

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – March 2019

Friday March 1, 2019



China: Henan province

Jiang Tianyong (aged 47, husband of Jin Bianling, son of Jiang Lianghou, human rights attorney, abducted by police in [Changsha, Hunan province](#) on [November 22, 2016](#); charged with 'subversion of state power' on [May 31, 2017](#); sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment on [November 20, 2017](#); as of [June 27, 2018](#) had been forced to take an unidentified medication in prison and has shown a memory deficit as a possible result, legs appear to have been injured due to torture or shackles, has been denied access to clothing and money sent by his family; released from prison on [February 28, 2019](#), disappeared, father and sister disappeared; **UPDATE**: allowed to returned home with his father and sister, wife has begun a petition for him to travel to the U.S. for medical treatment)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/03/lawyers-wife-begs-china-to-let-him-come.html>



Ukraine: Kurozvany

Archpriest Vladimir Koval (church seized by anti-Russian activists, threatened with death for not surrendering his home)

<http://orthochristian.com/119942.html>

Saturday March 2, 2019



China: Chengdu, Sichuan province

Xing (wife of Liu, arrested, beaten, told they would be evicted from their home)

Liu (husband of Xing, same account)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Eleven-children,-including-a-two-month-baby,-from-the-Early-Rain-Covenant-Church-arrested-in-Chengdu-46438.html>

Monday March 4, 2019



India: Kerala state

Fr Varghese Vallikkatt (Kerala Catholic Bishops Council; **UPDATE**: reported to have criticized as unnecessary and unconstitutional a draft law which would create state control of church assets, said "They [state officials] want to keep discussion on this alive to target Christians, especially the socially and politically strong Catholic community...It's all part of a very calculated, engineered move that has been going on for a decade")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-state-retreats-over-church-assets/84644>

Tuesday March 5, 2019



China: Chengdu, Sichuan province

Pan Fei (disappeared the day after starting a new job, had lost his previous job due to police pressure)

China: Guiyang, Guizhou province

Pastor Li Guozhi aka Yang Hua (husband of Wang Hongwu, detained on [December 9, 2015](#) for 'illegally holding state secrets'; formally charged on [January 22, 2016](#) with 'obstructing justice' and 'gathering a crowd to disturb social order'; sentenced on [January 5, 2017](#) to two and a half years imprisonment; released on [June 19, 2018](#), sang worship songs as he left prison; **UPDATE**: escorted by police to Hainan province for medical treatment)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/03/couple-beaten-congregation-member-missing-in-persecution-of-church-in-china/>

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/03/officials-escort-guizhou-pastor-on.html>



India: Ranchi, Jharkhand state

Church prayer service for a newlywed couple was attacked by the husband's parents and neighbors

Risha Toppo (convert, newlywed and secret husband of Roshani Kachhap, church attacked by his parents during a prayer service, dragged to the police station along with his wife and her parents, banished from the community, said "...my parents and a mob of extremists from our village came to the church and took my wife and me to the police station. My mother accused my wife and her family of forcefully converting me...I left everything behind and followed Christ. Today we are surviving with the help of a basic salary I receive from working in a private clinic and my wife's payments from tutoring some school students. We are working very hard but are happy that we are leading a Christian life")

Roshani Kachhap (newlywed and secret wife of Risha Toppo, church attacked by her husband's parents during a prayer service, dragged to the police station along with her husband and her parents, accused with her parents of forcibly converting her husband despite his conversion occurring 4 years earlier and his continued residence with his parents)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/04/food-deprivation-beatings-and-jail-as-christians-suffer-in-jharkhand-india/>



Pakistan: Iqbal town, Islamabad

Saima Iqbal (aged 35, wife of Naveed Iqbal, mother of Mikael, Danish, and Qamar, abducted at gunpoint on [February 25, 2019](#) and forced into an Islamic marriage, police refused to file a report for over a week; **UPDATE**: recovered by police, placed into an Islamic women's shelter due to documents falsely claiming she converted to Islam)

Naveed Iqbal (aged 37, husband of Saima Iqbal, father of Mikael, Danish, and Qamar, said after his wife's [February 25, 2019](#) abduction "I was living here very happily for the past 18 years until on the night of 25 February 2019 when the mother of my children was kidnapped at the gun point by Pathan Khalid Satti who is part of criminal gang...As soon I came to know what happened to my wife, on the 26th February I reported the incident but the police refused to file my complaint and delayed the registration"; **UPDATE**: said "When I met her [Saima his wife] in the Dar ul Iman [women's shelter] I saw visible marks of torture on her face and body...Nobody is listening to us and every time we are only hear these lines from the people in authority that she has accepted Islam and now is she is in Muslim Nikkah [marriage]. Is this the way the minorities suffer in Pakistan?...This is my request please help me. I am now in hiding along with our children

moving from place to place due to threats. They have forcibly taken falsified statements from Saima Iqbal, and she remains in great fear for us")

