

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – June 2019

Saturday June 1, 2019



United States - Rhode Island: Providence

Bishop Thomas J Tobin (**UPDATE:** tweeted “A reminder that Catholics should not support or attend LGBTQ ‘Pride Month’ events held in June. They promote a culture and encourage activities that are contrary to Catholic faith and morals. They are especially harmful for children”, heavily attacked in the secular media in response, the next day published a conciliatory statement that the media mischaracterized as a retraction)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/bishop-says-pride-month-activities-are-harmful-to-kids-faces-huge-international-backlash>

Sunday June 2, 2019



United States – Texas: Tyler

Bishop Joseph Strickland (tweeted that he supported Bishop Thomas J Tobin's tweet on 'Pride Month', heavily attacked in the secular media in response)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/bishop-defends-brother-bishop-attacked-for-telling-catholics-to-not-support-attend-lgbt-events>

Monday June 3, 2019



India

Sajan K George (**UPDATE**: issued a statement upon the appointment of BJP member Pratap Chandra Sarang to the Federal Cabinet that reminded readers that Sarang was the state coordinator of the Bajrang Dal [the RSS paramilitary youth organization] when their members murdered Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons as they slept in their automobile on [January 22, 1999](#))

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/New-minister-Pratap-Chandra-Sarangi-involved-in-the-death-of-Pastor-Staines-47179.html>

Tuesday June 4, 2019



Kenya: Makutano

Fr Eutykas Murangiri Muthur (aged 32, **stabbed to death**, motive unknown)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/66144-AFRICA_KENYA_Priest_killed



Canada: Church-Wellesley Village, Toronto, Ottawa

Rev David Lynn (street preacher, founder of Christian Positive Space & Stop Bullying Christians Now, as of [September 30, 2014](#) has been cited by police under the busking law for using an amplifier in [Yonge-Dundas Square in Toronto](#), others doing the same were not cited; charges dropped on [April 6, 2015](#); reported on [October 29, 2015](#) to have called the [Toronto, Ontario](#) government's refusal to grant a permit for a Christian event because the event included songs that contained the name of Jesus and thus violated the city's anti-proselytizing policy "blatant discrimination" against Christians, said "How's a Christian at a Christian event not to say the name of Jesus in their songs?"; **UPDATE**: arrested for street preaching in a heavily pro-LGBTQ neighborhood)

<https://www.charismanews.com/opinion/76681-pastor-arrested-for-preaching-against-homosexuality>

Wednesday June 5, 2019



Israel: Jerusalem

Pastor Chad Holland (described an attack on a Messianic Jewish music concert “Thirty to 40 religious men had gathered and they started harassing our people as they were trying to enter into worship – blowing whistles, trying to drown out the sound of worship and that alerted the first wave of the SWAT team and the police that came out...They started by screaming, pushing. Several people were hit, some were cut in the face. They broke glass. They damaged property. They were kicking. They were hitting. They were cornering people. They pushed several up against the wall. They pushed down several women as well. They threw water bottles. They spit on a lot of people and in the end, they started spraying pepper spray...They overran the first wave of the SWAT team. They ended up leaving. Then a second wave of regular level police came with a captain and the mob scene overran them as well with numbers and it took several hours before the police could rally enough of the SWAT team in full armor and helmets and the face shields”)

<https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/israel/2019/june/jewish-protesters-assault-messianic-believers-christians-some-were-cut-in-the-face>



Egypt: Enfest, Beni Suef province

Amal Zarif Moowad (aged 19, disappeared while shopping, cell phone answered by a man who told her family to not search for her)

<http://www.coptsunited.com/Details.php?I=2416&A=38588>



Congo, Democratic Republic: Jiba, Ituri province

Fr Luc Adelard Aletso (abducted along with a seminarian, seminarian released, ransom demanded)

Bishop Dieudonne Uringi Uruci (said "The armed group who kidnapped the priest is active especially in the north-east of Ituri, and it is there, where they have their stronghold, and brought Fr Luc. It is one of the armed groups formed by Lendu [ethnic groups] halfway between banditry and guerrillas acting in the area. They plunder villages and kill certain people but have never made clear what their claims are")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/66159->

[AFRICA DR CONGO The group that kidnapped Fr Luc is known and we are trying to free him says the Bishop of Bunia](#)



United States – Florida: Tallahassee

Fr John Cayer (described a church arson attack in which the cathedra and presiders' chairs were destroyed, sanctuary walls were charred, building suffered smoke damage)

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2019/06/07/arson-suspected-in-fire-at-florida-cathedral/>

Thursday June 6, 2019



China: Chengdu, Sichuan province

Zhang Xinyue (wife of elder Li Yingqiang [who had been detained on [December 11, 2018](#)], mother of two, fled her home with her children for her native Gansu province after her husband's arrest; **UPDATE**: returned home and found the front door lock changed, police have the home under surveillance, landlord has been pressured to terminate their lease)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/06/authorities-continue-to-harass-early.html>



India: Karsa village, Kaithal district, Haryana state

Pastor Sunil (aged 28, convert, father of six daughters and one son, forced by police to stop church construction, allowed to resume after producing the required documents)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/pastor-building-community-hall-beaten-and-threatened>



United States - South Carolina: in or near Spartanburg

Pastor Simeon James Frazier Sr (aged 59, father in law of Brittany Frazier, **shot dead** in his home by his stepson)

Brittany Frazier (daughter of law of Pastor Simeon James Frazier Sr, said "He has a lot of family and friends, very influential in the community, especially when it comes to basketball. He didn't deserve to die like this. The type of person he was — he deserved to die peacefully in his sleep")

<https://www.charismanews.com/us/76705-pastor-ordained-by-apostle-john-eckhardt-shot-to-death>

