

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – May 2019

**Wednesday May 1, 2019**



### **Pakistan: Karachi**

Pastor Naveed Azeem (received a note demanding a payment of more than US\$3,500 or face a terror attack on his church that would kill up to 50 congregants)

Fr Anthony Abraz (later said "Given what happened in Sri Lanka, it is terrifying not only for the pastor [Pastor Naveed Azeem] but for the entire community and those who attend the prayer service at the church. There is a growing sense of insecurity among the already marginalized minorities, but we have to trust our government and law enforcement agencies")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/pakistani-pastor-targeted-in-terror-extortion-bid/85128>



### **Nigeria: Plateau state**

Monday Audu Rivo (**killed** by Fulani Muslims)

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



### **Venezuela: Sucre barrio, San Cristobal**

Fr Jario Clavijo (attempted to stop a National Guard attack on his church as Mass ended)

Bishop Mario del Valle Moronta Rodriguez (**UPDATE**: reported "[Mass was ending] when two [members of] the GNB [the National Guard] entered the church on a motorcycle. The pastor came down from the rectory in order to stop them, in the attempt to dialogue, a horde of 40 GNB arrived trying to enter. The pastor, Fr Jairo Clavijo, stopped them, and

after them a general arrived by the last name of Ochoa who started arguing with the pastor, in hardly respectful terms. Not content with the outrage, the GNB threw tear gas canisters inside the church. They were unable to evacuate the sacred precinct where there were a good number of faithful including quite a few elderly people. A nun fainted...This incident is extremely serious and is an attack on the Catholic Church. I blame the aforementioned General Ochoa as well as the military authorities in the region for this despicable incident which by itself speaks of the intentionality of the attackers who don't have the least respect for human dignity and don't even show any fear of God")

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/venezuelan-national-guard-attacks-church-during-mass-89610>

**Thursday May 2, 2019**



**India: Charama village, Kanker district, Chhattisgarh state**

**Christians were prohibited from buying any items in their village**

Vishweshwar Sahu (said "...the shopkeepers in the village refuse to sell even the basic necessities to us, not even the food grains...Nobody talks to me. I faced severe opposition during my daughter's marriage in 2014. The entire village boycotted her marriage. We made her marriage preparations by renting the tent from neighboring village, and Christians from neighboring villages joined us. The village heads are very angry that my children have been married to Christians, outside the village's customs. Now, since the church is growing, my Hindu relatives instigate the villagers to ostracize any who would come to church and receive Christ. They hate me so bitterly that they would not even offer a glass of water if I'm thirsty. I'm an outcast to them")

Shivprasad Sahu

Shravan Kumar

**India: Kerala state**

A J Philip (responded to the arrest of an Islamic State sympathizer who had reportedly planned suicide attacks on local churches: "We simply cannot shut our churches. We cannot stop a person who comes with a bomb to blow us all up. The government must prioritize to nip these evils in the bud")

Joseph Dias (**UPDATE:** said "The real threat to Christians in India doesn't come from IS [Islamic State] but from Islamic fundamentalism. Radicalization of local Muslim youth could prove calamitous for all, including Muslims")

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

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-christians-seek-better-security-at-churches/85091>



### **Central African Republic: Bozoum**

Fr Aurelio Gazzera OCD (Italian citizen, **UPDATE**: arrested while observing activities at a gold mine, later said "Since the beginning of 2019, 116 permits were granted for the exploitation of diamond and gold mines and for the felling of high quality trees...A member of parliament confirmed to me that only eight of them followed the procedure required by law. The state budget forecast includes 100,000 euros of revenue from permits. A ridiculous figure! The mines in Bozoum alone could yield 7 to 8 million...What happens is that foreign companies sign agreements bribing the officials, without agreements with the local communities, not respecting nature. But their importance is such that the government of Bangui guarantees them the protection of the military. On this country the appetites of many have been unleashed, in contempt of those who live here, with a vast and wild exploitation of mineral resources")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/66161-AFRICA\\_CENTRAL\\_AFRICA\\_A\\_missionary\\_Violence\\_massacres\\_wild\\_exploitation\\_of\\_resources\\_in\\_the\\_Country](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66161-AFRICA_CENTRAL_AFRICA_A_missionary_Violence_massacres_wild_exploitation_of_resources_in_the_Country)



### **Nigeria: Dong village, Plateau state**

David Musa (aged 26, **killed** by Fulani Muslims)

Nuhu Ako (aged 42, church youth leader, **UPDATE**: described the killing of David Musa "We heard the sound of gunshots around the stream west of Dong village, where you're now talking to us. We rushed there to find out what happened and found again the killing of a member of our community...We are farmers and have not been able to continue with our vocation because of these attacks. We and our elders and church leaders have met several times with these herdsmen to understand what is prompting them to attack us without finding any real reason for such acts against us. [T]hey would impress it on their people to end such attacks on us, but it appears they only do this in order to perfect their plans to attack us the more...The destruction of our houses [in Nzerivoh] was carried out right in the presence of soldiers who were brought to the village to protect us. Instead, we have been forced to escape to Dong community, and here, too, the herdsmen are now attacking this community. We do not know where to run to since the whole of this area is under attack")

Kadzai Prince Peter (catechist, said "We have tried to embrace all these Fulani people, to live with them. We've been kind to them: we gave them our land to stay on and to graze their cattle. Unfortunately, they've been killing our members. The way they attack us is

terribly bad. We tried to make peace with them, but this has not worked as they keep attacking us. They still kill our members. So, we don't know what else to do. We as Christians see the herdsmen as our brothers and cannot send them away, but, unfortunately, these Fulani herdsmen do not appreciate our hospitality and are killing us and forcing us out of our lands. We just buried one of our members killed by the herdsmen a moment ago")

Silas Jacob (aged 42, catechist, described a Muslim attack in Nzehrivoh village, Plateau state on October 13, 2017; **UPDATE:** later said "...last Saturday [April 27], the herdsmen ambushed two of our people and killed them. And just while we were still mourning the two, one of us was again killed yesterday [May 2] in an ambush again by the herdsmen. This is very disheartening. These attacks on us are being carried out in the presence of soldiers, and yet the Nigerian government has not done anything to end these unprovoked attacks on us...We have parishioners who have no places to sleep, food to eat, and even medical supplies for health needs. Truly, those of us who have survived these attacks are suffering")

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



### **United States - Pennsylvania**

Archbishop Charles Chaput (**UPDATE:** released the following statement: "Over the past few days, videos have gone viral on social media featuring State Representative Brian Sims aggressively harassing young and elderly women who were peacefully praying outside of a Planned Parenthood Clinic in Philadelphia. These videos, which Representative Sims took himself, have rightly sparked broad outrage and garnered much attention in the press. His actions were unbecoming of an elected official...There is much bitter irony that he claims to be a champion for the rights of all women yet he trampled on the rights of others and disgracefully shamed them in public. It was particularly disdainful that he offered a bounty for the identity and home addresses of three young ladies in order to encourage protests at their homes...Representative Sims spoke often of shame and there was plenty of that to be found in his actions, which demonstrated a complete disregard for civility and basic human decency...")

