

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



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>



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

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 1962, 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>

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>

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: Ranchi, Jharkhand state

Fr Stan Swamy 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>

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>

Friday June 14, 2019



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>



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 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>

June 2019, date unknown

Today's Martyrs

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

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