

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – October 2018

Monday October 1, 2018



Myanmar: Shan state

Churches continued to be closed by the Chinese backed United Wa State Army, 92 church leaders and 42 Christian students were detained

Tat Jack (reported to have said “My uncle is a preacher. He lives at a village nearby the Wa rebel base, Panghsang city. He and his son were detained in early September. But we are not allowed to visit them. We also heard that many members of the Christian community there are detained”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/10/rebels-in-burma-detain-more-than-90-christian-leaders-shut-down-more-churches/>



United Kingdom: Stoke-on-Trent, England

Avan Najmadiein (aged 32, convert, mother of four, **stabbed to death** by her estranged husband for having converted, for seeking another relationship, and for refusing to help him apply for asylum, the husband had been deported for a sex crime against a minor and had illegally re-entered the country)

United Kingdom

Bishop Gavin Ashenden (**UPDATE**: Twitter account reported to have been suspended after citing a study purporting that most of the sexual abuse scandal in the Catholic church was due to homosexuality and not pedophilia, immediately restored after he deleted the tweet)

<http://archbishopcranmer.com/bishop-blocked-twitter-truth-sex-abuse-catholic-church/>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-stoke-staffordshire-47819363>



Canada: Toronto

Blaise Alleyne (assaulted by pro-abortion demonstrators)

Katie Somers (assaulted by pro-abortion demonstrators)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/video-second-toronto-pro-abortion-activist-assaults-pro-life-demonstrators>

Tuesday October 2, 2018



Philippines

Sr Susan Bolanio OND (**UPDATE:** wrote to authorities to request an investigation into a social media post that called her and two tribal leaders of being Communists for being a "malicious and vile design to put her life in danger, especially as Mindanao is under martial law...To be linked to a terrorist communist group is to condemn a person as all-out anti-government...The mere suggestion of affiliation to a terrorist communist group poses a serious threat to the lives, dignity and security of the persons singled out")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/filipino-catholic-nun-tagged-as-communist-fears-for-life/83511>



Indonesia: Sumatra

Rev Ojahan Tampubolon (spoke after local officials ordered churches to relocate or merge "We haven't decided yet. We need to discuss it first. Let's say we do this, it will last only a month")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/sumatra-churches-forced-to-close/83532>



India: Dhaligaon village, Bongaigaon district, Assam state

Three Christians in an automobile were assaulted after leaving the home of a fellow Christian, the home was later surrounded and the occupants threatened

Sahen Narzary (assaulted)

Lohen Narzary (assaulted)

Fabian Narzary (assaulted)

Mahindra Brahma (convert, threatened in his home along with his family)

Enash Basumatary (described the attack)

India: Sarvanampatty area, Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu state

Pastor Kalai Selvan (church meeting disrupted by police, said “He told us that he came from the commissioner’s officer to conduct enquiry. He clicked photographs of the congregation, structures and also the sign board with the prayer center’s name. Within 30 minutes, the landlord of the building received a call from the police station questioning why he had rented the place for Christian worship”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/10/police-attack-threaten-christians-in-tamil-nadu-state-india/>
<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/11/oubreak-of-violence-against-christians-in-assam-india-sparks-concern/>



Egypt: Abu-Hashem village, Beni-Sweef province

Simon Mahros (aged 17, disappeared while on her way to school)

<https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2018/10/08/from-egypt-a-list-of-recently-reported-assaults-on-coptic-christians/>



United States – Oklahoma: Norman

Prof Brian McCall (resigned as Dean of the University of Oklahoma School of Law under pressure due to having advocated a return to traditional Christian norms of modest dress for women in a 2014 book)

<https://kfor.com/2018/10/02/university-of-oklahoma-college-of-law-associate-dean-resigns/>

Wednesday October 3, 2018



Nepal: Gulmi

Dilip Bhadur Gurung (police constable, arrested for talking about Christianity at a public religious gathering, will likely be denied a promotion for 5 years)

Pastor B P Khanal (**UPDATE**: said of the arrest of Dilip Bhadur Gurung: “It is a kind of injustice – if he was talking about Hinduism or Buddhism, he would not have faced any problem. Taking the name of Jesus is risky in public-speaking; it is an offense against the law. People are biased and are looking for an opportunity to arrest Christians...Nepal law discriminates between Sanatan and others. Freedom of religion or belief is to be ensured for all, but the new criminal code ensures the freedom only of Sanatan Dharma, ‘the eternal tradition,’ or the ‘eternal way’ Hindu majority. By its language and meaning, it doesn’t tolerate religious activities of minorities except the Sanatan. Practicing, teaching and doing good [acts of welfare] by ‘others’ are criminalized”

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/10/policeman-punished-for-talking-about-christ-at-public-religious-meeting-in-nepal/>



Nigeria: Ariri village, Plateau state

Nineteen Christians were killed and three wounded by Fulani Muslim gunmen

Samuel Wah (aged 45, widower of Laraba Samuel, father of Reizeh, Wah, Jummai, and Wei, brother of Monday Wah, shot in the back, said “I moved to the door of my living room and then opened it, only to find a Fulani man standing and aiming the gun towards where I was standing. He shot me...After shooting me, the Fulani man then shot my wife and children. All of them were killed. They must have thought that I was dead too, and so moved out of my house”, hospitalized)

Laraba Samuel (aged 39, wife of Samuel Wah, father of Reizeh, Wah, Jummai, and Wei, **shot dead**)

Reizeh (aged 13, daughter of Samuel Wah and Laraba Samuel, **shot dead**)

Wah (aged 10, son of Samuel Wah and Laraba Samuel, **shot dead**)

Jummai (aged 7, daughter of Samuel Wah and Laraba Samuel, **shot dead**)

Wei (aged 5, son of Samuel Wah and Laraba Samuel, **shot dead**)

Monday Wah (aged 60, husband of Abigail Monday Wah, father of Alaska Monday Wah, Talatu Monday Wah, Peter Monday Wah, and Ezekiel Monday Wah, **shot dead**)

Abigail Monday Wah (aged 40, wife of Monday Wah, mother of Alaska Monday Wah, Talatu Monday Wah, Peter Monday Wah, and Ezekiel Monday Wah, **shot dead**)

Alaska Monday Wah (aged 8, child of Abigail and Monday Wah, **shot dead**)

Talatu Monday Wah (aged 6, child of Abigail and Monday Wah, **shot dead**)

Peter Monday Wah (aged 4, son of Abigail and Monday Wah, **shot dead**)

Ezekiel Monday Wah (aged 2, son of Abigail and Monday Wah, **shot dead**)

Mali Wah (aged 40, husband of Jummai Mali Wah, relative of Samuel Wah, **killed**)

Jummai Mali Wah (aged 30, wife of Mali Wah, **killed**)

Joseph Ahmadu (aged 42, church elder, son of Mary and Ahmadu Angah, grandson of Asabe Ahmadu, described the attack: “Ariri has been deserted by the few who have survived,” he said. “Many of our people have been forced to flee the village, and those of us remaining are finding it difficult to protect ourselves. I plead that the government protect us. I also want to appeal to the Fulani herdsmen to please end their unnecessary attacks on us, as we have done them no wrong...We pray our Lord Jesus Christ forgive our attackers and give them repentant hearts”)

Ahmadu Angah (aged 95, husband of Mary Ahmadu, grandfather of Bulus Danladi, Gado Danladi, Lami Monday and John Kurak, **killed**)