<http://archphila.org/statement-of-archbishop-charles-j-chaput-o-f-m-cap-regarding-harassment-of-prayerful-protesters-outside-planned-parenthood-clinic/>

**Friday May 3, 2019**



## **Nigeria: Gwanje village, Nasarawa state**

Istifanus Arewa (aged 21, **shot dead** by Fulani gunmen while saving his mother, sister-in-law, and nephew, killed a Fulani gunman by using him as a human shield)

Jerome (aged 7, alias, nephew of Istifanus Arewa, shot, said “My uncle pulled me down and asked my mother and grandmother to also lie down on the ground in order to avoid the bullets that were being shot at us. As we lay there on the ground, one of the herdsmen came to where we were and pointed his gun at my uncle. When the Fulani man was about to shoot my uncle, my uncle jumped up and grabbed him, and they began to wrestle each other. My mother and grandmother ran away while I stood there crying and calling for help. But as this was going on, another Fulani man shot me, and the bullet hit me on the upper side of my right shoulder. I fell down and crawled under a thick shrub”, another Fulani shot at his uncle: “The shooting brought the two of them down, and after sensing that he killed both my uncle and the other Fulani, the Fulani man left. I ran back to the village and saw an open door to a room in another house, where I entered and hid. I was in there until my parents and other people found me in that room the following morning”)

Moses Ayuba (aged 29, son of Ayuba Para, shot in the hand and waist, hospitalized)

Ayuba Para (aged 65, father of Moses Ayuba, said “Unfortunately, on this night, the policemen were not around, and so my son ran into the herdsmen who were invading the village, and they shot him. And when I heard him crying, I ran out to the spot only for the herdsmen to shoot at me. I narrowly escaped being killed as I ran into the bush behind my house”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/06/7-year-old-in-nigeria-how-herdsmen-shot-me-and-killed-my-uncle/>

**Sunday May 5, 2019**



## **Philippines: Concepcion, Misamis Occidental province**

Bishop Martin Jumoad (**UPDATE**: condemned a shooting of several church lay leaders in which three were seriously injured)

Father Edilberto Baculi (said the shooting might have been connected to the upcoming elections, said "Life is important, and [the perpetrators] have also their lives. I hope that they will find God and stop the bad intentions")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/philippine-church-workers-hurt-in-election-related-violence/85129>



### **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”; **UPDATE:** escaped, returned home barefoot)

Jamila Masih (mother of Neha Pervaiz, said “I was shocked to learn what had happened to my daughter as I was under the impression that she was at her aunty’s house to help her”)

Pastor Ghazala Shafiq (helped Neha Pervaiz file a criminal complaint against her rapist, said “Girls under 18 years of age are considered minor and those doing this are punishable according to Pakistan’s Penal Code”)

Fr Saleh Diego (National Commission for Justice and Peace director, **UPDATE:** said “We appeal to the Sindh government and Prime Minister Imran Khan to take urgent steps to protect religious minorities from forced conversion to Islam”)

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



### **Switzerland**

Dabrina Bet-Tamrez (Iranian citizen, daughter of Shamiram Isavi and Pastor Victor Beth Tarmez, sister of Ram-eil, has been working with the UN Human Rights Council to overturn the Iranian conviction of her parents and brother on national security and illegal religious activities charges, recently had to move after Iranian MOIS agents published her Swiss address and photo on social media and encouraged Iranian men in Switzerland to 'visit' her)

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/14164/iran-targeting-christians>

**Monday May 6, 2019**



## **Netherlands**

Chen Yan (Chinese citizen, asylum applicant, detained in an immigration facility [on or before April 2, 2019](#) after documenting Chinese persecutions, at risk of deportation to China; **UPDATE**: released)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/05/dutch-officials-release-human-rights.html>

**Tuesday May 7, 2019**



## **China: Hebei province**

Peter (described the removal of a cross from a church, added that 24 churches have been slated for demolition)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/catholics-block-demolition-of-chinese-shrine/85213>



## **India: Khunti**

Fr Alphonse Aind SJ (aged 48, middle school principal in [Kochang village, Jharkhand state](#), 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**: convicted on conspiracy charges, church officials continue to insist the charges are fabricated)

## **India: Punjab state**

### **Christians commented on the upcoming state elections**

Albert Dua (state minority commissioner, **UPDATE**: said “None of the political parties has campaigned among Christians for votes”)

Sunny Bawa (aged 30, candidate for the state legislature, had resigned from the Congress Party after Christians were denied representation, said the government census deliberately undercounts Christians by more than 90%, added “We are residents of Punjab but we have no graveyards. The benefits of scholarship schemes are not given to Christian children. Even the funds received for the welfare of Christian minorities remain

unutilized. Every community in Punjab is having congregation halls but there is no such facility for Christians")

Munawar Masih (state minority commissioner and chairman, said many Christians have stopped using Christian names to obtain benefits, added "We have been pressing for a survey of Christians in Punjab so that their poverty can come to the fore and due benefits can be given to them. But it's yet to be done")

<http://mattersindia.com/2019/05/jesuit-priest-5-others-convicted-in-gang-rape-case/>  
<https://www.ucanews.com/news/christians-seek-political-voice-in-indias-punjab-state/85125>



### **United States – Colorado: Highlands Ranch**

Kendrick Ray Castillo (aged 18, son of John Castillo, student, **shot dead** in his school while attempting to disarm another student, the armed student was motivated by anti-Christian sentiments)

<https://pjmedia.com/trending/meet-the-hero-from-the-robotics-team-who-died-rushing-the-colorado-stem-shooter/>

**Wednesday May 8, 2019**



### **Philippines: Lingayen-Dagupan**

Auxiliary Bishop Fidelis Layog, responded to recent threats by stating at his ordination "The Church has faced persecutions in the past and even up to this time. Let us not fear, knowing that we are never alone. God is with us. God will prevail")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/new-philippine-bishop-ready-to-face-threats/85145>



### **China: Baoding, Hebei province**

Bishop James Su Zhimin (aged 87, disappeared while in police custody in 1997; family told **on or before August 29, 2015** that he was being held as a bargaining chip with the Vatican; **UPDATE:** whereabouts still unknown)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/plea-over-missing-underground-chinese-bishop/85130>





## **Bangladesh**

### **Church security has increased after the Sri Lankan Easter church attacks**

#### **Bangladesh: Tejgaon, Dhaka**

Fr Kamal Corraya (**UPDATE:** said "In the past there were three agents in front of the main door of the church, now there are ten. After the massacres in Sri Lanka, we gathered with the members of the parish council and decided to increase surveillance, especially during Sunday masses", parishioners have been asked to not bring large bags to church)

#### **Bangladesh: Chittagong**

Fr Jerome D'Rozario (**UPDATE:** said of steps taken at the cathedral "In addition to policemen, there are sometimes agents of the [elite] Rapid Action Battalion to guarantee our security")

