

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – February 2020

Monday February 3, 2020



Nigeria” Chibok county, Borno state

Dauda Iliya (Kibaku Area Development Association, reported on the aftermath of the Boko Haram attacks in the Chibok area following the 2014 abduction of 276 schoolgirls: "...we are being targeted for attacks and annihilation, whether at home or wherever we are. Our people and homelands are in danger. Our homes, farms, barns, and places of worship are destroyed. We are unable to exercise our religious freedoms as we prefer. Our very existence is under grave threat...Of 20 Chibok girls' parents – our kinsmen and women – who are now deceased, 11 were killed during the [subsequent] Boko Haram attacks, eight died of heart conditions as a result of trauma, with those alive subsisting with various degrees of heart conditions and trauma along with their resultant effects...Five days later on the 29th of December [2019] in Mandaragrau, 17 Chibok indigenes were kidnapped. We also do not notice much effort by the government to permanently end the scourge of Boko Haram terrorism, and restore peace in our homelands in particular, and the northeast in general, nor the return of our 112 daughters held in captivity for close to six years")

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/02/six-years-after-girls-kidnapped-in-chibok-nigeria-attacks-persist-in-area/>

Tuesday February 4, 2020



Egypt

Mina Thabet (rights activist, **UPDATE:** spoke on the situation in Egypt: “The government’s narrative is centered around the theory that the current regime is the savior and protector of minorities from the evil powers of the Muslim Brothers and other terrorist groups. Reality tells a different story...The regime failed to tackle issues of discrimination on

many levels and there has been no substantial change in Christians' lives. They are still suffering from the same issues, but the thing is, they can't voice their concerns as they used to following the 2011 uprising")

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/indepth/2020/2/4/copts-in-egypt-trapped-between-a-strongman-and-saviour>

Tuesday February 11, 2020



Burkina Faso: Sebba

Pastor Omar Tindano (**killed** by likely Muslim extremists along with his son and two nephews)

Deacon Lankoande Babilibile (**killed**)

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/news/stories/burkina-faso-200214/>

Thursday February 13, 2020



China

Ying Fuk-tsang (divinity school director; **UPDATE**: spoke on the appointment of President Xi ally and former Zhejiang province church persecutor Xia Baolong as Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office director: "He has a track record as a hardliner. If the central authorities want a crackdown, he would not spare any efforts. This would definitely have an impact on Hong Kong's civil society")

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2020/02/guardian-hong-kongs-new-chief-known-for.html>



Bangladesh: Kutupalong refugee camp, Cox's Bazaar district

Pastor Taher (aged 53, Myanmarese citizen, refugee, badly beaten and abducted by Muslim Rohingya refugees along with his 14 year old daughter on [January 27, 2020](#); **UPDATE**:

wife said she feared he was dead and their daughter forcibly converted to Islam and married)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/03/christian-rohingya-refugees-attacked-kidnapped-in-bangladesh/>

Sunday February 16, 2020



Russia: Pokrovsky, northeast Moscow

Valery Ivanovich (stabbed along with another parishioner during a church service)

<https://orthochristian.com/128133.html>



Uganda: Pallisa, Pallisa district

Sylvia Shamimu Nabafa (aged 27, convert, expectant mother, beaten by her father after her conversion was discovered, said “I did not respond. He began hitting me with kicks and blows. He then took a blunt object and hit my right leg. I started bleeding, and the next thing I knew, I found myself in the hospital bed at Palissa Health Centre”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/04/young-christian-woman-and-pregnant-convert-seriously-injured-in-eastern-uganda/>

Tuesday February 18, 2020



Palestine: Bethlehem

Dr Salameh Qumsiyeh (gynecologist, pulled from his automobile by four masked men and beaten with clubs and sharp tools, hospitalized in serious condition)

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/15690/attacking-palestinian-christians>



Nigeria: Kwarangilum and Forfor villages, Chibok county, Borno state

Maina Kapi (texted: “The terrorists [simultaneously] attacked the communities around 6 p.m., shooting indiscriminately and burning down houses”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/02/six-years-after-girls-kidnapped-in-chibok-nigeria-attacks-persist-in-area/>



United States - Pennsylvania: Lancaster county

Gerald Groff (postal worker, reported to have been penalized for refusing to work on Sundays)

<https://www.fox43.com/article/news/local/former-postal-worker-sues-the-united-states-postal-service-alleging-religious-discrimination/521-b14eb0f3-ed3d-468b-8ae0-5d04aa5f05c7>

