

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – April 2019

Monday April 1, 2019



Indonesia: Karet village, Pleret sub-district, Bantul regency, central Java

Slamet Sumiarto (painter, evicted from his village along with his family because he was not Muslim, authorities allowed him to stay under their supervision but he decided to leave, posted an online protest video, said the ban "makes no sense and contradicts Pancasila [the official ideology of tolerance] as well as the Constitution of 1945")

[http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Yogyakarta-Catholic-family-expelled-because-non-Muslim-\(video\)-46670.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Yogyakarta-Catholic-family-expelled-because-non-Muslim-(video)-46670.html)



China: Chengdu, Sichuan province

Zhang Jianqing (spouse of Yu Zhixue, detained on [December 10, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: threatened with arrest)

Yu Zhixue (spouse of Zhang Jianqing, threatened with arrest)

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



India: Jharkhand state

Bale Murmu (aged 28, wife of Jaata Murmu, mother, beaten by a neighbor for witnessing Christ to his relatives)

Jaata Murmu (husband of Bale Murmu, father, attempted to rescue his wife from a beating by a neighbor, also beaten)

Pastor Girish Chander Marandi (attacked on [February 8, 2019](#) after he and other pastors confronted a neighbor over his attacks on Christians the previous day; **UPDATE**:

described the attack by the same neighbor “Majhi with all his force pressed her breasts and pushed her to the floor. While he was kicking her in her stomach, his wife, Gouri Majhi, brought a wooden stick, and the couple beat her black and blue. Murmu suffered bruises all over her body and, her stomach and breasts were swollen. We provided her first aid that night, and the next day we went to the police station”)

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



Pakistan: Karachi

Cardinal Joseph Coutts (aged 73, **UPDATE**: reported to have thanked Christian and Muslim entertainers for organizing a music festival to raise funds to repair the cathedral's stained glass windows, which have been damaged by heat and by bombings in 1987 and 1998)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-and-Muslim-artists-to-perform-for-Karachi-cathedral-windows-46658.html>

Tuesday April 2, 2019



China: Beijing

Ms Yin (detained along with another Christian after attending a women's fellowship in a restaurant, later fled to the United States after her detention ended, the other Christian has been missing)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/07/chinese-officials-crack-down-on.html>



Vietnam

Francis Nguyen Nam Phong (aged 39, husband of Nguyen Thi Yen, father of Nguyen Hai Giang, convicted of 'resisting officials on duty' for helping fishermen sue a Taiwanese steel plant for pollution, sentenced in [Dien Chau district, Nghe An province](#) on [February 6, 2018](#) to 2 years' imprisonment; **UPDATE**: daughter diagnosed with cancer)

Nguyen Thi Yen (wife of Francis Nguyen Nam Phong, mother of Nguyen Hai Giang)

Nguyen Hai Giang (aged 16, diagnosed with cancer, doctors recommended her leg be amputated, family cannot afford surgery)

Fr John Baptist Nguyen Dinh Thuc (**UPDATE:** has begun a collection for Nguyen Hai Giang's medical expenses, said "Please pray for Giang and her family to be in peace and overcome this difficult time")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/vietnamese-priest-seeks-support-for-convicts-ailing-child/84891>



Netherlands

Chen Yan (Chinese citizen, asylum applicant, detained in an immigration facility after documenting Chinese persecutions, at risk of deportation to China)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/04/imprisoned-petitioner-pens-letter.html>



Peru: Belen district, Iquitos, Maynas province, Loreto region

Br Paul McAuley FSC (aged 72, British citizen, school director, **died under unusual circumstances**, investigation opened by prosecutors)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/65829-AMERICA_PERU_Bishops_ask_to_investigate_the_death_of_a_British_Lasallian_religious



United States – Louisiana: Opelousas

The second of three churches was destroyed in an arson attack, a neopagan / Satanist was later arrested

Rev. Harry J. Richard (church destroyed, said “They burned down a building. They didn’t burn down our spirit”)

Monica Harris (aged 57, church destroyed, said “Seeing the church in the condition it is now, it’s almost like losing a family member”)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/08/us/louisiana-black-churches-fires.html?module=inline>

Wednesday April 3, 2019



Malaysia

Pastor Raymond Koh Keng Joo (aged 62, husband of Susanna Liew, father of Jonathan Koh, questioned in 2011 for converting Muslims to Christianity, case dropped for lack of evidence; abducted by 5 armed and masked men in Petaling Jaya on February 13, 2017, police initially refused to file a report despite witness accounts of the abduction; **UPDATE:** A human rights investigation concluded that he had been abducted by the Special Branch, the national police intelligence gathering unit)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/police-accused-of-abducting-malaysian-pastor-activist/84895>



China: Mindong, Fujian province

Bishop Vincent Guo Xijin (aged 60, underground bishop, abducted by police on March 26, 2018 after refusing to concelebrate Easter Mass with an excommunicated bishop; returned to his residence on March 27, 2018, prohibited from public Mass; demoted on December 12, 2018 to auxiliary bishop as part of an concordant between the Chinese government and the Vatican, will serve under a government sponsored bishop; **UPDATE:** reported to have been told by the government that he could not engage in public ministry until he joins the Patriotic Association, [the government controlled church])

John (reported on the prohibition on public ministry by Bishop Vincent Guo Xijin "In practice it is blackmail. If the bishop does not register with the PA [the government controlled church], he cannot concelebrate with Bishop Zhan Silu [the PA bishop] at the Chrism Mass and risks not exercising any ministry. After the China-Vatican agreement, everything turned upside down: the bishop who was previously unlawful [excommunicated] can now celebrate, what used to be the ordinary has now become even illegal! It's something to laugh about, if it weren't serious and painful!")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Msgr.-Guo-Xijin-and-blackmail-in-the-diocese-of-Mindong-after-the-China---Holy-See-agreement-46681.html>

Thursday April 4, 2019



China: Qianyang, Shaanxi province

Bishop Peter Li Huiyuan (local parish church and health clinic demolished by Maoists in control of the local government)

China: Mujiaping, Taibai district, Shaanxi province

Bishop Peter Li Huiyuan (**UPDATE**: a shrine to Mary the mother of Jesus was the object of an attempt to be demolished by Maoists in control of the local government, 200 Christians blocked the attempt)

China: Shanghai

Pastor Michael Yu (dual U.S.-Taiwanese citizen, arrested along with more than 20 Christians, released, prevented from leaving the country)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/04/shanghai-seizes-more-than-20-christians.html>

[http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Shaanxi-government-razes-Qianyang-parish-to-ground-\(video\)-46686.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Shaanxi-government-razes-Qianyang-parish-to-ground-(video)-46686.html)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Fengxiang,-200-faithful-in-standoff-with-600-policemen-who-want-to-destroy-the-Marian-shrine-of-Mujiaping-46733.html>



United States – Louisiana: Opelousas

The third of three churches was destroyed in an arson attack, a neopagan / Satanist was later arrested

Rev Gerald Toussaint (church destroyed, said “We don’t know who did it so if you put race in it and it turns out to be something else, it makes it look like we’re pushing towards that. I just want to find who did it and then why they did it. And then we’ll go from there. They might have destroyed the building but they didn’t stop the church. So we have got to keep on going...There’s an atmosphere that says we need to support the flag, we need to respect the flag. And they don’t realize, I’m a veteran. I spent seven years for my country. And this is what people do to a person who has spent their time fighting for their country. It’s heartbreaking. Because I love this country. I wasn’t born in Africa. I was born in Opelousas, Louisiana. That’s all I know. My daddy pastored here for 21 years. After he left, I came. And so, that’s 30-something years of service to these people”)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/05/us/louisiana-black-church-fires.html>

<https://www.rawstory.com/2019/04/pastor-145-year-old-burned-black-church-love-country-wasnt-born-africa/>