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/pak-christian-mother-of-three-kidnapped-at-gunpoint-and-forced-into-fake-islamic-marriage-husband-hi>
<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/head-line-news-details/7064>

Wednesday March 6, 2019



China: Zhengzhou, Henan province

Rev Dou Shaowen (arrested along with his wife in **July 2009**, both sentenced to one year's imprisonment; **UPDATE**: church closed and sealed by the authorities)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Protestant-house-church-closed-down-46534.html>



France: Chalons-en-Champagne

Fr Francois-Jerome Leroy (aged 71, accused of abuse of minors in **March 2018**, suspended from active ministry; **UPDATE**: cleared of all charges, his accusers were convicted of filing a false report and given a fine and a suspended sentence)

<https://international.la-croix.com/news/french-couple-convicted-over-false-report-of-catholic-priest/9571#>

<https://www.churchmilitant.com/news/article/falsely-accused-french-priest-vindicated>



United States – Utah: Bountiful

William McLeod (fourth grade student, forced to remove Lenten ashes from his forehead by a teacher, cried in embarrassment)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/utah-school-apologizes-after-student-forced-to-remove-lenten-ashes-92683>

Thursday March 7, 2019



Tajikistan: Khujand

Shamil Rasulovich Khakimov (aged 68, widower, pensioner, harassed with repeated phone calls from police on [January 28, 2019](#) after his number was found on the phone of a detained Christian; summoned for interrogation at the police station on [February 1, 2019](#); arrested on [February 16, 2019](#); placed in pre-trial detention for two months on [February 18, 2019](#), health in jail good despite high blood pressure and a recent leg surgery, denied a Bible; **UPDATE:** charged with 'inciting religious hatred')

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

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2484

Friday March 8, 2019



Kenya: near Garissa

Pastor Abdul (aged 30, convert, father of three aged 8, 5, and 3, beaten with wooden clubs by Muslims for leading an underground church of 30 former Muslims, femur fractured, hospitalized)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/03/pastor-of-underground-church-in-kenya-beaten-unconscious/>



Nigeria: Miango

Peace Joseph (aged 6, **killed**)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/04/nigeria-herdsmen-attacks-boko-haram-and-the-cross/>



France: Angouleme

Pastor Joseph Miall (church vandalized, US\$12,400 in damages)

<https://barnabasfund.org/en/news/vandals-cause-thousands-of-euros-of-damage-in-latest-attack-on-a-french-church>

Sunday March 10, 2019



India: Pandawa Tanda, Jharkhand state

Belu Ganjo (wife beaten by fellow villagers and threatened with drowning, beaten when he attempted to rescue her, 4 year old daughter forcibly thrown to the floor from upstretched arms but suffered only minor injuries, fled the village, returned after police intervened)

Pastor Manoj Munda (described the attack on the family of Belu Ganjo “The entire village surrounded her [Belu Ganjo's wife] and had decided to tie her with a rope and drown her in the well...The mob lifted up their 4-year-old daughter and forcefully threw her to the floor. By God’s grace, the child suffered only minor injuries. Ganjo ran for his life with his child and wife to another Christian’s house, but the angry mob followed them, so they locked their houses, and in that night they fled away from the village...Even at the police station [the next day], they were shouting that Ganjo accepted a foreign faith and that they should not enter the village until they renounce Christianity. But police told them that the Christians can freely live out their faith, and nobody must stop them”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/04/food-deprivation-beatings-and-jail-as-christians-suffer-in-jharkhand-india/>



Ethiopia: Addis Ababa

Several missionaries and church officials were killed in a commercial airliner crash

Fr George Kageche Mukua CMM (Kenyan citizen, **killed**)

Sr Florence Wangari (Kenyan citizen, aged early 30s, **killed**)

Sara Chalachew (Catholic Relief Services staff, **killed**)

Getnet Alemayehu (Catholic Relief Services staff, **killed**)

Sintayehu Aymeku (Catholic Relief Services staff, **killed**)

Mulusew Alemu (Catholic Relief Services staff, **killed**)

Pastor Norman Tendis (Austrian citizen, World Council of Churches official, **killed**)

<http://mattersindia.com/2019/03/world-council-of-churches-official-dies-in-ethiopian-plane-crash/>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/65711->

[AFRICA ETHIOPIA Ethiopian plane crash among the victims also a missionary a nun and 4 lay operators of the Catholic Relief Services](http://www.fides.org/en/news/65711-)



Ukraine: Baranovka village, Zhytomyr province

Members of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine and known atheists attacked a church associated with the Russian Orthodox Church

Fr Amphilochy Boloschenko (pelted with eggs, fingers bitten in an attempt to steal his staff)

Sr Dimitria Pasevich (beaten on the shoulder, chest, and face, thrown to the ground and kicked, said “There was terrible carnage in the church. After the moleben [prayer service] that we were there for, they started to drive us out, taking us by the collar to kick us out of the church, and beyond the gates of the church”)