#### **Bangladesh: Narikelbari**

Fr Loton Gomes (attended a meeting of about 92 clergy with law enforcement, said "there are many small Protestant congregations in the area, in addition to the Catholic churches. Police gave us some useful tips, like installing video surveillance cameras, increasing the number of guards and avoiding large bags. We must be suspicious of people we do not know and who might try to avoid the request for identification by the agents")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Increased-security-around-Bangladeshi-churches-following-Sri-Lanka-attacks-46962.html>



## **India**

### **Catholic and Muslim leaders published a joint statement condemning religious violence**

A J Philip (**UPDATE:** supported the statement)

A C Michael (**UPDATE:** supported the statement as an open message to the Islamic State)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-catholics-and-muslims-condemn-violence/85135>



## **Pakistan**

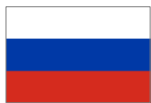
Aasiya Noreen aka Asia Bibi (aged 48, wife of Ashiq Masih, mother of five including Isham, daughter of Soran Masih, convicted in 2009 of blasphemy; the Supreme Court on [October 31, 2018](#) issued a ruling that overturned her conviction on the grounds that she had been denied presumption of innocence, ordered her immediate release; **UPDATE**: left the country for Canada)

### **Pakistan: Lahore**

Fr James Channan OP (**UPDATE**: condemned the terror attack on a Sufi shrine "This is another sad example of religious terrorism. The terrorists are doing everything to create fear among the faithful and block them in living their religious practices. This explosion in the holy month of Ramadan is terrible. In this month of fasting, mosques and shrines are always crowded with faithful. We want to express our solidarity with the government, the security forces and the families of the victims")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Lahore:-At-least-9-dead-and-24-wounded-in-attack-on-a-Sufi-shrine-46954.html>

<http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/asia-bibi-is-free-at-last>



### **Russia: Verkhnebakanskiy, outside Novorossiysk**

Ivan Gavrilov (house church owner, attempt to overturn a demolition order against his house church denied on [June 21, 2018](#); attempt to overturn the demolition order again denied on [November 8, 2018](#), the demolition order was later rescinded after all land and building documentation was shown to be correct; **UPDATE**: filed suit against the local government's order to cease religious activities at the house church)

[http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2505](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2505)



### **United States**

Betty Rendon (wife of Carlos Hincapie, mother of Paula Hincapie, Colombian citizen, seminary student, fled Colombia's civil war in 2004 after receiving threats from guerrillas, applied for asylum; **UPDATE**: arrested after her asylum request was rejected due to lack of corroborating documentation [which guerrilla activity prevented])

<https://www.charismanews.com/us/76598-student-pastor-deported-after-seeking-asylum-in-us>

**Thursday May 9, 2019**



## Netherlands

Chen Yan (Chinese citizen, asylum applicant, detained in an immigration facility on or before [April 2, 2019](#) after documenting Chinese persecutions, at risk of deportation to China; released on [May 6, 2019](#); **UPDATE**: reported that her husband and brother had been interrogated in China over her 'illegal actions' and that her son was in hiding there)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/05/husband-brother-of-human-rights.html>

**Saturday May 11, 2019**



## China: Xiamen, Fujian province

Pastor Yang Xibo (**UPDATE**: government agents told him of their plan to shut his church)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/05/authorities-harass-banned-church.html>



## Turkey

Arthur (aged 13, son of Alia, tricked into converting to Islam on television)

Alia (mother of Arthur, said "Arthur is a naive 13-year-old boy. A Syrian friend of his told him: 'Come, we'll talk on live TV. They will give us toys, and we will eat with the stars'. And my son went with him. He's a child, he made a mistake, but he did not convert...We are Armenians and Christians. If I had known [what would happen], I would have been with my son")

Garo Paylan (aged 47, Member of Parliament; **UPDATE**: championed Alia's legal suit against the producers of the television show)

<https://barnabasfund.org/us/news/christian-mum-stunned-after-teen-son-tricked-into-becoming-muslim-on-live-turkish-tv>

**Sunday May 12, 2019**



### **China: Xiamen, Fujian province**

Pastor Yang Xibo (government agents told him on [May 11, 2019](#) of their plan to shut his church; **UPDATE:** congregants at a service were identified using facial recognition cameras that had been installed at the church entrance and were later interrogated by their employers or residential committees)

### **China: Xiangtan, Hunan province**

Huang (church elder, forced by police to stop a worship service)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/05/authorities-harass-banned-church.html>

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/05/15-churches-harassed-across-china.html>



### **Pakistan: Okara, Punjab province**

Fr James Bahadur (100 year old cemetery vandalized, more than 30 tombs destroyed, stated "It is very sad to see that some people attacked our Christian cemetery, they broke crosses and damaged graves. It is an offense to our faith, our religious feelings are hurt, the guilty must be arrested...This action of vandalism has spread terror in the city and our people are afraid. It is an act carried out by fundamentalists to sow hatred among people of various faiths...")

Samson Masih (catechist, reported on the desecration of up to 38 graves in a Christian cemetery "When we went to the graveyard following our Sunday Mass, crosses on the graves were found broken and thrown on the ground. We have reason to believe that this was driven by hatred for minorities living in the area. This is shocking for all of us as this is the first time that such an incident of religious intolerance has happened in our village")

Fr Saleh Diego (**UPDATE:** said "It is very sad news for us all that some sick minded people have resorted to attacks on our graves and dishonored and damaged crosses")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/66051->

[ASIA PAKISTAN Christian cemetery devastated by vandals an attempt to sow terror](#)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/christian-graves-desecrated-in-pakistan/85236>



### **Burkina Faso: Dablo**

Fr Simeon Yampa (aged 34, **killed** at Mass along with five others by jihadists, church burned)  
Bishop Theophile Nare (wrote "Fr Simeon Yampa was a humble person, obedient and full of love, he loved his parishioners")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/66018-AFRICA\\_BURKINA\\_FASO\\_Today\\_the\\_funeral\\_of\\_Fr\\_Simeon\\_Yampa\\_and\\_five\\_faithful\\_killed\\_in\\_the\\_attack\\_during\\_Sunday\\_Mass](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66018-AFRICA_BURKINA_FASO_Today_the_funeral_of_Fr_Simeon_Yampa_and_five_faithful_killed_in_the_attack_during_Sunday_Mass)

**Monday May 13, 2019**



**China: Shengdiliang Shrine, Hebei province**

Mary (reported on government threats to demolish a Catholic outdoor shrine, Catholics responded by camping out at the shrine to defend it, said "I believe they may demolish the shrine bit by bit")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/catholics-block-demolition-of-chinese-shrine/85213>



**India: Lichapeta village, Odisha state**

Pastor Vijay Kumar Pusuru (husband, father of three, school and hostel raided by police, school, hostel, and home demolished, said "I wept and begged the officer-in-charge, reminding him that the land was allotted to me by the previous officer, but to no avail. I had invested a huge amount in the building and furniture, and everything is now gone. I told them that the reason they are officers today is because they got an opportunity to study, and that they should give that opportunity to these tribal children, but no one listened to me...When we protested peacefully, they beat us", supported by a sympathetic Hindu Border Security commandant, 12 orphans were later seized, said "The children wept bitterly and pleaded, not wanting to depart. They caught hold of branches and trees. But ruthlessly they were snatched and taken away...Where could they have gone? They do not know Odia, only English", forced to live under the trees)