Friday April 5, 2019



India: Atrauli, Aligarh district, Uttar Pradesh state

Rev Raju Abraham (church construction site demolished by local officials after they seized the building permit, said "The damage caused to the church, a symbol of religious tolerance, seems almost irreparable")

India: New Delhi

Christian leaders spoke after the Supreme Court postponed a hearing on the Rajasthan state High Court's ruling establishing 'guidelines' to regulate religious conversion

A C Michael (**UPDATE:** said the Rajasthan Court's decision “infringes upon the fundamental rights of all persons” and violated of the Indian constitution, added "The act of accepting any religious belief or doctrine is a private affair and is exercised only within a person’s conscience. The act of conversion is a personal act and does not require the state to be notified of such an act of conversion")

Joseph Dias (**UPDATE:** said “Choosing faith is not a crime. The court in its order tried to restrict individual liberty and it conflicts with the idea of a secular state where freedom of religion is guaranteed in the constitution itself”)

Allen Brooks (**UPDATE:** said “The constitution of the country is very clear about this. The right to freedom is a very fundamental right of the people living in India. I hope the Supreme Court will reject the guidelines set for conversions by Rajasthan court”)

[http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Church-under-construction-demolished-by-bulldozers-in-Uttar-Pradesh-\(video\)-46747.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Church-under-construction-demolished-by-bulldozers-in-Uttar-Pradesh-(video)-46747.html)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-christians-look-to-supreme-court-for-religious-freedom/84919>

Saturday April 6, 2019



India: Chinnasalem, Tamil Nadu state

Sr Devaseer Mary FIH (**UPDATE:** reported more details on the [March 26, 2019](#) attack by 200 RSS paramilitary members on a parochial school: "four nuns wounded in the attack by Hindu radicals were discharged from hospital and are back in the convent. They were hospitalized for a few days, first in the Kallakurichi Government Hospital, later at the Krishna Hospital in Cuddalore. Thanks to Divine Providence and the good guidance of our Lord, the sisters have recovered from pain and are now feeling better...six people have been arrested and many others are under investigation is underway”)

Auxiliary Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas SFX (**UPDATE:** said "For us, this attack is a very sad thing. The whole school was mourning the death of the girl [who killed herself over bad grades]. We love our pupils as if they were our children...How is it possible for such a large crowd to act against a school? Why did no one stop them? Power, violence left in the hands of a mob is a danger to everyone in India, not only for minorities. This is what troubles us. The problem is that in the country different groups are spreading a climate of hatred...If it were just a question of money, they would not have desecrated the Crucifix. Even the attempt to strangle the sisters with their Cross, is a contempt of faith. Sisters strangled with the Crucifix? What is this country coming to?...In Indian culture sacred objects are sacred for everyone, regardless of religion. Such lack of respect, and the hatred caused by such lack of respect are the country's greatest danger")

India: Pondum village, Dantewada district, Chhattisgarh state

Nandesh Veko (aged 15, given an ultimatum along with his uncles to leave the village under threat of death, said "We do not gather for prayers in Pondum and never hosted a large meeting also, because we know the villagers would oppose it and frame us in false cases. When the neighbors' kids hear us praying, they increase their TV volume, shout and make strange noises, some ghostly sounds")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Tamil-Nadu:-Nuns-beaten-by-Hindu-radicals-released-from-hospital-46707.html>

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

Sunday April 7, 2019



Russia: Verkhnebakanskiy, outside Novorossiysk

Presbyter Yury Korniyenko (church service interrupted by police, later charged with illegal missionary activity)

Presbyter Yevgeny Kokora (home raided by police during a Lenten worship service, wrote on Facebook that the police perpetrated "vulgarity and screams" and "threatened women and warned people not to tape the raid with video cameras or mobile phones", appealed "to you, Vladimir Vladimirovich [Putin], to intervene to stop these abuses, especially in a heroic city like Novorossiysk [famous for its resistance to the Nazis], where freedom of conscience is violated in a brutal way by the representatives of the State", also said "In Russia, at the behest of the state, most communities in the Evangelical churches gather in private households, since it is impossible to obtain official permission to build a house of worship")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Persecution-of-non-orthodox-groups-continues-as-police-interrupt-Baptist-service-46758.html>
http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2505



Uganda: Lelya-A village, Kabweri county, Kibuku district

Asuman Kaire (aged 20, convert from Islam, beaten by his stepfather and 7 other Muslims after he left church, left leg broken, hand injured, left unconscious, hospitalized, had been unable to finish secondary school due to threats)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/07/unable-to-finish-school-for-becoming-christian-young-man-in-uganda-faces-bleak-future/>

Monday April 8, 2019



India: Mumbai

Dr John Dayal (**UPDATE:** summoned to appear in court as the defendant in a defamation lawsuit for stating on [July 12, 2018](#) on television "The RSS [paramilitary organization] spreads fear. The RSS kills remember. The RSS killed [Mohandas] Gandhi", said that he will not appear in court)

<http://mattersindia.com/2019/04/court-summons-activist-dayal-in-defamation-case/>

Tuesday April 9, 2019



China: Hong Kong

Rev Chu Yiu-ming (aged 74, convicted of conspiracy and public nuisance in connection with a series of public demonstrations, in his mitigation statement said "Today, old and grey, I find myself in the defendant's dock, making a final plea as a convict. It looks so absurd, if not outright shameful for a person holding any office. Yet...my heart tells me that with this defendant's dock, I have found the most honorable pulpit of my ministerial career...I

am just a bell toller. I ring the bell. So doing, I hope that consciences may wake up, and together we work to save the day”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Convicted-Protestant-clergyman,-found-most-honourable-pulpit-of-my-ministerial-career-in-Occupy-Central-46741.html>



Nigeria: Kigam village, Plateau state

Salah Akpa (village head, **killed** on his farm by Fulani Muslims)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/06/three-children-among-13-christians-killed-in-attacks-in-two-states-in-nigeria/>

Wednesday April 10, 2019



India: Jhurmu village, Gumla district, Jharkhand state

Prakash Lakra (**beaten** by a mob along with three others for allegedly slaughtering a cow, **died hours later from his injuries**)

Fr Cyprian Kulla (said that Prakash Lakra and his companions did not kill a cow, they took a hide from an already dead ox, added “A group of people came back by evening and began beating the four involved. They also took them to a nearby police station, where Lakra’s condition deteriorated. He was rushed to a nearby hospital but was declared dead”)

A C Michael (**UPDATE:** later said “Such violence is nothing but a strategy to terrorize minorities and polarize the country in the name of religion for votes”)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/christians-muslims-protest-over-indian-cow-vigilantes/84985>



Sri Lanka: Siyambalanduwa village, Monaragala district, Uva province

Christians have been reported as having continued to worship outdoors since their church was forcibly closed by local Buddhists

Alocious (aged 94, said "My greatest wish before dying is to attend Mass inside the church again and resume catechism classes. I pray every day: Please Lord, bring back our church to us")

Anthony Perera (said "We do not want any conflict with Buddhists or the members of other religions. We only want our church, catechism and kindergarten. We are sure that we will get our church back and get back to worshipping")

Anthony Fernando (village official, said Buddhists organized protests against the Christians between 2011 and 2016, once burning the cross on the church facade)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mass-under-the-tamarind-tree-in-Monaragala-46740.html>



Pakistan

Shalet Javed (aged 15, daughter of Tasleem and Javed Masih, abducted in [Dhandra village, Faisalabad district](#) on [March 25, 2019](#), beaten and tortured, forcibly converted and forced into an Islamic marriage; **UPDATE**: recovered in a police raid, returned home, later said "I never gave up hope entirely, I kept praying to God and beseeched Him to release me from my degrading captivity. God answered my prayers and now I am back with my mum and dad - I am so grateful to God. I was violated and abused by my captor but he has not broken my spirit, I spoke in court and will testify again and again till the monster is jailed - he should not be allowed to do this to anyone else ever again")