Friday June 7, 2019



China: Henan province

Fr Stanislaus (elderly priest; **UPDATE:** wrote "This morning I went to a village, the faithful told me that, two days ago, the chapel's cross was demolished again, I was dejected and angry, but fortunately, the cross was very small and I could install it again easily, so I went up personally and put it back in its place. I have once again recommended that the parish contact me, should such incidents occur again...Similar events, serious or less serious, are gradually spreading all over the country...People have become accustomed to what is irrational and illegal, which is instead rationalized and normalized. Behind the apparent peace and prosperity lies a tortuous darkness. Most likely, people have progressively forgotten what justice and rationality are...'A careful process of elimination of Western and religious elements' from school textbooks has now changed the original text of the classics. There are even universities that condemn the classics that refer to religion to censorship, and confiscate them. These would include 'The Count of Montecristo', 'Resurrection', 'Notre-Dame de Paris' etc...The giant screens, placed in front of the entrance to the elementary schools, read 'No religion on campus': the red banners instead read, 'It is strictly forbidden to exercise forced conversions of minors'. We seem to have regressed to the policy of closure implemented in the late Ming period: even more, the winds of the late Qing Boxer Revolution seems to be blowing again...After religious freedom, we will be deprived of other freedoms. This is why I still want to warn those who are gloating: do not think that you will be spared...")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Henan,-chronicles-of-daily-persecution:-crosses-and-religious-signs-destroyed,-blackmail-and-bans-47222.html>



India: Karsa village, Kaithal district, Haryana state

Pastor Sunil (aged 28, convert, father of six daughters and one son, forced by police on [June 6, 2019](#) to stop church construction, allowed to resume after producing the required documents; **UPDATE**: forced by police to stop church construction after a Hindu mob threatened him with death)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/pastor-building-community-hall-beaten-and-threatened>



Central African Republic: Bozoum

Fr Aurelio Gazzera OCD (Italian citizen, **UPDATE**: said "The country is in a situation of serious instability. Despite the agreements of Khartoum signed in February by the government and 14 rebel leaders, 80% of the territory is in the hands of gangs that respond to local leaders. The agreement signed in Sudan provided for their disarmament, but it did not happen. Thus clashes, looting, violence continue...This militia [the Tre Erre militia which massacred civilians about eighty kilometers from Bozoum on May 20 and 21] says it defends the shepherds of the Peul [i.e. Fulani] ethnic group, in reality it fights for itself and for the loot")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/66161-AFRICA_CENTRAL_AFRICA_A_missionary_Violence_massacres_wild_exploitation_of_resources_in_the_Country



United Kingdom

Dr. Richard Scott (disciplined by the General Medical Council on [June 15, 2012](#) after he suggested Christian spirituality to a depressed patient in [Margate, Kent](#) despite given no chance to rebut the charge; **UPDATE**: received a letter from the General Medical Council after the atheist National Secular Society alleged 'concern' that he was promoting Christianity in his medical practice)

<https://christianconcern.com/ccpressreleases/secularists-target-christian-doctor-for-consensual-prayer-with-patients/>

Saturday June 8, 2019



China: Liang Zhuang Zi

Bishop Stephen Li Side (aged 92, arrested in [Tianjin](#) in 1958; released on [February 16, 1962](#); arrested in 1963, sent to a labor camp; released in 1980; imprisoned in 1989; released in 1991; exiled to the rural village [Liang Zhuang Zi](#) in 1992; **UPDATE: died of natural causes**, denied an official church funeral)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/No-public-funeral-for-Msgr.-Stefano-Li-Side,-bishop-of-Tianjin-47237.html>

Sunday June 9, 2019



India: Beheri Basti village, Jamui district, Bihar state

Anand Kumar Das (aged 26, Christian neighbors beaten when they refused to donate to a Hindu festival, later said “No Christian comes forward to lodge a police complaint against them. The police have been biased, but if we unite in huge numbers and approach the higher authorities, they can’t ignore us...We work very hard in town, as our agriculture fields have been snatched away from us. They warned us not to conduct Christian prayers in the village, and that our water supply would stop if we are found assembling as a church in Beheri Basti...There is no peace here. By God’s grace and supply of means, we solve a problem, and no sooner another problem comes up. I don’t even remember the last time I sat in an auto-rickshaw in my village, as we have been banned from using autos and public transport for commute”)

India: Kachwa village, Haryana state

Two Christians were arrested on false forced conversion charges, released the following day

Ajmer Chand

Lakhi Chand

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Two-Christian-men-accused-of-forced-conversions-in-Haryana-are-released-47301.html>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/07/reporting-persecution-to-police-a-vanishing-option-for-christians-in-india/>



Pakistan: Sheikhpura, Punjab province

Maria Jalal (aged 15, daughter of Jalal Masih, abducted from her home at gunpoint by 5 Muslim men, raped continuously until the next morning, family threatened with death if she reported the crime, returned to her home the following day, beaten by her family until she overcame her fear and reported the rape, later testified against her attackers in court and said "The men, punched and slapped me, they spat while abusing and laughing at me, forcing me to do whatever they wanted. I was told that I was a worthless Christian and that I should never tell anyone what happened as they would kill my family, who they said would be powerless against. Throughout the ordeal I prayed to God and blanked my mind to what was happening - I knew eventually he would free me...I did not want to see my family killed but could not take any more of their beatings, I was innocent and yet was being treated like a pariah - only my mum tried to protect me. It was really painful describing everything but I am glad I did it because the evil men who hurt me so badly have been put away. I hope they are convicted and spend a long time in jail as they told me that they have treated other young girls the same way - they need to be stopped. I have forgiven my family for what they did to me when I needed them most")

Jalal Masih (father of Maria, laborer, said "The locals saw them abducting her at gunpoint in a vehicle. I reached his [Sajid's] office but he was absent. We made contact the next day and he threatened to return her dead body if we informed the police. Sajid escaped after leaving Maria on our doorstep on June 10 night. She was extremely scared")

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/muslims-accused-of-raping-christian-teenager-in-pakistan/85441>

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/15-y-o-christian-teenager-raped-by-5-muslim-men-who-first-collected-families-regular-loan-payment>



Argentina: Villa Galicia, Buenos Aires

Deacon Guillermo Luquin (aged 52, parish administrator, **killed** in his home, found with a neck wound)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/66170-AMERICA_ARGENTINA_Permanent_deacon_killed

Monday June 10, 2019



Iraq

Fr Paul Thabit Mekko (**UPDATE**: reported on the burning of 5,100 hectares [12,600 acres] of cropland in 236 fires in one month "Various groups affiliated with ISIL [the Islamic State] in Mosul, accidents or carelessness are behind the fires in the Nineveh Plain. What is certain is that fires touched both Christians and Muslims. Some people have posted on social media pictures of pieces of glass or lenses used to set fire as evidence that they were intentional. Perhaps it is an attempt to devastate the economy and stop the return of those who fled")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Thousands-of-hectares-of-crops-burn-in-Iraq.-For-Iraqi-priest,-this-is-bad-for-the-economy-47241.html>