**India: New Delhi**

Gornath Chalanseth (father of four, imprisoned for the [August 2008](#) murder of Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati; **UPDATE**: granted bail by the Supreme Court)

Anto Akkara (journalist; **UPDATE**: stated "This bail order is a landmark and huge victory in the fight for justice for Kandhamal's seven innocents. This bail order of the Supreme Court,

led by the ADF legal team, will be the first step towards acquittal of the innocent Christians languishing in jail for a decade for a crime they never committed")

Bhaskar Sunamajhi (husband of Debaki, father of one; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

Bijay Kumar Sunseth (husband of Pabitra Sanseth, father of six; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

Budhadeb Nayak (husband of Nilandri, father of five; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

Durjo Sunamajhi (husband of Gumili, father of five; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

Munda Badmajhi (husband of Bandigudali, father of four; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

Sanatan Badmajhi (husband of Badusi, father of four; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/66017->

[ASIA INDIA One of seven innocent Christians accused in Orissa released](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66017-)  
<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/06/officials-destroy-christian-school-hostel-and-founders-home-in-eastern-india/>



**Egypt: Al-Wahda district, Shubra al-Khaymah city, Qaliubiya province**

Fr Makad Saad (**shot dead** in front of his church reportedly by another priest over a declined loan)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/66025->

[AFRICA EGYPT Coptic priest killed by a Christian guard](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66025-)



**Niger: Dolbel**

Fr Nicaise Avlouke (injured in the hand and leg during an attack on his church)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/66023->

[AFRICA NIGER Catholic parish attacked parish priest wounded Sahel Christian communities increasingly at risk](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66023-)

**Tuesday May 14, 2019**



### **China: Xiamen, Fujian province**

Pastor Yang Xibo (congregants at the [May 12, 2019](#) service were identified using facial recognition cameras that had been installed at the church entrance and were later interrogated by their employers or residential committees; **UPDATE:** wife interviewed by government agents, told them she supported her husband)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/05/authorities-harass-banned-church.html>



### **Nicaragua: Esteli**

Bishop Juan Abelardo Mata Guevara (shot at by pro-government paramilitaries at a police checkpoint in [Nindirí](#) while in his vehicle on [July 15, 2018](#), escaped injury; **UPDATE:** said "We have said several times: this regime does not have the political will to reach an agreement for the good of the country. For the regime, the people are only the small group that supports it. It has its own program: to remain in power at all costs and create a scenario that will allow it to continue acting in political life...[President Daniel Ortega] has no intention of seeking a peaceful solution to the socio-political crisis that the country has been experiencing for a year")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/66024-AMERICA\\_NICARAGUA\\_Bishop\\_Mata\\_Guevara\\_dialogue\\_is\\_blocked\\_no\\_political\\_prisoners\\_have\\_been\\_released\\_there\\_is\\_no\\_will\\_to\\_resolve\\_the\\_crisis](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66024-AMERICA_NICARAGUA_Bishop_Mata_Guevara_dialogue_is_blocked_no_political_prisoners_have_been_released_there_is_no_will_to_resolve_the_crisis)

**Wednesday May 15, 2019**



### **Pakistan: Chak no 68 EB Dogra wale Tehsil Arif Wala Pakpattan. near Lahore**

**Two Christian families were beaten and driven from their homes by a mob after mosque loudspeakers broadcast "These Esai [Christians] have committed a blasphemy by saying bad words against Islam. All the lovers of Islam must gather together and force these demonic creatures out of this village", saved from the mob by some Muslim women and a Muslim attorney**

Naveed Masih (aged 25, mason, son of Shukantila and Farzand Masih, punched in the eye by a Muslim after he had asked the man to stop shouting profanities into his phone while standing in front of the Christian home, told 'You filthy chura have dared to even speak to me a Muslim and have defiled me, just wait and see what I will do to you', filed a police report, later beaten by the mob)

Shukantila Masih (aged 60, wife of Farzand Masih, mother of Naveed, Hameed, and Tanveer, and three unidentified daughters, said "This was a horrifying moment for my whole family and other Christians. We felt totally helpless. In our panic we started to get ourselves ready to flee our homes and get far away from the village, however, we were all too slow. In no time we start to hear Muslims gather outside our home - even the children. The violent mob surrounded our home and all of them had weapons including guns - which were being shot in the air, sticks, axes, poles and farming tools. Even the small children had weapons, we feared for our lives. The mob began shouting outside our home they asking for our family to exit our home and receive divine retribution for our sin. It did not seem very divine - we just saw raging evil violent people ready to kill us")

Farzand Masih (aged 63, mason, husband of Shukantila, father of Naveed, Hameed, and Tanveer, and three unidentified daughters, beaten)

Hameed Masih (aged 23, mason, son of Shukantila and Farzand Masih, beaten)

Tanveer (aged 16, mason, son of Shukantila and Farzand Masih, beaten)

Sultan Masih (aged 30, beaten)

Gulfam Masih (aged 25, beaten)

#### **Pakistan: Faisalabad**

Javed "Stephen" Masih (aged 33 or 36, husband of Ghazal, father of Junaid, disappeared on [May 16, 2019](#), employer had threatened him with death over a loan)

Ghazal (aged 26 or 35, wife of Javed "Stephen" Masih, mother of Junaid)

Junaid (aged 6 or 8, son of Ghazal and Javed "Stephen" Masih, disabled)

#### **Pakistan: Farooq Abad, Punjab province**

Sara Aslam (aged 17, abducted at gun point, raped, police did not arrest the rapist who then made threats against her family)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/telephone-call-anger-leads-to-blasphemy-charges-for-innocent-christian>

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/christian-man-found-killed-after-former-employer-warned-fo-death-for-non-payment-of-loan>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-labourer-killed-by-employer-in-Faisalabad-because-he-wanted-to-change-jobs-47082.html>

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/head-line-news-details/7127>



#### **United Kingdom**

**Several public figures of many religious backgrounds signed an open letter stating that a definition of 'Islamophobia' adopted by the Labour Party and the Mayor of London threatened civil liberties, the letter stated "...We are concerned that allegations of Islamophobia will be, indeed already are being, used to effectively shield Islamic**



**beliefs and even extremists from criticism, and that formalizing this definition will result in it being employed effectively as something of a backdoor blasphemy law..."**

Pastor Ade Omooba (**UPDATE**: signatory)

Baroness Caroline Cox (signatory)

Lord David Alton (**UPDATE**: signatory)

Bishop Gavin Ashenden (**UPDATE**: signatory)

Bishop Emeritus Michael Nazir Ali (**UPDATE**: signatory)

Tim Dieppe (Christian Concerns; **UPDATE**: signatory)

