

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – September 2019

Sunday September 1, 2019



Indonesia

Archbishop Ignatus Suharyo Hardjoatmodjo (aged 69, **UPDATE**: elevated to the College of Cardinals)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mgr-Suharyos-appointment-as-cardinal-causes-joy-and-pride-in-Indonesia-47894.html>



India: Worli Naka, Mumbai

Rev Allen Salins (invited speaker at a religious conference that was shut down by police after local Bajrang Dal Hindu radicals interrupted it, said "We were all shocked. We had organized the event to pray and sing. There was no threat to public order. The New Life Fellowship Association paid the school to hold the meeting")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mumbai,-Hindu-radicals-block-a-Pentecostal-gathering.-Pastor-denounced-for-forced-conversions-47909.html>



Ukraine: Kopytov village

Bishop Pimen (assaulted by members of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine while visiting his parents' home, said "This is already the fifth month that the church I went to as a child belongs to the supporters of the OCU. It is forbidden for me and other believers who are attached to the church in their souls to go inside. So I decided to approach their 'priest,' who now lives in the village, and ask to go inside. He kindly agreed and took me to the church, but the activists who live nearby saw it and came and started kicking me to get me to leave and insulting me. My subdeacon partially got it on camera. I had no intention

of creating a conflict; I simply went to the church. I believe I have the right. I tried to talk, to demonstrate it, but all in vain: I had to leave the church, no matter how it rent my soul. While leaving, I saw from the car some guys on bikes from the neighboring village who had probably come to kick out the 'Moscow priest.' I recalled the words of the Gospel: Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do")

<http://orthochristian.com/123551.html>



Lithuania

Archbishop Sigitas Tamkevicius SJ (aged 85, **UPDATE**: elevated to the College of Cardinals)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Tamkevicius,-the-Cardinal-of-Soviet-dissent-47888.html>

Monday September 2, 2019



Pakistan: Lahore

Amir Masih (aged 25, husband, father of two sons aged 7 years and 8 days, gardener, reported to a police station on [August 28, 2019](#) with fellow employees after his employer reported a theft, taken into custody, beaten, urinated upon, called a 'filthy Christian'; **UPDATE**: released, hospitalized in a semi-conscious state, **died, body showed signs of extensive torture**)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Lahore,-a-Christian-dies-of-torture-in-police-custody-47971.html>

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/pakistani-christian-accused-of-petty-crime-beaten-to-death-while-in-police-custody>



Sweden

Aideen Strandsson (convert, refugee from Iran, as of [July 28, 2017](#) has been scheduled for deportation back to Iran despite a high risk of imprisonment; still facing deportation to Iran as of [March 14, 2018](#), denied employment by the government, martial arts certificate seized by the government; no date set for the appeal of her deportation order as of [June 8,](#)

2018, denied a work permit and welfare benefits; married Pastor Cai Berger on July 10, 2018; **UPDATE:** reported to have been granted refugee status and residency)

<http://mohabatnews.com/?p=34700>



Algeria: Ighzer Amokrane, Akbou district, Bejaia province

Pastor Brahim Bourouba (told by police on August 10, 2019 that his church would be closed but that they would delay the order to give him time to appeal; attorney told police when they came to close the church on August 26, 2019 that the order was not valid, police left; police tried to close the church on August 28, 2019 after forcing the building owner to sign a closure order, the attempt failed when Christians from other churches blocked the attempt, **UPDATE:** police attempted to close the church but relented when the owner could not be found)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/09/after-christians-in-algeria-prevented-church-closure-authorities-seal-it-shut/>

Tuesday September 3, 2019



India: Himachal Pradesh state

Sajan K George (Global Council of Indian Christians president, **UPDATE:** criticized the state government for adding new provisions to its anti-conversion laws, including a provision that targets mixed marriages)

India: Mundli, Jharkhand state

Fr Thomas Kuzhively SJ (denounced government inaction that allowed a mob of 500 to destroy his college "Everything is destroyed. We can't reopen college. The attackers shattered the windows, bent the fan blades on the ceiling, damaged the exhaust pipes, the furniture, the electrical panels and the stereo system. After devastating the school, they went on to the hostel, destroying CCTVs, bulletin boards, chairs, benches, pictures hanging on the wall and everything they encountered on their way. Not satisfied they tried to harass the sisters and the girls. Finally they broke into the veranda where some motorcycles were parked, smashing them into pieces, then they stole three used phones from the hostel's kids and the money stored in the principal's office. The estimated damage of the entire devastation amounts to 1.5 million rupees [US\$20,850]...Why was no one arrested after eight days?

