

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – March 2020

Monday March 2, 2020



India: Mandya district, Karnataka state

RSS paramilitary members stormed a Christian hospital and beat two administrators after a Hindu patient complained of a Bible in his room

Simon George (hospital public relations officer, beaten, arrested, denied bail, had told the patient that he could read the Bible if he was interested)

Sr Nirmal Jose (hospital administrator, beaten)

Sajan K George (Global Council of Indian Christians president; **UPDATE:** said "Christian missionaries who work in the medical and educational field are targeted every day by extremists who try to discredit their altruistic work, which is to get people the 'beneficial touch' of Jesus...Our Christian institutions serve mostly those who attack, abuse and assault us. May God forgive them for they know not what they do")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Karnataka-Christian-hospital-official-arrested-for-proselytising-49489.html>

Tuesday March 3, 2020



India: Doddasagarahalli village, Karnataka state

Archbishop Peter Machado (**UPDATE:** condemned a cemetery vandalism in which statues were removed by a local government under pressure from Hindu extremists)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Archbishop-Machado:-Return-the-statue-of-Christ,-taken-from-the-Christian-cemetery-49464.html>

Thursday March 5, 2020



Nigeria: Mbanyiar, Guma county, Benue state

Tyoor Chado (traditional ruler, wife raped, two other women raped, at least four Christians were hacked to death by Fulani Muslims)

<https://www.thenigerianvoice.com/news/286669/fifty-christians-hacked-to-death-by-fulani-jihadists-in-marc.html>

Saturday March 7, 2020



Myanmar: Rakhine state

Pastor Tun Nu (aged 42, convert, husband, father of three, abducted from his home by 5 armed men on [January 19, 2019](#); reported on [February 1, 2019](#) to have been killed; **UPDATE**: released from captivity, threatened with future harm, left his village with his family for refuge in another region of the country)

<https://www.gfa.org/pray/current-requests/myanmar-pastor-kidnapped-rohingya-conflict/>

Sunday March 8, 2020



Palestine

Diana (alias, teacher, reported to have said "The [Palestinian] police have separate rules for Muslims and Christians. If, for example, there's a car accident involving a Christian and a Muslim, the police always side with the Muslim")

Palestine: Gaza

Kamal Teresi (fled from Palestine, reported to have said "The Hamas people took over my house and turned it into a war room. I was put in a number of prisons, and the Hamas prison is nothing but beating and psychological torture. We Christians are not bystanders in Palestine, we have been in Palestine for 2000 years, we are not guests. They [Hamas] are harassing and hurting the Christian public and Christian institutions, churches and associations. I can't go back to Gaza, returning would be a death sentence")

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

Tuesday March 10, 2020



China: Chengdu, Sichuan province

Lan Wei (pregnant wife the object of two attempts by police to enter their residence and 'help' her by allegedly taking her to a hospital due to claimed high blood pressure, police failed to gain entry to their home)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2020/03/authorities-check-up-on-pregnant.html>



Congo, Democratic Republic: on the road near Kondoni village, Djugu, Ituri

Fr Guy-Robert Mandro (seriously injured in a machete attack while riding his motorbike, three fingers severed, hospitalized)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/67553-AFRICA_CONGO_RD_Seriously_injured_priest_in_the_East_of_the_Country

Saturday March 14, 2020



Myanmar: Meiksa Wa villages 2 and 3, Paletwa township, Chin state

Rev Dennis Ngun Thawng Mang (reported on Air Force bombing raids on Christian Chin villages that killed 12)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/03/civilian-christians-killed-amid-military-fighting-in-western-burma/>

Sunday March 15, 2020



Myanmar: Wetma village and Pyaing Tain village, Paletwa township, Chin state

Rev Dennis Ngun Thawng Mang (**UPDATE**: reported on Air Force bombing raids on Christian Chin villages that killed 9)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/03/civilian-christians-killed-amid-military-fighting-in-western-burma/>



Iran: Evin prison, Tehran

Fatimeh Bakherti (aged 38, convert, home raided by police during a [May 25, 2017](#) worship service, several Christians arrested; sentenced in [Tehran](#) on [September 22, 2018](#) to 12 months' imprisonment for 'spreading propaganda against the regime'; ordered by a Tehran court on [January 15, 2019](#) to renounce her faith to avoid prison, refused; began her prison sentence on [August 31, 2019](#); **UPDATE**: temporarily released from prison early due to the COVID-19 pandemic, told a month later she did not have to return to prison)

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/iran-finally-frees-christian-woman-from-prison.html>



Pakistan: Shibli town, Lahore, Punjab province

Komal Patras (aged 17, daughter of Rubina and Patras Masih, sister of Yeshuwa and an 11 year old sister, hearing and speech impaired, abducted from her home while studying for her exams, slippers left in disarray at the entrance, police refused to file a report for 2 months)