Archpriest Orest Semotyuk (punched in the stomach, hospitalized with a pancreatic injury)

<http://orthochristian.com/119974.html>

Monday March 11, 2019



Philippines

Church leaders announced the receipt of death threats

Fr Albert Alejo SJ (**UPDATE**)

Fr Flavie Villanueva SVD

Fr Robert Reyes

Archbishop Socrates Villegas (**UPDATE**)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/philippine-catholic-priests-make-death-threats-claim/84712>



Pakistan: Imranpura, Wadiala, Sialkot district, Punjab province

Stephen Masih (aged 38 or 42, brother of Alia and Francis, mentally disabled, beaten by a mob after he was heard yelling at his family about Lent, arrested on blasphemy charges)

Francis Masih (brother of Stephen Masih, said that after Stephen began to yell about Lent: “This is when Mudassir barged into our house and started beating Stephen without any reason. We told Mudassir that it was not right for him to intervene in our family issue, but he took offense and raised hue and cry in the street, alleging that Stephen had committed blasphemy. Mudassir and Mohammad Rafiq, another neighbor, provoked them to attack Stephen. They not only beat him up mercilessly but also attacked other family members who tried to save him...The police took my brother away, and it was after some time that we learned that he had been charged with blasphemy. We have been running from pillar to post, as we are very worried about his condition, especially since he was ruthlessly beaten up by the mob, but the police are not arranging our meeting. They keep telling us that he is safe and being taken care of”)

<https://barnabasfund.org/us/node/21784>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/03/muslim-in-pakistan-bursts-into-christians-home-alleging-he-overheard-blasphemous-comment/>

Wednesday March 13, 2019



Australia: Melbourne, Victoria state

Cardinal George Pell (aged 77, charged with multiple child sex abuse crimes in [June 2017](#), the police had opened a case against him a year before a complainant was found, most charges were then dismissed for "fundamental defects in evidence"; reported on [December 11, 2018](#) to have been convicted on five counts despite the trial having been held in secret, a previously unreported trial had ended in mistrial after 10 jurors voted to acquit, trial witnesses anonymously reported extensive prosecutorial misconduct; verdict announced on [February 27, 2019](#) after prosecutors decided to drop the remaining charges, taken into custody; **UPDATE:** sentenced to 6 years' imprisonment, appeal underway)

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2019/03/13/cardinal-pell-sentenced-to-six-years-in-prison/>



India: Ranchi, Jharkhand state

Fr Alphonse Aind SJ (middle school principal, arrested on [June 22, 2018](#) on fabricated charges of organizing the abduction and rape of five social activists by six Pathagadi tribal

gunmen after the gunmen had seized his automobile, denied bail; **UPDATE:** granted bail)

<http://mattersindia.com/2019/03/jesuit-priest-gets-bail-in-alleged-gangrape-case/>



Nigeria: Obinofia Ndiuno, Ezeagu local government area, Enugu state

Fr Clement Rapuluchukwu Ugwu (aged 42, abducted)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/65756->

[AFRICA NIGERIA Found dead body of a priest kidnapped a week ago the bishop denounces the lack of interest on behalf of the police](#)



Canada: Edmonton, Alberta province

Fr Marcin Mironiuk (assaulted after Mass by a man who reeked of alcohol, thrown to the ground and choked, elderly parishioners beat off the attacker with their canes)

https://globalnews.ca/news/5099476/edmonton-priest-attacked-elderly-women-canes/?utm_medium=Facebook&utm_source=globallethbridge&fbclid=IwAR11WH2zBrWuNjZs7iYSnbdMMrWSOI7jaKIhMfqTYwxC8RhE6r0PArhyjwg

Thursday March 14, 2019



China: Chengdu, Sichuan province

Zhang Ying (apartment invaded by police with her landlord, threatened with rape in front of her three daughters, ordered her eviction by the end of the month for unspecified lease violations)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/03/couple-beaten-congregation-member-missing-in-persecution-of-church-in-china/>



India: Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu

Auxiliary Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas SFX (**UPDATE**: expressed regret over the government's decision to cancel Good Friday as a holiday in two of the former Portuguese colonies: "This is very very sad. A clear discrimination is being practiced by the Administrator. We appeal to all including the Administrator of these centrally administered territories to respect the sentiments of the people and to avoid their divisive methods", Christians will now have to request the day off from work)

A C Michael (**UPDATE**: said "These moves are part of a pattern to oppress Christians. At least 12 states in India are set to have elections on April 18, this year's Maundy Thursday. That itself is a big setback")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Two-Indian-territories-scrap-Good-Friday-holiday.-Msg.-Mascarenhas:-Very-serious-46500.html>

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/scrapping-good-friday-holiday-upsets-indian-catholics/84745>