Is this not letting these antisocial elements take over, being passive [to their] cynical activities? It is obvious that someone from outside fomented them")

Fr Nobor Bilung SJ (college principal, beaten by the mob)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Sajan-K-George,-Himachal-Pradeshs-new-anti-conversion-law-is-anti-Christian-47903.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Jharkhand,-Hindu-radicals-devastate-a-Jesuit-college.-'Completley-destroyed'-47981.html>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/66609->

[ASIA INDIA Acts of vandalism by militant Hindu extremists on a Jesuit College](#)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/attacked-jesuit-mission-seeks-action-in-eastern-india/86088>

Wednesday September 4, 2019



Papua New Guinea: Alotau

Bishop Rolando Crisostomo Santos (aged 70, Filipino citizen, arrested after he reported on Facebook that drunken police had burned 19 homes, released)

Gregory Nimagale (acting diocesan education secretary, house burned by drunken police on September 1, 2019, arrested after Bishop Rolando Crisostomo Santos reported the police attack on Facebook, released)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Alotau-Bishop-investigated-for-defamation-after-posting-online-a-story-about-police-abuse-47989.html>



Cyprus: Morphou

Metropolitan Neophytos Masouras (aged 57, reported on [August 23, 2019](#) to have had a police investigation opened after criticizing homosexuality, said "I expressed the position of the Church and the position of the saints" - it was his quoting the saints that were the core of the complaint; **UPDATE**: case sent by police to prosecutors with a finding of no criminal offense)

Bishop Christophoros Tsiakas (aged 55, said "The Metropolitan of Morphou said some truths. He said that people who are enslaved to carnality will not inherit the Kingdom of God. The enemies of the Church began to fight [Met. Neophytos], and many Christians joined them")

<http://orthochristian.com/123591.html>



United States - California

The state legislature passed a resolution, ACR99, that called on Christians to refuse to convert homosexuals

Pastor Dan Carroll (earlier said "It's not a law. That's really important to say. Nobody's being forced to do anything...The thing that we agreed with the LGBTQ caucus on was that we are not for any kind of coercive behavior on the part of leaders or counselors or pastors. And as we shared with the LGBTQ caucus, we don't know anybody in California, that's Christian that is actually doing what they're suggesting that we're doing")

Russell Willingham (New Creation Ministries executive director, earlier said "ACR discriminates against perfectly rational adults who seek an alternate viewpoint to the gay-affirming counseling many of them have already tried and found wanting. I believe ACR99 sets the stage for future laws that will criminalize pastor caregivers like me who provide such a resource - resources that offer an option for those who don't want what the state is telling them they must accept")

Dean Broyles (National Center for Law and Policy President, earlier said "This resolution will not foster or promote the classic liberal ideals of authentic tolerance, diversity, or inclusion. It will crush them and destroy them. ACR 99 represents a misguided authoritarian attempt to coercively mold the beliefs of California's citizens regarding controversial and sensitive issues on human sexuality, and thus will only serve to chill and suppress the freedom of thought, speech, conscience, and religion of our citizens—safeguarded by the First Amendment")

Jonathan Keller (California Family Council President, earlier said "California Christians love our neighbors who identify as LGBTQ. Sadly, it appears Assemblyman Low and other intolerant legislators will not stop until people of faith publicly celebrate the legislature's preferred concept of sexual orientation and gender identity")

https://www.theepochtimes.com/california-legislature-pass-resolution-attacking-religious-liberty_3079010.html

<https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2019/august/ca-christians-say-resolution-condemns-religious-leaders-who-oppose-lgbtq-lifestyles>

Friday September 6, 2019



China

Mr Huang (reported to have said that the government had begun to close Christian orphanages out of fear that the children would be taught religion)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/09/shanxi-authorities-remove-children-from.html>



India: Jharkhand state

Three Christians were arrested on forced conversion and illegal occupation of land charges

Fr Arun Vincent (later released)

Fr Benoy John

Munna Hansda (catechist)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Jharkhand,-two-Catholic-priests-and-a-catechist-arrested-for-forced-conversions-47950.html>



Azerbaijan: Baku

Safiya Ahmed Abdul Razzaq Wahed (aged 41, convert, wife of Wahed Abdul, mother of Warda and Saif, Pakistani citizen, fled the United Arab Emirates with her family after her conversion was discovered and her husband's business license was revoked when he refused to divorce her, applied for asylum in Canada, husband remained Muslim but came to support her conversion, said "I know that Christianity is not easy life but still my faith is much stronger than these problems. My parents are dead, and my brothers and sisters are not with me but still I trust In Jesus")

Warda (aged 16, convert, daughter of Safiya Ahmed Abdul Razzaq Wahed and Wahed Abdul, tweeted "Now we also have problems in our life but we will not leave our faith because we never felt what we feel now and whenever we pray calling his name 'Jesus Christ' we feel that he will do for us because he knows what's better for us because he saved us till now together")

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/wife-converts-to-christianity-family-face-death-threats-deportation>



United States - Colorado

Mark Haas (archdiocesan spokesman, responded to a lawsuit that sought to compel a Christian hospital to administer euthanasia: “asking a Christian hospital to play any role in violating the dignity of human life is asking the Christian hospital to compromise its values and core mission. This is not the hospital forcing its beliefs upon others, but rather having outside views forced upon it”)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/suit-challenges-religious-liberty-of-catholic-hospitals-over-assisted-suicide-95442>

