

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – April 2020

Wednesday April 1, 2020



Nigeria: Hukke village, Bassa county, Miango district, Plateau state

Muslim Fulani herdsmen killed seven Christians

Patience Moses (**UPDATE**: later said “Those killed in Hukke village are mostly elderly Christians who were unable to escape”)

Izinpa Muntu (aged 72, **killed**)

Madah Imeh (aged 80, **killed**)

Jummai Geye (aged 78, **killed**)

Gado Muntu (aged 67, **killed**)

Mary Alhassan (aged 70, **killed**)

Gado Nguni (aged 90, **killed**)

Rigwe Muntu (aged 84, **killed**)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/04/fulani-herdsmen-in-nigeria-kill-more-than-60-christians-in-five-weeks-sources-say/>



United Kingdom: Swansea, Wales

Sr Sienna MC (aged 73, Indian citizen, **died from a SARS-COV-2 infection**, had been distributing food parcels to infected poor people, entire convent in quarantine)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Sister-of-Mother-Teresa-dies-from-coronavirus-giving-food-to-the-infected-49745.html>

Friday April 3, 2020



China: Saiqi, Fujian province

Fr Huang Jintong (aged 50, evicted from his residence on [January 15, 2020](#); **UPDATE**: detained by police for refusing to join the official church)

China: Luojiang, Fujian province

Bishop Vincent Guo Xijin (aged 61, evicted on [January 15, 2020](#), slept on the front doorstep of his former residence; **UPDATE**: contacted by police, told that Fr Huang Jintong would be detained for at least a month, ordered to bring clothing for him to the police station, allowed to reoccupy his residence but the utilities were turned off, blesses the police who monitor him)

[http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mindong-priest-taken-and-held-by-police.-Bishop-Guo-Xijin-blesses-agents-who-control-him-\(Video\)-49754.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mindong-priest-taken-and-held-by-police.-Bishop-Guo-Xijin-blesses-agents-who-control-him-(Video)-49754.html)



Pakistan

Fr Emmanuel Yousuf Mani (director of the National Commission of Justice and Peace; **UPDATE**: reported that Christians who lost their employment as a result of the COVID-19 lockdowns have been denied food: "Reports of NGOs discriminating on religious grounds are very sad to hear. It shows a very narrow mind set at work. Everybody affected should be helped - everybody")

<https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christians-denied-coronavirus-food-aid-in-pakistan>



Cuba: Siboney

Yoe Suarez (aged 29, journalist, father of a 2 year old son, summoned to a police station on [March 27, 2020](#) 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; **UPDATE**: summoned to the police station along with his mother and threatened with charges of working with foreign intelligence agencies and the state seizure of his son, mother had been interrogated the day before, later said "All they seek is to put pressure on me through my family. My mother is very disturbed – fearful for me and for the consequences I may suffer. Right now, she is not able to even speak")

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

Tuesday April 7, 2020



Australia: Canberra

Cardinal George Pell (aged 78, charged with multiple child sex abuse crimes in [Melbourne](#) in [June 2017](#), the police had opened a case against him a year before a complainant was found, most charges were then dismissed for "fundamental defects in evidence"; reported on [December 11, 2018](#) to have been convicted on five counts despite the trial having been held in secret, a previously unreported trial had ended in mistrial after 10 jurors voted to acquit, trial witnesses anonymously reported extensive prosecutorial misconduct; verdict announced on [February 27, 2019](#) after prosecutors decided to drop the remaining charges, taken into custody; sentenced to 6 years' imprisonment on [March 13, 2019](#); appeal denied on [August 21, 2019](#) on a 2-1 vote, the dissenting judge wrote that his guilt had not been proved beyond a reasonable doubt; **UPDATE**: found not guilty in an unanimous verdict by the High Court, immediate release ordered, indicated he would not pursue charges of malicious prosecution: "I hold no ill will to my accuser. I do not want my acquittal to add to the hurt and bitterness so many feel")

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/cdl-pell-acquitted-of-sex-abuse-charge-by-australian-high-court-will-be-freed>