Nigeria: Ngurhlavu village, Lassa, Askira-Uba local council area, Borno state

Boko Haram attacked the village, killed one, abducted two sisters, and burned a church

Stella Ibrahim (abducted)

Plungwa Ibrahim (abducted)

<https://www.persecution.org/2019/03/14/boko-haram-attacks-christian-village-destroys-church/>



Netherlands

Converts from Islam described continuing death threats

Faraidoun Fouad (convert, said "I converted in 1999. In 2002 God called me to reach out to my own people. Directly after my conversion to Christianity I received the first threats. People who I thought were my friends, became my enemies. Even Muslims who are not very conservative told my wife that they would kill me...I receive threats every day. When I post something on Facebook, I often receive hateful reactions")

Esther Mulder (convert, said "After my conversion, the threats started. Especially on Facebook. Most of the time they're coming from other Somalis. They write to me in Somali, so no one else is able to understand what they're saying. We once posted a picture of a Somali

conference where everyone was standing in front of a cross. People didn't like it and we received several threats")

Brother Jassim (convert, Facebook account blocked, said "In 2015 I became a Christian. I was baptized on April 24, 2016, on my birthday...My mother taught me to respect everyone and to be kind. That was in stark contrast to what Islam was teaching me. I had to hate and curse Jews and Christians. Muhammed was my big role model, but his life was bad. He killed Jews and married a girl of six. How could he be my role model?", printed 8 pages of threats for the police)

<https://cruxnow.com/church-in-europe/2019/03/14/muslim-turned-christian-refugees-in-the-netherlands-face-threats/>

Friday March 15, 2019



New Zealand: Auckland

Fr Douglas al-Bazi (aged 47, abducted in [Bagdad, Iraq](#), in [November 2006](#), shot in the leg, teeth knocked out, released after 9 days; said in [Ankawa, Kurdistan, Iraq](#) on [December 29, 2014](#) "I care about my people. I don't care about the 'Middle East.' The Middle East for almost 2,000 years has been the same. It's the same war, the same conflict. So, why do I have to put my people inside that war? Why?...I am angry because I know Islam very well. In Baghdad they blew up my church. I drove by three bombings, and twice my car was destroyed. I got shot in my leg by an AK-47 – by Islam, and they kidnapped me for nine days...You know who represents Islam very well? ISIL. They are the true Islam. So if someone says, 'No, they do not represent Islam, Hamas does not represent Islam, Hezbollah does not represent Islam.' Who's left then? Come on guys. Come on. Wake up. You know, stop saying those stupid things – it's just stupid. What for? If I lose the last drop of our blood [by encouraging Christians to stay], what is the point of that?"; **UPDATE:** counselled his parishioners who feared a retaliatory attack following the mass murder of Muslims at two mosques in Christchurch, said "I am still shocked, me and my people, how this could happen here in New Zealand...we fully understand as Iraqi people, especially Christian, we really understand, because we are survivors of genocide, systematic genocide...There is a lady in my community -- they beheaded her son in front of her. Another man, they killed his parents in front of him...I told them, no, this is not the time to be scared. It is the time to be united...I don't know what we can do for those survivors [of the mosque attacks], for those relatives, the only thing we can do is pray for them and say, 'This is not New Zealand'", sent a floral tribute with a message of support in Arabic to a nearby mosque)

<http://www.aina.org/news/20190318182138.htm>



China: Chengdu, Sichuan province

Gou Zhongcan (disappeared from his home the day after police attempted to inspect it)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/03/early-rain-covenant-church-members.html>



Egypt: Beni Suef

Three Christians reported to have been killed

Paul Najib (aged 32, **shot dead**)

Emad Ghattas (aged 54, **shot dead**)

Mosi Najah Hanna (aged 29, **shot dead**)

<http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=2360&A=37868>



United Kingdom: London

Seyi Omooba (daughter of Pastor Ade Omooba, actress, threatened with termination from a theater production after the discovery of a four year old Facebook post that defended traditional Christian morality, ordered to make no public statements)

<https://christianconcern.com/news/actress-hounded-out-of-career-for-biblical-facebook-post/>

Saturday March 16, 2019



Uganda: Kerekerene village, Katira sub-county, Budaka district

Hassan Podo (aged 28, convert for three weeks, former imam who had attacked a church, seen entering a church for prayer, later confronted by his family, said “Without my completing answering them, my brothers immediately began surrounding me, with sticks. It was difficult to escape. They began shouting, beating and insulting me as an ‘infidel’ and

enemy of the Islamic religion”, fled and later found unconscious, hospitalized for two days, wife and children fled to a Christian neighbor)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/04/imam-in-eastern-uganda-faces-wrath-of-muslims-after-putting-faith-in-christ/>