Egypt: Eshnein al-Nassara village, Maghagha, Minya province

Fady Youssef Todari (aged 25, husband, father, fled his home with his family after hearing that radicals were going to attack him for a Facebook post that allegedly insulted Islam, issued an apology and claimed his account had been hacked, home ransacked, father and uncle's homes also attacked. later arrested along with his brother and two uncles)

Bishop Agathon (**UPDATE**: issued a statement condemning the violence)

<http://en.wataninet.com/coptic-affairs-coptic-affairs/sectarian/copts-in-minya-village-attacked-for-alleged-disdain-of-islam/29574/>

Tuesday June 11, 2019



China: Chengdu, Sichuan province

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

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/06/wife-of-early-rain-covenant-church.html>

Wednesday June 12, 2019



China: Xinjiang region

Eighteen Christians were reported as having been indicted on charges of using an "evil religious organization"

Cao Lili

Chen Meiling

Fan Tao

Gao Xinlian

Jiang Jinling

Jiang Xijun

Li Yifang

Lin Jie

Liu Weiguo

Lin Zaiwu

Ma Xiaojun

Shi Xianhe

Wang Xiaoqing

Wei Pengfei

Xu Yanli

Yang Hua

Yu Bingru

Zhang Min

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/06/18-indicted-for-being-jehovahs-witnesses.html>



India: Mahuatoli village, Gumla district, Jharkhand state

Gangadhar Munda (spoke out against a village decree that defined Christians as 'polluted' and ordered their ostracism: "We told the village heads that we don't approve their decision, and that it is a fundamental right, and that we are free to practice Christianity. We said we belong to this village as rightfully as other Sarna villagers. We did not commit any crime to be humiliated and ostracized publicly like this. How can they pass rules convenient

only to them? It angered them that we raised a voice against them. They said, ‘These Christians should be cleansed at the pandal [a raised platform for seating idols].’ But some of the village heads said that we should not be forced, and that if any Christian wants to return to Sarna faith, they should come to the pandal on their own. Nobody among our 12 families accepted this offer. We stood strong in faith and decided that no matter what happens, we will not give up our faith”)

Balveer Munda (home attacked by a Sarna mob, heavily damaged, clothes, chickens, and food grain stolen)

India: Ranchi, Jharkhand state

Fr Stan Lourduwamy SJ (aged 83, home raided by anti-terrorism police from Maharashtra state without a court order on [August 28, 2018](#), electronics and books seized, questioned and released; **UPDATE**: home raided again by Maharashtra state police, hard drive and wi-fi router seized, forced to give the passwords to his email and Facebook accounts which were then changed and blocked by the police)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/The-home-of-an-83-year-old-priest-in-Ranchi-searched-47273.html>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/07/christians-forced-to-reconvert-banished-from-village-in-india/>



Cuba

Golquis Almaguer (reported to have been imprisoned along with his wife for homeschooling their children, has said “What is Christianity without Christian education from the cradle? It is nothing. I am sure they will take me to a forced labor camp. Any support you can provide to me and my family will be gratefully accepted. I don’t know what will happen, but I know I and my family are in God’s hands”)

<https://hsllda.org/content/hs/international/Cuba/20190612-senators-seek-to-free-cuban-homeschool-parents.aspx>

Thursday June 13, 2019



China: Hong Kong

Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-Kium SDB (aged 87, **UPDATE**: spoke in support of the young demonstrators who were opposed to the proposed ‘extradition to China’ law but called on them to not risk death at the hands of police out of despair)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Card-Zen:-The-Hong-Kong-government-is-driving-young-people-to-despair,-to-the-point-of-letting-themselves-be-shot-47276.html>



Eritrea: Debre-Bizen Monastery

Five priests were arrested for refusing to bury a government loyal bishop in their monastery

Fr Kebreab Tekie

Fr Markos Ghebrekidan

Fr Ghebretensae Teweldemedhin

Fr Kidanemaryam Tekeste

Fr Ghebretensai Zemichael

<https://www.csw.org.uk/2019/06/19/press/4371/article.htm>



Russia: Verkhnebakanskiy, outside Novorossiysk

Presbyter Yury Korniyenko (church service interrupted by police on [April 6, 2019](#), later charged with illegal missionary activity; **UPDATE**: convicted, fined US\$154)

http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2505

Friday June 14, 2019



India: Mahuatoli village, Gumla district, Jharkhand state

Jogiya Munda (convert since 2002, home attacked by the Sarna mob, forced with his widowed mother out of the house and to bow to an idol, fled the village)

Pastor Boyen Munda (said “Threats have always been there in this area in Gumla District, but it had never escalated to this point that the Sarna extremists vowed to take lives. They are not in a right state of mind now. The Hindu extremist forces have joined hands with them and have been inciting them against the believers...They never had an open service or loudspeakers – it has always been a private family prayer at each individual’s house. Even that few minutes of private prayer is being seen as crime”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/07/christians-forced-to-reconvert-banished-from-village-in-india/>



Pakistan: Lahore

UPDATE: The provincial High Court was reported to have agreed to hear the case of a Christian couple under sentence of death for blasphemy

Shafaqat Emmanuel (aged 40, husband of Shagufta Bibi, father of two, handicapped, arrested on [July 27, 2013](#) for allegedly sending a blasphemous text message; confessed sending the blasphemous text message after being tortured and told by the police that his wife would be tortured; moved to the jail hospital with multiple bed sores which are reportedly more than 3 inches deep, will require surgery if he survives; found guilty at trial on [April 4, 2014](#), sentenced to death)

Shagufta Kauser (aged 40, wife of Shafaqat Emmanuel, mother of two, school worker, arrested on [July 27, 2013](#) for allegedly sending a blasphemous text message; forced along with her children to watch the torture of her husband by the police; found guilty at trial on [April 4, 2014](#), sentenced to death)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Court-sets-hearing-date-for-Christian-couple-sentenced-to-death-on-blasphemy-charges-five-years-ago-47283.html>



Niger: Diffa

Msgr Anthony Coudjofio (reported on Boko Haram threats against Christians “I have contacted the association of Catholics in Diffa who confirmed that they had received the message of threats. They said the event is certainly disturbing but they added that security forces are patrolling the area, protecting churches. The Catholic faithful, albeit frightened, have not left their homes, contrary to the news that they had spread about a Christian flight from Diffa”)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/66201-AFRICA_NIGER_Boko_Haram_threaten_Christians_in_Diffa_Real_news_but_there_is_no_mass_flight_of_the_faithful](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66201-<u>AFRICA_NIGER_Boko_Haram_threaten_Christians_in_Diffa_Real_news_but_there_is_no_mass_flight_of_the_faithful</u>)