Uganda: Luwooko village, Buwunga sub-county, Bugiri district

Lydia Nabiryte (aged 23, daughter of evangelist Paul Kaikiya, beaten by Muslims for helping a Muslim woman convert, strangled, said "They held me and started beating me up. They slapped me, and others hit me with sticks, saying that they were out to kill me because I was changing Muslims to become Christians", attack stopped by police)

Paul Kaikiya (church evangelist, threatened with harm for protecting converts from Islam)

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



Nigeria: Ngbra Zongo village, Bassa county, Plateau state

Pastor Matthew Tagwai (aged 34, husband, father of three including one yet to be born, **shot dead** by Fulani Muslims)

Ishaku Abba (aged 10, **shot dead**)

Dih Sunday (aged 21, **shot dead**)

Duh Abba (aged 38, **shot dead**)

Abbayo Ki (aged 45, shot, hospitalized)

Monday Adamas (aged 19, shot, hospitalized)

Moses Gata (survived the attack, confirmed the attackers' identities: “There’s no doubt about it – our attackers are Muslim Fulani herdsmen. They were communicating with themselves in Fulfulde, the herdsmen’s language”)

Rev Yunusa Nmadu Jr (Evangelical Church Winning All [ECWA] general secretary, **UPDATE**: said “Let the authorities know that people do not run forever. There comes a time when they are pressed to the wall, and in such times reactions and counter-reactions will inevitably occur”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/04/pastor-10-year-old-boy-and-two-other-christians-killed-in-plateau-state-nigeria/>

Thursday April 9, 2020



China: Guangzhou

Chen Chengwan (church elder, harassed at his home by unidentified officials, refused to allow them to enter his apartment while his children were attending online classes, the officials eventually left)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2020/04/church-elder-harassed-at-residence.html>

Saturday April 11, 2020



Pakistan: Talwandi

Nadia Masih (aged 7, attacked by a serial rapist, rescued by a Muslim neighbor and other men who apprehended the assailant)

Boota Masih (aged 44, widower, father of daughters Nadia Masih, Eisha, Saadia, and sons Adil and Badil)

Eisha (aged 13, daughter of Boota Masih) Saadia (aged 12, daughter of Boota Masih)

Adil (aged 8, son of Boota Masih)

Badil (aged 6, son of Boota Masih)

Pastor Mukhtar Mehboob (said "It is sad that none of the other families of the 21 girls raped by Shoaib have had the courage to come forward to prosecute him for the previous crimes. This means all the pressure to drop the case by the family of Shoaib is being directed on a very vulnerable and terrified Christian family")

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/muslim-man-attacks-7-year-old-christian-girl>



Egypt

Ramy Kamel (Coptic activist, asthmatic, arrested on [November 23, 2019](#) for posting videos of Christians being forcibly evicted from their homes in the south of the country; **UPDATE:** still in jail, friends are concerned about his health should he contract the SARS-COV-2 virus)

<https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2020/04/10/covid-19-risk-puts-imprisoned-religious-freedom-advocate-in-greater-danger/>

Tuesday April 14, 2020



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; released on US\$2,000 bail on [February 26, 2020](#); **UPDATE**: convicted of breach of peace, sentenced to 3 months' and 1 day's imprisonment and to flogging)

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



Nigeria: Hura village, Kwall district, Plateau state

Fulani Muslims killed nine Christians and destroyed 28 homes

Talatu Daniel (expectant mother, **killed** along with her 3-year old son)

Ishaya Yakubu (aged 5, **killed**)

Gyang Yakubu (aged 16, **killed**)

Sunday Biri (aged 50, grandfather of Luka, **killed**)

Luka (aged 5, grandson of Sunday Biri, **killed**)

Spino Kama (**killed**)

Victoria John (expectant mother, escaped from the attackers, saw the murder of 5-year old Luka)

Ronku Aka (regional chief, said, “With this coronavirus people are suffering, but this killing is more dangerous than the coronavirus...The rainy season is approaching and my people whose houses have been burnt, where are they going to stay? I am calling on the government to have mercy and come to our aid”)

<https://news.barnabasfund.org/Five-year-old-murdered-snatched-from-pregnant-mother-as-Fulani-militant-attacks-more-dangerous-than-coronavirus-in-Nigeria-lockdown/>