Nigeria: Nandu Gbok village, Sanga county, Kaduna state

Amos Samuel (aged 40, said “We were all asleep in our various homes when at about 4 a.m., we heard gunshots everywhere in my village. Everyone ran out of their homes to escape from the Fulani herdsmen. Three hours after the herdsmen left, those of us who survived the attack returned to the village to find that our houses were destroyed and 10 of our villagers killed”)

Charles Danladi (county chairman, said “The attack occurred while the villagers were still sleeping. Normalcy has now been restored in the village, and we are making efforts to assist victims”)

Shehu Nicholas Garba (National Assembly member, local resident, stated in a press release “about 10 [people were killed and] about 30 [houses were burned]...Our communities are helpless and are pleading that all persons of conscience should speak out”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/03/another-10-christians-killed-in-kaduna-state-as-carnage-continues-in-nigeria-sources-say/>

Sunday March 17, 2019



Ukraine: Luka-Meleshkovskaya village, Vinnitsa province

Archbishop Barsanuphius (assaulted by members of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine when he attempted to enter a church for the Divine Liturgy, rescued by parishioners and pulled into the church)

Fr Basil (organized the rescue of Archbishop Barsanuphius, had been locked inside the church along with his congregation by the demonstrators)

<http://orthochristian.com/119982.html>



Burkina Faso: on the road between Bottogui and Djibo

Fr Joel Yougbare (disappeared)

Fr Theodore Kpoda (unable to contact Fr Joel Yougbare by cell phone)

Bishop Laurent Dabire (said of the disappearance of Fr Joel Yougbare "We do not know what to think. Fr Joel may have been kidnapped or lost himself along the road or had an accident...we are very worried" due to jihadist activity in the area)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/65751->

[AFRICA BURKINA FASO No news yet of the missing priest says the Bishop of Dori to Fides](http://www.fides.org/en/news/65751-)

Monday March 18, 2019



China: Laixi, Shangdong province

Zhou Jie (husband, son of Pastor Zhou Dixian and Li Ruizhen, brother of Zhou Mei, reported to have fled his home to avoid police surveillance, home raided by police)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/03/son-of-persecuted-minister-leaves-home.html>



Nigeria: Kajuru county, Kaduna state

Luke Waziri (attorney, wrote that 130 Christians were killed in a series of attacks: "Kajuru land and by extension the Adara nation has been gripped by a fully funded and supported group of terrorists that have been wreaking havoc in our lands for long, while those saddled with the responsibility of securing us deliberately looked the other way. First, Ungwan Barde was attacked on February 10, 2019, and nobody said anything, even though those in government knew. Furthermore, the government pretended that the 11 people killed didn't matter...While the victims [of a February 26, 2019 attack in Karamai] were buried in a mass grave and the injured yet to recover, Ungwan Barde village was attacked again on Sunday, March 10. Seventeen people were killed and dozens of houses burned...The smoke had barely settled [from attacks in Inkirimi and Dogonnoma villages in Maro on March 11, 2019 which killed 52] when an attack was launched in the [same] evening at Ungwan Gora [Labi Village], with dozens injured and 43 houses burned

down...In all these, not a single person has been arrested, nor even questioned. This is despite the fact that all the attacks took place either in the morning or in the evening – in full glare of everyone. However, in a strange twist of the application of justice, nine Adara elders and village chiefs were indiscriminately arrested and thrown into the Kaduna prison on allegations of complicity. The victims that have been killed and brutalized are the same ones being arrested and thrown into prison, while the real killers are being pampered, supported and allowed to freely continue their onslaught on people and our land”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/03/another-10-christians-killed-in-kaduna-state-as-carnage-continues-in-nigeria-sources-say/>

Tuesday March 19, 2019



India: Kurubatti, Hosur city, Tamil Nadu state

Siddappa (student, home invaded during a worship service by about 15 members of the Hindu Munani, driven out into the street and forced to burn Bibles)

Chandrakant (present at the worship service in the home of Siddappa that was interrupted by about 15 members of the Hindu Munani, driven out into the street along with an ill 16 year old relative and forced to burn Bibles)

P S Nehemiah Christie (**UPDATE:** said ““Any Christian gatherings are now at risk of being interrupted by Hindutva forces. It is worrying to see that such groups freely intrude homes, question one’s belief and seize articles of worship, including Bibles, and desecrate them. The Hindutva ideology of intolerance and impunity is spreading in this state, inciting people to harass and attack religious minorities...”)