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

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

Pakistan

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; the Supreme Court issued a ruling on [October 31, 2018](#) that overturned her conviction on the grounds that she had been denied presumption of innocence, ordered her immediate release, reports told of government preparations for civil insurrection; **UPDATE**: still in country, Prime Minister Imran Khan announced that she would be leaving within weeks)

<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>

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/asia-bibi-still-in-pakistan-pm-khan-says/84941>



Vatican City

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI aka Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger (**UPDATE:** wrote "Today God also has His witnesses [martyres] in the world. We just have to be vigilant in order to see and hear them. The word martyr is taken from procedural law. In the trial against the devil, Jesus Christ is the first and actual witness for God, the first martyr, who has since been followed by countless others. Today's Church is more than ever a 'Church of the Martyrs' and thus a witness to the living God...There are values which must never be abandoned for a greater value and even surpass the preservation of physical life. There is martyrdom. God is [about] more than mere physical survival. A life that would be bought by the denial of God, a life that is based on a final lie, is a non-life. Martyrdom is a basic category of Christian existence. The fact that martyrdom is no longer morally necessary in the [relativistic] theory advocated by [German theologian Franz] Bockle and many others shows that the very essence of Christianity is at stake here")

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/the-church-and-the-scandal-of-sexual-abuse>



Nigeria: Ri-Do village, Plateau state

Emma (**killed** by Fulani Muslims)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/06/three-children-among-13-christians-killed-in-attacks-in-two-states-in-nigeria/>

Thursday April 11, 2019



Australia

Israel Folau (aged 30, husband of Maria Tuta'ia, top-ranked professional rugby player, told by Rugby Australia that it would move to void his AU\$4m contract after he posted on Instagram Bible quotes that listed particular sins as risking damnation, including homosexuality)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Folau

Friday April 12, 2019



India

Pastor Satyen Biswakarma (church in Siddharth Nagar district, Uttar Pradesh state ordered closed by state officials on September 16, 2018; **UPDATE**: the state High Court ordered the state to allow the church to reopen)

Tehmina Arora (attorney, **UPDATE**: said “The court’s order is a welcome stop towards protecting the rights of all religious minorities to be able to freely practice and profess their faith...The court has protected the idea of India as outlined in the constitution. No one should be targeted for their faith”)

Jenis Francis (attorney, educationalist; **UPDATE**: said radical Hindu groups have increased persecution against Christians since Yogi Adityanath was elected Chief Minister)

India: Darashiv village, Champa district, Chhattisgarh state

Yashoda Ratre (aged 31, convert, wife of Pastor Dildar Ratre, mother of three, day care teacher, forced to attend a reconversion ritual to the Satnami faith “They told us that it is a ritual to cleanse the village from Christianity, and forced us to take part in it. We refused to offer coconuts or bow before the deities, but three families gave in and renounced Christ...The shopkeepers have been warned from selling us daily supplies. We are ready to starve to death, but we will not leave Christ”)

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

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/court-orders-indian-states-govt-to-reopen-church/84975>



Egypt: Khalaf Allah Jaber village, Sohag province

A church was closed after an attack by a mob instigated by construction for expansion, 200 religious school children were traumatized by the attack

Fr Basil (beaten over the head with a club by a 17 year old as police led him away to an armored vehicle)

Fr Pachomius (injured)

Asaad Bakhit Rizk Allah (injured)

<https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2019/04/20/egypt-coptic-christians-without-church-for-pascha-following-mob-attack/>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/04/church-closed-in-egypt-after-muslim-mob-frightens-children-in-sunday-school/>



United Kingdom

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns; **UPDATE:** wrote “We’re awaiting the judgment in the case of Felix Ngole. I’m not holding my breath for justice. We’ve ordered a transcript of what went on 12 and 13 March 2019, in Court 69 of the Court of Appeal in front of Lord Justice Irwin, Lord Justice Haddon-Cave and Sir Jack Beatson, because the statements in court were incredibly shocking and disturbing...Freedom of speech and, in particular, freedom to speak for Christ is rapidly ending. Can we not see this? Freedom of speech is hanging by a thread, and this is by a combination of governmental policy and because of our vacillating and weak courts. Better not say what you think at school, university, or work. Someone will not like it. Christian – you know what will happen – anonymous complaint, internal ‘investigation’, Christian out...Felix’s case is important because it illuminates the open hostility to the teaching of Christ by our elites and whether we truly live in a ‘free’ society where people can have different views on social issues...Better to eradicate Felix from the system: better to eradicate Christian beliefs from our society than live in the knowledge that someone has different values from you...The threat to our free speech is all the more sinister because, in Britain, we are used to trusting the system. The arguments made all sound so reasonable: why should people’s behavior be disapproved of? Why can’t everyone just be kind to everyone?...The true meaning of the hostile acts against him, at every stage, is simple: the elites don’t like the Christian message. Other faiths, it would seem, are treated differently, often deferentially, no matter how violent or threatening they are – even to homosexuals...Counsel for the University of Sheffield said that Christian views on sexual morality could never be expressed in a public forum, at a meeting, in a newspaper article or on any social media. She said that the social work profession would need to consider whether such speech may be permissible in a church or Bible study group, but that was a decision for a later date – the implication being that such views will not be permissible even within the walls of a church...Felix’s case was also about whether we live in a free society. It shows us to be a society where you are watched: one wrong word on homosexuality or failing to express sufficient zeal for the political ideology of the LGBTQI movement can end your career. This means we are not free...Christians are monitored, reported, and their livelihoods destroyed in a kangaroo court of academics. We can see the direction that our society is heading in, and Christians and individuals who believe in freedom are clearly facing a new Dark Age”)

<https://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/freedom/the-new-terror-we-are-watching-you-one-wrong-word-and-we-will-remove-you-from-your-job>

Saturday April 13, 2019



Laos: Sing district, Luang Namtha province

Three U.S. citizens were reported to have been arrested for distributing Bibles and Christian literature, detained in a hotel for six days

Autumn

Joseph

Wayne

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Vientiane-arrests-three-US-citizens-over-distribution-of-material-on-Christianity-46766.html>

Sunday April 14, 2019



China: Hebei province

Fr Peter Zhang Guangjun (arrested in 2011, held for 2 months; **UPDATE:** pulled from his automobile after Mass by plainclothes government agents, disappeared)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/underground-priest-in-china-arrested-as-holy-week-begins/84988>



India: Jamdaha, Khetasarai, Jaunpur district, Uttar Pradesh state

Rev Ram Vachan Bind (church attacked by 200 Hindu radicals, beaten with sticks along with congregants, police stood by and did nothing, fled the village with his family)

Rev P David (said “No arrest so far but police are cooperating. [The] Situation in Khetasarai is tense because Christians think that they can be targeted again. We need to keep exerting pressure on police authorities so that they will provide security. The worst thing is that people think that they can do anything in the name of religion and get away with it without consequences”)

India: Patamanda village, Odisha state

Forty Christians were beaten and driven from their village into the forest, seven homes were ransacked

Mohan Vadeka

Mistu Vadeka

Jilla Vadeka

[http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Uttar-Pradesh:-The-Passion-of-churches-at-Easter-\(photos-and-video\)-46797.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Uttar-Pradesh:-The-Passion-of-churches-at-Easter-(photos-and-video)-46797.html)

<https://www.persecution.org/2019/04/23/40-christians-violently-kicked-village-india/>