Nigeria

Several Nigerian Christians were reported as speaking at a presentation in Washington DC on Muslim attacks against their people

Napoleon Adamu (said “The Fulanis that come over to Agatu [in Kaduna state] this time are not the traditional Fulani that we used to know. We know that when the Fulanis come, they usually come with their children and their wives. But the ones we have now that come, come in large numbers and fully armed. It is not just small arms. We know Fulani to always be carrying their long knife and stick. But this time, they carry AK-47s that the government of Nigeria cannot buy for their own army...[They] don’t go back without killing people and burning houses. They choose to even burn houses because it is more difficult for people to come back and rebuild. Once they burn, their intention is to override the place and take over. That is their intention: taking over the land”)

Alheri Magaji (daughter of the current Adara tribe chief, said “It was when the chief [Raphael Galadima] died [abducted on [October 19, 2018](#), body found a week later] that the elders in our land realized that the [Muslim] governor [said that] Adara Christians are now under a Muslim Hausa-Fulani emirate. It is so ridiculous that it was already signed into law and nobody knew about it. For a governor to make that kind of law in the first place without the people of the land knowing about it is illegal and unjust...When they realized that nobody was going to listen to them, they took the matter to court. A week after the civil case started in court, my dad and eight other elders were arrested and thrown into prison for no reason...I spoke to a woman whose limbs were cut off. She had four kids and was nine months pregnant. Fulani herdsmen came to a [Kajuru](#) town in [February \[2019\]](#), about 400 of them with AK-47s. They came at around 6:30 a.m. They spoke Adara. They came in with war songs. They were singing songs that translate into ‘the owners of the land have come. It’s time for settlers to leave’. We have 2-month-old babies, 6-month-old babies, babies in the bellies turned from their mother’s womb and slaughtered like animals, like chickens”, said that a state commission was created in [April 2019](#) to abolish indigeneship “We are wondering as Adarra people aren’t we citizens of Kaduna state? If you are taking away my chieftom and there is no Adara anymore, are you saying that I am no longer even an indigene of Kaduna state? A Fulani man can come and register as a citizen of Kaduna state and get all the benefits of a citizen while I am a true indigene of the state and I get no allocations and I am not recognized at all?”, also spoke against a state law passes on [June 8, 2019](#) requiring licensing of preachers "It is so unbelievable sometimes that if I wasn’t living it, I wouldn’t believe it. A government official is supposed to tell a preacher how to preach and what to say. The license is to be renewed every year. That tells you that if you don’t do what the government says, in a year, you lose your license, even in churches. It is only what the government allows you to say that you are allowed to say to the congregation...The government takes over and does whatever it wants to do. It's a plan that if it is not [halted] right now, it's going to be terrible for the world at large. There is a genocide

going on. Every morning we wake up to different stories...As I stand here right now, I have been warned not to say a word because I might be killed. If you speak about it, you could be killed, thrown in prison or harassed by the police. What have I got to lose if I don't talk? My family is killed every day. My dad was locked up for over 100 days. My tribe is now [legally] extinct. If I keep quiet, to what gain will that be? The people who die every day are human beings too. If I have an opportunity to let the world know what is happening in my hometown, I will do anything to be able to save even one life")

Mercy Maisamari (said that girls are abducted on a daily basis "They kidnap you, they do whatever, they beat you up, they abuse you. Some will ask you, 'Where is your Jesus? Call your Jesus to come and save you'")

Richard Ikiebe (director for the Centre for Leadership in Journalism at Pan-Atlantic University, said "It is a deliberate confusion of narrative that has been very successfully used on an international platform. They will tell you that these skirmishes are just farmers and herders. I can tell you it is all of that. It is religious. Please believe it. What is happening in Nigeria is religion")

Stephen Enada (director of the International Committee on Nigeria, said "Benue state was decimated and it is still being decimated and there is government inaction")

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/nigerian-genocide-unborn-babies-slaughtered-like-chickens-entire-tribes-left-homeless.html>

Saturday June 15, 2019



India: Karsa village, Kaithal district, Haryana state

Pastor Sunil (aged 28, convert, father of six daughters and one son, forced by police on [June 6, 2019](#) to stop church construction, allowed to resume after producing the required documents; forced by police on [June 7, 2019](#) to stop church construction after a Hindu mob threatened him with death; **UPDATE**: allowed to resume construction by police but a mob of 300 Hindus prevented resumption)

India: Panchalimedu, Idukki district, Kerala state

Fr James (criticized Hindu radicals who planted a trident [a symbol of Hindu supremacy] in front of a cross on a hill after alleging it was illegal use of public land, said "[the cross and stations] was installed in 1954, when the land of Panchalimedu belonged to two families of high social origin: Kallivayalil and Karimbanal. Later, when the government approved the Land Reform Act in 1963, the land was requisitioned by the state, but the crosses remained where they were. In the last 65 years the parishioners have always climbed the hill in the prayer of the Cross")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Kerala,-Hindu-radicals-plant-a-trident-in-front-of-the-Cross-47370.html>

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/pastor-building-community-hall-beaten-and-threatened>



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 on **April 7, 2019**, left leg broken, hand injured, left unconscious, hospitalized, had been unable to finish secondary school due to threats; **UPDATE:** church he had taken refuge in attacked by Muslims threatening his life, escaped to another area)

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



Colombia: Buenaventura

Archbishop Ruben Darío Jaramillo Montoya (said violence has reached terrifying levels: "We have had 54 violent deaths so far this year, but there are many people who disappear. And this is not reported. The problem is that there is not yet a culture of filing charges because there is fear, we have a society that is afraid of denouncing. The community asked me to anticipate Sunday masses at six in the afternoon because they fear being abducted. There are men with rifles that run through the neighborhoods...I have heard terrible stories from the faithful. These groups force a family to leave, so the house remains empty and criminals take advantage of keeping their weapons there, and to bring people who do not pay extortions...first of all we have moved away from God, instead we must see the other as something sacred, life is sacred. Today we are no longer interested in anything, but only economic power, commercial power, political power and the power of arms, which in essence is he who commands", added he was willing to fly over the center of his diocese in a helicopter and dump holy water for an exorcism)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/66213-AMERICA_COLOMBIA_The_Bishop_of_Buenaventura_violence_has_reached_terrifying_levels_people_are_afraid_to_denounce



