropp district, Riyom local government area, Plateau state**

John Danladi (farmer, attacked by armed Fulani Muslim herdsmen while harvesting, beaten into a coma, hospitalized, regained consciousness)

**Nigeria: Kano state**

Rev Murtala Marti Dangora (**UPDATE:** said "These attacks are being instigated and supported by the agents of the Muslim-controlled Kano state government to force indigenous Hausa Christians, who we are, to embrace Islam. Our refusal to do their biddings is what has made them adopt this strategy of kidnappings and attacks in order to force our people to tow their line. This is a jihad against the church of Jesus Christ")

**Nigeria: Tudun Wada local government area, Kano state**

Haruna Samaila (threatened by phone with death, said "They threatened that unless I pay them 3 million naira [US\$8,253], I will be killed. I reported the threats to our church leaders, and they asked me to report the matter to police. When I did so, I was instead arrested by the police and detained. It took the intervention of our church leaders to get me released...The government is insensitive to our plight. This is a conspiracy against us Christians in Kano. Those in authority and government know those armed Muslims carrying out these attacks against us, and that is the reason they are not concerned about our plight")

Rev Ayuba Hassan (said "Christians here are being persecuted for refusing to embrace Islam. We are constantly under attack. We are not allowed to freely worship as Christians. These kidnappings are aimed at forcing us to recant or make us run away from here so that they can take over our lands and expand Islam's frontiers")

<https://morningstarnews.org/2017/11/kidnappings-threats-massacre-terrorize-christians-kano-state-nigeria/>

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/12/nigeria-northern-christian-leaders-claim-government-lacks-political-will-to-stop-fulani-herdsmens-impunity/>

**Thursday November 30, 2017**



**Belarus: Bilevo**

Fr Klemens Werth SJ (Russian citizen, denied government permission to practice his ministry in Vitebsk on [November 23, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** denied again, has been building a new church)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2387](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2387)



## **Egypt**

Badawy Makram (on trial with Muslim Brotherhood members for attacking public property, said his name was added to the defendants by a corrupt policeman)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=2037&A=33198>



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

Rev Yakubu Pam (**UPDATE:** spoke in response to a Fulani Muslim attack on a mining site where the miners were predominantly Christian, four were killed)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/12/nigeria-northern-christian-leaders-claim-government-lacks-political-will-to-stop-fulani-herdsmens-impunity/>

**November 2017, date unknown**



## **Iran**

Fatemeh "Mary" Mohammadi (aged 18, convert, arrested while attending an underground house church)

<https://articleeighteen.com/news/4242/>



## **Iraq**

Mawj (aged 40, husband, father of two, life savings completely depleted by tribal claims made over a vehicular accident in which he was not at fault and no major injury resulted)

<http://www.persecution.org/2018/03/14/iraqs-tribes-christians-dangerous-solitude-rights-erased/>

## **Today's Martyrs**

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

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