Sri Lanka: Kundichcham Kulam, Anuradhapura district

Bishop Asiri Perera (accosted by 25 young people as he arrived for services, told he could not enter the church, locked into the church with the congregation, church pelted with rocks during the service, rescued by police, said of the congregation "[They are] heart-broken. They have no place to pray, or celebrate the Easter Triduum. We all pray that God may give them courage and keep them steadfast in the face of persecution")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Methodist-Church-attacked-in-Anuradhapura;-bishop-held-hostage-with-the-faithful-46790.html>



Nigeria: Hura village, Plateau state

Janah Dare (**killed** by Fulani Muslims)

Dadi Ibrahim (**killed**)

Nigeria: Konshu-Numa village, Akwanga county, Nasarawa state

Fulani Muslims attacked a church during a baby dedication, killing 17 including the baby's mother

Safaratu John Kabiru Ali (aged 21, wife of John Kabiru Ali, mother, **killed**)

Afiniki Kako (aged 10, **killed**)

Ali Nkene (aged 80, **killed**)

Amos Julius (aged 60, **killed**)

Ayuba Bulus (aged 11, **killed**)

Gode Kako (aged 13, **killed**)

Haruna Bawa (aged 22, **killed**)

Justina Barrau (aged 60, **killed**)

Kadon Sule (aged 20, **killed**)

Mary Amos (aged 40, **killed**)

Matthew Emmanuel (aged 28, **killed**)

Samame Andaha (aged 28, musician, **killed**)

Sarakuna Haruna (aged 21, **killed**)

Simon Anfani (aged 37, **killed**)

Sunday Adebayo John (aged 21, **killed**)

Tafiya Baya (aged 17, **killed**)

Talatu Mada (aged 40, **killed**)

John Kabiru Ali (aged 32, widower of Safaratu John Kabiru Ali, father, injured, hospitalized in critical condition)

Alkali Raba (aged 43, injured)

Ayuba Maikano (aged 80, injured)

Biyaya Engila (aged 60, injured)

Gode Tijani (aged 30, injured)

Juliana Clement (aged 47, injured)

Maikasuwa Engila (aged 30, injured)

Nicholas Danzaria (aged 26, injured)

Samuel Meshi (Akwanga Local Government Council chairman, said of the Fulani Muslims
“They just started shooting sporadically on a community that was just having a feast of dedication of a child after a church service earlier in the day on Sunday, 14 April, at a Baptist church in the area. The killings occurred in the evening of that day. Unfortunately, these persons were killed in cold blood for just no reason”)

Pastor Samson Gamu Yare (**UPDATE**: called the attack "barbaric")

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/04/muslim-fulani-herdsmen-massacre-christians-after-baby-dedication-in-nigeria/>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/06/three-children-among-13-christians-killed-in-attacks-in-two-states-in-nigeria/>



United States - South Carolina: Anderson county

Bob Harrell (church elder, described church vandalism in which 125 year old windows were broken and Islamic slogans were painted on outside walls: "It was very disturbing because we feel like this was an individual act and we don't hold any religious group responsible for it. We think it most likely was some misguided young people. However, we do take it very seriously and we'll do everything we can to assist law enforcement")

<https://www.wspa.com/news/vandals-spray-paint-messages-break-windows-at-anderson-co-church/1925708015>

Monday April 15, 2019



India: Mumbai

Anthony Francisco Duarte (won a suit against the administrators of former Portuguese colonies Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli who had removed Good Friday as a public holiday)

A C Michael (**UPDATE:** quoted the court as ruling that the administrators' decision to remove Good Friday as a holiday was "against the secular principles of the country...Christmas is celebrated with much bonhomie by all communities. People of all castes, creed and communities commemorate Good Friday")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-court-restores-good-friday-as-public-holiday/84981>

Tuesday April 16, 2019



Pakistan: Hyderabad, Sindh province

Christian leaders were reported to have complained of the scheduling of college exams for Easter weekend

Bishop Samson Shukardin OFM (**UPDATE:** said "The Department of Education of the province of Sindh has the duty to take into account the dates of religious festivals and to set up the schedule of examinations. It is not difficult to know. We ask for the postponement of the exams foreseen during the Easter Triduum")

Pastor Adeel Patras Chaudhry (vice president of "Jesus Life TV", **UPDATE:** said "Holy Week is a challenging and busy time for the Church, not only for Priests, but also for every Christian. It is the heart of the whole year. The faithful participate with great devotion to the religious celebrations. We request the higher authorities of the Government of the Sindh to reschedule exams")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/65903->

[ASIA PAKISTAN Christians ask for the postponement of college exams scheduled for the Easter Triduum](#)



Cuba: Guantanamo

Ayda Rigal (wife of Pastor Ramon Rigal, mother of Ruth and Daniel, sentenced on [April 25, 2017](#) to house arrest for one year for removing her children from government schools to avoid anti-Christian teaching; **UPDATE**: detained)

Pastor Ramon Rigal (husband of Ayda Rigal, father of Ruth and Daniel, reported on [July 14, 2017](#) to have been sentenced to one year at hard labor for removing his children from government schools to avoid anti-Christian teaching; sentence reduced to home arrest on [July 6, 2017](#); told on [July 31, 2017](#) that he may no longer work as a church leader and that he will now work as a mosquito inspector; told on [August 8, 2017](#) that he may work as a church leader but not leave his home; **UPDATE**: detained)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/09/christian-pastoral-couple-in-cuba-imprisoned-for-homeschooling-children/>



United States - Washington state: Burien

Abbot Tryphon (aged 72, blogger, **UPDATE**: while pumping gasoline, said “When the man saw the [monastic clothing and pectoral] cross, he went insane. He got this insane look and that’s when he punched me”, before he was struck the man asked "How's Trump?" and he replied he had no idea, later wrote "I should be filled with rage against a brute who could perpetrate such an unwarranted attack against me...Instead, I find myself filled with compassion and love for the poor tortured soul who was driven to commit such a heinous act. That a young man would sucker punch an obviously old man, and a stranger to him, is truly hard for me to comprehend. Even more, I am praying for my attacker...What inner torment could cause him to lash out at someone who has done him no harm? He is his own victim even more than I am his victim. I know I have forgiven him, but can he forgive himself?...I have been left with a certain amount of hearing loss, with a ringing in my left ear and reduced hearing in my right ear, along with an echoing sound. As a lover of classical music, I pray this will not be permanent. I'm also suffering from headaches, and general body pain. So, in your charity, please keep this old monk in your holy prayers...I am grateful that I was blessed to share in Christ's suffering and abuse, during these final days of the Great Lenten Journey...I want him caught, not only that he not injure another person, but that I can have a chance to visit him in jail, and let him know that I forgive him, and that God loves him")

Fr Martin (witnessed the attack on Abbot Tryphon)

<http://orthochristian.com/120672.html>

<http://orthochristian.com/120703.html>

Wednesday April 17, 2019



Indonesia: Sibolga, North Sumatra

Church leaders reported on security measures taken for Easter

Fr Aloysius Barut (said “Catholics in Sibolga are on high alert following the incident [last month when a terror suspect's home was raided and his wife and child died in a suicide explosion]. Police and military personnel will secure the church. Parishioners will also help”)

Indonesia: Matraman, East Jakarta, Java

Paternus Telyohud (church security coordinator, said “We have coordinated with them [police, military, and Muslim volunteers] to secure Holy Mass at the church”)

Indonesia: Surabaya, East Java

Benediktus Yulita (church secretary, said “About 100 security officers will secure the church” as well as members of the youth wing of Nahdlatul Ulama, the moderate Islamic organization)

Indonesia: Pringgolayan, Yogyakarta, Java

Fransisca Ita (church secretary, said “This will be the first Easter this parish will be guarded by the police and military”)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/indonesian-churches-tighten-easter-security/84986>



India: Krishnagar, West Bengal state

Bishop Joseph Suren Gomes (**UPDATE**: resigned upon reaching retirement age)