Saturday September 7, 2019



Guatemala: Suchitepequez

Diana Isabel Hernandez Juarez (aged 35, teacher, pastoral worker, **shot dead**)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/66594-AMERICA_GUATEMALA_Pastoral_worker_committed_to_defending_creation_killed

Sunday September 8, 2019



United States – California: Chula Vista

Pastor Amado Huizar (church vandalized with satanic graffiti after he and his parishioners joined public opposition to a public library Drag Queen Story Hour)

United States – Massachusetts: Lynn

Fr George Tsoukalas (church including icons vandalized with satanic and anarchic graffiti)

Arthur Argeros (parish council president, said “Somebody has got a sick mind to think this is okay”)

United States - New York: Hollis section, Queens borough, New York City

Rev Joseph Jude Gannon (church vandalized)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/brooklyn-diocese-teaming-with-nypd-to-search-for-church-vandal-27459>

<https://www.christianpost.com/us/church-vandalized-satanic-graffiti-pastor-protests-drag-queen-story-hour.html>

<https://www.boston25news.com/news/-somebody-s-got-a-sick-mind-lynn-church-taking-vandalism-personally/984199179>

<http://orthochristian.com/123742.html>

Monday September 9, 2019



Myanmar

Rev Dr Hkalam Samson (secretary of the Kachin Baptist Convention; criminally charged with defamation on [August 26, 2016](#) for having told U.S. President Donald Trump in a July 17, 2019 Oval Office meeting “I’m...from Baptist Convention from Northern Burma. And then, as Christians in Myanmar, we are very been oppressed and tortured by the Myanmar military government”; **UPDATE**: acquitted after the complainant withdrew the charge)

<https://www.christianpost.com/world/myanmar-military-drops-criminal-case-against-pastor-who-told-trump-about-abuses.html>

Tuesday September 10, 2019



China

Tang Jingling (civil rights attorney, husband of Wang Yanfang, law license revoked in [2006](#); detained in [2012](#), held for 5 days; arrested in [2014](#); sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment on [January 29, 2016](#); released on [April 29, 2019](#); reported on [August 30, 2019](#) to have disappeared, may have been arrested; **UPDATE**: reported to have been released after 10 days' detention, escorted back to his home)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/09/human-rights-lawyer-tang-jingling.html>

Wednesday September 11, 2019



India

Pastor Samuel (described an attack on the 4 year old daughter of another pastor by Hindu extremists "They told him to stop holding services, or warned him he would have dire consequences", he then described a call the pastor's wife received from the kindergarten "They said, 'you should take her to the doctor, she's very unwell'. She wouldn't stop crying, so her mother took her to the doctor. The Hindu extremists had planned and plotted some men into the school who raped the 4 year old. It shattered the lives of the pastor and his wife. They had no idea what to do, the school denied everything, and police wouldn't listen. Eventually, one of our volunteers came into contact with them, and we've been ministering to them ever since. It's difficult for them, but by God's grace they were able to be ministered to in their time of difficulty. God is using it. The pastor was telling me when I met him, he would have given up his ministry because of what happened with their child. But they were able to recover and understand that God can still use them to bring others to Christ")

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/india-hindu-extremists-rape-4-y-o-daughter-of-pastor-who-refused-to-stop-sharing-gospel.html>



Nigeria: Asso, Kaduna state

Rev Alhamdu Mangadus (**killed** on his farm by Fulani Muslims)

Rev Danladi Boyis Hassan (reported on the murder of Rev Alhamdu Mangadus)

Rev John Joseph Hayab (**UPDATE**: reported on the murder of Rev Alhamdu Mangadus: "He was shot dead on his farm, and the attackers injured another fellow from Tanda. The corpse of the pastor was taken away by the Fulani herdsmen but was eventually recovered in the bush after a frantic search by our brethren in the area")

<https://www.persecution.org/2019/09/28/suspected-fulani-militants-kill-pastors-wife-still-take-ransom/>



Canada: Quebec City

Msgr Denis Belanger (reported on the theft of a reliquary containing items that had belonged to several Canadian saints)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/relics-of-canadian-saints-stolen-from-quebec-citys-cathedral-82279>



United States - Washington state

Barronelle Stutzman (aged 74, sued by the state attorney general in [April 2013](#) for declining to provide floral arrangements for a [Richland](#) same-sex wedding; found guilty on [February 18, 2015](#); the Washington state Supreme Court upheld the ruling on appeal on [February 16, 2017](#); the U.S. Supreme Court vacated the lower court ruling on [June 25, 2018](#) and returned the case to the Washington Supreme Court for re-evaluation in the light of the similar *Masterpiece Cakeshop* decision; the Washington state Supreme Court upheld the ruling again on [June 6, 2019](#); **UPDATE**: appealed her case again to the U.S. Supreme Court)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/florist-appeals-to-supreme-court-for-second-time-over-same-sex-wedding-case-17017>