Patras Masih (aged 55, husband of Rubina, father of Komal Patras, Yeshuwa, and an 11-year old daughter, factory janitor, searched the neighborhood after Komal disappeared)

Rubina (aged 45, wife of Patras Masih, mother of Komal Patras, Yeshuwa, and an 11-year old daughter, domestic servant, found Komal missing after returning home)

Yeshuwa (aged 8, son of Rubina and Patras Masih, brother of Komal Patras, slept through his sister's abduction)

Tariq Masih Gill (Member of the Provincial Parliament, called a 'churha' ["sweeper", a derogatory term for Christians] by a Muslim Member of Parliament in [Lahore](#) on [May 21, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: filed a police report on the abduction of Komal Patras)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/death-and-dumb-christian-teenager-kidnapped-whilest-police-dithered>

Tuesday March 17, 2020



Malaysia: Kuching, Sarawak state

Pastor David Cheng (aged 60, convert, husband of Sim Lee Naa, father of Anders Cheng and a daughter, guitarist and songwriter, **died from a SARS-COV-2 infection**, was the first person in the country to die from the disease)

Sim Lee Naa (widow of Pastor David Cheng, mother of Anders Cheng and a daughter, positive with the SARS-COV-2 virus along with her daughter)

Anders Cheng (son of Pastor David Cheng and Sim Lee Naa, said “My dad is in a place where there is no more pain, sickness, grief, sorrows or worries, and he’s in a better place than all of us. So with that, we are putting on our garments of praise and still rejoicing through this storm”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Baptist-pastor-dies-from-virus,-death-has-no-sting,-says-son-49619.html>



Nigeria: Manini village, Chikun county, Kaduna state

Markus Danjuma (aged 50, **shot dead** by Fulani Muslims)

Sharana Danjuma (aged 42, **shot dead**)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/04/humanitarian-crisis-in-kaduna-state-nigeria-as-herdsmen-attack-unchecked/>

Monday March 23, 2020



Nigeria: Pampaida, Ikara county, Kaduna state

Joy Dankaka (aged 16, cousin and ward of Rev Markus Ahmadu, abducted after her school closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, later managed to send a phone message that she was in danger, mother and legal guardians unable to rescue her after it was claimed she had converted to Islam)

Rev Markus Ahmadu (legal guardian of Joy Dankaka)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2020/04/nigerias-kano-state-governor-converts-christian-under-age-girl-to-islam/>

Tuesday March 24, 2020



China: Jiangmen, Guangdong province

Ruan Haoan (husband of Luo Caixia, father of two, church greeter, hotel chef, detained in [June 2017](#) for false illegal cult activity, released after a month; said on [February 24, 2018](#) that he cannot support his family because employers bow to police pressure and refuse to hire him; **UPDATE**: still harassed by police, said “I have been having a hard time finding a job since our church was harassed by the public security department in 2017. Every year, the local police station calls us to question us, berates us, and asks me not to preach the Gospel. Hotels and restaurants generally reject me if I look for positions there, saying that I have a criminal record. I have to work for eateries, and the salary is 30% lower than big restaurants, so it is hard to raise a family”, reported that eateries have been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, has helped friends sell used automobiles)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2020/03/authorities-interfere-with-christians.html>

Wednesday March 25, 2020



Iran: Evin Prison, Tehran

Ram-eil Beth Tamraz (son of Pastor Victor Beth Tarmez and Shamiram Isavi, bodily searched during the [December 26, 2014](#) police raid on his home in [Tehran](#); arrested without warrant by MOIS agents while fishing and picnicking with his wife in [Firuzkuh](#) on [August 26, 2016](#); charged with 'action against national security' on [June 18, 2018](#); convicted on [July 8, 2018](#) of 'acting against national security' and sentenced to 4 months' imprisonment [of which he has already served 2 months]; reported to prison on [January 7, 2020](#) to begin the remainder of his sentence; **UPDATE**: reported to have been temporarily released due to the COVID-19 epidemic along with six other Christians)

<https://mohabatnews.com/?p=38068>

Friday March 27, 2020



China: Hangzhou, Zhejiang province

Li Qing (widow, human rights activist, disability pensioner, pension suspended, suffering from radiation poisoning, police placed her under house arrest and refused to allow her to leave to buy food and medicine)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2020/04/activist-barred-from-leaving-home.html>



Nigeria: Kuduru village, Chikun county, Kaduna state

Hassana Bala (**hacked to death** by Fulani Muslims)

Jamilu Hassana (**hacked to death**)

Halima Bala Nawela (**hacked to death**)

<https://www.thenigerianvoice.com/news/286669/fifty-christians-hacked-to-death-by-fulani-jihadists-in-marc.html>



Cuba: Siboney

Yoe Suarez (aged 29, journalist, father of a 2 year old son, summoned to a police station and told by Department of State Security agents that he still had time to 'correct his course', which was due to his reporting on persecution of Christians)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/04/intelligence-officers-in-cuba-ratchet-up-harassment-of-christian-journalist/>