<https://www.csw.org.uk/2019/04/01/press/4279/article.htm>



United Kingdom

Sarah Teather (Jesuit Refugee Service UK director, former Member of Parliament, responded to the government rejection of an Iranian convert's asylum application on the grounds that his description of Christianity as a religion of peace was inaccurate: "I've seen a lot over the years, but even I was genuinely shocked to read this unbelievably offensive diatribe")

<https://twitter.com/SLCT2015/status/1108116751789764609>

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2019/03/21/asylum-seeker-rejected-after-saying-christianity-was-a-peaceful-religion/>

Wednesday March 20, 2019



India: Panch Gachia village, Paschim Bardhaman district, West Bengal

Pastor Anand Hari (severely beaten after 20 radical Hindus attacked a prayer meeting in a private home, hospitalized in serious condition)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hindu-radicals-attack-Christians-in-West-Bengal,-badly-beating-pastor-46564.html>



Cameroon: Ngaoundere

Fr Toussaint Zoumalde OFM Cap (aged 48, Central African Republic citizen, radio journalist, hymn composer, **killed** while returning to Chad)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/65755-AFRICA_CAMEROON_Central_African_Capuchin_father_assassinated_in_Chad



Nigeria

Fr Clement Rapuluchukwu Ugwu (aged 42, abducted in [Obinofia Ndiuno, Ezeagu local government area, Enugu state](#) on [March 13, 2019](#); **UPDATE: found dead, had been shot**)

Bishop Callistus V Onaga (**UPDATE:** said of the abduction and murder of Fr Clement Rapuluchukwu Ugwu "We reported it to the police and since then I have visited police station three times, yet they kept telling me 'we are closing in on the kidnappers'. I doubt they were doing anything because where the deceased body of Father Ugwu was found is not up to 20 kilometers from his house", called on Christians to pray for their country)

Nigeria: Lau county, Taraba state

Rev Shawulu Ishaya (shot in his home, hospitalized)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/65756->

[AFRICA NIGERIA Found dead body of a priest kidnapped a week ago the bishop denounces the lack of interest on behalf of the police](http://www.fides.org/en/news/65756-)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/06/fulani-herdsmen-in-nigeria-continue-campaign-for-territory-for-their-cattle-and-islam/>

Friday March 22, 2019



China

Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-Kium SDB (aged 87, **UPDATE**: denied that he was disloyal to the Pope, said that the Vatican was wrong to not release the text of the concordant it signed in September 2018 with the Beijing government: “Even though it is provisional, it is still valid at this moment. We have to know the content so that we can follow it with our thoughts and actions. Otherwise, we cannot know whether we are following it or not”)

China: Chengdu, Sichuan province

Shen Bing (husband of Li Xiaofeng, detained after writing under police pressure his opinion of Pastor Wang Yi's sermons)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/cardinal-zen-denies-disloyalty-to-the-pope/84824>

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/04/authorities-continue-crackdown-on-early.html>



Bangladesh: Bonpara, Natore district

Teresa Sheuly Rozario (aged 19, student, daughter of Pakrashus Rozario, abducted by possible human traffickers)

Pakrashus Rozario (father of Teresa Sheuly Rozario, said "Our daughter was going to church. She was a brilliant student and dreamed of a good job. She disappeared, was kidnapped and we are very worried. My wife is getting sick, she is not eating, she is crying and she is praying to Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/65833->

[ASIA BANGLADESH Catholic women kidnapped by human traffickers alarm of the Church](http://www.fides.org/en/news/65833-)



United Kingdom: Surrey, England

Caroline Farrow (aged 44, Catholic journalist, reported to have been questioned by police for having referred to a boy who had undergone sex reassignment surgery as a boy, complaint withdrawn after the boy's mother [who is also the surgical clinic director] thought that she was getting publicity)

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2019/03/22/catholic-journalist-questioned-by-police-after-transgender-activist-complains/>



Canada: Montreal, Quebec

Fr Claude Grou (repeatedly stabbed while presiding at Mass, hospitalized with minor injuries in stable condition)

<https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/montreal-priest-stabbed-during-mass>

Saturday March 23, 2019



Nigeria: Mante village, Nasarawa state

Joy Danlami (aged 19, daughter of Danlami Mante, sister of Patience and Aboy Danlami, ambushed by Fulani Muslim herdsmen, beaten, raped, **shot dead**)

Patience Danlami (aged 16, daughter of Danlami Mante, sister of Joy and Aboy Danlami, ambushed by Fulani Muslim herdsmen, escaped with machete and gunshot wounds)

Aboy Danlam (aged 14, son of Danlami Mante, brother of Joy and Patience Danlami, ambushed by Fulani Muslim herdsmen, escaped with machete and gunshot wounds)

Danlami Mante (father of Joy, Patience and Aboy Danlami, said “The armed herdsmen chased them with dangerous weapons. Joy’s nose and face was battered, and then she was sexually assaulted by the herdsmen before being killed. She was shot”, said the herdsmen proceeded to their village and burned 17 homes)

Pastor Samson Gamu Yare (later said “We are faced with the burden of caring for those who fled the two villages in order to escape from the herdsmen carnage”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/03/christian-woman-raped-killed-as-herdsmen-attack-two-villages-in-nigeria/>