Thursday September 12, 2019



Turkey: Mugla

Hans-Jurgen Louven (aged 58, husband of Renate, father of Hanna Jurgen, German citizen, faith based tour operator, expelled from the country and prohibited from re-entry, at least 23 other foreign Christians have been expelled)

Hanna Jurgen (aged 21, daughter of Renate and Hans-Jurgen Louven, Austrian and German citizen, college student, said “I do have hope Dad can come back home. But it will probably take some time. Our neighbors couldn’t understand why he had to leave. They said he is the most honest and beautiful person they know. They were really ashamed of their country doing this injustice to us”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2019/09/turkey-serves-deportation-order-after-germans-20-years-of-tourism-work/>

Saturday September 14, 2019



Nigeria: Bagoma village, Kaduna state

Esther Ishaku Katung (wife of Rev Ishaku Katung, attacked in her home by Fulani Muslims, abducted, escaped, recaptured, **beaten to death**, after her death her abductors demanded a ransom, body found two days after the captors received a US\$700 ransom for her release)

Rev Ishaku Katung (husband of Esther Ishaku Katung. attacked in his home by Fulani Muslims, shot, escaped)

Rev John Joseph Hayab (**UPDATE**: reported on the murder of Esther Ishaku Katung: “Information we got from some of the kidnapped victims who escaped from the herdsmen’s enclave shows that Esther Katung and two other victims had escaped from the herdsmen’s captivity, but she was recaptured by them...this infuriated the herdsmen, leading them to kill her. They broke her legs in order to prevent her from escaping and smashed her head too. This led to her death. After they had killed her, they were still demanding the ransom without telling her family that they had killed her. It was only after the ransom was paid that it was found by her family that she had been killed by her abductors”)

<https://www.persecution.org/2019/09/28/suspected-fulani-militants-kill-pastors-wife-still-take-ransom/>

Sunday September 15, 2019



India: Anushkabad village, Lakhimpur Khere district, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Ram Kumar (attacked by a Hindu mob, beaten, arrested on forced conversion charges, later said “We were around 50 people worshipping in little hut, all of a sudden a mob of 20 Hindu radicals stormed into the hut while shouting at us using filthy and abusive language dragged me and Pastor Gokran out of the hut and started to beat us, and later the police arrived and took both of us to the police station and then sent us to the jail”)

Pastor Gokran (attacked by a Hindu mob, beaten, arrested on forced conversion charges)

<https://www.persecution.org/2019/09/25/eight-imprisoned-false-charges-lakhimpur-khere/>



United States - New York: Hollis section, Queens borough, New York City

Rev Joseph Jude Gannon (church vandalized on [September 8, 2019](#); **UPDATE**: commented on the second vandalism of his church by a woman with a hacksaw “It’s a kick in the stomach. It hurts...Such acts of religious intolerance have no place within our society, and every house of worship, regardless of their beliefs, should be respected”)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/brooklyn-diocese-teaming-with-nypd-to-search-for-church-vandal-27459>

Monday September 16, 2019



India: Rajatha, Godda district, Jharkhand state

Fr Benoy John (aged 42, arrested on [September 6, 2019](#) on forced conversion and illegal occupation of land charges; **UPDATE**: released on bail, hospitalized for a heart condition, later said of his time in jail "They wanted me to die in prison. They tried to kill me little by little. I implored them to tears to take me to the hospital, which was just two minutes away, but they refused me")

Munna Hansda (catechist, arrested on [September 6, 2019](#) on forced conversion and illegal occupation of land charges; **UPDATE**: still in jail)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Priest-accused-of-forced-conversion-in-Jharkhand-released-on-bail-48033.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Jharkhand,-priest-accused-of-forced-conversions:-They-wanted-me-to-die-in-prison-48055.html>

<http://mattersindia.com/2019/09/catholic-priest-let-off-on-bail-after-7-day-detention/>

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/priest-bailed-amid-anti-christian-campaign-in-eastern-india/86124>



Pakistan: Rasulpura, near Faisalabad

Samra Bibi (aged 14, daughter of Munir Masih, sister of Shahzad, abducted by 5 men, forced into an Islamic marriage)

Munir Masih (father of Samra Bibi, police refused to file a report on her abduction for 2 days, then falsely reported her age as 16 to make her eligible for marriage)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/A-14-year-old-Faisalabad-Christian-girl-is-kidnapped,-forced-to-convert-and-marry-48099.html>



Niger

Fr Pierluigi Maccalli SMA (Italian national, abducted from [Bomoanga](#) by jihadists on [September 18, 2018](#), probably taken over the border into Burkina Faso; **UPDATE**: still missing)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/66634-AFRICA_NIGER_The_whole_community_awaits_Fr_Maccalli_in_prayer



United States - Arizona

Two Christian artists filed suit in [May 2016](#) to block a [Phoenix](#) municipal ordinance that would require them to cater to same sex weddings; the court ruled against them in [September 2016](#); the court ruled again against them in [October 2017](#); an appellate court ruled against them in [June 2018](#); filed an appeal to the state supreme court on [July 9, 2018](#); **UPDATE: the state supreme court ruled 4-3 that the artists could not be compelled to create custom wedding invitations in violation of their religious beliefs**

