

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – May 2020

**Sunday May 3, 2020**



**China: Xiamen, Fujian province**

Pastor Yang Xibo (**UPDATE**: nine parishioners arrested for having met for prayers in a private home)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Police-arrest-and-beat-Protestants-in-Xiamen-49995.html>



**Nigeria: Adu village, Miango county, Plateau state**

**Four Christians were killed by Fulani Muslims while sharing a motorcycle**

Friday Musa (aged 26, **shot dead**)

Chohu Nyangu (aged 25, **shot dead**)

Anta Yakubu (aged 26, **shot**, hospitalized, **died**)

Emmanuel Kure (aged 24, **shot dead**)

Moses Gata (survived the [April 7, 2020 attack in Ngbra Zongo village, Bassa county, Plateau state](#); **UPDATE**: described the killings)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/05/four-christians-killed-head-of-high-school-and-family-shot-in-north-central-nigeria/>

**Monday May 4, 2020**



**Uganda: Nawuyo village, Mbale district**

Rehema Kyomuhendo (aged 24, convert, beaten and set on fire with gasoline by her father after he discovered her conversion, hospitalized)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/05/muslim-father-in-uganda-burns-daughter-for-becoming-christian/>

**Tuesday May 5, 2020**



**Turkey**

Garo Paylan (aged 48, Member of Parliament; **UPDATE:** wrote on Facebook "In his hateful speech last night, [President] Erdogan once again used the phrase 'leftover of the sword'...'Leftover of the sword' was invented to refer to orphans like my grandmother who survived the [1915] Armenian genocide. Every time we hear that phrase, it makes our wounds bleed")

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/16002/turkey-leftovers-of-the-sword>  
<https://tr.armradio.am/2020/05/05/erdoganin-kullandigi-kilic-artigi-ifadesine-paylandan-yanit/> -  
with translation



**Nigeria: Damishi village, Chikun county, Kaduna state**

**Fulani Muslims abducted an unnamed missionary from Cameroon**

Elisha Kureh (husband of Dupe)

Dupe (wife of Elisha Kureh, beaten when she resisted being abducted along with the Cameroon missionary, recovering)

**Nigeria: Messiah College high school, Gana Ropp village, Barkin Ladi county, Plateau state**

Rev Bayo James Famonure (school headmaster, husband of Na'omi, father of Adua and Victor, school attacked by Fulani Muslims who demanded money, no money available since the school had been closed due to the current COVID-19 lockdown, shot in the head and legs, wife shot, two children shot in the feet, all hospitalized in stable condition, said "Yes, I was shot in the head, but the bullet didn't enter. It's a miracle")

Na'omi Famonure (wife of Rev Bayo James Famonure, mother of Adua and Victor, shot in the back, initially in critical condition but upgraded to stable condition after surgery, the bullet had just missed her spine)

Adua (son of Na'omi Famonure and Rev Bayo James Famonure, shot in the feet, hospitalized)

Victor (son of Na'omi Famonure and Rev Bayo James Famonure, shot in the feet, hospitalized)

Mark Lipdo (Stefanos Foundation Program Director; **UPDATE:** wrote "The Famonures however survived the various gunshots, a miraculous incident that shows the power of God over deep hatred of men")

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/05/four-christians-killed-head-of-high-school-and-family-shot-in-north-central-nigeria/>

<https://news.barnabasfund.org/-Miracle--escape-for-Nigerian-pastor-and-family-shot-in-Fulani-militant-attack-in-Plateau-State/index.html>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/05/christian-families-slain-in-their-homes-in-kaduna-state-nigeria/>

**Thursday May 7, 2020**



## **Australia**

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; found not guilty in an [April 7, 2020](#) unanimous verdict by the High Court in Canberra, immediate release ordered; **UPDATE:** subjected to an implied threat of re-investigation and possible re-arrest by police after the Royal Commission issued a report that concluded without evidence that he lied to the Commission when he stated that he did not know of the sexual crimes against minors of two priests before he became a bishop)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/pell-surprised-by-royal-commission-findings-33510>



### **China: Nanyang, Henan province**

Bishop Emeritus Joseph Zhu Baoyu (aged 99, underground bishop, sentenced to a forced labor camp in 1964, released by 1967; sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on counter-revolutionary charges in 1981, he had organized a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Sheshan in Shanghai; released in 1988; ordained a bishop on March 19, 1995; **UPDATE: died of natural causes**, had contracted a SARS-CoV-2 infection in February and recovered, recovery publicized by national media)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mgr-Joseph-Zhu-Baoyu,-bishop-emeritus-of-Nanyang,-has-passed-away-50019.html>

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/chinese-bishop-who-suffered-years-of-forced-labor-dies-at-98-76526>