Mexico: Acacoyagua, Chiapas state

Margeli Lang Antonio (catechist instructor, **shot dead** while teaching in chapel)

Bishop Jaime Calderon Calderon (later said "Yesterday at the end of catechists' training course in the church of the Immaculate Conception, of San Marcos Evangelista parish, two young men entered and started shooting, one of the bullets injured Margeli Lang Antonio, who died almost immediately. We are close to her family. As a diocesan family we cannot get used to these facts of violence that demonstrate a social and moral degradation of the human community")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/66221-AMERICA_MEXICO_Shooting_in_Church_catechist_killed_the_Bishops_reaffirm_their_commitment_to_building_peace

Sunday June 16, 2019



China: Chengdu, Sichuan province

Christians were reported as having been harassed by police

Xu (warned by police that his grandson could not visit Wang Shuya, the son of imprisoned Pastor Wang Yi and Jiang Rong)

Mr Wang (home entered by police during a dinner with Brother Zhang, detained and questioned, released at night)

Brother Zhang (detained by police during a dinner in the home of Mr Wang, questioned, released at night)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/06/authorities-continue-to-harass-early.html>



Eritrea: Segeneyti

Bishop Fikremariam Hagos (protested the June 12, 2019 seizure of church-owned health care facilities by the government)

<https://www.csw.org.uk/2019/06/19/press/4371/article.htm>



Nigeria: on the Auchi-Igarra road

Fr Isaac Agubi (abducted)

Nigeria: outside Jalingo, Taraba state

Joseph David (aged 30, texted “I know that 11 persons were killed and their corpses were taken to mortuaries in some hospitals in the town of Jalingo...The attacks were carried out by Muslim Fulanis riding Bajaj motorcycles. They burned houses and shot us as we fled”)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/66225->

[AFRICA NIGERIA Kidnapped priest released over 150 violent deaths in a week](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66225-AFRICA_NIGERIA_Kidnapped_priest_released_over_150_violent_deaths_in_a_week)
<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/06/fulani-herdsmen-in-nigeria-continue-campaign-for-territory-for-their-cattle-and-islam/>

Monday June 17, 2019



Nigeria

Fulani Muslims killed several Christians in multiple attacks

Nigeria: Kangbro village, Plateau state

Adam Sabo (aged 65, **killed**)

Gado Peter (aged 25, **killed**)

Stephen Ziah (aged 60, **killed**)

Samson Audu Rivi (shot multiple times, hospitalized)

Patience Moses (aged 23, texted “Two churches were burnt by the Fulani herdsmen in Kangbro, and the churches are ECWA [Evangelical Church Winning All] Church, Kangbro, and Catholic Church, Kangbro, 185 houses were burnt and destroyed, while the entire Christian villagers who survived the attacks are now displaced”)

Nigeria: Kikoba village, Kauru county, Kaduna state

Audu Gara (**killed**)

Asabe Deme (abducted)

Matthew Nasamu (aged 51, texted “The Fulani herdsmen attacked Kikoba, a Christian village in Kauru LGA of Kaduna state, in the evening, around 5 p.m. All [93] houses were burned and razed down, farms were destroyed, and all the villagers are now displaced”)

Nigeria: Nakai Danwal village, Plateau state

Lawrence Zango (texted a report of an attack in which 6 Christians were killed and at least 54 houses set on fire)

Nigeria: Ungwan Rimi Kamuru village, Kauru county, Kaduna state

Ashimile Danladi (aged 9, **killed**)

Monday Yahaya (aged 8, **killed**)

Samson David (aged 15 or 17, **killed**)

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

Tuesday June 18, 2019



China: Fujian province

Bishop Vincent Guo Xijin (aged 60, underground bishop; **UPDATE**: wrote that he was withdrawing his application for official recognition: "The government has already decided to persecute priests who refuse to sign the request [for membership in the Patriotic Association]. If I am unable to protect them, it is not worth my time to be recognized as an auxiliary bishop. I am willing to face persecution together with other priests")

China: Hong Kong

Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Ha Chi-Shing OFM (praised by young anti-extradition demonstrators for his support)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hong-Kong-youth:-What-these-days-have-taught-us.-Thank-God-for-Msgr.-Ha-47313.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Msgr.-Guo-Xijin:-Persecution-is-preferable-to-joining-the-Patriotic-Association-47315.html>



Egypt

Fr Rafik Greich (Church spokesman; **UPDATE**: spoke on the death in court of former president Mohamed Morsi: "Egyptians are tired of the Muslim Brotherhood. There is a lot of talk about them abroad, in Qatar and Turkey, but here nobody wants their return...there is the danger that someone might try to attack churches, places of worship, police barracks or other sensitive sites to stir tensions or revenge...[Morsi was] a puppet in the hands of the Brotherhood, and even to them he did not matter anymore until yesterday. What matters to them is the community itself and the people useful to their cause, so it is not

inconceivable that his death will be used as a tool of propaganda, especially in the West...we are sorry for his death and we sympathize with his family, despite the total disagreement on the way he governed the country for a year, in a catastrophic way. Many, especially in the West, remember him as the first democratically elected president and speak about violations of human rights, democracy. But he was the first to bend the Constitution in November 2012, with a decree that centralized power in his hands and in fact violated the constitution and its principles”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Fr-Rafic:-No-shadow-over-Morsi's-death,-but-fears-of-attacks-by-the-Muslim-Brotherhood-47314.html>

Wednesday June 19, 2019



Philippines

Deaconess Rubylin Litao (coordinator of Rise Up for Life and for Rights, disputed the official police statistics of 6,600 deaths in the fight against illegal drugs, said “According to reports from reliable media and activists, the number of deaths is between 27,000 and 30,000. Even if it was one or only two people, it would still be a very serious thing!...The so-called 'war on drugs', which the president launched after his rise to power, in June 2016, has sparked alarming doubts. In just two months, 4,000 people were killed in murky circumstances...What’s worrying the most is that the victims belonged to the poorest urban communities and were not subjected to a regular trial. This has pushed activists, especially Church people, to do something to defend life, stop the murders and face the roots of the problem of illegal drugs. We are not opposed to the government's plans to fight the problem, but we oppose an approach that tolerates the killing of people. With the support of other organizations, above all Promotion of Church People's Response [PCPR], we have launched a campaign with signatures, prayer meetings, vigils...At first, many people criticized us because they thought we were a priori against the president. In October 2016 we started visiting communities, documenting the various cases of abuse and meeting the families of the victims. They are afraid, they don't know where to turn to because in most cases their loved ones died during Tokhang-style [police 'knocking request'] operations”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/War-on-drugs:-Activist-complains-that-Duterte-tells-lies-to-Filipinos-47350.html>