Breanna Koski

Joanna Duka

<https://www.christianpost.com/us/christian-artists-cant-be-forced-to-make-same-sex-wedding-invitations-ariz-supreme-court-rules.html>

Tuesday September 17, 2019



Vietnam

Nguyen Nang Tinh (aged 43, husband of Nguyen Thi Tinh, father of one, music teacher, active in church charity groups and Christian media, arrested in [Nghe An](#) on [May 29, 2019](#), had for years visited and materially supported many families of Catholic and Protestant prisoners, held in isolation; **UPDATE**: charged with membership in 'opposition groups' which could result in 12 years' imprisonment)

Nguyen Thi Tinh (wife of Nguyen Nang Tinh, said of her husband's prosecution "My husband does not do wrong things. He also does not violate the laws of Vietnam")

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



India: Jharkhand state

Charlis Hansda (tribal leader, reported to have been accused of forced conversion and illegal occupation of land, has fled to avoid arrest)

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/priest-bailed-amid-anti-christian-campaign-in-eastern-india/86124>

Wednesday September 18, 2019



United States – California: Newport Beach

Pastor Jim Domen (husband of Amanda, father of three, former homosexual, church's Vimeo account including 89 videos deleted on [November 24, 2018](#) for 5 videos Vimeo incorrectly claimed advocated conversion therapy, later said "The only thing the videos did was tell stories of transformation, of how Jesus transformed my life. I didn't call [homosexuality] out as sin. I didn't call out any LGBT people. It was exclusively just speaking of my own personal story and others like mine"; **UPDATE**: reported to have filed suit against Vimeo claiming US\$75,000 in damages)

United States – Minnesota: St Paul

RayVell Carter (aged 41, nephew of Rev William Land Sr, **shot dead** in front of his father and 8 year old daughter while leaving a church Bible study)

Rev William Land Sr (uncle of RayVell Carter)

<https://www.charismanews.com/us/78043-formerly-gay-pastor-sues-vimeo-for-censoring-his-videos-deleting-his-account>

<https://www.twincities.com/2019/09/22/st-paul-pastor-urges-no-retaliation-for-nephew-shot-after-bible-study/>

Thursday September 19, 2019



India

Fr Cedric Prakash SJ (**UPDATE**: Published a commentary entitled *Christians, wake up now*: "...The situation in India today, on all fronts, would be much worse than that of El Salvador during the time of Romero...The recent happenings against the Christians and other vulnerable communities are not mere aberrations or one-off incidents by 'passing mobs'. They are systematic and calculated attempts by the Hindutva forces in connivance with the ruling regime, to denigrate the Christians and other minorities and to put them on the backfoot: these forces, who are against a secular, pluralistic India and the values enshrined in the Constitutions, unleash on the country their insidious agenda, towards the establishment of a Hindu nation-State...Given, what is happening in the country today there seems to a pathetic lack of response from the Christian community in general and from Church leadership in particular. There has been no outrage from the community to what is happening in Kashmir or Assam; no protests when freedom of speech and expression is being throttled or when human rights defenders are being harassed and even killed...Christians, Wake Up NOW! Tomorrow will be too late! We are called to play a prophetic role in India today! We need to become Romeros for our country!")

<http://mattersindia.com/2019/09/christian-wake-up-now/>



Russia

Over 100 Russian clergy both inside and outside the country signed an appeal to the government asking for police and legal restraint against peaceful protestors, including for a man sentenced to 4 years in a prison camp for holding a banner quoting the late Soviet era martyr Fr Alexander Men "Mercy is everything we aspire to"

Fr Alexander Borisov

Fr Ioann Guaita (**UPDATE**)

Protoiereus Oleg Batov (theologian)

Fr Viktor Grigorenko

Fr Vladimir Zelinsky (Italian resident)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Russian-priests-defend-rights-of-arrested-protesters-48042.html>
<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Fr.-Viktor-Grigorenko:-mercy-and-conscience-towards-the-youth-of-Moscow-48054.html>



Ukraine

Archimandrite Gideon Kharon (dual U.S. citizen, detained upon re-entry to the country at [Boryspil Airport, Kiev](#) on [February 13, 2019](#) after returning from the United States where he had testified to Members of Congress on the situation in the country, passport seized and then declared lost, denied access to attorneys, Members of Parliament, and medication, stripped of his Ukrainian citizenship and deported under armed escort; **UPDATE:** a district court ruled that his citizenship had been illegally revoked)

<https://orthochristian.com/124069.html>

Friday September 20, 2019



China: Hangzhou

Mr Zhou (reported on government orders to churches requiring parishioners sing China's national anthem, pray for the nation, and raise the Chinese flag: "It is outrageous. Many churches in Hangzhou have been required to raise the national flag and sing the national anthem for a long while. Now, China is back to an absurd era, and some regions are even worse than the Cultural Revolution era")