Wilson Chowdhry (British Pakistani Christian Association; **UPDATE**: signatory)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/multifaith-delegates-call-for-review-of-ill-conceived-islamophobia-definition>

**Thursday May 16, 2019**



### **Philippines: Manila**

Fr Edwin A Gariguez (**UPDATE**: called for an investigation into voting irregularities in the recent midterm elections)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/philippine-priest-demands-probe-into-massive-poll-fraud/85199>

**Friday May 17, 2019**



### **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; spoke at an Easter service on [April 21, 2019](#), broke down when he said "For what shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"; **UPDATE**: contract voided, said "I am deeply saddened by today's decision to terminate my employment and I am considering my options. As Australians, we are born

with certain rights, including the right to freedom of religion and the right to freedom of expression. The Christian faith has always been a part of my life and I believe it is my duty as a Christian to share God's word. Upholding my religious beliefs should not prevent my ability to work or play for my club and country")

<https://www.news.com.au/sport/rugby/australia-reacts-to-official-israel-folau-sacking/news-story/28e7e7c01434ef63a388486de223fee>



### **India: Khunti**

Fr Alphonse Aind SJ (aged 48, middle school principal in [Kochang village, Jharkhand state](#), 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; convicted on conspiracy charges on [May 7, 2019](#), church officials continue to insist the charges are fabricated; **UPDATE**: sentenced to life imprisonment)

Fr Xavier Soreng SJ (**UPDATE**: said the prosecution was an attempt to "tarnish" the Church and drive people from it)

Fr Anand David Xalxo (maintained that Fr Aind had been framed for political reasons)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-priest-to-appeal-conviction-over-rape/85229>



### **Pakistan: Faisalabad**

Javed "Stephen" Masih (aged 33 or 36, husband of Ghazal, father of Junaid, disappeared on [May 16, 2019](#), employer had threatened him with death over a loan; **UPDATE**: **body found, had been burned and beaten to death**)

Ghazal (aged 26 or 35, widow of Javed "Stephen" Masih, mother of Junaid, said "My heart is broken I have lost my husband and protector. As a couple we have struggled to support our disabled son - we have done all we could to make his life one that was joyful. The men who murdered my husband killed a loving father and have placed my son and I in an extremely difficult position. Stephen toiled for us, he took beatings and abuse for us and his reward for his hard work is an early death - this world is both cruel and unfair. I know God will protect us and trust in Him but my heartaches for Stephen who suffered so much in his short life. I pray to God daily asking that he gives Stephen his just reward and a place in heaven for his faithfulness - one day we will be reunited")

Junaid (aged 6 or 8, son of Ghazal and Javed "Stephen" Masih, disabled)

### **Pakistan: Lahore**

Fr James Channan OP (**UPDATE**: honored by the government for his 'exemplary service' to promote interfaith harmony and peace, said "Everybody is my neighbor, and being a follower of Jesus Christ I have to love everybody - it keeps me motivated and zealous. We always have to share this message that we are one human family")

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/christian-man-found-killed-after-former-employer-warned-fo-death-for-non-payment-of-loan>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-labourer-killed-by-employer-in-Faisalabad-because-he-wanted-to-change-jobs-47082.html>

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/pakistan-honors-priest-for-promoting-christian-muslim-dialogue/85291>



### **Burkina Faso: Bobo-Dioulasso**

Fr Fernando Fernandez SDB (Spanish citizen, **stabbed to death** by a former cook)

Fr Germain Plakoo-Mlapa SDB (Togolese citizen, stabbed, hospitalized, out of danger)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/66053->

[AFRICA BURKINA FASO A Spanish Salesian killed in Bobo Dioulasso](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66053-)

**Saturday May 18, 2019**



### **China: Xiamen, Fujian province**

Pastor Yang Xibo (wife interviewed by government agents on [May 14, 2019](#), told them she supported her husband; **UPDATE**: interviewed along with his wife by government agents, issued a corrective order that was later posted on the church gate)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/05/authorities-harass-banned-church.html>



### **Nicaragua: Managua**

Cardinal Leopoldo Jose Brenes Solorzano (aged 70, roughed up by pro-government paramilitaries in [Diriamba](#) on [July 9, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: condemned police violence committed in front of the cathedral against people protesting the death of a North American in prison)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/66052->

[AMERICA NICARAGUA Cardinal Brenes condemns the police violence committed in front of the Cathedral of Managua](#)



### **El Salvador: La Majada**

Fr Cecilio Perez Cruz (aged 35, **killed** possibly by the MS-13 criminal gang for refusing to pay extortion)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/66056->

[AMERICA EL SALVADOR Today the funeral of the parish priest murdered in La Majada](#)

**Sunday May 19, 2019**



### **China: Xiamen, Fujian province**

Pastor Yang Xibo (interviewed along with his wife by government agents on **May 18, 2019**, issued a corrective order that was later posted on the church gate; **UPDATE**: church raided by officials, ordered closed, fined US\$3,622, said “We will appeal, the government will convene a hearing, and we will persevere in walking according to legal procedures”)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/05/historic-churches-face-banning.html>

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/05/authorities-harass-banned-church.html>



### **Mozambique: Beira**

Fr Landry Ibil Ikwel SSCC (aged 34, Congolese citizen, director of an institute for the blind, **stabbed**, hospitalized, **died**)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/66069->

[AFRICA MOZAMBIQUE Congolese priest who ran the institute for the blind was killed in Beira](#)



**Nigeria: Dankande village, Dogon Dawa area, Birnin Gwari county, Kaduna state**

Rev Zakariya Ido (abducted along with his daughter and 15 choir members)

Ezekiel Ishaya (said “As we were in the church, Fulani herdsmen numbering over 20 just surrounded the church and started shooting. Everybody was terrified, but there was no way we could run because they had already surrounded the church. They were asking for the pastor’s house, and they threatened to shoot us if we don’t show them the house. Some of them went to the pastor’s house while others kept watch over us...It was in the midst of the confusion that I escaped from the attackers”)

Rev Nathaniel Waziri (District Church Council chair, said “The gunmen came and asked everyone in the church to surrender phones and thereafter demanded the whereabouts of the pastor. After threatening the choristers, they became afraid and showed them the pastor’s house”)

**Nigeria: Guguwa-Kwate village, Rigasa area, Igabi county, Kaduna state**

Obadiah Samson (killed in an attack on a church by Fulani Muslim gunmen)

Rev Emmanuel Ibrahim (said of a Fulani church attack “One member [Obadiah Samson] was killed and two other members were kidnapped the same night by another group of Fulani herdsmen”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/05/armed-gunmen-kidnap-19-christians-kill-one-in-kaduna-state-nigeria/>



**Mexico: Fortín de las Flores, Cordoba, Veracruz state**

**Church leaders condemned a criminal attack on a church prior to a fiesta de quince años  
Mass in which two young men were killed**

Bishop Eduardo Patino Leal (UPDATE)