Mary Ahmadu (aged 70, widow of Ahmadu Angah, grandmother of Bulus Danladi, Gado Danladi, Lami Monday and John Kurak, wounded)

Bulus Danladi (aged 8, grandchild of Mary and Ahmadu Angah, **shot dead**)

Gado Danladi (aged 7, grandchild of Mary and Ahmadu Angah, **shot dead**)

Lami Monday (aged 5, grandchild of Mary and Ahmadu Angah, **shot dead**)

John Kurah (aged 7, grandson of Mary and Ahmadu Angah, **shot dead**)

Asabe Ahmadu (aged 80, mother of Azumi Oscar, grandmother of Joseph Ahmadu, escaped unharmed)

Azumi Oscar (aged 30, daughter of Asabe Ahmadu, shot, hospitalized)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/12/for-survivor-of-attack-on-christians-in-nigeria-a-lonely-christmas/>

Thursday October 4, 2018



Cameroon: Santa Teresa of Bamessing village, near Ndop, Ngo-Ketunjia department

Gerard Anjiangwe (aged 19, seminarian, only child of Stephen Akiata and Comfort Akiata, **shot dead** by soldiers inside a church while praying the rosary in prostration)

Stephen Akiata (husband of Comfort Akiata, father of Gerard Anjiangwe)

Comfort Akiata (wife of Stephen Akiata, mother of Gerard Anjiangwe)

Archbishop Cornelius Fontem Esua (issued a statement on the murder of seminarian Gerard Anjiangwe: “[While parishioners] were in front of the church, a military truck arrived from Ndop and stopped at the beginning of the road leading to the church. Some soldiers got out of the vehicle and started shooting...The military tried in vain to open the door [to

the sacristy where parishioners had taken refuge], then they approached Gerard lying on the floor and ordered him to get up, which he did hesitantly. [After interrogating him] they shot him three times in the neck and he died instantly")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/64929->

[AFRICA CAMEROON A young seminarian killed in the English speaking region](#)

Friday October 5, 2018



China: Baoding, Hebei province

Fr Liu Honggeng Liu (aged 47, detained without charge in 2006; released after August 9, 2014; arrested on May 7, 2015; **UPDATE:** whereabouts still unknown, family has asked why the recent China-Vatican concordant did not specify the release of current Catholic prisoners)

Bishop James Su Zhimin (aged 86, disappeared while in police custody in 1997; family told on or before August 29, 2015 that he was being held as a bargaining chip with the Vatican; **UPDATE:** whereabouts still unknown)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/hebei-priest-still-missing-despite-china-vatican-deal/83553>



Sudan: Port Sudan

Rev Ismail Abdurahman Kenani (Bible Society director, announced that shipments of Bibles which had been held by the authorities for years had been released in August 2018, said “We came to learn that proper documents for the shipments were intentionally misplaced by one of the officers of the port authority”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/10/sudan-releases-bible-shipments-detained-in-port-years-ago/>

Saturday October 6, 2018



India: Aralvaimozhi, Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu state

Pastor P Yesudas (husband, prayer service in a private home interrupted by police, held by the neck and punched in the back and stomach, said “My wife and the believers asked her, ‘What is our fault? Why are you abusing us?’ But she came after them, and the constables who were accompanying her also started punching with their fists”)

Pastor Satyaseelan (responded to a phone call from Pastor P Yesudas, came to his aid)

India: Sarvanampatty area, Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu state

Pastor Kalai Selvan (church meeting disrupted by police on [October 2, 2018](#), said “He told us that he came from the commissioner’s officer to conduct enquiry. He clicked photographs of the congregation, structures and also the sign board with the prayer center’s name. Within 30 minutes, the landlord of the building received a call from the police station questioning why he had rented the place for Christian worship”; **UPDATE:** visited by a police officer with a noise pollution complaint, later said “I told him that only 30 to 40 of us use the hall to pray privately and do not play loud music or use microphones, and that we never caused trouble to neighbors. [Officer] Ranganathan told us the police inspector at Sarvanampatty police station wants to see me”, went to the station and was told to return with documentation proving he had permission to use the building for services)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/10/police-attack-threaten-christians-in-tamil-nadu-state-india/>

Sunday October 7, 2018



China: Guiyang, Guizhou province

Pastor Su Tianfu (**UPDATE:** stated “Multiple schools in Guiyang have asked teachers and students to sign a religious background inquiry, forcibly requesting that religious people put ‘no religion’ on the form”)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/10/christians-churches-under-scrutiny-as.html>



India: Chennai, Tamil Nadu state

Pastor John Immanuel (police disrupted a worship service, later said “Police suddenly entered the shack we had built for temporary use to gather for prayers on the site of our church building which is under construction at present. They told us that neighbors are disturbed by our singing and praying. I told them that the noise levels are always under control, and

that we have been worshipping for the past two years, and the neighbors never raised any such issues”)

India: Nevadiya village, Jaunpur district, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Ashok Rajbhar (attacked by Hindu extremists during a [September 23, 2018](#) worship service; detained by police along with his father on [September 30, 2018](#) to prevent a worship service, released; **UPDATE**: detained by police along with his father to prevent a worship service, released, church closed)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/10/police-attack-threaten-christians-in-tamil-nadu-state-india/>
<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/11/persecution-of-christians-radiates-outward-from-hub-in-northern-india-sources-say/>

Monday October 8, 2018



India: Sarvanampatty area, Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu state

Pastor Kalai Selvan (church meeting disrupted by police on [October 2, 2018](#), said “He told us that he came from the commissioner’s officer to conduct enquiry. He clicked photographs of the congregation, structures and also the sign board with the prayer center’s name. Within 30 minutes, the landlord of the building received a call from the police station questioning why he had rented the place for Christian worship”; visited by a police officer on [October 6, 2018](#) with a noise pollution complaint, later said “I told him that only 30 to 40 of us use the hall to pray privately and do not play loud music or use microphones, and that we never caused trouble to neighbors. [Officer] Ranganathan told us the police inspector at Sarvanampatty police station wants to see me”, went to the station and was told to return with documentation proving he had permission to use the building for services; **UPDATE**: said “I submitted the documents in the police station, and the inspector told me that the higher officials from the commissioner’s office had put pressure on him to conduct enquiry”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/10/police-attack-threaten-christians-in-tamil-nadu-state-india/>



Pakistan: Islamabad

Aasiya Noreen aka Asia Bibi (aged 53, wife of Ashiq Masih, mother of five including Isham, daughter of Soran Masih, convicted of blasphemy in [2009](#) and sentenced to death;

UPDATE: final appeal heard by the Supreme Court, verdict reached but reserved for future declaration)

Pakistan: Lahore

Anil Saleem (aged 27, brother of Kiran Saleem [who was killed by doctors, male nurses, and hospital security personnel on [March 26, 2018](#)]; **UPDATE:** reported that no arrests had been made in the murder of his brother, said “Moreover, the police exonerated the main accused, Dr. Saira, in the initial investigation, even though she was the one who had instigated her colleagues and the security guards to attack us in the hospital ward...We think that the police were told by the provincial government not to arrest the doctors to avoid confrontation with the YDA [Young Doctors Association, which had threatened a strike if prosecutions went ahead]...They have made several attempts to settle the case through money, offering up to 2 million rupees [US\$26,905], but I have refused to take the money. No money can heal the wound we have suffered. I have told the accused that I will not withdraw the case until all of them, including Dr. Saira, are put behind bars. How can they just absolve Dr. Saira, when it was she who had instigated the attack in the first place? The court has directed the police to re-investigate the case, but they are delaying presenting the report on one pretext or the other”)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/asia-bibi-fate-is-sealed-after-final-appeal-but-the-decision-is-reserved>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/10/six-months-after-medical-personnel-kill-christian-in-pakistan-no-arrests-brother-says/>