Wednesday February 19, 2020



Kenya: Banisa, Mandera county

Al-Shabaab militants killed two Christians and a Muslim, Abdi Abinoor, who had tried to protect them

Peter Kilnozo Musili (**shot dead**)

Kevin Onyango (**shot dead**)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2020/03/mass-exodus-of-teachers-triggers-education-crisis-in-north-east-kenya/>

Friday February 21, 2020



Nigeria: Garkida, Gombi county, Adamawa state

Three churches and Christian homes were destroyed by Boko Haram militants

Watirahyel Mshelia (reported “The Boko Haram insurgents were in hundreds and came into the town in nine trucks, while some rode on 50 motorcycles”)

Manasseh Allen (texted “Our people in Garkida are right now running for their lives as Boko Haram carries out attacks on the community...In spite of all the local intelligence reports on the afternoon of Friday, after the terrorists were sighted around Kwarangulum in Chibok Local Government Area, which is close to Garkida, no effort was made by soldiers stationed in the area to preempt the attack”)

Yohanna Sunday (reported that a women's fellowship was interrupted by the attack)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/02/boko-haram-terrorists-attack-predominantly-christian-community-in-northeast-nigeria/>

Tuesday February 25, 2020



Pakistan: Baguyana village, Karsur district, near Lahore

Saleem Masih (aged 22, son of Ghafoor Masih, agricultural worker, chained, tortured, beaten unconscious after rinsing chaff off his body at a tube well, police stood by, hospitalized)

Ghafoor Masih (father of eight including Saleem Masih, said of his son's murder: “They cursed and abused Saleem for ‘polluting’ the water, calling him a ‘filthy Christian’. They then dragged him to their cattle farm, where they chained his hands and feet and continued to torture him with sticks and rods. They also rolled a thick iron rod over his entire body, causing multiple fractures in his left arm and ribs. Saleem couldn’t bear the pain and fell unconscious...When we reached there, we found Saleem lying unconscious on the ground, his face and body bloodied due to the torture. Dogar [the property owner] had apparently summoned the cops himself, and it was evident that he had also bribed them, because they tried to coerce us into ‘settling the matter’ amicably...After much pleading, they allowed us to take Saleem [to the hospital] while the police acted like spectators”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/02/muslim-landowner-tortures-young-christian-man-in-pakistan-sources-say/>

Wednesday February 26, 2020



Vietnam: Hue

Fr Nguyen Van Ly (uncle of Fr Nguyen Van Viet, **UPDATE**: suffered a heart attack)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Dissident-Father-Nguy%E1%BB%85n-V%C4%83n-L%C3%BD-is-doing-better-after-suffering-a-heart-attack-49463.html>



Iran: Tehran

Fatemeh "Mary" Mohammadi (aged 21, convert, reported on [January 21, 2020](#) to have been arrested after sending several anti-government tweets concerning “soft repression”, “false beliefs through selective coverage of the news”, “lies that are bigger and more repetitive make them more believable” in the wake of the January 8, 2020 downing of Ukrainian airlines flight 752, whereabouts unknown after nearly a week; **UPDATE**: released on US\$2,000 bail)

<https://mohabatnews.com/?p=38642>

Friday February 28, 2020



Pakistan: Lahore

Saleem Masih (aged 22, son of Ghafoor Masih, agricultural worker, chained, tortured, beaten unconscious on [February 25, 2020](#) after rinsing chaff off his body at a tube well
UPDATE: **died from his injuries**)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/02/muslim-landowner-tortures-young-christian-man-in-pakistan-sources-say/>

February 2020, date unknown



Iran: Shiraz

Ismail Maghrebi-Nejad (aged 65, convert of 40 years, widower of Mahvash Mahmoudian, arrested on [January 23, 2019](#), charged with 'propaganda against the state' and 'insulting the sacred Iranian establishment'; accused by a judge on [October 22, 2019](#) of apostasy, bail increased to US\$9,000; sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment on the 'insulting the sacred Iranian establishment' charge on [January 11, 2020](#), other charges still pending; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment on a charge of 'membership of a group hostile to the regime')

<https://www.meconcern.org/2020/07/16/iran-christian-convert-prison-sentences-appealed/>



Nigeria: north central Kaduna state

Sadiya Amos (aged 17, daughter of Amos Chindo, abducted on [January 5, 2020](#); **UPDATE**: escaped from captivity and returned to her parents)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2020/03/nigerian-girl-17-escapes-month-in-locked-room-after-abduction-and-forcible-conversion-to-islam/>

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