Sunday March 24, 2019



Nepal: Sarlahi district

Pastor Dhurba Kumar Pariyar (aged 40, beaten after delivering toys and stationery to Dalit [untouchable] children, said “One of them caught hold of me from my chest and pulled me down from my motorbike and dragged me towards the jungle. They said I am preaching foreign religion, converting people and ‘feeding’ on dollars in return. They asked me to hand over all the [supposed U.S.] dollars I am carrying to them, and they will spare my life. I asked them who were they to question my work and demand money from me, to which they said they were ‘underground Maoists’...They fled while warning me, ‘If you continue to preach the Jesus religion, we will not spare you – we will come and kill you, wherever you may go’”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/04/after-attack-pastor-in-nepal-filled-with-fear-and-faith/>



United Kingdom: London

Seyi Omooba (daughter of Pastor Ade Omooba, actress, threatened with termination from a theater production on [March 15, 2019](#) after the discovery of a four year old Facebook post that defended traditional Christian morality, ordered to make no public statements; **UPDATE:** fired from the theater production after a public statement falsely attributed to her was published on the internet, blacklisted, told she would be rehired when she '[came] to her senses on this matter' and 'got away from the ideologies of your entire upbringing', said "...the theatre and the agency gave me the choice of either losing my career or renouncing my faith. I could not do this, not even to save the career that I love", later filed suit to recover her positions)

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns; **UPDATE:** later said "What happened to Seyi Omooba was cruel and has damaged the career of a highly talented young artist for a Facebook post she had made four years earlier. This is another in a string of cases involving Christians being hounded out of their careers because they love Jesus...This story sends a chilling message to Christians, not only in the theatre industry but across our society, that if you express and hold mainstream Biblical views, you will be punished and will lose your career if you do not immediately renounce your

beliefs. This cannot go unchallenged and we are determined to fight for justice in this case")

<https://christianconcern.com/news/actress-hounded-out-of-career-for-biblical-facebook-post/>

Monday March 25, 2019



Pakistan: Dhandra village, Faisalabad district

Shalet Javed (aged 15, daughter of Tasleem and Javed Masih, abducted, beaten and tortured, forcibly converted and forced into an Islamic marriage)

Javed Masih (husband of Tasleem, father of Shalet Javed)

Tasleem (wife of Javed Masih, mother of Shalet Javed)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/abducted-raped-and-forced-into-islamic-marriage-15-yo-shalet-has-now-been-rescued-and-has-given-test>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-girl-kidnapped,-raped-and-forcibly-converted-is-freed-46763.html>



Nigeria: Ankwa Kachia county, Kaduna state

Fr John Bako Shekwolo (abducted)

Nigeria: Gidan Ausa, Nasarawa state

Rev Emmanuel Haruna (**UPDATE**: abducted in front of his home by gunmen)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/03/christian-clergy-among-those-caught-in-wave-of-kidnappings-in-nigeria/>

Tuesday March 26, 2019



India: Chinnasalem, Tamil Nadu state

Sr Devaseer Mary FIH (described an attack by 200 RSS paramilitary members on a parochial school in which women attempted to strip the nuns and strangle them with their rosaries, the school incurred damages totaling US\$145,000 including the chapel)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Some-200-Hindu-radicals-beat-nuns,-devastate-Catholic-school-in-Tamil-Nadu-46667.html>



United Kingdom: South East London

Izzy Montague (parent, met with school officials in [June 2018](#) to discuss her child's mandatory attendance at a pro-homosexual rally; **UPDATE**: reported that her child was repeatedly placed in detention after she requested that the child be allowed to opt out of the rally, has filed a lawsuit against the school)

<https://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/family/mother-challenges-school-over-treatment-after-forced-lgbt-pride-complaint>

Wednesday March 27, 2019



China: Hong Kong

Yip Po-Lam (Justice and Peace Commission, convicted of disorderly conduct for a peaceful demonstration, sentenced to 2 weeks' imprisonment)

Alexander Yu (Hong Kong Catholic Institution Staff Association chairman, said the next day that Yip Po-Lam's sentence was “too heavy for someone who staged a peaceful protest...We agree with Yip’s action as her motives were genuine when calling on the general public to examine the injustices of the development plan. The social teaching of the Catholic Church points out that our love for neighbors urges us to seek social justice”)

Jackie Hung (Justice and Peace Commission, said “Oppression by the government will not happen less. We have to be ready ... and continue to fight for justice”)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/catholic-activist-jailed-after-hong-kong-court-rejects-appeal/84842>



Bangladesh: Bonpara, Natore district

Ranjita Das (rescued from human traffickers along with her 3 year old daughter)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/65833-ASIA_BANGLADESH_Catholic_women_kidnapped_by_human_traffickers_alarm_of_the_Church

Thursday March 28, 2019



China: Hebei province

Fr Zhang Jianlin (disappeared while in police custody in 2011; **UPDATE**: arrested)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/chinese-bishop-back-in-detention-vicar-general-in-custody/84852>