Tuesday October 9, 2018



Thailand: Bangkok

Seventy adult Pakistani Christian refugees and scores of children were arrested for immigration violations

Mona Sumbal (teacher, hid in a boiler room to avoid arrest, later said "I had not even woken up when I heard shouts and screams as people began to warn others to escape. Our community is protective of one another and for many the first thought was help others slip the arrest that would place them into brutal incarceration in Bangkok IDC [Immigration Detention Centre]. I heard the children I teach weeping and my heart was broken, I wanted to help but knew that if I came out of hiding I would be arrested too and the end result would be a return to Pakistan where my life is at threat. I just hunkered down closed my eyes, covered my ears and prayed to God to save me from arrest. He was my only hope. I waited an hour after all the noise had dissipated and discovered our school had been destroyed and no-one was around from the community everyone was arrested. I felt isolated and alone and broke down and wept as I fell into a deep

depression. About 20 mins later my cousin appeared she is only 18 and now from such a large community only the two of us remain free. I feel helpless and have been crying constantly this latest raid has left me in a position I have never been in before, one where I no longer have the safety and protection of my family")

Adnan Masih (aged 32, husband of Sumaira Adnan, father of two, Pakistani asylum applicant, detained in [Phuket](#) on [July 3, 2018](#) while on the way to work; **UPDATE**: still detained)

Sumaira Adnan (aged 29, wife of Adnan Masih, mother of two aged 4 and 9, Pakistani asylum applicant, as of [July 3, 2018](#) has worked as a teacher at an underground school for the children of asylum seekers; **UPDATE**: detained with her two sons, later said "In a morning I woke up to make food for my husband because he is in IDC [Immigration Detention Center] I was near the lift when I heard voices. They were all crying and screaming so I ran back to my room but then the police came and arrested all of us, took us down to the trucks and put us in IDC...My husband was very stressed inside the IDC but when I was arrested too, he became more tense and upset because we don't have any relatives or any people who can send us food or supplies that we might need. My husband is also not well because two years ago he had an accident at work so he does not walk well and now he has scars on his legs - he is in very bad condition")

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/bangkok-bail-out-of-refugees-is-slow-as-thai-police-continue-their-hardline-purge-of-pakistani->

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/in-excess-of-70-pak-christians-arrested-as-thai-authorities-raid-santi-suk-asylum-community>



India: Chennai, Tamil Nadu state

Pastor John Immanuel (police disrupted a worship service on [October 7, 2018](#), later said "Police suddenly entered the shack we had built for temporary use to gather for prayers on the site of our church building which is under construction at present. They told us that neighbors are disturbed by our singing and praying. I told them that the noise levels are always under control, and that we have been worshipping for the past two years, and the neighbors never raised any such issues"; **UPDATE**: summoned to the police station to meet with the complainant, said "Uma Mageshwari is a neighbor who has close links with RSS [paramilitaries]. About a week before police came, RSS activists had put up a pole in the church premises and attached a saffron flag to it. They refused to remove it, and we informed the police. They [RSS activists] kept watch of our coming and going every day. They still do")

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/10/police-attack-threaten-christians-in-tamil-nadu-state-india/>



Algeria: Bouira

Rachid Ouali (convert, appeared in court after his wife accused him of attempting to convert her from Islam, denied the accusation, said his wife had said she was pressured by relatives into making the accusation)

Ali Larchi (aged 67, husband, father of five, appeared in court after the wife of Rachid Ouali accused him of attempting to convert her from Islam, denied the accusation)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/10/christians-face-trial-in-algeria-over-wifes-accusations-of-evangelizing/>



Ecuador: Quito

Fr Arturo Rene Pozo Sampaz (aged 62, **found dead** in his bedroom with his hands and feet tied)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/64904-AMERICA_ECUADOR_Funeral_of_the_priest_found_dead_in_Quito_have_been_celebrated



United States – Illinois: Chicago

Fr Paul John Kalchik (sexual abuse victim, GoFundMe account for financial support closed for unspecified violations of Terms & Conditions, the account had been opened by supporters following his suspension and eviction by Cardinal Blaise Cupich [which happened after he allowed his parishioners to burn a rainbow flag])

United States - New Jersey: Jersey City

Joan Simon (fired from her Catholic school after circulating a letter written by an orthodox Catholic theologian on the current sex abuse scandals)

<https://www.churchmilitant.com/news/article/gofundme-yanks-fundraising-campaign-for-fr.-paul-kalchik>

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/catholic-school-fires-teacher-after-she-handed-out-famed-evangelists-letter>

Wednesday October 10, 2018



Thailand: Bangkok

Iqbal (alias, Pakistani refugee, bail for immigration violations cancelled, told to report with his brother to the detention center, said "I don't know how long they will keep us there...People are being persecuted back home and now we are being persecuted here too. It's time [people in] the world woke up about what's happening")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/pakistani-catholic-refugees-in-thailand-plead-for-vatican-help/83642>



Myanmar: Kyaing Tong, Shan State

Rev Lazarus (reported that about 100 Christians had been released by the United Wa State Army after signing statements pledging to worship only at home, 92 pastors were still detained, said "Christians will face more restrictions and be closely monitored by the United Wa State Army, so the situation is worrisome")

Myanmar: Shan state

Rev Thang Cin Lian (reported to have said "We are praying for the Christians in the Wa Hills")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/christians-forced-to-sign-pledge-curbing-faith-in-myanmar-region/83588>



Syria: Hasakah

Souleman Yusph (journalist, disappeared in [Qamishli](#) on [September 30, 2018](#), believed to have been detained by the Asayish [the Kurdish security and intelligence service], had extensively reported on Kurdish closure of Christian schools; **UPDATE**: reported to have been released, in seclusion at home)

Archbishop Jacques Behnan Hindo (**UPDATE**: spoke on the release of Souleman Yusph: "It is understandable that he wants to keep a low profile, but I want to continue to speak out against the discriminatory campaign by Kurds against Christians in the north-eastern Syria. He was arrested simply for telling the truth, for denouncing the abuses...more targeted attacks and violent incident cannot be excluded. We can expect anything from the Kurdish authorities. They do not understand that they are pawns in the hands of the West and are used for political purposes", added information about an upcoming meeting he will have with a Kurdish delegation: "it will be a tense meeting...They know that I am against their way of doing and governing the region. The major problem is not the Syrian Kurds, but those who come from Turkey and Iraqi Kurdistan who want to annex ancient Mesopotamia to their territory")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mgr-Hindo:-Despite-Christian-journalist's-release,-fears-of-more-Kurdish-abuses-remain-45173.html>



Kenya: Mandera East

Suspected al-Shabaab militants attacked a school, killing 2 Christians and severely wounding three others

Johnstone Okumu (teacher, **killed**)

Simon Wekesa (teacher, **killed**)

Martin Kamutu (teacher, said “It is painful to lose our colleagues through such a heinous act of cowardice. Our hearts bleed because even after dedicating our time and professionalism in serving this community, they still hate Christians”)