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/09/churches-ordered-to-host-flag-raising.html>



India: Anushkabad village, Lakhimpur Khere district, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Ram Kumar (attacked by a Hindu mob on [September 15, 2019](#), beaten, arrested on forced conversion charges; **UPDATE:** released on bail)

Pastor Gokran (attacked by a Hindu mob on [September 15, 2019](#), beaten, arrested on forced conversion charges; **UPDATE:** released on bail)

<https://www.persecution.org/2019/09/25/eight-imprisoned-false-charges-lakhimpur-khere/>

Saturday September 21, 2019



Ukraine: Tokmak

Abbot Makary aka Pasichnyi Oleksandr Anatolievich (monastery buildings damaged in an arson attack)

<https://orthochristian.com/124330.html>



Brazil: Brasilia

Fr Kazimierz Andrzej 'Casimiro' Wojno (aged 71, Polish national, **killed** during a church robbery)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/66666-AMERICA_BRAZIL_Parish_priest_of_the_Shrine_of_Our_Lady_of_Health_killed_during_a_church_robbery

Sunday September 22, 2019



India: Jaltanda Suari village, Khunti district, Jharkhand state

Three Christians were lynched by Gau Rakshaks [cow vigilantes], one died

Kalantus Barla (mentally disabled, **lynched, died**)

Fagu Kachhap (lynched, hospitalized in critical condition)

Phillip Horo (lynched, hospitalized in critical condition)

John Dayal (**UPDATE**: said that Kalantus Barla was the “fourth tribal Christian lynched in Jharkhand by self-styled Gau Rakshaks about whom we know from the media. God alone knows the real numbers of Muslims, Christians, Dalits [untouchables] killed by these murderous gangs in the last two years. They may or may not have the patronage of senior political leaders of the BJP [Hindu party] in the state, but they surely revel in the state of impunity that exists in the state where Hindutva is a concern...although the Prime Minister, Mr Modi, once chastised the Gau Rakshaks in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh [states], the recurrent killings are evidence of the absolute lack of political will [to stop them]...What makes it worse is that the police seem reluctant, they are partners in the

crime when they accompany the monsters and see the victim being beaten up, they are late on the scene, falter in taking the victim to hospital, errant in recording the names of the people involved, absolutely non-scientific in collecting evidence and recording the statements of the victim, if he is still alive, or of the witnesses. The court records in lynching cases speak for themselves...some major efforts at charting such crime nationally have been forced to close down, for instance Hate Crime Checker of the Hindustan Times and the similar venture of India Spend”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Three-tribal-Christians-lynched-in-Jharkhand-for-slaughtering-a-sacred-cow,-one-dies-48079.html>



Iran: Eghlid

Asghar Salehi (arrested in his home on [September 18, 2018](#); summoned to court on [April 18, 2019](#), warned he should stop all Christian activities; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment on a charge of 'propaganda against the system through promoting Zionist Christianity')

Mohammadreza Rezaei (same account)

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

Monday September 23, 2019



Iran: Evin Prison, Teheran

Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani (aged 40, convert, husband of Fatema Pasindedih Nadarkhani, father of Daniel and Yoel, attacked by police during an early morning raid on his home in [Rasht](#) on [July 22, 2018](#), incapacitated with an electroshock weapon and then beaten, arrested; **UPDATE**: began a hunger strike after his children were prohibited from school because they had refused to study Islam)

<https://www.christianpost.com/world/imprisoned-iranian-pastor-youcef-nadarkhani-ends-3-week-hunger-strike.html>

Tuesday September 24, 2019



China: Tanghe county, Henan province

Zhang Yongcheng (ordered by local authorities on [April 25, 2019](#) to demolish a church that is said was an illegal use of the land, told him if he did not then they would demolish it;
UPDATE: seized by police after he refused again to demolish his church, disappeared, church demolished)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/10/pastor-disappears.html>



Bangladesh: Chatmohor, near Pabna

Subash Rozario (aged 39, singer, TV personality, disappeared)

Nirmal Rozario (general secretary of the Bangladesh Christian Association, **UPDATE:** said of the disappearance of Subash Rozario “The police have been negligent in their search. We want his safe return”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Widow-killed-in-Gazipur,-apparently-in-a-land-dispute-48164.html>

Wednesday September 25, 2019



India: Lakhimpur Khere district, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Brijraj (reported “all the pastors in the district are on alert and the entire Christian community in a deep despair, because of the current trend of attacks on Churches particularly in our district”)

<https://www.persecution.org/2019/09/25/eight-imprisoned-false-charges-lakhimpur-khere/>

Thursday September 26, 2019



China: Beijing

Jiang Zhanchun (husband of Ma Yuzhen, arrested on a false charge of picking quarrels, placed under house arrest)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2020/04/wife-prevented-from-sending-items-to.html>