Fr Jorge Montero

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/66064-AMERICA\\_MEXICO\\_Shooting\\_in\\_front\\_of\\_the\\_church\\_Bishops\\_call\\_for\\_respect\\_for\\_the\\_sacredness\\_of\\_life\\_and\\_fundamental\\_values](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66064-AMERICA_MEXICO_Shooting_in_front_of_the_church_Bishops_call_for_respect_for_the_sacredness_of_life_and_fundamental_values)

**Monday May 20, 2019**



### **Sri Lanka: Negombo**

Pastor Anton Kyanq (reported that as many as 60 Pakistani Christian and 100 Pakistani Ahmaddiya Muslim asylum seekers were illegally evicted from their homes and fled to the police station for refuge during anti-Muslim rioting following the April 21, 2019 Easter church bombings, began collecting food and other essentials for them)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/beleagured-pak-christian-asylum-seekers-in-sri-lanka-still-forced-to-live-on-police-station-gronds-f>



### **Central African Republic: Nola village, near Berberati**

Sr Ines Nieves Sancho FI (aged 77, Spanish citizen, **beheaded, possibly killed for an animist sacrifice**)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/66074-AFRICA\\_CENTRAL\\_AFRICA\\_Sister\\_Ines\\_another\\_woman\\_who\\_gives\\_her\\_life\\_for\\_Jesus\\_at\\_the\\_service\\_of\\_the\\_poor\\_says\\_Pope\\_Francis](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66074-AFRICA_CENTRAL_AFRICA_Sister_Ines_another_woman_who_gives_her_life_for_Jesus_at_the_service_of_the_poor_says_Pope_Francis)



### **Nigeria: Rikkos area, Plateau state**

Moses Victor (**killed** by Fulani Muslim gunmen)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/05/local-muslims-suspected-killing-of-christians-after-sunday-worship-in-jos-nigeria/>

**Tuesday May 21, 2019**



### **United Kingdom: Brent, North London**

Maureen Griffith (aged 74, Barbadian immigrant, retired nurse, suspended as a school governor on **May 21, 2019**, wrote in reply “At the [May 1, 2019 Curriculum and Standards] meeting, I raised that the introduction of LGBT books and Pride month into the school

had not been mentioned before at any previous meetings. I said that parents had not been consulted and that there would be parents with children from religious backgrounds who would object and not want their children to have this form of sex education. I urged them to consider those families, and added that as a parent myself, I would not have wanted my sons to be reading LGBT books or to be involved in an LGBT Pride month. As I said this, a member of staff stood up and left the room and the clerk of the school began to rage at me saying: 'Look what you've gone and done, you've upset him.' She then told me that I should be accepting of what was happening as it is law. I know there were members of staff present who were glad that I raised the issue as they felt unable to do so themselves. After this, my understanding is that two people present complained about what I had said...I respectfully invite you to reconsider my suspension. As you say, the code of conduct states that the suspension is a 'last resort', which will only be used when strictly necessary. Surely, suspension is only necessary and appropriate in cases of serious misconduct, not for a comment someone objects to")

<https://christianconcern.com/news/school-governor-suspended-for-questioning-lgbt-education/>



**Mexico: Maltrata, Veracruz state**

Archbishop Rogelio Cabrera Lopez (spoke after 21 religious pilgrims were killed in a bus accident "I join the grief and the prayers for the faithful of the parish of San Pedro and San Pablo de Tuxtla Gutierrez in Chiapas who suffered the accident on their return from the pilgrimage to Tepeyac. Blessings for all")

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/mexican-bishops-mourn-pilgrims-killed-in-traffic-accident-99040>

**Thursday May 23, 2019**



**China: Xiamen, Fujian province**

Pastor Yang Xibo (church raided by officials on [May 19, 2019](#), ordered closed, fined US\$3,622, said "We will appeal, the government will convene a hearing, and we will persevere in walking according to legal procedures"; **UPDATE**: choir members blocked by police from entering the church for practice)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/05/historic-churches-face-banning.html>  
<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/05/authorities-harass-banned-church.html>



**India: Bodiguda village, Sukma district, Chhattisgarh state**

**Three Christian families had their homes looted and destroyed after they refused to renounce their faith and were ordered to leave the village, police refused to file an official report**

Sariyam Irma (father)

Urma Deta (father)

Padam Supa (father)

Pastor Philip Veeti (later said “Their homes are in ruins. They dumped food grains sufficient to feed the Christians for the entire year in the drain. The families are hardly able to fill their stomachs with the limited provisions they have. The shed [they built of wood and grass] can barely provide any shade. They laid their children in sacks of leaves, but because of exposure to extreme hot sun, they suffered sun-stroke and have become very weak...We are praying for funds to reconstruct their homes. The village council is not ready to compensate the loss. Even police do not care. We submitted a petition to the area subdivisional magistrate, but no action has been taken so far”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Attacks-on-Chhattisgarh-Christians-resume-post-elections-47125.html>

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



**Central African Republic**

Bishop Juan Jose Aguirre Munos MCCJ (Spanish citizen; **UPDATE:** said "Throughout the Sahel the transfer of the Peuls [aka Fulani] with millions of cattle is destabilizing entire areas of Nigeria, Niger, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad and now the Central African Republic, due to the conflicts they stir up. The cause of this displacement is the desertification that forces the Peuls to go on searching for new pastures and water sources. Unfortunately the Peuls, who are well armed, leave a trail of blood during their journey that gets longer every day. They have created a corridor that descends from Chad and arrives in Central Africa in the area of N'Délé, in the north. From here they descend down towards Bangassou in the south-east through the missions of Zemio, Boqui and Obo. There are thousands of men, women and children with their herds heading to our area...if the flows were to continue at this rate, within a few years, Peuls could reach two million in the south-east of Central Africa. Local people are alarmed about their future...The warlords have called for the transformation of a part of the Obo mission area into a natural park in order to drive out farmers and allow the settlement of the Peuls with millions of cattle...This is a part of the war we are experiencing in Central Africa...We understand the



drama of the Peuls, victims of desertification, but no one has asked permission from the Central African populations who already live in very harsh conditions. Furthermore, the Peuls are Muslims and the local populations are Christian, accentuating the inter-religious tensions already present in Central Africa")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/66079->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA The arrival of thousands of Peuls with millions of cattle destabilizes the south east says Mgr Aguirre](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66079-)



### **Mexico: Morelos state**

Bishop Ramon Castro Castro (**UPDATE:** said "Organized crime is becoming a real cancer throughout the State...Three people were killed outside our Seminary...Most of these murders occurred due to non-payment [of extortion]")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/66078->

[AMERICA MEXICO Bishop Castro violence in the State of Morelos undermines the future of young people](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66078-)

**Friday May 24, 2019**



### **China: Shanghai**

Bishop Thaddeus Ma Daqin (ordained as bishop on [July 7, 2012](#), then disappeared after stating in his first homily that he would resign from the state-sponsored church; **UPDATE:** still under house arrest, allowed to post prayers on the internet)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Under-house-arrest,-the-bishop-of-Shanghai-posts-a-prayer-to-Our-Lady-of-Sheshan-47102.html>



### **Myanmar: Ann Township, Rakhine state**

Pastor U Aung Thin (forced to sign a document announcing his conversion to Buddhism, another man also forced to sign)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/06/three-christians-forced-to-convert-to-buddhism-in-rakhine-state-burma/>



### **India: Maharashtra state**

Pastor Nandu Tadokha (aged 58, husband, father of five daughters, **beaten** while walking home after preaching a sermon, hospitalized with severe internal injuries, **died several days later** after praying for and forgiving his murderers)

### **India: Ranchi, Jharkhand state**

**State authorities have targeted all 88 Christian charities which receive foreign funds for scrutiny**

Archbishop Felix Toppo SJ (**UPDATE:** said the inquiry "is undoubtedly an attack against the Church...[which] is not worried about the inquiry, even though it is an attempt at harassment. I am sure the charities have done everything by the book...[I am] confident that all the charges are unfounded...")