Ukraine: Kutrov village, Volyn province

Fr Nikolai Sliva (husband, father of two babies, reported to have been ordered evicted from his home by members of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine)

<http://orthochristian.com/120225.html>

Friday March 29, 2019



China: Guangzhou

Ying Fuk-tsang (Hong Kong divinity school director; **UPDATE**: said after a municipal government announced financial rewards for residents who informed on illegal worship)

services “This will compress the survival space of house churches. Not only will they have to deal with the official crackdown but now also the threat from their neighbors”)

Li (reported “[The government’s] suppression of churches is getting stronger and stronger. Now, we do not dare to hold public activities. Some people were taken to the police station for questioning simply because they were distributing Gospel leaflets in public, so we have stopped distributing the Gospel leaflets. The community officials are also very alert about gatherings. They ask the residents to keep their eyes on Christians and to report any Christian gathering as soon as possible, and they will be rewarded”)

China: Hebei province

Bishop Augustine Cui Tai (aged 68, disappeared in [mid-April 2018](#); allowed to return home on [January 24, 2019](#), banned from religious activities, weighed only 115 pounds due to ill health; **UPDATE**: arrested)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/chinese-bishop-back-in-detention-vicar-general-in-custody/84852>

<https://barnabasfund.org/us/news/chinese-city-offers-cash-prizes-to-people-who-betray-their-christian-neighbours>

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/03/chinese-city-offers-cash-incentive-for.html>



India: Jalandhar, Punjab state

Fr Antony Madasserry (arrested along with five others, police seized US\$2.2 million in Indian currency, all were released after questioning, the police were later charged with theft)

Fr Peter Kavumpuram (diocesan spokesman, said the money was for the 100 schools managed by the diocese and that the police reported seizing only US1 million, said “It was a loot by the police, not recovery of unaccounted money, [which was] fully accounted with bills and receipts”, the police were later charged with theft)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-priest-claims-he-was-abducted-at-gunpoint-by-police/84867>

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/police-charged-over-cash-seized-from-indian-priest/84996>



Pakistan: Lahore

Peter Jacob (Center for Social Justice director; **UPDATE**: issued a statement demanding that non-Muslim students be given religious studies of their own faith in schools as allowed under the Constitution, at present most non-Muslims are taught only Islam)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-children-have-the-right-to-study-the-Bible,-Lahore-activists-say-46689.html>

Saturday March 30, 2019



China: Haidian district, Beijing

Pastor Zhang Xiaofeng (church closed)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/03/authorities-continue-suppression-of.html>



India: Dargahan village, Dhamtari district, Chhattisgarh state

Rajaram Nisad (economic ostracism was imposed on himself and other Christians “We travel to neighboring villages to look for work. We are banished from traveling in public transport and other vehicles. We spend 1,000 rupees [US\$14] or more to hire tractors from villages 15 miles far away. When some of my friends tried to speak to me, they were fined 500 rupees [US\$7] each for violating the rules...Since our lands have not been cultivated for months now [due to the ban on their labor], we have a shortage of food grains. But the shopkeepers have been warned from selling goods to us. They will not grind our wheat and will not sell some rice or oil also. We are treated as untouchables, but we have not stopped gathering for worship on Sundays”)

India: Ranchi, Jharkhand state

Two Christians were arrested on illegal conversion allegations, they had asked a Hindu niece who was literate to read the Bible to them since they could not read it, the two were released without charge at midnight

Christina Oraon

Sukro Munda

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/04/food-deprivation-beatings-and-jail-as-christians-suffer-in-jharkhand-india/>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/06/christian-families-going-hungry-as-villagers-in-india-deprive-them-of-work-homes/>

Sunday March 31, 2019



India: Tezu, Arunachal Pradesh state

Fr. Thomas Mani (reported the theft of a statue of Mary the mother of Jesus from a shrine)

India: Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh state

Fr Felix Anthony (commented on the theft of a statue of Mary the mother of Jesus from another shrine)

[http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Arunachal-Pradesh:-two-statues-of-Mary-stolen-\(and-later-found\)-46655.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Arunachal-Pradesh:-two-statues-of-Mary-stolen-(and-later-found)-46655.html)

March 2019, date unknown



Kenya: Mombasa

Charles Ndingi Mudasir (convert from Islam, beaten by his father in 2014; taken to the airport in 2015 by his uncle and brother for a trip to Qatar, his crying brother confessed he was to be beheaded on arrival, escaped; met his father in a coffee shop in 2017, father poisoned his coffee, hospitalized; **UPDATE:** abducted from a cyber cafe by men hired by his father, held for 7 days without food and with little water, threatened with death, released)

<https://www.persecution.org/2019/04/22/greatest-enemy-christian-faith-father-part-1/>
<https://www.persecution.org/2019/04/23/greatest-enemy-christian-faith-father-part-2/>

Today's Martyrs

2490 Black Rock Turnpike #455

Fairfield CT 06825-2400

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

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