Sunday April 19, 2020

Pascha [Easter] – Eastern Calendar



Indonesia: Rawa Sentul hamlet, Jayamukti village, Cikarang sub-district, Bekasi regency, West Java

Arion Sihombing (family prayer in his home interrupted by the village chief and a neighbor using the COVID-19 lockdown as a pretext, the interruption ended when the chief could not prevent a video of his actions from being posted to social media, said "We are used to

praying together but those two arrived suddenly at our home and ordered us to stop praying. We fear that these people will bring their followers for more hostile acts...This happened to us 12 years ago, when we faced a mob protesting against us because we met to pray as a family. We were under pressure for a month and every night they threw stones at our home”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Family-prayer-forcibly-interrupted-49864.html>



Nigeria: Nitiriku village, Kaduna state

Fulani Muslims attacked a village killing three women

Titi Saje (**killed**)

Hannatu Joseph (aged 45, **killed**)

Awiki Adi (aged 42, **killed**)

Sunday David (aged 61, **died of a possible heart attack** during the attack)

<https://news.barnabasfund.org/Four-Nigerian-Christians-die-in-Fulani-militant-attack-in-Kaduna-State/index.html>

Monday April 20, 2020



Vietnam: Nghe An province

Nguyen Nang Tinh (aged 44, husband, father of one, music teacher, religious media personality, arrested on [May 29, 2019](#) on a charge of anti-state propaganda; indicted on [September 17, 2019](#); trial postponed after prosecutors refused before [October 17, 2019](#) to allow his defense attorneys access to evidence; convicted on [November 15, 2019](#), sentenced to 11 years' imprisonment, denied that he was the owner of the Facebook page that was the evidence against him; **UPDATE**: appeal denied, had been on a hunger strike during Lent because he had been denied access to a priest)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Music-teacher-Nguy%E1%BB%85n-N%C4%83ng-T%C4%A9nh,-on-a-hunger-strike-because-he-was-not-allowed-to-see-a-priest,-gets-11-years-in-prison-49887.html>

Wednesday April 22, 2020



Egypt: north of Cairo

Ranya Abd al-Masih (aged 39, wife, mother of three, secondary school English teacher, disappeared, later reappeared in a video tearfully claiming to have converted to Islam and rejecting her family, statement appeared coerced and possibly under the influence of drugs, whereabouts unknown)

<https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2020/05/05/egypt-missing-christian-woman-reappears-as-pious-muslim-in-video/>



Nigeria

Christians reacted after the governor of Kano publicly converted two underage girls to Islam

Rev Gideon Para-Mallam (**UPDATE:** commented “Governor Ganduje of Kano is a sitting Governor and a Muslim. Should he be allowed to get away with what he has done? If a sitting Christian Governor did what Ganduje did, what would the Muslim community do? Ganduje is engaging in what I see as ‘executive conversions’, induced by corruption and love of money. That is the contradiction that is Nigeria. This is lawlessness at the executive level. The use of one’s official position to advance Islam in a multi-religious country is a disservice to promotion of religious harmony in a State that has both Christians and Muslims. This fake conversion to Islam should not be allowed to stand. The fact that she is a minor makes for a strong case in court”)

Tom Chiamen (Christian Rights Agenda director of publicity, issued a statement: “Expending state resources for jihad-inspired conversion of Christian minors by force, tricks, intimidation, threats and all kinds of backward means, is the most annoying insult indigenous Christians of Kano are forced to live with under Ganduje...Indigenous Hausa Christians in Kano have been subjugated under Ganduje’s administration and are denied their rights and privileges as citizens. A clear example is the denial of scholarships to Christian students studying in tertiary institutions in and outside Kano State...Despite clear improvement in infrastructure in Kano, Christian-dominated parts of the metropolis are still in their pre-1999 ruinous conditions”)

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

Thursday April 23, 2020



Nigeria: Kujeni village, Kauru county, Kaduna state

Fulani Muslims and an apparent group of Nigerian Army soldiers killed three young men and abducted many more, twelve remained in captivity

Maigida Maisama (killed)

Yahuda Mallam (killed)

Bulus Danzaria (killed)

Bako Machu (abducted)

Isaiah Bako (abducted)

Timothy Musa (abducted)

Hakuri Maigid (abducted)

Apolo Ali (abducted)