<http://mattersindia.com/2019/04/krishnagar-bishop-resigns/>

Thursday April 18, 2019



China: Chengdu, Sichuan province

Su Bingsen (home raided by police on [December 20, 2018](#), detained along with fellow worshippers; **UPDATE**: released)

China: Mindong, Fujian province

Bishop Vincent Guo Xijin (aged 60, underground bishop, told by the government [on or before April 3, 2019](#) that he could not engage in public ministry until he joins the Patriotic Association, [the government controlled church]; **UPDATE**: the local government apparently reversed itself under pressure from Beijing, allowed to concelebrate the Chrism Mass with the government appointed bishop)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/-Mindong,-Msgr.-Guo-Xijin-and-Msgr.-Zhan-Silu-celebrate-the-Chrism-Mass-together-46806.html>

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/04/early-rain-covenant-church-elder.html>



Iran: Eghlid

Asghar Salehi (arrested in his home on [September 18, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: summoned to court, warned he should stop all Christian activities)

Mohammadreza Rezaei (same account)

<https://www.meconcern.org/2019/12/27/iran-three-converts-start-their-sentences-in-eghlid/>



Cuba: Guantanamo

Ayda Rigal (wife of Pastor Ramon Rigal, mother of Ruth and Daniel, detained on [April 16, 2019](#); **UPDATE**: put on trial with only a half hour warning, denied an attorney)

Pastor Ramon Rigal (husband of Ayda Rigal, father of Ruth and Daniel, detained on [April 16, 2019](#); **UPDATE**: put on trial with only a half hour warning, denied an attorney)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/09/christian-pastoral-couple-in-cuba-imprisoned-for-homeschooling-children/>

Friday April 19, 2019



China: Henan province

Pastor Xu (reported that the government had begun to post signs in churches forbidding children to enter: "In doing this, the government wants to control the development of churches. By now, the government has already demolished several thousand crosses. Now, they are not satisfied with small gains and are more and more savage. They have stipulated that [Christian] home gatherings should not exceed five people")

China: Guangdong province

Li (reported that spying for the government is expanding across China: "Before, the Communist Party members fought against each other, and afterward, they also had informants to lurk online and report on netizens. A while ago, university teachers reported on their students, and now, they have been using these informant methods to also monitor churches")

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/04/chinese-government-hires-church-spies.html>

Saturday April 20, 2019



Ukraine: Stari Koshary village

Archpriest Sergei Korenyuk (parishioners resisted a mob attempt to take over his church)

<http://orthochristian.com/120843.html>



Germany: Munich

A Muslim yelled 'Allahu akbar' [God is greater] in a church and threw rocks at the 500 congregants, started a stampede, 24 were injured, 4 hospitalized

Marko Vidovic (teacher, said "I heard someone call out loud. The church was full of visitors. People threw themselves anxiously on the floor, others ran and stumbled. Kids were screaming")

Jozo Dramac (said "Someone was screaming in Arabic ' Allah, Allah', I understood. I was there with my wife and son. People were panicking. I tried to keep calm but I'm still scared")

Marko Petrovic (said "The man ran past me, rammed my elbow into my side and shouted 'Allahu Akbar'. He threw something. A few visitors, strong men, were able to wrestle and hold him to the ground until police arrived")

<https://politikstube.com/muenchen-dunkelhaeutiger-platz-in-oster-gottesdienst-und-schrie-allahu-akbar/> - with translation

<https://www.tz.de/muenchen/stadt/muenchen-ort29098/muenchen-mann-loest-massenpanik-in-muenchner-kirche-aus-neue-dramatische-details-12207368.html> - with translation

Sunday April 21, 2019

Easter [Pascha] – Western Calendar



Australia

Israel Folau (aged 30, husband of Maria Tuta'ia, top-ranked professional rugby player, told by Rugby Australia on [April 11, 2019](#) that it would move to void his AU\$4m contract after he posted on Instagram Bible quotes that listed particular sins as risking damnation, including homosexuality; **UPDATE:** spoke at an Easter service, broke down when he said "For what shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?")

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Folau



Sri Lanka: Colombo, Kochchikade, Negombo, and Batticaloa

Nine explosive devices targeted three churches and three hotels, among other locations, killing 263 and wounding at least 500

Cardinal Albert Malcolm Ranjith Patabendige Don (aged 71, **UPDATE:** condemned the bombings as "bestial and inhuman", called on doctors to cancel their holidays and for citizens to donate blood)

Sri Lanka: Kochchikade, Colombo

Ravi Fernando (husband of Delicia Fernando, father of a son and two daughters, **killed**)

Delicia Fernando (aged 52, widow of Ravi Fernando, mother of a son and two daughters, was sitting in the front of the church at the time of the explosion, found Ravi crushed under debris from the roof)

Mary Selvamathy (aged 56, said "I had moved away a few rows to see the statue of Saint Anthony. I was right in front of the saint when there was an explosion. I turned around but couldn't see them [my husband and children]. I ran in their direction, but they were on the ground, with wounds and blood everywhere. Someone helped me take them to the hospital, but they didn't make it. I am alone now. I have no hope anymore. Why should we live? Why should we continue our life without our family, torn from us by the error and contempt of others?")

Gloria (aged 17, lost consciousness after the blast. later said "When I opened my eyes, I saw my sister crawling towards me and my father bleeding. I can no longer remember that moment...the saddest moment when we lost our dear father. I begged for someone to help us bring our father to the hospital, but nobody heard our cry. There were men filming and taking pictures of the scene [instead of helping]. It's very sad")

Fr Joy Mariyaratnam (saw a fireball at the time of the explosion, later said "I was thinking, 'how could such a thing happen in a place of worship?'. We are still in shock")

Sri Lanka: Katuwapitiya village, Negombo

Sneha Savindi (aged 12, **killed**)

Sudheera Fernando (aged 48, husband of Geetha Appuhamy, father of Sudhara, Elisha, and Feona Angel, airline employee on medical furlough for a kidney transplant, **killed** with a shrapnel head injury)

Geetha Appuhamy (aged 42, widow of Sudheera Fernando, mother of Sudhara, Elisha, and Feona Angel, florist, outside the church during the explosion, later said "The children miss their father so much. We were a happy family. They need a dad, and I need a husband. He was recovering little by little [from his kidney transplant] and in the last period he was doing better. This is why we decided to participate in Lenten Masses. Every evening at 7pm we went to Mass. At the end of 40 days, he started talking again. For us that was a miracle - we were so happy. A few days later however, the bomb exploded and he was killed by a piece of metal that struck him in the head. God gives and God takes away. There is not a single moment that we don't think about him. We can't stop crying. We believe in God, we love Jesus, and we turn our thoughts to the eternal rest in the house of the Father. We have no words of anger or revenge against those who made our life so miserable")

Sudhara (son of Sudheera Fernando and Geetha Appuhamy, student, outside the church during the explosion)

Elisha (son of Sudheera Fernando and Geetha Appuhamy, student, outside the church during the explosion)

Feona Angel (daughter of Sudheera Fernando and Geetha Appuhamy, student, sang in the choir during the explosion, not reported as physically injured)

Ft Edmond Tillekeratne (said "The whole roof was shattered and there was flesh all over the walls and even outside the church")

Ranjitha Fernando (searched for missing relatives in the bombed rubble, said "It is the responsibility of the government to find the perpetrators and give the due punishment. Are we going back to the dark ages again?")