### **India: Thiruvalla, Kerala state**

Divya P Johny (aged 21, novice, **found dead in her convent's well**, the bottom part of her clothing was missing but the death was ruled 'natural', about 20 nuns and novices have died in wells since 1987 in Kerala state and all such deaths were ruled 'natural')

<http://mattersindia.com/2020/05/nuns-in-wells-church-must-ensure-justice-for-victims/>



### **Nigeria: Nkietohu village, Plateau state**

Lami David (aged 32, wife, mother of four aged 2, 5, 8 and 12, daughter-in-law of Elizabeth "Lisa" Nchu, shot in her chest and legs by Fulani Muslim gunmen while working in her kitchen and while her 2 year old was strapped to her back, hospitalized, none of her children were harmed)

Elizabeth "Lisa" Nchu (aged 60, mother-in-law of Lami David, shot in the shoulder by Fulani Muslim gunmen while resting in her home, hospitalized)

Josiah Zongo (community leader, described the attack on Lami David: "“The woman was shot with her baby on her back – the child was not hurt as well as other children were not. The woman was found lying in a pool of blood behind the house where she'd tried to run away from the gunmen”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/05/christian-mother-mother-in-law-shot-in-north-central-nigeria/>

**Friday May 8, 2020**



**Pakistan: Hakeem Pura, Sheikhpura district, Punjab province**

Rev Hadayat (church invaded by armed land developers, cross and other items broken)

Boota Masih (said "Not only was the cross broken, but our hearts were crushed too")

Tariq Masih Gill (Member of the Provincial Parliament; **UPDATE:** visited the church. said "The cross that was desecrated has great importance and value in both Christianity and Islam. The culprits have not only dishonored our faith, but also our national flag, which also represents minorities")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Muslims-attack-Protestant-church-in-Sheikhpura-50058.html>  
<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/muslim-gang-threaten-christian-church-with-land-grab>



**Belgium**

Br Rene Stockman FC (superior general of the Brothers of Charity, reported on [April 28, 2017](#) to have objected when the mostly lay board of directors of the psychiatric hospitals operated by his order voted to allow euthanasia, said "We deplore this new vision...as general superior we cannot accept this decision, because it is going totally against our charism of the charity...Yes, there was a lot of pressure, but pressure doesn't mean that we have to capitulate. All those who were against us are now singing that finally the group of the Brothers of Charity capitulated and came into their camp...[secularization is] poisoning the congregation"; issued a statement opposing his hospital board's [September 12, 2017](#) vote in favor of euthanasia "where does a board of directors of an organization that specializes in mental health care, but made up of jurists and economists, and without a single expert in the field, get the knowledge to give its opinion on such a matter? Some of them, with all due respect for their person, have never had first-hand experience with a psychiatric patient, let alone cared for one or treated one. And have they listened to the many objections that were raised exactly by these experts in the field, and which they continue to raise, or are they stuck in their ideological discourse, supported by a few enlightened ethicists and caught up in social trends...When those in charge of the Organization now openly claim to follow Jesus while distancing themselves from the vision of the Vatican, the Belgian bishops, and the General Administration of the Congregation of the Brothers of Charity because, supposedly, in their eyes, they 'live far

removed from reality', then they are sadly mistaken and this is more about pride, arrogance, and ideologization at the expense of the lives of those most in need of care. Let us call a spade a spade: euthanasia is still killing a fellow human being, even if it happens with the utmost due care. How in the name of God is this supposed to be compatible with our charism of charity, the charism of life?"; along with his congregation removed two monks from the board of director [at the end of September 2018](#) for failing to oppose the euthanasia policy; **UPDATE**: reported to have stated he was determined to see the name of his congregation removed from the name of the hospital chain after the Vatican ruled the chain could no longer claim to be Catholic, accused by the hospital board chairman of an attempt to claim the assets of the hospitals to pay for missionary work in Africa)

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/belgian-brothers-of-charity-fight-for-their-name-after-cdf-decision/>

**Saturday May 9, 2020**



**Ukraine: Ternopil**

Fr Stephan Balan (**UPDATE**: condemned desecration of his cathedral with graffiti)

<https://orthochristian.com/130980.html>



**Nigeria: Ungwan Badole, Chikun county, Kaduna state**

Pastor Reuben Danbala (abducted, held for US\$5,144 ransom, threatened with death if he rejected the invitation to Islam)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/05/christians-killed-in-kaduna-state-nigeria-as-herdsmen-threaten-kidnapped-missionary/>