Rev John (said “This is another bad example of what religion can do. We are losing Christians at a very high rate in Mandera. Last month we lost five to terrorism and now again we have lost two teachers. We ask the international community and human rights groups to get involved in northern Kenya”)

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/10/11/two-christian-teachers-murdered-northeastern-kenya/>



United Kingdom: London

Daniel McArthur (husband of Amy McArthur, owner of a bakery in **Belfast** convicted on **May 18, 2015** of discrimination for refusing to provide a cake with a pro-same sex marriage message, fined US\$786; **UPDATE**: conviction overturned by the Supreme Court, said “I want to start by thanking God. He has been with us during the challenges of the last four years. Through the Bible and the support of Christians, He has comforted us and sustained us. He is our rock and all His ways are just... We're delighted and relieved at today's ruling. We always knew we hadn't done anything wrong in turning down this order. After more than four years, the Supreme Court has now recognized that and we're very grateful. Grateful to the judges and especially grateful to God... We're particularly pleased the Supreme Court emphatically accepted what we've said all along – we did not turn down this order because of the person who made it, but because of the message itself... The judges have given a clear signal today. In fact, it couldn't be clearer. 'Family businesses like ours are free to focus on giving all their customers the best service they can – without being forced to promote other people's campaigns.'”)

Amy McArthur (**UPDATE**: conviction overturned)

<https://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/equality/victory-for-freedom-of-expression-bakers-win-supreme-court-case>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V68fvVrbNeg>

Thursday October 11, 2018



Norway: Oslo

Dr Katarzyna Jachimowicz (Polish citizen, fired from her job in [Sauherad](#) in 2016 after refusing to implant IUDs; an appellate court in [Skien](#) ruled on [November 24, 2017](#) that her termination was illegal; **UPDATE:** appeal upheld by the Supreme Court, attorney stated “Today’s Supreme Court decision marks an important step in the right direction, not only for doctors, but for people of faith in all professions. The ruling protects one of the most fundamental rights, the right to act in accordance with one’s deeply held beliefs. She vowed to protect life, and objected to having any part in taking it. The Court established today that she had every right to do so”)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/doctor-wins-landmark-pro-life-conscience-rights-case-in-norway>



Mexico: Tijuana, Baja California

Fr Icaro Arturo Orta (disappeared)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/64918-AMERICA_MEXICO_Lifeless_body_of_the_parish_priest_who_died_three_days_ago_has_been_found

Friday October 12, 2018



China: Jiangmen, Guangdong province

Pastor Li Wanhua (**UPDATE**: interrogated by national security agents for almost 2 hours, passport confiscated, released)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/10/officials-question-pastor-on-church.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/10/more-than-20-christians-detained-for.html>



Myanmar: Wa Hills

Two priests, three nuns, and three lay teachers were expelled by the breakaway and Chinese supported United Wa State Army, churches seized

Fr Raymond Than SDB (said "We are not problem-makers...We will continue to provide food and school expenses of the students")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/china-backed-militia-expels-more-clergy-in-northern-myanmar/83645>



Turkey: Izmir

Pastor Andrew Brunson (U.S. citizen, husband of Norine Brunson, detained as a 'national security risk' in **Izmir** on **October 7, 2016**, denied access to U.S. diplomats, attorneys, and fellow parishioners, told he would be deported; confirmed to be a hostage at a **September 28, 2017** press conference by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the President explicitly called for the U.S. government to exchange him for Sufi cleric and U.S. resident Fethullah Gulen; prosecutors said on **March 13, 2018** that they would seek life imprisonment; denied bail on **July 18, 2018**; a court ruled on July 25, 2018 that he is to be released from jail and placed under house arrest, banned him from leaving the country; **UPDATE**: convicted on espionage and terrorism charges despite prosecutorial witnesses recanting their testimony, sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment, released with time served, said to the court "I am an innocent man. I love Jesus, and I love Turkey", left the country)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/10/brunson-freed-permitted-to-leave-country/>

Saturday October 13, 2018



Pakistan

Mehwish Bhatti (British Pakistani Christian Association officer; **UPDATE**: spoke on threats of violence against Christians by Islamic groups should the Supreme Court in its pending decision acquit Asia Bibi: "The on going protest in Pakistan by extremist groups with regards to Asia's possible release is a great concern for the whole Christian community in Pakistan. We all want Asia to be released and at the same time being a minority we want assurance of peace and security. I implore the Government of Pakistan to induce special measures to protect Christians in Pakistan. The past attacks on Christians have not been forgotten many from the communities of Rimsha Masih's village [[click here to read the Today's Martyr's biography of Rimsha Masih](#)], and Gojra are still homeless. Christians should not be seen as anything other than equal citizens and our quality of life should not be diminished by our choice of faith")

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/militant-islamists-blackmail-justice-for-asia-bibi-as-christian-communities-seek-protectio>



Sudan: Nyala, South Dafur

Pastor Tajdeen Yousif (convert from Islam, arrested along with 12 others by NISS secret police, beaten and tortured for days)

<https://barnabasfund.org/us/news/christian-converts-from-islam-arrested-and-tortured-in-darfur-sudan>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/65042->

[AFRICA SUDAN Torture ill treatment against Christians forced to renounce their faith](#)



Turkey: Ankara

David Byle (aged 48, Canadian-U.S. citizen, husband of Ulrike, father of five, arrested on [April 25, 2007](#); released on [April 25, 2007](#); detained along with other street evangelizers on [November 1, 2009](#), released; detained on [March 9, 2010](#) by two police officers with a deportation order; detained without charge in [Istanbul](#) on [April 6, 2016](#) for 30 days pending deportation, labelled 'a danger to public order' by the Interior Ministry; released from detention on [April 15, 2016](#), deportation still pending; deportation stopped by the Constitutional Court on [February 13, 2017](#) pending evidence justifying the deportation; **UPDATE**: arrested by anti-terrorism police, released the following day with an order to leave the country within 15 days)

[https://www.assistnews.net/evangelist-david-byle-arrested-in-](https://www.assistnews.net/evangelist-david-byle-arrested-in-turkey/?ct=t(RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN)&mc_cid=6f9eaeed9a&mc_eid=ae42b16c5d)

[turkey/?ct=t\(RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN\)&mc_cid=6f9eaeed9a&mc_eid=ae42b16c5d](#)
<https://www.persecution.org/2018/10/27/turkey-forces-another-christian-country-2/>



Mexico: Ley del Servicio Civil area, Tijuana, Baja California

Fr Icaro Arturo Orta (disappeared on [October 11, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: **found dead** with hands and feet bound and with signs of violence)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/64918-AMERICA_MEXICO_Lifeless_body_of_the_parish_priest_who_died_three_days_ago_has_been_found

Monday October 15, 2018



India: Raidangoni village, Majuli district, Assam state

Pastor Rakesh Dutta (aged 29, convert, husband, father of a 2-year old daughter, mason, church vandalized by a mob supported by local media who recorded the attack, said “They said in the video that they will come again. They said, ‘If the government does not take action of eliminating the district of the Christians and Muslims, we will do it ourselves. Those who become Christians will be thrown out of the village. All those who are already will be thrown out as well. They will be physically assaulted.’...All the villagers give their offerings in the form of grain [if they are farmers] or in whatever form they can, to the priests of the Hindu temples...Once the villagers become Christians, they stop giving their offering to the temples, and this is making the Hindu priests angry, because they lose their revenues...We have demanded the arrest of the two people who have threatened openly, even on media, and requested the police to let the others free. Even after there is enough proof to arrest the two men whose statements were broadcasted by the news channels, the police are slow to take any action...If we approach the media and tell the truth to them, they will not publish the news”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/11/oubreak-of-violence-against-christians-in-assam-india-sparks-concern/>