Auxiliary Bishop Telesphore Bilung (delivered a memo to Governor Draupadi Murmu which noted that the government has engaged in selective scrutiny "in total there are around 500 associations in Jharkhand that receive foreign funding, but the government ordered an inquiry only into the 88 Christian ones to see if they 'use money inappropriately for forced conversions'")

<https://barnabasfund.org/us/news/indias-barefoot-evangelist-dies-praying-for-extremists-who-killed-him>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Jharkhand-turns-the-screws-on-Christian-NGOs.-For-Bishop-of-Ranchi,-it-is-an-attack-against-the-Church-47161.html>

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/catholics-ask-indian-state-to-halt-probe-into-overseas-funding/85280>



### **Iran**

Yonathan Betkolia (Member of Parliament, wrote a letter to President Rouhani after Revolutionary Guards removed a cross from an historic church in Tabriz and changed the locks on May 9, 2019: "Is this action befitting the dignity of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to treat the sacred places of Christians in such a way?", the cross was later restored on July 9, 2019 but the locks remained)

<https://barnabasfund.org/us/news/cross-put-back-on-assyrian-church-in-iran-but-christians-remain-barred>



## Venezuela

### **Church leaders reported on the continuing economic crisis**

Bishop Jose Luis Azuaje Ayala OCD (**UPDATE:** said "We Bishops are often accused by the government of being opponents. What is certain is that if being on the side of the poor means being in opposition, then yes: we are in opposition")

Janeth Marquez (Caritas director, said "we have almost 4 million Venezuelans who have left the country with a huge social cost: broken families, children and elderly left alone. Caritas Venezuela is doing everything possible, but we have limited means. We call for the urgent opening of a channel for humanitarian aid. This crisis is destroying the lives of all Venezuelans. The majority of children born in the last five years are growing up in a condition of chronic malnutrition")

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/66085-AMERICA\\_COLOMBIA\\_Urgent\\_appeal\\_for\\_Venezuelan\\_migrants\\_the\\_crisis\\_is\\_out\\_of\\_control\\_the\\_flow\\_is\\_growing\\_and\\_is\\_worrying](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66085-AMERICA_COLOMBIA_Urgent_appeal_for_Venezuelan_migrants_the_crisis_is_out_of_control_the_flow_is_growing_and_is_worrying)

**Saturday May 25, 2019**



## Myanmar: Padi Kyin village, Rakhine state

U San Tin Aung (forced to sign a document announcing his conversion to Buddhism)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/06/three-christians-forced-to-convert-to-buddhism-in-rakhine-state-burma/>

**Sunday May 26, 2019**



## China: Haikou, Hainan province

**Police raided a church, collected personal information on the congregants, and seized Bibles**

Hu Shitang (taken to the police station, "relentlessly" interrogated)

Li Shanqin (taken to the police station, "relentlessly" interrogated)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/05/authorities-attack-hainan-church.html>



**Pakistan: Kokian Wala, Faisalabad**

Sania Lateef (aged 15, daughter of Lateef Masih and Asia Bibi, sister of Suleman, abducted by two Muslim men as she was disposing of garbage, suspected to have been forcibly married and converted to Islam, police did nothing)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-girl-abducted-in-Faisalabad-may-have-been-forcibly-converted-47210.html>



**Nigeria: between Dutse Uku and Angwan Damisa, Jos North local government area, Plateau state**

Enoch Monday (**killed** by Fulani Muslim gunmen)

**Nigeria: Plateau state**

Istifanus Ismailaj (**killed** by Fulani Muslim gunmen)

Michael Anthony Pam (Catholic Youth Organization parish leader, **killed** by Fulani Muslim gunmen)

Nasarawa Gwong (**killed** by Fulani Muslim gunmen)

Peter Sarki (texted a report on the killings: "Pam was the president of the Catholic Youth Organization of Nigeria of his parish")

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/05/local-muslims-suspected-killing-of-christians-after-sunday-worship-in-jos-nigeria/>



**United Kingdom: Fordham village, Essex**

Rev John Parker (aged 49, Oxford biology graduate, Church of England school governor, reported to have objected after the school held a training class by the transgender pressure group Mermaids in which the school staff and governors were told "You are all now honorary mermaids, whether you want to be or not", resigned from the Board of

Governors when his objections over the 'transitioning' of a child were ignored, resigned from the Church of England after his bishop refused to support him, said “The Governors were simply told by the head teacher that a child born male now wished to be regarded as female, that parents were not to be informed by the school ahead of the transition, and that a controversial organization [Mermaids] was being brought in to provide awareness and training to staff...Throughout the training session there was an implicit threat to us that if we did not implement, enforce and fully affirm Mermaids ideology and affirm LGBTQI+ children, it would result in children committing suicide, self-harming, and police and Ofsted [the government education agency] would enforce the policy...Given the Christian ethos of the school, and the fact that a certain percentage of parents have sent their children to a CofE School because they sought for their children a Christian education in line with their own beliefs, the issue needed to be handled with those sensitivities in mind, and it has not been”)

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns; **UPDATE:** wrote "...a real threat is posed to schools from organizations such as Mermaids. They implement a new ideological tyranny - and any disagreement is at best silenced and at worst, punished. The number of children confused about their sex and gender and seeking treatment is escalating and it is our children that are suffering and are bewildered. In imposing this ideology, we are not being kind to our children but cruel. It is time for this to stop...The Church of England has one million children in its care. This is a serious God-given duty which the church is failing at. It has invited the new state ideology into the classroom and it has lost confidence in its own message of what it means to be human. The Church needs to act before it is too late")

<https://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/education/vicar-resigns-after-being-silenced-over-trans-ideology-concerns-at-church-prima>



### **Burkina Faso: Toulfe**

**A church was attacked by armed men, four were killed and several wounded**

Bruno Yampa (retired catechist, **killed**)

Simon Ganame (**killed**)

Michel Ganame (**killed**)

Louis Ganame (**killed**)

Laurent Yampa (catechist, wounded)

Bishop Justin Kientega (reported on the attack)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/four-killed-in-attack-on-parish-in-burkina-faso-79810>