Emmanuel Maikasa (abducted)

Haruna Dogo (abducted)

Titus Ahmadu (abducted)

Caleb Bakinpa (abducted)

Tanimu Ami (abducted)

Samuel Usman (abducted)

Maigida Gamashewa (abducted)

<https://news.barnabafund.org/At-least-ten-Nigerian-Christians-killed--twelve-taken-hostage-in-multiple-Fulani-militant-attacks/index.html>

Friday April 24, 2020



China: Chengdu, Sichuan province

Ran Yunfei (detained on [October 16, 2017](#) at his home while travelling to Hong Kong, released later that day; **UPDATE:** detained by police to prevent him from giving his testimony during a scheduled online service, escorted home after the service ended)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2020/04/police-continue-persecution-of-early.html>



Ukraine: Odessa

Archimandrite Vladimir Yakimenko (aged 46, broke his leg while helping firemen put out a fire at his monastery, fire was an act of arson)

<https://orthochristian.com/130525.html>

Saturday April 25, 2020



Nigeria: Kikwari village, Kauru county, Kaduna state

Ado Maisamari (aged 56, father of eight, **killed**)

Titus Amos (aged 27, father of three, **killed**)

Habila Amos (aged 25, father of one, **killed**)

<https://news.barnabasfund.org/At-least-ten-Nigerian-Christians-killed--twelve-taken-hostage-in-multiple-Fulani-militant-attacks/index.html>

Tuesday April 28, 2020



Mozambique: Pemba

Bishop Luiz Fernando Lisboa (described jihadi attacks: "Today I read a news bulletin that speaks of 26 attacks so far this year. But to tell you the truth, I think the true figure will have been higher...To our immense sadness, 52 young people who refused to join the insurgents were massacred [on April 7 in Xitaxi]. To us they are true martyrs of peace because they would not agree to take part in the violence, in warfare, and that is the reason why they were murdered....In the district of Muidumbe seven small towns or villages were attacked in fact during the days of Holy Week, among others that of Muambula where the Catholic mission of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is situated, in

Nangololo. They attacked the church and burnt the benches and a statue of Our Lady, made of ebony. They also destroyed an image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to whom the parish is dedicated. Fortunately, they were unable to burn the building itself, only the benches")

<https://acninternational.org/mozambique-the-hidden-war/>



Egypt: Bayad El Arab village, Beni Suef province

Justina Magdy Attia (aged 15, disappeared)

<https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2020/05/17/%d8%a3%d8%b3%d9%82%d9%81-%d8%a8%d9%86%d9%8a-%d8%b3%d9%88%d9%8a%d9%81-%d9%86%d8%ad%d9%86-%d8%ad%d8%b1%d9%8a%d8%b5%d9%88%d9%86-%d8%b9%d9%84%d9%89-%d8%b9%d9%88%d8%af%d8%a9-%d9%8a%d9%88%d8%b3%d8%aa/> - with translation

Wednesday April 29, 2020



Thailand: Bangkok

Rasoolan Bibi (aged 63, mother of Amreen Latif, grandmother, Pakistani refugee, arrested on [December 19, 2019](#) on a visa violation; **UPDATE**: released on bail, had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, receiving medical attention)

Amreen Latif (daughter of Rasoolan Bibi)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/63-year-old-grandmother-with-parkinsons-disease-is-freed-from-brutal-bangkok-idc-after-50-000-bail-f>

Thursday April 30, 2020



China: Chengdu, Sichuan province

Liu Hongliang (house [unofficial] church member, visited by Religious Affairs Bureau agents at his workplace who introduced him to a minister of the official church)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2020/05/church-member-advised-to-mind.html>

April 2020, date unknown



China: Cili county, Hunan province

Pastor Zhao Huaiguo (arrested on a charge of 'inciting subversion of state power', fellow parishioners were interrogated in an attempt to find incriminating evidence)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2020/04/pastor-arrested-for-inciting-subversion.html>



Nigeria: Arimogija, Ose county, Ondo state

Jacob Odushe (father of Adura, rice farmer, **killed** by Fulani Muslims in **early April**)

Adura (son of Jacob Odushe, **killed**)

Victor Ejeh (teen, **killed**)

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

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