Egypt: Giza

Eid Attiya (owner of a building in [Waslin village, Atfieh, Giza](#) used as a church that was attacked and contents destroyed by a mob on [December 22, 2017](#); detained for four days beginning on [December 24, 2017](#); convicted of erecting a building without a license in [January 2018](#), sentenced to one year's imprisonment and fined EGP360,000, sentence suspended; **UPDATE**: sentence overturned on appeal)

<https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2018/10/15/alleged-offenders-and-victim-aquitted-in-attack-against-etfeh-church/>



Central African Republic: Kaga-Bandoro

Bishop Tadeusz Kusy (criticized UN refugee policies: "[The UN says they are encouraging people to stay in their communities] but at the same time they are building structures 3 kilometers from their houses, and they are told: 'You can stay here' therefore where is it? the truth? There is no truth in these programs", also criticized the lack of UN policing that empowered Seleka guerrillas and Sudanese and Chadian mercenaries: "I had planned a pastoral visit to that area [between Ndele and Kaga-Bandoro] in December 2017, but I managed to only do it in May 2018")

www.fides.org/en/news/64920-

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA Strong insecurity in the diocese while the UN send s contradictory messages denounces the Bishop of Kaga Bandoro](#)

Tuesday October 16, 2018



China: Guangzhou, Guangdong province

Pastor Ma Ke (church closed by authorities)

China: Guiyang, Guizhou province

Pastor Chen Xihe (commented on government imposition of a 'Christian Sinicization Center' and bookstore in his church: "The purpose of establishing the center and bookstore is to advance Christianity's Sinicization and guild religion to fit into socialist society")

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/10/guizhou-targets-three-churches-for.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/10/guangfu-church-shut-down.html>



India

Event: The Center of Policy Analysis, a RSS paramilitary think tank, issued an **October 10, 2018** report that called for the abolishment of church sponsored schools

Archbishop Thomas D'Souza (**UPDATE:** reported to have criticized the report "In effect, they are asking to change the Indian constitution...All Indians, particularly religious minorities, should be afraid about such demands")

Joseph Dias (**UPDATE:** reported to have criticized the report "Catholic institutions keep a high standard...And, a huge majority of students in them are non-Christians. So doing away with such institutions will hit the majority community more than minorities")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/church-schools-in-india-among-those-that-should-not-exist/83634>



Iran: Evin Prison, Tehran

Ebrahim Firouzi (convert, aged 36, welder, disappeared on the way to work on **March 7, 2013** in Robat-Karim, apparently arrested by plain-clothes police; reported on **May 1, 2015** to have been sentenced to five additional years' imprisonment for "action against national security through collusion and gathering", the gathering in question was a meeting where he met with friends to say goodbye before the beginning of his original prison term; **UPDATE:** has suffered from a toothache that has 'spread throughout his jaw and face', denied medical treatment, unable to eat, request for a furlough refused, mother has been unable to visit him in prison due to visual impairment and cancer)

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=4107>



Nigeria

Event UPDATE: Boko Haram announced that two Christian women in captivity would be "slaves for life" due to their refusal to convert to Islam, they also released a video of the execution of Muslim 24 year old midwife and health care student Hauwa Leman for apostasy, which they judged from her employment with the Red Cross Red Crescent

Leah Nathan Sharibu (aged 15, student, abducted by Boko Haram on **February 19, 2018**)

Alice Ngaddah (UNICEF worker)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/10/leah-sharibu-kept-as-slave-aid-worker-killed-as-apostate-in-nigeria-report-says/>



Burkina Faso

Dr Ken Elliot (aged 84, husband of Jocelyn Elliot, Australian citizen, missionary, abducted by al-Qaeda linked militants in Ouagadougou on January 15, 2016; **UPDATE**: still in captivity)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/10/1000-days-since-kidnap-of-84-year-old-doctor-in-burkina-faso-family-plea-for-freedom>



United Kingdom: Ampleforth Abbey and College

Fr Cuthbert Madden OSB (brought suit almost two years after being cleared of sex abuse charges by both civil and church authorities because he had not yet been reinstated into his former positions)

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/10/16/ampleforth-abbot-launches-legal-action-to-be-reinstated/>

Wednesday October 17, 2018



Kyrgyzstan: Tamchi village, Issyk-Kul

Eldos Sattar uuly (aged 25, convert from Islam, severely beaten in his home by three men in an attempt to force him to say the shahada, suffered a severe concussion, jaw fracture, lost teeth, eye injury, and suspected brain hemorrhage, forced by police to sign a document stating he was attacked for playing loud music before they would allow him to be transported to a hospital, later threatened with death by one of the assailants in his hospital room)

<https://barnabasfund.org/us/news/young-kyrgyz-christian-convert-fighting-for-his-life-after-severe-beating-by-muslims>

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2430

Friday October 19, 2018



Nigeria: Kaduna state

Raphael Galadima (tribal ruler, abducted along with his wife after meeting with the state governor regarding anti-Christian violence)

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/10/30/christian-traditional-ruler-nigeria-executed-despite-ransom/>

Saturday October 20, 2018



China: Sichuan province

Pastor Wang Yi (**UPDATE:** described on WeChat social media how more than 20 parishioners were detained by police for evangelizing in a public park: “The Gospel has been proclaimed. We gave out all the leaflets. Those brothers and sisters who were waiting at the police station brought more and distributed them all...We encountered another police station and got to know a group of people who believe in Christ. May the Lord’s love be with these law enforcement officers”)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/10/more-than-20-christians-detained-for.html>



India: Gadkatanga village, Jharkhand state

Pastor Amandeep Bodra (aged 34, said "...the Hindu radicals turned the church into a Sarna Bhavan [Sarna Community Hall] on October 20. They destroyed the cross on church building and erased every trace of Christian faith on the building. This included the name of the church that [was] written and Bible verses inside the church. The intention of the Hindu radicals was not about the land on which the church was built. The land belongs to a Christian who donated the it for the church building. He regularly attends the church.