**Mexico: Mexico City**

Fr Kyrill Chakon (church vandalized)

<http://orthochristian.com/121631.html>

**Monday May 27, 2019**



**Pakistan: Baluchistan**

Pastor Aziz (home invaded by a mob of 35 men, beaten along with his wife and college age daughter, rescued by a passing police patrol, unable to return home)

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/pakistani-pastor-attacked-muslim-mob-family-home-seized-report.html>



**Egypt: Cairo**

Al Hadi Izzalden Shareef Osman (aged 40, convert, Sudanese citizen, fled [Sudan](#) in [April 2014](#) after police accused him of apostasy and repeatedly arrested and tortured him, later said “One time they told me they were going to kill me if I do not return back to Islam. I fled Sudan for my life after I learned that my life was in danger”; apartment burglarized on [August 15, 2018](#), passport stolen; reported on [January 21, 2019](#) to have received death threats, in hiding, said “My life is in great danger as Egypt is becoming an insecure place for me”; **UPDATE**: received a death threat from a Sudanese imam who had visited his apartment, moved again)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/06/muslim-clerics-threaten-sudanese-christian-in-egypt/>



**Nigeria: Plateau state**

Rev Luke Shehu (released a press statement: “Despite the intervention of security operatives, in less than 12 hours about 30 Christians were killed and over 20 houses were burnt or destroyed by Muslim militia, some in military uniforms from around Tina junction, Cele bridge, Dutse Uku and Nasarawa areas, all bordering Muslim communities in Jos North. These targeted attacks on innocent Christians are unacceptable, particularly with confirmed arrests of over 30 Christian women fruit and food vendors by soldiers around Tina junction in Jos after the attack today”, added that President Muhammadu Buhari's purported order to revoke all firearm licenses is seen as a ploy to disarm Christians in the face of the well-armed Muslim assaults)

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

Lo-Gwong Du (family of six: two children, two parents, two grandparents, **all killed** by Fulani Muslim gunmen)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/05/local-muslims-suspected-killing-of-christians-after-sunday-worship-in-jos-nigeria/>

**Tuesday May 28, 2019**



#### **Pakistan**

Aleeza Ashraf (aged 3, daughter of Ashraf Masih and Shamim Bibi, injured with shrapnel in her abdomen and left foot at age 18 months during the [December 17, 2017 Quetta, Baluchistan](#) church attack; as of [January 7, 2018](#) had developed multiple gangrene infections, left foot amputated, transferred to a hospital in [Karachi](#), in danger of death; as of [January 13, 2018](#) had received several surgeries to remove infected tissue including a colostomy, condition stable; **UPDATE**: requires a new prosthetic leg)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/now-three-years-old-the-youngest-survivor-of-the-2017-quetta-bomb-attack-needs-our-help-to-gain-a-ne>



#### **Netherlands**

Chen Yan (Chinese citizen, asylum applicant, detained in an immigration facility on or before [April 2, 2019](#) after documenting Chinese persecutions, at risk of deportation to China; released on [May 6, 2019](#); reported on [May 9, 2019](#) that her husband and brother had been interrogated in China over her 'illegal actions' and that her son was in hiding there; **UPDATE**: reported to have been granted asylum)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/05/netherlands-grants-human-rights.html>



### **United States**

Betty Rendon (wife of Carlos Hincapie, mother of Paula Hincapie, Colombian citizen, seminary student, fled Colombia's civil war in 2004 after receiving threats from guerrillas, applied for asylum; arrested on May 8, 2019 after her asylum request was rejected due to lack of corroborating documentation [which guerrilla activity prevented]; **UPDATE**: deported along with her husband)

<https://www.charismanews.com/us/76598-student-pastor-deported-after-seeking-asylum-in-us>

**Wednesday May 29, 2019**



### **Vietnam: Nghe An**

Nguyen Nang Tinh (aged 43, husband of Nguyen Thi Tinh, father of one, music teacher, active in church charity groups, arrested, had for years visited and materially supported many families of Catholic and Protestant prisoners, held in isolation)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Catholics-praying-for-music-teacher-who-could-get-12-years-in-prison-48266.html>

**Thursday May 30, 2019**



### **India: Raibareli, Uttar Pradesh state**

Rev Roopsen (arrested on a charge of 'social peace disorder', released on bail, police threatened him with further consequences if he continued preaching)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Modi-sworn-in-for-second-term.-Persecution-of-minorities-continues-47158.html>



May 2019, date unknown



## India

**Thirteen tribal Christians were arrested on forced conversion charges in Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh state in January 2016; UPDATE: charges dismissed, convictions overturned)**

Pastor Balu Kesu (husband of Bhuri, father of Ruben, visually impaired)

Bhuri (wife of Balu Kesu, mother of Ruben, visually impaired)

Ruben (aged 6 [2016], son of Bhuri and Balu Kesu, arrested, stripped, beaten and held for 3 days)

[http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Madhya-Pradesh:-Rubens-story,-a-child-persecuted-because-he-is-a-Christian-\(video\)-47191.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Madhya-Pradesh:-Rubens-story,-a-child-persecuted-because-he-is-a-Christian-(video)-47191.html)



## Cameroon: Mfumte area

Pastor Keloh Elijah (killed by the military)

[https://www.christianpost.com/news/bible-translator-butchered-to-death-in-cameroon-wifes-arm-chopped-off.html?uid=09e0ec8da6&utm\\_source=The+Christian+Post+List&utm\\_campaign=4eab6723b7-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2019\\_08\\_29\\_04\\_11&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_dce2601630-4eab6723b7-2984837](https://www.christianpost.com/news/bible-translator-butchered-to-death-in-cameroon-wifes-arm-chopped-off.html?uid=09e0ec8da6&utm_source=The+Christian+Post+List&utm_campaign=4eab6723b7-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_08_29_04_11&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_dce2601630-4eab6723b7-2984837)



## Mexico: Tajlovijho village, San Andrés Larrainzar, Chiapas state

Miguel Perez Diaz (husband of Guadalupe Hernandez, son of Miguel Perez Nunez, father of eight, family evicted from their home by their 'traditionalist Catholic' neighbors who practice a blend of Catholic and pre-Christian beliefs for refusing to financially contribute to their festivals, has since lived in a shack in the mountains, later said "To follow Christ is beautiful. It doesn't matter if we have to live in suffering, persecution and contempt

from our village. Everyone in the family says that to live close to God is a blessing, and we delight in the salvation found only in Jesus Christ”)

Guadalupe Hernandez (wife of Miguel Perez Diaz, mother of eight, evicted)

Miguel Perez Nunez (aged 87, father of Miguel Perez Diaz, evicted)

Pastor Mario Choj (reported on the eviction of the family of Miguel Perez Díaz: “The first action they took against them was to cut their potable water service. Then they made them leave the humble home they owned”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/08/christian-family-takes-refuge-in-mountains-after-expulsion-from-their-home-in-mexico/>

## **Today's Martyrs**

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

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