India: Piravom, Ernakulam, Kerala state

Benj Kunjacko (church sexton and reporter, attacked by a group of opposing Christians in a church dispute, hospitalized)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/ocp-delegate-ben-kunjacko-attacked-by-christian-fanatics/>



Pakistan: Punjab province

Archbishop Sebastian Francis Shah OFM (**UPDATE**: reported to have said that up to 700 girls had been abducted in his province in one year)

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2019/09/26/christian-girls-are-being-kidnapped-and-forced-to-convert-pakistan-archbishop-warns/>

Friday September 27, 2019



India: Ranchi, Jharkhand state

Sr Concilia Baxia MC (arrested along with an orphanage staffer on human trafficking charges on July 5, 2018; **UPDATE**: released on bail, had never been formally charged)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Ranchi,-sister-of-Mother-Teresa-released-on-bail-48120.html>



Pakistan

Maria Jalal (aged 15, daughter of Jalal Masih, abducted from her home in [Sheikhupura, Punjab](#) province at gunpoint by 5 Muslim men on [June 9, 2019](#), 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..."; **UPDATE**: reported to have moved to a safe house along with her family due to continuing threats)

Jalal Masih (father of Maria Jalal; **UPDATE**: reported to have moved to a safe house, said "We have been unable to continue with our lives since the incident. Every day we have received threats by phone or in person. Sometimes people push us in the streets and warn us to drop the case, other times they shout from far off - letters have been posted through our door warning us of the consequences of pursuing justice. However we trust in our Lord and seek justice not as revenge but to protect the many young Christian girls in our community")

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/baca-fund-legal-team-and-safe-house-for-teenage-gang-rape-victim>



Nigeria: Kaduna state

Police rescued over 300 children and young adults who had been held captive in an Islamic boarding school, most but not all were Muslim, many had been tortured and sexually abused

Hasan Yusuf (young man, convert, freed from captivity, said "The people that brought me here told the people here that I became a Christian because I spent some years out of the country studying. They said my lifestyle has changed. I've become a Christian. I've left the Islamic way of life. That is all I understand about why I am here")

<https://barnabasfund.org/us/news/christian-youth-among-boys-and-men-rescued-from-%E2%80%9Ctorture-chamber%E2%80%9D-islamic-boarding-school-in>
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-nigeria-abuse-idUSKBN1WC0ZG>

Sunday September 29, 2019



India: Thiruvanathipuram, Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu state

Lakshmi Narayanan (home attacked by 30 Hindu extremists during a prayer meeting led by Pastor Paul Thirunavukkarasu)

Pastor Paul Thirunavukkarasu (beaten for 2 hours along with 13 other Christians by 30 Hindu extremists, hospitalized, later said “It was past six in the evening, and suddenly a Hindu neighbor showed up. He snatched away my Bible and slapped my cheeks. He then grabbed my shirt and dragged me to a nearby tree and started beating me. Soon a mob of 30 Hindu Munnani activists joined him and beat up 13 other church members who also were invited to the celebration. All of us were severely bruised and in much pain. The area in Thiruvanthipuram is an upscale residential colony packed with upper-caste Brahmin residents, and Christian prayers annoyed them. That day my wife fainted after receiving information that I was beaten up, and the church members who also got beaten up have still not got well”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/10/police-put-christian-houses-under-surveillance-in-tamil-nadu-state-india/>

Monday September 30, 2019



Bangladesh: Ulukhola village, Gazipur

Varonica Rozario (aged 50, widow, mother of three including Luban Rozario, parochial high school employee, **stabbed to death** in her home in a reported land dispute)

Luban Rozario (daughter of Varonica Rozario, said the suspects in her mother's murder “told us that we could not live on this land”)

Fr Ujjol Rozario (**UPDATE**: said “People in Ulukhola live in fear. Murders take place to grab land. The authorities must capture the killers and bring them to justice”)

Nirmal Rozario (general secretary of the Bangladesh Christian Association, **UPDATE**: said “We have called on the police to investigate”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Widow-killed-in-Gazipur,-apparently-in-a-land-dispute-48164.html>



India: Radhapuram village, Villupuram district, Tamil Nadu state

Pastor Stephen Arputharaj (aged 35, described the destruction of a church by arson: "A Hindu temple is located very close, 20 meters, to the church where a grand festival was held in August. During this time, a batch of youths passed by the church and threw a letter on the site. It was written 'Stop Christian prayers, if not your church will be finished' ...By the time I reached it, it was all over. Since it was a wooden construction with a thatched roof of coconut leaves, it did not take very long for the fire to spread. Whoever has done this must have been closely observing our movements, as my wife and I travel 35 miles back and forth to organize gospel meetings in Kanjanur and Thirupachanur, and there would be nobody around to keep watch...Now only female believers and their infant children attend prayer services. Male members have refused to partake in worship in the open, but we have no other option available in the small village. We are praying the Lord to provide us with a place to gather and worship", later threatened by police with theft of electrical services if he persisted in filing a police report on the arson attack)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2019/10/police-put-christian-houses-under-surveillance-in-tamil-nadu-state-india/>