The intention is clear that they do not want a church or Christians in the village. As long as the police and the government are on their side, we have been suffering silently”)

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/11/21/wave-persecution-jharkhand-state-sees-christians-targeted-multiple-fronts/>

Sunday October 21, 2018



China: Guangzhou, Guangdong province

Pastor Huang Xiaoning (**UPDATE:** refused to allow plainclothed officials access to his home for a fire inspection, more than 30 parishioners outside his home were harassed)

China: Fuzhou, Fujian province

Pastor Lin Kezhen (forced to stop a church service by police, a baby suffered an eye injury after her mother attempted to leave the service during the raid)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/10/more-than-20-christians-detained-for.html>

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/10/authorities-break-into-church-harass.html>



Mexico: Mexico City

Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera (home attacked by armed men in an apparent robbery attempt, an auxiliary police officer was killed)

<http://www.catholicerald.co.ukwww.catholicerald.co.uk/news/2018/10/23/cardinals-home-attacked-security-guard-shot-dead/>

Monday October 22, 2018



Sudan: Nyala, South Dafur

Pastor Tajdeen Yousif (convert from Islam, arrested along with 12 others by NISS secret police on [October 13, 2018](#), beaten and tortured for days; **UPDATE**: released on bail, in hiding)

<https://barnabasfund.org/us/news/christian-converts-from-islam-arrested-and-tortured-in-darfur-sudan>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/65042->

[AFRICA SUDAN Torture ill treatment against Christians forced to renounce their faith](#)

Tuesday October 23, 2018



India: Odisha state

Pastor John Lakra (convert, husband, father of three, attacked by hundreds of Hindu extremists while taking his 18 month old son to the hospital emergency room, the extremists were motivated by a derogatory message about a Hindu goddess that had been sent from his cell phone, automobile windows smashed, said “There were so many people that we could not even try get out there. We could not even see through the windows. My children and wife were crying. I did not know what to do. Soon, they pulled me out of the car, slapped and beat me black and blue. They ripped off my clothes. Not a single part of my body was left unstruck”, was dragged to an idol of the goddess, forced to kneel, and told he would be sacrificed: "Then they poured a gallon of petrol [gasoline] on me. Right there, I was praying in my heart. I said, ‘Lord! I submit myself to you. May this bring Glory only to you.’ While I was praying, I was so moved by the Holy Spirit. There was so much pain that I have not done enough, that I must share about my Lord’s love to so many, my journey is not over yet. These words rumbled in my heart. After they poured petrol on me, miraculously there was a [power] blackout. And within minutes, police reached the spot and rescued me”, charged with 'promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion' and 'criminal intimidation' after RSS paramilitaries complained to police, denied bail, found his wife and children had been rescued from the mob by hospital personnel and his ill son received treatment)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/11/hindu-extremist-mob-tries-to-burn-pastor-alive-in-odisha-state-india/>

Wednesday October 24, 2018



China

Cardinal Emeritus Joseph Zen Ze-Kium SDB (aged 86; **UPDATE:** wrote "The faithful in China are suffering and are now coming under increasing pressure. Early this year, the government tightened regulations on the practice of religion. Priests in the underground on the mainland tell me that they are discouraging parishioners from coming to Mass to avoid arrest...And yet, to the underground bishops and priests of China, I can only say this: Please don't start a revolution. They take away your churches? You can no longer officiate? Go home, and pray with your family. Till the soil. Wait for better times. Go back to the catacombs. Communism isn't eternal")

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/24/opinion/pope-china-vatican-church-catholics-bishops.html>



India: Parupalli village, Mahabubnagar District, Telangana state

Pastor Hanumanth Rao (attacked while leading a prayer meeting in the home of Mrs Devamma, threatened with death)

Mrs Devamma (home attacked during a prayer meeting, later summoned to a village meeting and ordered to withdraw her criminal complaint and to no longer use her home for prayer meetings)

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/11/01/mob-attacks-village-prayer-meeting-attempt-kill-indian-pastor/>

Thursday October 25, 2018



Indonesia: Medan, Sumatra

Agung Kurnia Ritonga (aged 22, student, arrested on a charge of insulting Islam for having applauded the burning of the flag of a banned Islamic organization)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/indonesian-student-faces-jail-for-islam-insult/84615>



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'; sentenced on [April 5, 2018](#) to 12 years' imprisonment; **UPDATE**: prison officials reportedly have refused medical treatment for a leg wound, including medicine sent from his family, has had difficulty walking)

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/10/25/prison-officials-vietnam-deny-medical-care-imprisoned-pastor/>



Uganda: Moru village, Kiryolo parish, Kaderuna sub-county, Budaka district

Emmanuel Nyaiti (aged 12, son of Kauta Yokosofat, abducted with chloroform in an attempt to convert him to Islam "Ali Lukuman tried to persuade me to become a Muslim, which I refused, and he slapped me and I started screaming. They continued threatening me that they will kill me if I will not convert to Islam", beaten and choked when he refused, screams heard by his father and other villagers, hospitalized)

Kauta Yokosofat (father of Emmanuel Nyaiti, said "My son's words could not be constructed well, as he looked confused and could not turn his neck with the strangulation marks")

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/10/christian-boy-in-uganda-strangled-threatened-with-death-for-refusing-to-convert-to-islam/>

Friday October 26, 2018



China

Cardinal Emeritus Joseph Zen Ze-Kium SDB (aged 86; **UPDATE**: flew to Rome to deliver a letter to Pope Francis concerning persecution in China and the Vatican response, said "I want to talk to the pope again and hope he will consider again, but this may be the last time...But the Holy See does not support them [persecuted Catholics] and regards them as trouble, referring to them causing trouble and not supporting unity. This is what makes them most painful...The pope has said that members of the Chinese Church should be the prophets and sometimes criticize the government. I feel very surprised that he does not understand the situation of the Chinese Church")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/zen-presents-letter-to-pope-warning-him-on-china/83839>



Pakistan: Karachi

Pastor Shafqat Masih Sagar (aged 62, father of Pastor Sharjeel, church attacked by a mob of up to 35 Muslims, worshippers were terrorized with firecrackers and severely beaten with sticks when they tried to flee or to stop the attack)

Pastor Sharjeel Shafqat (aged 31, husband of Sarah Sharjeel, father of a 6 year old son, son of Pastor Shafqat Masih Sagar)

Sarah Sharjeel (wife of Pastor Sharjeel Shafqat, mother of a 6 year old son)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/church-attack-in-karachi>



Malta

Matthew Grech (convert, singer, former active homosexual, video of his conversion testimony removed from the Facebook and Twitter sites of a television talent contest show, activists said that the contest judges should have criticized his religious conversion as a violation of gay conversion therapy laws)

<https://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/freedom/x-factor-malta-silences-ex-gay-singers-christian-testimony>



Nigeria: Kaduna state

Raphael Galadima (tribal ruler, abducted along with his wife on [October 19, 2018](#) after meeting with the state governor regarding anti-Christian violence; **UPDATE: body found**)

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/10/30/christian-traditional-ruler-nigeria-executed-despite-ransom/>

Saturday October 27, 2018



Turkey

David Byle (aged 48, Canadian-U.S. citizen, husband of Ulrike, father of five, arrested by anti-terrorism police on [October 13, 2018](#), released the following day with an order to leave the country within 15 days; **UPDATE**: left the country)

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/10/27/turkey-forces-another-christian-country-2/>



Belarus: Lepel, Vitebsk region

Andrei Fokin (husband of Tatyana Fokina; **UPDATE**: detained while singing Christmas carols and handing out Christian literature, literature seized, the police report was a copy of his October 14, 2017 arrest for the same offense)

Tatyana Fokina (wife of Andrei Fokin; **UPDATE**: detained while singing Christmas carols and handing out Christian literature)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2437



Canada

Steve Jalsevac (publisher of LifeSiteNews, web site host company gave notice of suspension of service after a convicted U.S. child molester alleged that LifeSiteNews had defamed him when it had reported on his previous takedowns of other Christian sites, the convicted molester also alleged that LifeSiteNews had violated his copyright when it used his police mugshot)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/urgent-lifesite-is-under-attack>

Sunday October 28, 2018



China: Changsha, Hunan province

Pastor Zhang Ganghua (church vandalized by police, sign removed)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/11/changsha-church-harassed-repeatedly.html>