Pakistan: Rawalpindi

Zafar Bhatti (aged 49, husband of Nawab Bibi, unemployed due to health reasons, illiterate, arrested on blasphemy charges on [July 23, 2012](#) for allegedly sending 3 blasphemous text messages to extremist Islamic cleric Molvi Abrar Ahmed; convicted on [May 3, 2017](#), sentenced to life imprisonment; **UPDATE**: seventh appeal hearing adjourned, next hearing scheduled for September 12, 2019)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/forlorn-pastor-has-had-his-blasphemy-appeal-postponed-for-seventh-time>



Nigeria

Fr Isaac Agubi (abducted on [June 16, 2019](#) on the [Auchi-Igarra road](#); **UPDATE**: rescued by police)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/66225-AFRICA_NIGERIA_Kidnapped_priest_released_over_150_violent_deaths_in_a_week



United Kingdom

Richard Page (aged 73, Justice of the Peace in Kent, disciplined on [January 16, 2015](#) after he admitted that his Christian faith influenced his adoption rulings; reported on [March 10, 2016](#) to have been removed from his position as a National Health Service financial director one month before retirement after giving a January 2015 interview in which he said that there was not enough evidence to show that adoption by same sex couples was in a child's interest, the interview was for a documentary on Christians being forced out of public life; case against his former employer dismissed by the Employment Tribunal on or before [October 24, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: appeal denied by the Employment Appeal Tribunal)

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns; **UPDATE**: wrote "...As a nation, we should all be very concerned that these rulings may mark another watershed moment in our nation's history where holding sincere Biblical views can amount to a bar to public office...both judgments repeat the mantra that Richard was not being punished for what he believed, but the manner in which he expressed that belief. The notion that the manner in which someone expresses a belief and the right to hold a belief are separable however, simply does not withstand scrutiny. It's a distinction without a difference. It is also not supported by experience...it strains credulity to suggest that Richard brought the independence of the judiciary into question or showed inherent bias any more than did [Supreme Court President] Lady Hale, [High Court of England and Wales President] Sir James [Munby], or any number of other prominent judges who have shared their [contentious and progressive] beliefs in a public forum...He [Justice

Choudhury] suggested that because LGBT people suffer disproportionately from mental illness, that Richard's comments might somehow dissuade them from using the NHS health service. Apart from the absurdity of suggesting that the beliefs of one man in a Non-Executive Directorship would dissuade anyone from seeking medical assistance, the point is also wrong in law. For the NHS to interfere with Richard's freedom of religion and belief, it requires much more than merely suggesting that a legitimate aim exists to do so. Proportionality and necessity are also required...")

<https://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/freedom/magistrate-dismissed-for-trying-to-protect-children>

Thursday June 20, 2019



United States – Oregon: Portland

Fr George Kuforiji (Nigerian national, shouted down during Mass by some of his parishioners who opposed his traditional views)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/watch-progressive-pro-gay-catholics-shout-down-faithful-african-priest-during-mass>

Friday June 21, 2019



Nigeria: near Jalingo, Taraba state

Fr Sunday Muke (reported "For the past two years, there have been records of kidnappings and serial killings. Religious leaders, especially Christian leaders, have become targets of these herdsmen")

Pastor Ishaku Amah (reported "The sad reality is that once the herdsmen attack an area, they take over farms of Christians and turn them into grazing fields")

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

Saturday June 22, 2019



India: Karsa village, Kaithal district, Haryana state

Pastor Sunil (aged 28, convert, father of six daughters and one son, forced by police on [June 6, 2019](#) to stop church construction, allowed to resume after producing the required documents; forced by police on [June 7, 2019](#) to stop church construction after a Hindu mob threatened him with death; allowed to resume construction on [June 15, 2019](#) by police but a mob of 300 Hindus prevented resumption; **UPDATE**: arrested on blasphemy charges after false allegations of fraudulent conversion were filed [his state lacks anti-conversion laws], later said "In our local community I am viewed as a pariah as I converted out of the Hindu faith after experiencing a miracle healing of my father from Tetanus after a Pastor prayed for him. Soon after I began reading the bible and learned about God's love for me and the redemption that was mine to take. I committed my life to God and began to serve him by sharing the Gospel to bring hope and joy to the lives of others. I have not blasphemed and the hatred I have received is unfair - I pray for swift justice and the removal of these false charges")

Juliet Chowdhry (British Asian Christian Association Trustee, said "The use of blasphemy laws without evidence of a blasphemy is a blight on India's reputation. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's regime the persecution of Christians and other minorities in India is palpably worse. Already the nation has risen to 10th on the Open Doors World Watch List and may rise further still...Pastor Sunil must be acquitted of the ridiculous charges and allowed to complete his building works which already have planning consent. Moreover in the interests of justice Pavan and [other] members of the mob who have fomented hatred towards Pastor Sunil and falsely alleged a blasphemy, must be prosecuted for hate crimes")

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/pastor-building-community-hall-beaten-and-threatened>



United Kingdom

Lord David Alton (**UPDATE**: wrote in support of a mentally challenged adult Christian woman of Nigerian descent who a court has ordered to have an abortion against her will: "The baby's grandmother, a midwife, says she is willing to bring up her grandchild. It is a way forward supported by the girl's social worker. And the mother, herself, says she wants her child to be born...The Court says that 'best interests' means that the family have no rights and that a viable baby of 22 weeks gestation must lose its life...When a British

Court orders a woman to have an abortion, it turns justice on its head, is a gross violation of human rights, and represents the tyrannical suppression of the rights of a family")

<https://davidalton.net/2019/06/22/when-a-british-court-orders-a-woman-to-have-an-abortion-it-turns-justice-on-its-head-is-a-gross-violation-of-human-rights-and-represents-the-tyrannical-suppression-of-the-rights-of-a-family-it-a/>