Saturday March 28, 2020



China: Beijing

Jiang Zhanchun (husband of Ma Yuzhen, arrested on a false charge of picking quarrels on [September 26, 2019](#), placed under house arrest; **UPDATE**: wife attempted to bring him clothing and money, denied access to him or to information about his condition)

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



Lebanon

May Khoreiche (Member of Parliament, reported to have been threatened by Muslim clerics after she tweeted a list of suggested books to read at home during the current COVID-19 lockdown, the list included the speculative and controversial book *The Last Days of Muhammad*, retracted her tweet)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Beirut,-Christian-parliamentarian-and-Dar-el-Fatwa-clash-over-article-on-Mohammad-49682.html>

Monday March 30, 2020



Nigeria: Jagindi, Jema county, Kaduna state

Danlami Barde (traditional ruler, district head, brother of Musa Barde, **killed** by Fulani Muslims)

Musa Barde (brother of Danlami Barde, **killed**, wife shot but survived)

<https://www.thenigerianvoice.com/news/286669/fifty-christians-hacked-to-death-by-fulani-jihadists-in-marc.html>



United States

Tony Perkins (U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom chair and Family Research Council president, tweeted a response to New York City Mayor Bill DeBlasio's threat to permanently close churches and synagogues that continued to defy closure orders: “De Blasio’s incendiary & unconstitutional threat to permanently shut down churches and synagogues must be retracted or corrected if it was a misstatement. This type of religious hostility is what fuels non-compliance because it reveals a motive beyond public safety”, had gone on record as supporting the current temporary closures)

<https://twitter.com/tperkins/status/1244700694919118849>

Tuesday March 31, 2020



Nigeria: Ancha village, Bassa county, Plateau state

Chikwa (**hacked to death** by Fulani Muslims)

Taza Abuur (**hacked to death**)

Tarnum Yanum (**hacked to death**)

Nigeria: Kuduru village, Kaduna state

Hassana Bala (**killed** by Fulani Muslims)

Jamilu Hassan (**killed**)

Halima Bala (**killed**)

Haliru Nawela (injured)

Kure Dogonyaro (injured)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/04/humanitarian-crisis-in-kaduna-state-nigeria-as-herdsmen-attack-unchecked/>

<https://www.thenigerianvoice.com/news/286669/fifty-christians-hacked-to-death-by-fulani-jihadists-in-marc.html>

March 2020, date unknown



Italy: Lovere, Bergamo

Fr Giuseppe Berardelli (aged 72, **died from a SARS-COV-2 infection on or before March 23, 2020**, had refused a ventilator his parishioners had obtained and insisted it be used on a younger patient he did not know; **CORRECTION**: the hospital denied the ventilator story)

<https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-italian-priest-dies-after-giving-his-respirator-to-younger-patient-he-did-not-know-11962806>



Cuba: Guantanamo

Ayda Rigal (wife of Pastor Ramon Rigal, mother of Ruth and Daniel, sentenced to one and a half years' imprisonment on **April 23, 2019**; **UPDATE**: released on **March 28 or 29, 2020**)

Pastor Ramon Rigal (husband of Ayda, father of Ruth and Daniel, sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment on **April 23, 2019**; **UPDATE**: still imprisoned)

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/cuba-releases-christian-homeschool-mother-jailed-for-not-enrolling-kids-in-govt-school.html>



Iran: Sarbaz

Ebrahim Firouzi (aged 36, convert, welder, disappeared on the way to work on **March 7, 2013** in **Robat-Karim**, apparently arrested by plain-clothes police; sentenced on **July 15, 2013** in or "evangelism activities" to one year imprisonment and two years internal exile to Sarbaz; beaten in **Evin prison, Tehran** on **April 17, 2014** by Revolutionary Guards who then prohibited prison doctors from treating the inmates until 'trusted' doctors from the intelligence services arrived; illegally transferred on **October 8, 2014** from **Evin prison in Tehran** to **Rajaei-Shahr prison in Alborz province**, will likely be denied access to other Christians; removed from a scheduled **December 30, 2014** Christian celebration in prison before it began; prison term completed, still not released a week later on **January 20, 2015**; reported on **May 1, 2015** to have been sentenced to five additional years' imprisonment for "action against national security through collusion and gathering", the gathering in question was a meeting where he met with friends to say goodbye before the beginning of his original prison term; beaten by prison guards on **July 12, 2016** when he refused to be transferred to the courthouse for a hearing without legal preparation; as of

October 16, 2018 has suffered from a toothache that has 'spread throughout his jaw and face', denied medical treatment, unable to eat, request for a furlough refused; released from prison on October 26, 2019, has begun preparation for internal exile; **UPDATE:** internal exile extended by 11 months after he travelled for family needs)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/04/his-exile-extended-11-months-christian-in-iran-finds-warm-welcome/>

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