United Arab Emirates

Pastor Aneela Haroon (wife of Haroon Constant Gill, Pakistani citizen, threatened with death along with her family for her preaching if she should return to Pakistan)

Haroon Constant Gill (Pakistani citizen, husband of Pastor Aneela Haroon, threatened with death)

Date: October 28, 2018

Location Abu Dhabi

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6961>

Monday October 29, 2018



Pakistan: Karachi

Fr. Saleh Diego (**UPDATE**: protested an editorial cartoon concerning an electricity rate hike that depicted a utility pole as a crucifix: "We protest against the media for publishing derogatory images that offend the religious feelings of Christians. The image of the crucifix in a satirical cartoon deeply hurts our religious feelings. The crucifix is a symbol of our faith. Our faith is not complete without the Holy Cross. It reminds us of our Lord Jesus Christ and of the great sacrifice he has had for every person in the world. We start and end the day with the sign of the cross")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/65002->

[ASIA_PAKISTAN_Desecration_of_religious_symbols_Catholics_deplore_the_Pakistani_media](http://www.fides.org/en/news/65002-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Desecration_of_religious_symbols_Catholics_deplore_the_Pakistani_media)

Tuesday October 30, 2018



India: Agra, Uttar Pradesh state

Hindu radicals from the Bajrang Dal [the RSS paramilitary youth organization] attacked a Christmas planning meeting of pastors from 22 churches, beat them and their families, 13 Christians were then arrested for 'religious enmity', musical instruments were damaged and Bibles seized

Pastor Ravi Kumar (UPDATE: said "They did not engage in any kind of dialogue with us but abruptly entered the hall where we were conducting our private gathering and ruthlessly attacked us. They were shouting 'Jai Shri Ram [Hail, Lord Ram]!' while they hit us black-and-blue, and some men from the mob tore the clothes of the women and dragged them by their hair...They had brought along about 20 young men who were assigned the task of entering the hall and attacking the Christians with the weapons they carried and then immediately leaving the premises and disappearing. After they left, the middle-aged Hindu extremists began to create a scene and started to accuse us of carrying out conversions. Before the police arrived, the young men who had carried out the attack had left", arrested, said "While the police took 13 of us to the police station, the Bajrang Dal activists abused us with filthy language and slapped one of our pastors in the presence of policemen inside the police station")

Pastor Sam Jacob (beaten, late term pregnant wife pushed to the floor)

India: Badlapur, Jaunpur district, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Ram Asre (arrested on multiple charges, forced to sign a statement that he would not conduct religious services, released on bail)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/11/persecution-of-christians-radiates-outward-from-hub-in-northern-india-sources-say/>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hindu-radicals-beat-seven-Pentecostal-pastors-in-Agra-alleging-'forced-conversions'-45382.html>



Uzbekistan: Kibraï, Tashkent region

Forty Christians were arrested for attending a retreat on September 30, 2018 in the Tashkent region; UPDATE: thirty one of the Christians were tried, convicted, fined, and some were deported

Nargiza Ashurova (fined US\$447)

Berdimurad Parpiyev (fined US\$336)

Sukhrob Jurayev (fined US\$336)

Shakhnoza Umarova (fined US\$224)

Nigina Bozorova (fined US\$224)

Miyassar Mirsagatova (fined US\$224)

Rita Kogai (fined US\$224)

Azizali Sagindikov (fined US\$224)
Khakim Nurkhanov (fined US\$224)
Dilafruz Shadiyeva (fined US\$224)
Makhmudjon Zakirov (fined US\$224)
Mirzakhmed Akramov (brother of Saidakhmad Akramov, fined US\$224)
Saidakhmad Akramov (brother of Mirzakhmed Akramov, fined US\$224)
Sahobiddin Umarov (fined US\$224)
Mavjuda Tursunova (fined US\$224)
Ortik Jurayev (fined US\$224)
Nazirjon Abdurasulov (fined US\$224)
Nigora Kurbonova (fined US\$112)
Zukhra Khaitova (fined US\$112)
Nodira Mukhsinova (fined US\$112)
Mansur Sultonov (fined US\$112)
Omadbek Kodyrov (fined US\$112)
Valentina Zakirova (fined US\$112)
Mekhrinisso Nurkhanova (fined US\$112)
Sunnat Alimov (fined US\$112)
Karomat Yuliyeva (fined US\$112)
Nadezhda Pak (fined US\$112)
Park Gibong (South Korean citizen, ordered deported, had already left the country)
Chong Khengsu (South Korean citizen, ordered deported, had already left the country)
Park Yong Sook (South Korean citizen, ordered deported)
Choi Chung Sub (South Korean citizen, ordered deported)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2431



Belarus: Lepel, Vitebsk region

Andrei Fokin (husband of Tatyana Fokina; detained in [Lepel, Vitebsk region](#) on [October 27, 2018](#) while singing Christmas carols and handing out Christian literature, literature seized, the police report was a copy of his October 14, 2017 arrest for the same offense; **UPDATE:** fined US\$310)

Tatyana Fokina (wife of Andrei Fokin; detained in [Lepel, Vitebsk region](#) on [October 27, 2018](#) while singing Christmas carols and handing out Christian literature; **UPDATE**: fined US\$253)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2437



Cameroon: Bamenda

Charles Wesco (aged 43. missionary, husband of Stephanie Wesco, father of eight, son of Rebecca Wesco, brother of Tim Wesco, U.S. citizen, **shot in the head** while driving in his vehicle, had apparently been caught in a crossfire between government troops and Anglophone separatists, hospitalized, **died**, had arrived in the country only two weeks earlier)

Stephanie Wesco (missionary, widow of Charles Wesco, was present in the vehicle when he was shot)

Ben Sinclair (missionary, husband of Becca Sinclair, was driving the vehicle when Charles Wesco was shot)

Becca Sinclair (missionary, wife of Ben Sinclair, said "My husband already prayed for his killer. Charles would want us to do that, he would")

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/10/31/cameroon-unrest-leads-death-us-missionary/>
<https://www.christianpost.com/news/indiana-missionary-murdered-in-front-of-wife-son-cameroon-228274/>

Wednesday October 31, 2018



China: Changsha, Hunan province

Pastor Zhang Ganghua (church vandalized by police, sign removed on [October 28, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: questioned by police for four hours, told his church would be banned if it did not join the official church, lock on the church door damaged)

<http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/11/changsha-church-harassed-repeatedly.html>



Pakistan: Islamabad

Aasiya Noreen aka Asia Bibi (aged 53, wife of Ashiq Masih, mother of five including Isham, daughter of Soran Masih, convicted of blasphemy in 2009 and sentenced to death;

UPDATE: the Supreme Court issued a ruling that overturned her conviction on the grounds that she had been denied presumption of innocence, ordered her immediate release, reports tell of government preparations for civil insurrection)

Mehwish Bhatti (British Pakistani Christian Association officer; **UPDATE:** said "We are so happy and thankful to God for this big day! All glory goes to Him. The decision was tough: God has strengthened the resolve of the Justices and has made it possible. I pray for the peace of minorities, let God be their guardian")

Peter Jacob (director of the National Commission for Justice and Peace; **UPDATE:** said "Indeed it is a happy moment for Asia's family, the Christian community, and Pakistan as she is acquitted by the Supreme Court. The decision raises hope for the rule of the law and justice. The charges against Asia were false and based on a narrative of hatred, hence the Supreme Court has dealt with the case on merit")