Eranda Weththasinghe (several friends killed, later said "I don't have words to express my pain. Tomorrow is going to be the mass funeral service, we only want prayers. We lost so many people...The smell of flesh is all around me. We are a peace-loving community in this small city, we had never hurt anyone, but we don't know from where this amount of hate is coming. This city has become a grave with blood and bodies lying around...Since the past three years, we don't know why, but we see an extremist's mindset developing among the Muslims. I know many good Muslims, but there are also a lot who hate us, and they have never been so before. It is in these three years that we see a difference")

Fr Lour Fernando (said "At this moment I have no idea what to say. We have to remain strong and keep going to church and keep praying. We can't stop")

Fr Sanjeewa Appuhamy (said "After the mass we were listening to the parish council's thanksgiving speech. All of a sudden we heard a big noise and then a bang. Unfortunately we lost many parishioners in a second")

Nimal Perera (said "We were waiting to join the procession for the Risen Christ which is held after Mass and winds through the parish and the village. But all of a sudden we heard a big noise coming from one side of the church and we thought it was a special firecracker, since usually in the Christian holidays various types of firecrackers are used. But then I saw my son-in-law running back and forth screaming "Oh my God, it's a bomb. I don't know how many managed to save themselves. We attended the vigil of the eve because my niece had asked us. Otherwise we too would have gone to morning Mass...Oh God, assist us and give us the strength to endure the deep sorrow of our parishioners")

Kumara Cherrill Karunarathna (middle-aged man, later said "No member of my family has died. We have no faith in this government or in the Supreme Court or in parliamentarians. We have only our God, to whom we ask for everything when we come to church. Now even this possibility has faded because of the horrible act. Who are the killers who kill innocent Catholics and hit the churches? Every morning, before bringing my three children to school, I come to this church and pray for a minute. Then I accompany them to class. Some people I met, now they are gone. The pain is too big to bear. I lay these flowers for all the dead, to [show] them our love. How can we watch over our children when similar things happen?")

Ms Thivanka (uncle and aunt were at Mass, aunt's lifeless body found, uncle missing, not found at any hospital)

Sri Lanka: Batticaloa

Ramesh (husband, father of two, questioned the suicide bomber, pushed him outside the church, **killed**)

Thirukkumaran Shalom Malkiya (aged 11, son of Pastor Thirukkumaran, **killed**)

V Jackson (aged 13, son of Arasaratnam Verl, only child, **killed**)

Arasaratnam Verl (aged 41, father of V Jackson, son killed, said "My elder sister was killed too. My two younger sisters and my brother-in-law are critical")

Verlini Ranjith Suranga (wife, mother, sister of Verl, Sunday school teacher and church bookstore operator, **killed**, daughter blinded)

Rasalingam Sasikumar (aged 40, husband of Chandrika, father of Sasikumar Merijan, **killed**)

Sasikumar Merijan (aged 13, son of Chandrika and Rasalingam Sasikumar, **killed**)

Chandrika (widow of Rasalingam Sasikumar, mother of Sasikumar Merijan, later said "When I heard the blast I was in shock. I knew my husband had been helping Pastor Ramesh remove a suspicious man from the church and feared the worst. My young son Sasikumar always stayed close to his father and when I realized they both were dead my whole world collapsed. Rasalingam was my provider and best friend and Sasikumar my only son and now my daughter and I will struggle to survive on our own. The men who planned this attack are void of any morals or love the hate that manifests within them is sheer evil, without thought they have taken their own lives to kill innocent people. They have left me a widow and have done the same to many others but we serve a mighty God who will protect us. I thank God that one day he will unite me with my son and husband and for the care he is now giving to them")

Anayah Peter Suthagar (aged 9, recent convert, son of Sutharshan, **killed**)

Sutharshan (recent convert, father of Anayah Peter Suthagar, later said "The killing of my young son has left me in great anguish. So many of us lost so much this Easter for nothing more than attending church to worship God. At first I felt great anger at the situation and questioned God, but I realize now this is the doing of evil men and that whatever has happened because my son believed he will be heaven now and before our merciful God. I long for the day I can be reunited with Anayah but understand that God still has a plan for my life on this earth. There will not be a day I do not remember my son, however but I will not let the pain of his loss destroy the purpose God has for my wife and I")

Iruthayaraja Santhosh (aged 10, son of T Iruthayaraj and I Manjula, hospitalized with severe burns on his face, neck, hands and arms)

T Iruthayaraj (husband of I Manjula, father of Iruthayaraja Santhosh)

I Manjula (wife of T Iruthayaraj, mother of Iruthayaraja Santhosh)

"Kamala" (convert, wife, mother, disobeyed her husband to attend the Easter service, 'grievously' wounded, later received a message in the hospital from her husband that she is to never return home or see her baby again)

Rev Kumaran (church pastor, confronted the suicide bomber because he was a stranger with a bag, said "I asked him who he was and his name. He said he was a Muslim and wanted to visit the church", was then pulled away from the bomber by other clergy to begin the service, later said "Twenty-eight people were killed, among them 12 children. Two are critical")

Caroline Mahendran (Sunday school teacher, said "Today was an Easter Sunday school at the church and we asked the children how many of you willing to die for Christ? Everyone raised their hands. Minutes later, they came down to the main service and the blast happened. Half of the children died on the spot")

Rev Kanapathipillai Deivendiran (said “I was a few minutes late or you will not be speaking to me now. I didn’t know that there had been a blast a few minutes before that, I just walked into the premises. As I entered, I was shaken by the sight — walls had collapsed completely, there were bodies all over the floor”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/As-the-number-of-dead-and-wounded-rises,-the-authorities-declare-a-curfew-46824.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/At-least-150-people-die-in-various-blasts-in-Sri-Lanka-on-Easter-Sunday.-The-Church-calls-for-prayers-46821.html>

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/sri-lanka-blames-local-islamist-extremist-group-for-easter-bombings-that-killed-290/ar-BBWa1GU?ocid=spartandhp>

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/cardinal-condemns-sri-lanka-bombings-as-death-toll-reaches-290/85010>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/04/unprecedented-suicide-bombing-attacks-shock-christians-in-sri-lanka/>

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/minutes-after-sunday-school-class-said-they-would-die-for-christ-half-killed-in-sri-lankan-bomb-blast.html>

<https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2019/04/21/easter-bomb-attacks-on-sri-lanka-churches-hotels-kill-at-least-207/>

<https://www.persecution.org/2019/04/23/isis-claims-responsibility-easter-bombings-sri-lanka/>

[http://www.asianews.it/news-en/-Sri-Lanka-in-mourning:-the-faithful-mourn-their-dead-\(Photo\)-46831.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/-Sri-Lanka-in-mourning:-the-faithful-mourn-their-dead-(Photo)-46831.html)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/bpca-reaches-victims-of-zion-church-batticaloa>

<https://barnabasfund.org/us/appeals/easter-explosions---please-help-christian-victims-in-sri-lanka-for-whom-violence-is-all-too>

[http://www.asianews.it/news-en/A-month-after-the-massacres,-Sri-Lanka-commemorates-the-victims-\(Video\)-47079.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/A-month-after-the-massacres,-Sri-Lanka-commemorates-the-victims-(Video)-47079.html)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Catholic-family-devastated-in-Easter-Sunday-attacks-hasnt-lost-their-faith-48621.html>



India: Arrah, Bhojpur district. Bihar state

Pastor Anil Juit (aged 45, historic church found on Easter to have been entered and subjected to an arson attack, a pro-Hindu slogan was found painted on the wall, said “It is evident from the slogan that this is the work of some Hindu radicals. Nothing was stolen from inside the church, but a burnt heap of Bibles, religious books, drums, tambourine, banners, mats, etc. was found”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/05/fire-at-historic-church-building-on-easter-stuns-but-does-not-stop-worshippers-in-india/>



Nigeria: Gombe, Gombe state

An off duty Muslim security officer rammed his vehicle into an Easter procession, killing eight Boys and Girls Brigade [Scout] members, up to 31 Christians were hospitalized, the two Muslims in the vehicle were killed

Ruth Samson Samanja (aged 13, Girl Brigade [Scout] member, **killed**)

Keziah Amos Kwatam (aged 13, Girl Brigade [Scout] member, **killed**)