Sunday June 23, 2019



India: Sheohar district, Bihar state

Pastor Shelton Viswanathan (aged 46, attacked by 8 Hindu extremists while riding his motor scooter, said "I slowed down my scooter, moved it to the other end of the road and pulled away, but they pushed me with such great force that I fell on the road. They were eight men on four motorcycles. One of them clasped me from behind my neck and started beating me", later said "The doctors said that my hand and foot have been fractured. I'm trying to limp about, but there is a pain in my injured knee, and I can't stand straight without support...If I force the police to register cases against the assailants, the Bajrang Dal's top leaders will not spare me. The police officials asked me to be wary as the Hindu militant activists roam freely with guns, and through their videos, I can be easily identified by other RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh paramilitary]-affiliated groups also")

Devesh Lal (Bihar Christian Leaders Fellowship coordinator; **UPDATE:** said "The Hindutva extremists are walking into churches and are disrupting prayer services – on a weekly basis, we hear of threats and attacks on home churches and pastors. Christian persecution is widely spread across Bihar, and it appears to be a much planned, systematic opposition created to target activities. We also see police supporting the perpetrators instead of taking action against them, and the victims do not come forward fearing this bias")

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/07/reporting-persecution-to-police-a-vanishing-option-for-christians-in-india/>

Tuesday June 25, 2019



China: Xiamen, Fujian province

Pastor Wang Tianmin (ordered by authorities to stop all religious activities at his church building, has appealed, said “We are following legal protocol, and our only purpose is to show our stance and testify to the Gospel, regardless of whether we win or lose the case. Please pray for us”)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/08/officials-break-into-fujian-churches.html>



Pakistan: Karachi

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, Balochistan](#) 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**: examined to be fitted with a new prosthetic leg)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/quetta-bomb-attacks-youngest-survivor-has-new-limb-fitted>



Cameroon: near Belo-Njikwe village

Archbishop Cornelius Fontem Esua (**UPDATE**: abducted by secessionists)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/66320->

[AFRICA CAMEROON I spent the whole night reciting the rosary says the Archbishop of Bamenda kidnapped by separatists](#)

Wednesday June 26, 2019



Cameroon

Archbishop Cornelius Fontem Esua (abducted by secessionists on the road [near Belo-Njikwe village](#) on [June 25, 2019](#); **UPDATE**: released, said "Suddenly a group of secessionists on motorbikes came screaming and started to threaten. They wanted to brutalize my driver. I told them not to touch him and that if they wanted to take it out on someone, they would have to take it out on me. I spent the whole night reciting the Rosary. I told him [the rebel

'general' by phone] that they cannot achieve their goals by practicing evil, because evil can only lead to evil. And God will not be able to hear their prayers if they continue to do evil, because we must not do to others what we do not want to be done to us")

http://www.fides.org/en/news/66320-AFRICA_CAMEROON_I_spent_the_whole_night_reciting_the_rosary_says_the_Archbishop_of_Bamenda_kidnapped_by_separatists

Thursday June 27, 2019



China

Bishop Vincent Guo Xijin (aged 60, underground bishop; **UPDATE**: ordered by police to not attend a ceremony of the profession of vows by religious sisters, wrote a letter to his priests explaining the details of the incident)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bishop-Guo-Xijin-of-Mindong:-I-am-a-man-and-not-a-monkey-who-favors-all-the-wishes-of-others-47409.html>

Friday June 28, 2019



India: Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan state

Pastor Pankaj (attacked by a mixed Hindu-Sikh mob while officiating at a wedding, said "I had just started to speak when a mob led by one Gurmeet Singh barged into the ceremony and began to spitefully speak to us. They were about 250 people, and every single one was carrying a rod or a wooden stick. It was evident that they were there to attack us", fled to a room along with the musicians, added "Soon we heard the agitated mob hurling curses and entering the marriage palace hall while we stayed in our room. They shouted at all the guests in the private party and shooed them away. The mob walked towards our room and knocked at our door, hurling abuses at us and calling us names. We opened the door and they barged in with sticks. Gurmeet Singh not only spoke vulgar words to us, but he also cursed Jesus and spoke disrespectfully about Jesus...I quickly prayed, 'Lord, I can see my death right in front of me – I pray that you would take me to be with You...Then one of the policemen asked the attackers to allow the police to take us to the police station, where [the officer said] we would be beaten up and straightened", arrested along

with 8 other Christians including a 3 year old girl and their non-Christian taxi driver on a charges of fraudulent conversions and disrupting the peace, said "Along with accusing us of being involved in [fraudulent] conversion, they also accused us of tearing the holy book of Sikhism – the Guru Granth [Sahib]. The police pressured us to accept our guilt to the extent that they beat up one of the Christians arrested in order to make him confess")

Sukhdev Mark (evangelist, arrested)

Boilat Masih (evangelist, arrested)

Gurpreet Singh (arrested)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/08/public-awareness-pressure-help-persecuted-christians-win-justice-in-india/>



Pakistan: Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkwa

Dr Nayer Fardows (Christian college principal, retired brigadier general, reported to have been threatened with death along with his family for resisting the takeover of his college by the provincial government)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/attempt-by-provincial-government-to-usurp-christian-school-meets-protest>



Sudan

"Jemma" (university student, Bible study leader, reported to have been arrested for 'acting against Sudan', imprisoned)

<https://barnabasfund.org/us/appeals/innocent-sudanese-christian-women-and-children-in-jail-%E2%80%93-please-bring-them-hope-and-aid>

Saturday June 29, 2019



India: Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan state

Pastor Pankaj (attacked by a mixed Hindu-Sikh mob while officiating at a [June 28, 2019](#) wedding, arrested along with 8 other Christians including a 3 year old girl and their non-Christian taxi driver on a charges of fraudulent conversions and disrupting the peace; **UPDATE:** denied food in jail until the afternoon, released on bail, said “After we were let out on bail, the agitated mob surrounded the police station and shouted slogans against the police for letting us out. The news was broadcast by various local news channels, and after we reached our respective homes, I saw on TV that the police denied that any conversion activity took place”)

Sukhdev Mark (evangelist, arrested at a [June 28, 2019](#) wedding; **UPDATE:** released on bail)

Boilat Masih (evangelist, arrested at a [June 28, 2019](#) wedding; **UPDATE:** released on bail)

Gurpreet Singh (arrested at a [June 28, 2019](#) wedding; **UPDATE:** released on bail)