Sajid Christopher (President of Human Friends Organization, said "Truth prevailed. Justice has won. Asia will be leaving Pakistan immediately after her release for her safety")

Samson Salamat (chairman of the interfaith Rawadari Tehreek [Movement for Tolerance]; **UPDATE:** said "The decision of Supreme Court in favor of Asia Bibi is evidence that blasphemy law is being used against religious minorities of Pakistan to settle personal scores. The justice system at the Lower level looked very weak and ruled against Asia Bibi under pressure of the extremist elements, however the judges of the Apex Court are to be appreciated who did not bow to pressure of the hardcore Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan [TLP] and other extremist outfits. Asia Bibi is acquitted but the sad part of the story is that she will not be able to live in her own homeland because of threats to her life similar to many other cases. The story does not end here, there is an extreme level threat to the Christian Community and their lives, worship places and properties are in danger", also issued a press release stating "This is a highly tense and threatening situation for religious minorities, especially for Pakistani Christians, and there is fear of persecution of Christians and attacks on their churches and other properties. Therefore, we call upon the government of Pakistan and the Supreme Court to take notice of the threats made by [TLP leader] Khadim Rizvi and his group prior to the announcement of the Asia Bibi verdict. We also call for a ban of Tehreek-e-Labaik and all similar extremist groups who are involved in hate speech and use religion as a tool to promote violence in society. We also call upon the government and law enforcement agencies to beef up security and ensure the deployment of military troops to safeguard the lives and property of religious minorities, especially the Christian community")

Michelle Chaudhry (president of the Cecil & Iris Chaudhry Foundation; **UPDATE:** said "Today the Supreme Court has shown great mettle by taking a firm stand on justice and civil liberties. However, this verdict may have chilling ramifications, as the threatening warnings of Khadim Rizvi [leader of Tehreek Labaik Pakistan], a flamboyant hate monger, are making the air thick with fear of another bout of anarchy. Exciting religious emotions, they can create situation of law and order, which Pakistan can't afford, given its financial woes. While the acquittal offers a sigh of relief, it may inject more blood in

the already swelled up veins of extremists. What the government should do? It should not give in to hate mongers, as they will find it an opportunity to further their agenda to control the state. Parents should keep an eye on their young children lest they should be used by these extremists for their nefarious design to destabilize the country")

Nasir Saeed (**UPDATE:** said "While we are rejoicing the acquittal of the Asia Bibi, at the same time we are very concerned about the ongoing security situation in Pakistan. Christians who are a beleaguered community and are living under constant fear for their lives are further threatened because of the present situation")

Samuel Piyara (Implementation Minority Rights Forum chairman; **UPDATE:** said of Prime Minister Imran Khan's televised address in support of the Supreme Court ruling freeing Asia Bibi "The cricket hero [Prime Minister Imran Khan] took the bull by the horns. Nobody can take the state hostage")

Joseph Francis (Pakistan Christian National Party chairman; **UPDATE:** thanked Prime Minister Imran Khan for his televised address in support of the Supreme Court ruling freeing Asia Bibi and added "We humbly request government security agencies to take action against the fanatic groups who create problems for the whole nation. A police first information report must be launched or legal action should be taken against them")

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/breaking-news-asia-bibi-is-to-be-freed>

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/pakistan-acquits-asia-bibi-on-death-row/83759>

www.asianews.it/news-en/Asia-Bibi-acquitted:-a-victory-for-civil-society-45356.html

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/10/31/asia-bibi-acquitted-blasphemy-conviction/>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6956>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Imran-Khan-defends-Asia-Bibi's-release.-Christians-express-their-appreciation-45365.html>

October 2018, date unknown



Thailand: Bangkok

John Charles (aged 39, husband of Spana Charles, father of Ashir, Abiya, and Ethan, Pakistani refugee, fled Pakistan in 2014 after accused of blasphemy for having protested the blasphemy laws; **UPDATE:** detained)

Spana Charles (aged 37, wife of John Charles, mother of Ashir, Abiya, and Ethan, Pakistani refugee, fled Pakistan in 2014 after her husband was accused of blasphemy for having protested the blasphemy laws)

Ashir (aged 9, child of Spana and John Charles)

Abiya (aged 6, child of Spana and John Charles)

Ethan (aged 3, child of Spana and John Charles)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/baca-continue-to-support-families-of-pak-christian-asylum-detainees-in-bangkok>



China: Hebei province

Fr Su Guipeng (disappeared into police custody)

Fr Zhao He (disappeared into police custody)

China: Laixi, Shandong province

Li Ruizhen (wife of Pastor Zhou Dixian, mother of Zhou Jie and Zhou Mei, evicted from her home in by thugs hired by a land developer in [November 2012](#), buildings and orchards destroyed; arrested on a charge of 'inciting trouble' in [March 2017](#) for protecting her land rights; **UPDATE**: sentenced to prison)

Pastor Zhou Dixian (husband of Li Ruizhen, father of Zhou Jie and Zhou Mei, same account)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/chinese-bishop-and-priests-released-for-lunar-new-year/84473>

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/08/prison-officials-denied-cancer.html>



India: Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu state

Pastor C J Zeba (subjected to an illegal arrest attempt in the [third week of October 2018](#) "All of a sudden, on the road, they surrounded me and asked me to go to the police station with them. I screamed for help, and my friends who are also pastors and an audible distance away came running, and the police went away. It is very disturbing that police are misusing their power", reported that another pastor was threatened with arrest on October 21, 2018)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2018/10/police-attack-threaten-christians-in-tamil-nadu-state-india/>



Pakistan: Attock district, Punjab province

Sharjeel Masih (aged 12, son of Farzana Ejaz, suspended from school [before October 20, 2018](#), said "I was just trying to turn off a running tap when the teacher grabbed me, called me churha [low caste] and asked why I had touched the tap and made it filthy. 'This tap is

not from the country of your mother,' she said before abusing me. I had to sit outside the school for five hours”)

Farzana Ejaz (wife, mother of Sharjeel Masih and two others, attempted to apologize to the teacher, said “Sharjeel was punched in the belly and back. Ever since her appointment three years ago, the headmistress has picked on him...She asked me to grab her feet for the mistake of my son and threatened that her brother, a police officer, would sell my younger daughter to a brothel...We are now being threatened and approached by the family of the principal as well as local politicians”, reported the incident to the government)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/pakistani-headteacher-suspended-for-attacking-christian-student/83705>



Tajikistan

Daniil Islamov (aged 19, conscientious objector, forcibly conscripted in April 2017 despite serious health issues; sentenced in Qurghonteppa, Khatlon region on October 13, 2017 to six months' imprisonment, appeal underway; **UPDATE**: released)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2463



Turkey: Samsun province

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I aka Dimitrios Arhondonis (**UPDATE**: visit protested by students who accused him of wanting to create a Pontic Greek state)

<https://www.persecution.org/2018/11/14/turkish-students-protest-patriarchs-visit/>



Canada: Ontario

"A" (spouse of "L", application to become a foster parent denied, had been asked if they 'still' believed 'in some of the more outdated parts of the Bible' and if they believed homosexuality was a sin, told in writing 'the policies of our agency do not appear to fit with your values and beliefs')

"L" (same account)

<https://www.christianpost.com/world/christians-told-cant-foster-kids-after-asked-if-they-believe-more-outdated-parts-of-the-bible.html>

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