Polina Yusuf Samanja (aged 11, Girl Brigade [Scout] member, **killed**)

Sunday Samuel Gurnet (aged 19, Boy Brigade [Scout] member, **killed**)

Irimiya Amos Ibrahim (aged 14, Boy Brigade [Scout] member, **killed**)

Joseph Daniel (aged 21, Boy Brigade [Scout] member, **killed**)

Joseph Danjuma Paul Gavan (aged 15, Boy Brigade [Scout] member, **killed**)

Jesse Markus Baka (aged 15, Boy Brigade [Scout] member, **killed**)

Isaac Kwadang (Boys Brigade chairman, said “This incident, no doubt, is motivated by terrorist acts, as the driver deliberately crashed into the procession. The driver of the vehicle is a Muslim and an official of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps [NSCDC], while his passenger is a Muslim police officer”)

Most Reverend Nicholas Oko (said “It is unfortunate that such a thing should happen on Easter Day. It also shows that our country has not arrived [at the point] that people tolerate others. People are marching, showing joy, showing happiness, and somebody decides to crush them and kill so many for no reason”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/04/funeral-held-for-eight-christians-killed-in-easter-procession-in-nigeria/>

Monday April 22, 2019



Philippines: Negros Oriental province

Bernardino Patigas Sr (aged 72, human rights activist, **shot dead**)

Bishop Geraldo Alminaza (denounced the assassination of Bernardino Patigas Sr, said "His faith moved him to serve his poor brothers and sisters and he was admired by locals because of his humility and simplicity...In sadness, we all are crying out: End the Killings! These

barbaric and calculated assassinations must end! We should not tolerate this kind of crime")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/filipino-bishop-condemns-killing-of-another-rights-activist/85050>



China: Chengdu, Sichuan province

Pastor Wang Yi (husband of Jiang Rong; detained on [December 10, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: still detained)

Jiang Rong (wife of Pastor Wang Yi; detained on [December 10, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: still detained)
<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/04/early-rain-covenant-church-elder.html>



Cuba: Guantanamo

Ayda Rigal (wife of Pastor Ramon Rigal, mother of Ruth and Daniel, detained on [April 16, 2019](#); put on trial on [April 18, 2019](#) with only a half hour warning, denied an attorney; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment for illegal homeschooling)

Pastor Ramon Rigal (husband of Ayda Rigal, father of Ruth and Daniel, detained on [April 16, 2019](#); put on trial on [April 18, 2019](#) with only a half hour warning, denied an attorney; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment for illegal homeschooling, denied family visitations)

Ruth Rigal (aged 13, sent to live with grandparents)

Daniel Rigal (aged 9, sent to live with grandparents)

<https://barnabasfund.org/us/news/cuban-pastor-and-wife-jailed-for-home-schooling-their-children-because-of-their-faith>
<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/09/christian-pastoral-couple-in-cuba-imprisoned-for-homeschooling-children/>

Tuesday April 23, 2019



China: Beijing

Xu Yonghai (imprisoned three times in past years for his faith; **UPDATE**: reported to have said the current crackdown against churches was the darkest he has even known)

<https://www.persecution.org/2019/04/23/beijing-house-churches-not-ceasing-worship-spite-challenges/>



India: Palghar district, Maharashtra state

Sajan K George (**UPDATE**: described how AHP [Antarrashtriya Hindu Parishad] Hindu radicals broke windows at a parochial elementary school after 14 teachers were falsely accused of trying to convert students)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Persecution-against-Christian-schools-in-India-continues-46858.html>



Nepal: Ghorari

Four Christians who were attending a church conference were arrested on false charges of conversion by allurement

Pastor Dilli Ram Poudel (aged 49, Christian Society general secretary, arrested)

Gaurav Shrivastava (aged 34, Indian citizen, arrested, deported)

Kunsang Tamang (arrested)

Oleana Cinquanta (aged 49, U.S. citizen, arrested, deported, texted “The allegations are completely false”)

Pratik Bista (said “How is it a crime for a Christian to carry his Bible, and how is it a crime for an American to carry dollars when visiting a foreign country? If a Hindu carrying his holy scriptures is not a crime, then how does it apply on Christians? How could they come to the hotel and detain the Christians without a First Information Report? I am really disappointed, this is pure harassment. They are portraying us [Christians] as ‘bad’”)

Pastor Sagar Baizu (Federation of National Christians in Nepal [FNCN] spokesperson; **UPDATE**: said “When detained, these Christians were not preaching or roaming on the streets or even distributing anything. They were detained from their hotel rooms in early morning hours. It is shocking that they are kept in the police custody since 7:30 in the morning and not being released”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/04/four-christians-including-u-s-woman-arrested-from-hotel-in-nepal/>



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; charged with 'inciting religious hatred' on **March 7, 2019**; **UPDATE**: pre-trial detention extended without his attorney present)

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

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

Wednesday April 24, 2019



China: Henan province

A telecommunications agency held a seminar for employees who are Communist Party members entitled "The Great Harm of Christianity to the Security of the Chinese Nation"

Ning Keren (said the seminar was based on a 2012 state media publication which regurgitated Cultural Revolution ideas)

Paul (said the Communist Party "fears that the number of Chinese Christians exceeds the number of party members and poses a threat to its one-party dictatorship")

Ying Fuk-tsang (Hong Kong divinity school director; **UPDATE**: said the seminar showed the Communist Party "[has tended to adopt an approach of comprehensive social management] through non-religious ways to deal with religious issues and therefore it is no longer a single religious department to manage religion, but the joint effort of different departments to manage all around")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/chinese-province-tightens-grip-on-christianity/85103>



India: Bangalore

Archbishop Peter Machado (**UPDATE**: demanded an apology from a Hindu politician who said that his BJP party did not advance Christian candidates because “The Christians, like the Muslims, were not given party tickets because Christians are not loyal to the country and not honest too”)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-archbishop-seeks-politicians-apology-for-insulting-christians/85055>

Thursday April 25, 2019



China: Tanghe county, Henan province

Zhang Yongcheng (ordered by local authorities to demolish a church that is said was an illegal use of the land, told him if he did not then they would demolish it)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/05/authorities-order-demolition-of-henan.html>



India: Sugnu, Chandel district, Manipur state

Fr Felix Anthony (**UPDATE**: described the arson destruction of a parochial secondary school)

Fr Jacob Chapao (said "Such barbaric vandalism against a school is against humanity")

Archbishop Dominic Lumon (**UPDATE**: said “We believe this was orchestrated in retaliation to the school management’s decision to suspend six female students of grade nine...We can reconstruct the building, but how will we retrieve student records collected over the years?”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Persecution-against-Christian-schools-in-India-continues-46858.html>

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/students-blamed-for-arson-attack-on-church-school-in-india/85082>

Friday April 26, 2019



Laos: Savannakhet province

Agoon (reported to have been arrested for illegal lumbering, his non-Christian accomplices were not arrested, police beat him and demanded he renounce his faith)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Laotian-police-accused-of-arresting-and-beating-woodcutter-because-he-is-Christian-46853.html>



Sri Lanka: Batticaloa

Pastor Roshan Mahesen (said on Facebook video “As the senior pastor of Zion Church Batticaloa, the whole congregation and every family affected [by the [April 21, 2019](#) church bombing], we say to the suicide bomber, and also to the group that sent the suicide bomber, that we love you and we forgive you, no matter what you have done to us, we love you, because we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ”)

<https://barnabasfund.org/us/news/sri-lankan-churches-kept-closed-week-after-bombings-pastor-forgives-terrorists>