Bulgaria: Vratsa

Fr Basil (church robbed)

<https://orthochristian.com/124400.html>



United Kingdom: Fowey, Cornwall, England

Rev Philip de Grey-Warter (reported to have been defamed in the media as an extremist for leading his congregation to another Anglican church after the Church of England approved second baptisms for transgendered persons in violation of the Nicene Creed)

Bishop Gavin Ashenden (**UPDATE**: reported on the defamation of Rev Philip de Grey-Warter: "I'd like to talk about the Cornish newspaper and the new Josef Goebbels onslaught on orthodox Christianity, because it's one of the things that has really shaken me considerably. The story so far is a rather sweet and encouraging one in a very beautiful fishing village in Cornwall...there is a really very good vicar called Philip de Grey-Warter. He's built up a very enthusiastic Anglican congregation in the ancient parish church there. But, he decided he could no longer remain in the Church of England, and so with his congregation's support - it contains two very notable and impressive characters, Dan and Susie Leafe, among his congregation. Together they have withdrawn from the Church of England and they are going to start a new independent Anglican congregation. They have chosen to join AMiE [Anglican Mission in England]...The next thing that

happened was they were interviewed by a local reporter...this was an internet publication and not hugely influential. But what was chilling was the political sophistication with which Mr de Grey-Warter has been damned. So this reporter, it's a small community, and he's gone to Philip and said 'I put it to you that you are an extremist organization, you're right-wing and homophobic and extreme. What have you got to say?' And the vicar clearly a bit taken aback by this, gives all the right answers, and says 'Actually we're leaving because of the way the bishops have dedicated the baptismal liturgy to a trans identity and I'd have done this if they had used the baptismal liturgy for anything, like the prosperity gospel, it's not about trans issues or gay issues'. And rather than listening to him or paying attention, the reporter then goes to the local community and has people say 'Yeah well, they belong to GAFCON [the Global Anglican Future Conference], you know, GAFCON thinks that being homosexual is a sickness you can be cured from'. And then he asked someone in the local community 'What do you think of these extremists amongst you?', she says 'Extremists?! We don't want extremists here! We are a quiet peaceful tolerant village!' And so this poor congregation have in a very sophisticated way been set up, brutally...Actually of course, this is what they are going to do to all of us, all of us are going to be associated with this Nazi extreme homophobic movement called GAFCON that is going to 'divide' communities. I remember thinking that in Marxism 1.0 in the Soviet Union Christians were deemed mad for not believing in the Soviet state. They were then sent to psychiatric institutions because politically speaking they were mad, and I thought that was a terrible thing to do, but at least if you spoke rationally even though the state had defined you as being mad other people would notice you were not mad and they would know this was a political stratagem. The horror of this is that because we have got this particular kind of thought crime it doesn't matter what you say in response to being told you are an extremist homophobic right-wing member of an organization, because nobody will believe what you say, and we are very badly stitched up. We need to try and find imaginative ways of undercutting the narrative. I lie in bed at night [laughter] thinking of ways in which clever one-liners with one can somehow displace this whole worldview from which this sophisticated condemnation is based...But I think for us, we can't get off this hook by dismissing this as a particular piece of local [journalistic] malpractice. We're faced with a really serious issue of how we undermine the categories with which people are going to imprison us and dismiss us...The task that this article presents us with is an enormously challenging one, where together our job ought to be to find ways that are intelligent, critical, spiritually wholesome, prophetic, and accurate in order to help Christians undermine the very pernicious assault that we are being surrounded by. We are being tricked by the propaganda...there are a number of people who think it is not propaganda...There are another group of people in the church who say "Something is very badly wrong and we are not completely convinced that going along with the present zeitgeist is the right way to go", and then there are people who know it's really very badly broken and are looking to resist. One of our jobs is to give people the intellectual and spiritual and psychological equipment to make that resistance as sharp as it could be")

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bp63Tfrq3gU&feature=youtu.be&t=764>

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2019/9-august/news/uk/priest-quits-for-gafcon-plant>

September 2019, date unknown



China

Dalu (alias, convert, former radio personality, fled the country after receiving death threats in part for his conversion, granted asylum in Italy)

China: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Bishop Peter Shao Zhumin (underground bishop; abducted by police on [November 9, 2018](#) reportedly for "10 or 15" days of interrogation and indoctrination; released on [November 23, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: taken by police for indoctrination in [late September 2019](#))

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Dal%C3%B9,-persecuted-for-remembering-Tiananmen-massacre,-welcome-in-Italy-50242.html>

<https://bitterwinter.org/bishop-shao-zhumin-once-again-taken-in-for-indoctrination/>



United Kingdom: University of Nottingham

Julia Rynkiewicz (aged 24, university student in a midwife program, blocked from a hospital placement after her involvement in an anti-abortion student group was discovered)

<http://catholicnewsagency.com/news/dont-call-a-pro-life-midwife-uk-university-said-47820>

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