Harjinder Singh (attorney, convert, beaten after attempting to negotiate a settlement between Pastor Pankaj and the pastor's accuser, later said “The moment I introduced myself, Dr Gurmeet punched me, landing several blows on my face, and asked me to ‘get out’ of the place. As I left, I was surrounded by Dr Gurmeet’s men [who were RSS paramilitary members] outside the clinic...Godara, my schoolmate, told me that he is the one who has registered the complaint against the Christians, and he is very angry at me for changing my faith from Sikhism to following Jesus Christ...Though a written statement was taken from me by the police, no case was registered. But the next morning, news in the local newspaper left me shocked, saying that a case had been booked against me by Dr Gurmeet Singh in the same police station [on charges of 'house trespass, intentional insult to provoke and unlawful assembly'], and the police had registered his complaint. No action has been taken by the police against Dr Gurmeet or Godara”)

Rev Vijayesh Lal (**UPDATE:** later spoke of the intervention by the Superintendent of Police “He assured that he will personally look into the matter, and he did call up the local police station and inquired about the Christians. For that we are grateful. Although it is sad that under pressure from local Hindutva [Hindu nationalist] organizations, the Christians were harassed, while no action was taken against the attackers”)

P S Nehemiah Christie (**UPDATE:** spoke after the charges were dropped “We are so glad that in both states’ police [Rajasthan and Punjab], especially Rajasthan, the higher officials intervened and made sure that the constitution is still alive. They did not encourage extremism and allowed justice to prevail”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/08/public-awareness-pressure-help-persecuted-christians-win-justice-in-india/>



Pakistan: Bahawalnagar, Punjab province

Sunny Waqas (aged 19, student, son of Mushtaq Masih, arrested on blasphemy charges after an argument with a Muslim neighbor over a cricket match)

Mushtaq Masih (father of Sunny Waqas)

Pakistan: Faisalabad

Fr Indrias Rehmat (appointed bishop)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/A-19-year-old-Christian-man-arrested-in-Punjab-for-blasphemy-after-a-fight-over-a-cricket-match-47496.html>

http://www.fides.org/en/news/66279-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Appointment_of_the_Bishop_of_Faisalabad



Congo, Democratic Republic: Ouessou

Fr Paul Mbon (abducted)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/66312-AFRICA CONGO The body of a priest kidnapped at the end of June has been found](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66312-AFRICA_CONGO_The_body_of_a_priest_kidnapped_at_the_end_of_June_has_been_found)



France: Paris

Cathy Ruse (U.S. citizen, wife of Austin Ruse, mother of two daughters aged 10 and 14, spit upon by a marcher at a Pride parade while holding her 10 year old after the marcher saw the crucifix on a chain around her neck)

Austin Ruse (U.S. citizen, husband of Cathy Ruse, mother of two daughters aged 10 and 14, **UPDATE:** wrote of the attack on his wife "We gathered our shaken little family and proceeded to our apartment in a minor state of shock. That night we went to Mass at the Church of Saint-Etienne-du-Mont. It was the vigil for the next day, and the second reading included this: 'For freedom, Christ set us free, so, stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery. For you were called for freedom, brothers and sisters. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, rather, serve one another through love'...What we know about those who participate in 'pride' parades is they are not free, they are enslaved. Only Christ, who is always spit on, can make them free. What a blessing to be spit upon for him")

<https://www.crisismagazine.com/2019/they-spit-on-my-wife-last-saturday-in-paris>

Sunday June 30, 2019



China: Xiamen, Fujian province

Pastor Yang Xibo (**UPDATE**: posted a video of police blocking entrance to his closed church)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/07/police-form-human-wall-surrounding.html>



Argentina: Villa Sarmiento

Ernesto Cavazza (aged 80, **shot dead** in a robbery attempt while opening his church for Mass)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/66294-AMERICA_ARGENTINA_Criminals_kill_layman_as_he_opens_the_church

June 2019, date unknown



India: Bharatpur area, Jamui district, Bihar state

Sangeeta Devi (house church attacked by Hindu extremists in the **first week of June 2019** who demanded US\$22, said “I told them that I cannot offer any money, and they started threatening that they will not allow us to use the toilets...Even if they kill me, it is fine, but I cannot offer a single rupee for their puja. Even if our family has to starve, it is fine, we will die serving the Lord”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/07/reporting-persecution-to-police-a-vanishing-option-for-christians-in-india/>



United Kingdom: South Norwood

Two schoolchildren were yelled at by their head teacher in a LGBT presentation after showing signs of resisting the materials, told they were "a disappointment to the school", both were interrogated in separate rooms where they were asked if they wanted to kill LGBT people, forced to write "confessions" and to sit in isolation for

five hours, suspended from the school for 5 days, police and social services were called, one child's church was reported to the government anti-terrorism unit

Farrell Spence (aged 10, suspended)

Kaysey Francis-Austin (aged 10, daughter of Karen, described in a recent school report as “a delight to have in class”, suspended, reported that after the suspension was lifted other children said the head teacher told them not to speak to her and that she was a danger to other children)

Karen (mother of Kaysey Francis-Austin, said she will move her daughter to a new school, added “The school is failing to recognize our Christian beliefs and is persecuting us for wanting to maintain our Bible beliefs”)

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns, **UPDATE:** later said “My hope is this case will get people and particularly church leaders to see the gravity of the situation we face. What kind of society are we living in when a headteacher - whose job it is to look after and teach young children - is reporting their alleged words to social services, the government's counter-terrorism body and the police? Ten-year-old children are being treated like terrorists...The actions of the headteacher are so serious and put Christian families under extreme pressure. Her actions do not show proportionality, they show zeal in eradicating any dissent to the LGBT agenda in the school...How can anyone think that Heavers Farm is a safe place to leave innocent children?...When bullies know that right is not on their side, they resort to coercion and intimidation. That is exactly what is being played out in Heavers Farm Primary School...This story reflects the growing unease and anger from parents across the country and we ask for urgent prayer as we continue to support these brave children and parents”)

<https://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/education/10-year-old-takes-a-stand-against-lgbt-agenda>

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7220729/Parents-furious-Christian-pupils-aged-10-excluded-school-alleged-homophobic-remarks.html?fbclid=IwAR15UjTbwXLB1pOi_D0NVJzbtIS-CKCINwA6wLyg7FvQ3U9hXUUeJ3nHBN0

Today's Martyrs

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

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