Nigeria: Kaduna, Plateau state

Archbishop Matthew Manoso Ndagoso (**UPDATE:** said “...Since last October there have been serious attacks in villages especially in my archdiocese of Kaduna. Hundreds and hundreds of villagers have been killed...Unfortunately, local leaders among the Christians and followers of the traditional religions are the ones who are arrested and imprisoned while nothing has been done about those who have been killing...the first duty of every government anywhere in the world is to protect and safeguard the lives and property of their citizenry. But I can tell you right now in our country that is not the case, especially in the northwest. Citizens are being killed like chickens...the rainy season has come and villagers who provide food for us are afraid to go to their farms because they will be kidnapped, because they will be killed. So I do actually fear that if nothing happens between now and the next two months when people are supposed to be planting and they don’t go to their farm, only God knows what will happen to us next year in terms of food security...”)

https://www.lifesitenews.com/mobile/news/christian-persecution-in-nigeria?_twitter_impression=true

Saturday April 27, 2019



Nigeria: Dong village, Plateau state

Sunday Adi (aged 45, **killed** by Fulani Muslims)

Jonathan Joseph (aged 29, **killed** by Fulani Muslims)

Nuhu Ako (aged 42, church youth leader, described the killing of Sunday Adi and Jonathan Joseph “We were returning to Dong village after the day’s work at Nzerivoh village, our former village where we were displaced last year, and we heard gunshots. We decided not to proceed with our movement and remained where we were. A few moments afterwards, two people riding on a motorbike came to where we were and told us that they saw two corpses not far from the spot where we were standing. We immediately phoned soldiers of the Special Task Force [STF] and informed them about our findings. They told us to wait for them at the spot. We waited for them and they never showed up. We left the spot and returned to our homes at Dong, until the following morning, which was Sunday, 28 April, before the soldiers came to the spot and left without picking the two corpses”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/05/three-christians-killed-in-ambush-attacks-near-jos-nigeria/>

Sunday April 28, 2019

Pascha [Easter] – Eastern Calendar



Bangladesh: Dinajpur district

Fr Samson Marandy (aged 64, brother of Ovidio Marand, who was killed on January 11, 2013 after he organized a demonstration in support of Christians who lost their homes in post-election violence; **UPDATE**: filed a police report accusing 13 people including a former Member of Parliament of involvement in his brother's murder, said “I have not received direct threats, but my friends and local people warned me that I am being followed and I might be killed as I have filed a murder case to get justice for my brother, who was brutally killed”, requested police protection)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/bangladeshi-priest-fears-for-his-life-over-brothers-murder-case/85080>



Pakistan: Ittehad Town, Karachi, Sindh province

Neha Pervaiz (aged 15, daughter of Jamila Masih, raped and forced into an Islamic marriage, later said “I was taken by my aunt, a Muslim convert, to her house on [April 28 \[2019\]](#) to help her look after her sick son. But there I was asked to marry a Muslim man named Imran. When I refused, they beat me up and threatened to kill my minor brother who was with me. Later I was taken to a room where I was raped by Imran. They then pressurized me to convert to Islam and marry Imran. On April 29, I was taken to an Islamic cleric, who asked me to recite Quranic verses and gave me a new name, Fatima”)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/pakistani-christian-teen-raped-forcibly-converted-to-islam/85195>



Uganda: Kitantalo parish, Tirinyi sub-county, Kibuku district

Yusuf Tulo (aged 35, convert from Islam, husband of three, father of fourteen, home set afire, escaped, threatened with a more serious attack, said “We lost everything in that house: beddings, clothing, books, documents and other household belongings worth more than \$1,000...We thank God that no one was physically hurt but emotionally are very hurt as we continue receiving threatening messages warning us of a possible attack. The pressure from the extended family and radical Muslims is really troubling my family, and we cannot risk going back to our houses”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/05/large-family-in-eastern-uganda-becomes-big-target-for-muslim-extremists/>



Nigeria: Rotsu village, Plateau state

Emmanuel Ishaya (wounded in a Fulani Muslim attack)

Jummai Ijah (wounded)

Tabitha (aged 7 months, wounded)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/06/three-children-among-13-christians-killed-in-attacks-in-two-states-in-nigeria/>



Burkina Faso: Sirgadji village, Soum province

Jihadists attacked a church after services, killing six after they all refused to convert to Islam

Pastor Pierre Ouedraogo (aged 80, husband, father of Wend-Kuni and six others, brother in law of Deacon Zoeyande Sawadogo, **shot dead**)

Wend-Kuni (son of Pastor Pierre Ouedraogo, nephew of Deacon Zoeyande Sawadogo, brother of six others, **shot dead**)

Deacon Zoeyande Sawadogo (brother in law of Pastor Pierre Ouedraogo, uncle of Wend-Kuni, **shot dead**)

Sayouba Sawadogo (**shot dead**)

Arouna Sawadogo (**shot dead**)

Elie Boena (primary school teacher, **shot dead**)

Adama Sawadogo (shot, seriously injured, hospitalized)

Henri Ye (Federation of Evangelical Churches and Missions [FEME] president, later said “It’s not only the church of Sirgadji that has been attacked, all the values of tolerance, forgiveness and love that have always led our country have been hurt. The freedom of worship consecrated by our fundamental law [the Constitution] has been flouted”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2019/05/burkina-faso-church-leader-killed-by-islamists-id-rather-die-than-leave-my-community/>

Monday April 29, 2019



China

Tang Jingling (civil rights attorney, husband of Wang Yanfang, law license revoked in [2006](#); detained in [2012](#), held for 5 days; arrested in [2014](#); sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment on [January 29, 2016](#); family concerned for his health as of [June 26, 2017](#), has had chest pains due to sleep deprivation; **UPDATE**: released, said “My imprisonment has confirmed my beliefs that a democratic society that values human rights is the only way to prevent tragedies, such as what happened to me, from happening again to other people”)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/04/prominent-human-rights-lawyer-released.html>



India

Christian leaders responded to the call by Hindu radical politician Sadhvi Deva Thakur that Christians and Muslims be forcibly sterilized

Fr Felix Anthony (**UPDATE:** said "[there is a] new generation of motormouth politicians who enjoy a certain amount of patronage from the present-day government")

Dr John Dayal (**UPDATE:** said the Hindu radical Sangh Parivar organizations "raised a racket when the 2016 census showed the Hindu population...under the 80 per cent mark...Xenophobia of this nature cannot but end in tragedy if the people of this country do not challenge...[to] the soldiers of the Sangh Parivar, the RSS [paramilitary organization], words such as sterilization of Muslims and Christians, their disenfranchisement or diluting their presence in the North East and Kashmir through changes in residency rules, are each a metaphor for annihilation, wiping out, erasing from the landscape")

<http://asianews.it/news-en/Hindu-radical-leader-calls-for-the-forced-sterilisation-of-Christians-and-Muslims-46881.html>



Tajikistan: Sodg

Shamil Rasulovich Khakimov (aged 68, widower, pensioner, harassed with repeated phone calls from police in [Khujand](#) 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; charged with 'inciting religious hatred' on [March 7, 2019](#); pre-trial detention extended on [April 23, 2019](#) without his attorney present; **UPDATE:** appeal of his detention denied)

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

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



United Kingdom: Partick, Glasgow, Scotland

Paul Kelley (reported via Twitter "Disgusting vandalism of St Simon's Church, Partick. The shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa was dear to the Polish population that worships there and has been there since the 1940s")

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2019/05/01/glasgow-parish-shamefully-vandalized/>

Tuesday April 30, 2019



China: Henan province

Ma Du (reported on an effort of the official Catholic church to 'appraise' clergy: "Only those who can pass the appraisal are suitable to be religious personnel, otherwise their church affairs will be prohibited. It equals political scanning. To verify religious personnel should be the right and power of a bishop. The measure is like the government management model but not the church system")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/chinese-catholics-worried-about-political-scanning/85059>

April 2019, date unknown

Today's Martyrs

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