**Monday May 11, 2020**



## India

John Prabhudoss (Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations chairman, sent a letter to the U.S. government and the World Bank regarding denial of COVID-19 aid from the US\$1 billion package to Christians and other religious minorities: "Specifically, many are being left out of the programs created to help the people during this crisis. Obviously, there are several systemic flaws in the Hindu nationalist government's approach to the problem. Because of those fundamentally flawed approaches, Christians and other religious minorities are suffering but they are not the only victims. Various sections of economically vulnerable people are also suffering due to these fundamentally flawed attitudes of the Hindu nationalist government", asked that they "put in place a mechanism to address, if not reduce, the drawbacks in the approach of the Hindu nationalist government and possible misuse of funds given by the World Bank to India", added that officials were "unnecessarily singling out poor religious minorities for targeted testing and vilification in the media...Such propaganda encouraged by the Hindu government is creating an enormous level of friction and tension in society", and "Small businesses owned by minorities are being subject to targeted closures. Several of Mr. [Prime Minister] Modi's colleagues in the government have openly called for boycotting businesses owned by religious minorities during this pandemic")

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/christians-non-hindus-in-india-denied-govt-aid-during-pandemic-groups-say.html>



## Cyprus: Machairas Monastery, Lazanias village

Metropolitan Athanasios Nikolaou (reported on [June 28, 2017](#) to have been sued for US\$2 million by two families after two adult sons, one aged 28, became monks; **UPDATE**: suit reported to have been dismissed)

<https://orthochristian.com/130995.html>

<https://www.romfea.gr/ekklisia-kyprou/36986-athoos-o-lemesou-athanasios-gia-upothesi-prosilutismou> - with translation



## Nigeria: Gonan Rogo village, Kajuru county, Kaduna state

### Gunmen on motorbikes attacked a Christian village

Mailafiya Dallatu (aged 70, brother of Yari Dallatu, **killed**)

Yari Dallatu (aged 60, husband of Saratu, brother of Mailafiya Dallatu, **killed**)

Saratu (wife of Yari Dallatu, **killed**)

Na'omi Yari (aged 57, **killed**)

Popular Teacher (aged 15, **killed**)

Blessing Yari (aged 9, **killed**)

Paul Bawa (aged 27, husband of Rahila Paul, **killed**)

Rahila Paul (aged 25, wife of Paul Bawa, **killed**)

John Paul (aged 6 months, **killed**)

Jonathan Yakubu (aged 40, husband of Sheba Jonathan, father of Revelation, Rejoice, and Patience Johnson, **killed**)

Sheba Jonathan (aged 32, wife of Jonathan Yakubu, mother of Revelation, Rejoice, and Patience Johnson, **killed**)

Revelation Jonathan (aged 6, child of Jonathan Yakubu and Sheba Jonathan, **hacked to death**)

Rejoice Jonathan (aged 4, child of Jonathan Yakubu and Sheba Jonathan, **hacked to death**)

Patience Jonathan (aged 13, child of Jonathan Yakubu and Sheba Jonathan, **hacked to death**)

Biyayya Lucky (aged 25, **killed**)

Asan'alo Magaji (aged 32, **killed**)

Yayo Magaji (aged 13, **killed**)

Agei Magaji (aged 8, **killed**)

Kauna Magaji (mother of Faith Magaji, **killed**)

Faith Magaji (daughter of Kauna Magaji, **killed**)

Saraunia Lucky (aged 25, newly married, mother of a three month old, **shot dead** while holding her baby, the baby was hospitalized and a bullet was removed from the baby's head)

Abinso Yusuf (injured)

Isaiah Jonathan (injured)

Markus Kakuri (injured)

Philip Magaji (injured)

Magaji Ma'aji (injured)

Zipporah Jonathan (injured)

Liberty Yari (escaped with his family, home destroyed)

<https://news.barnabafund.org/Seven-children-and-baby-among-17-Nigerian-Christians-murdered-by-Fulani-militants-in-remote-village/index.html>

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/over-20-killed-in-spate-of-new-fulani-massacres-on-nigerian-christians.html>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/05/christian-families-slain-in-their-homes-in-kaduna-state-nigeria/>



**Tuesday May 12, 2020**



**Indonesia: Sentani, Papua**

Joyce Lin (aged 40, missionary pilot, U.S. citizen, **killed** while flying medical supplies to remote clinics)

<https://hub.maf.org/news/maf-family-grieving-for-pilot-lost-in-accident>

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/american-missionary-pilot-joyce-lin-dies-in-crash-while-transporting-covid-19-supplies.html>



**Montenegro: Niksic**

**A bishop and eight priests were arrested after parishioners protested the government cancellation of Liturgies due to the COVID-19 pandemic**

Bishop Joanikije

Fr Slobodan Jokic

Fr Danilo Zirojevic

Fr Zeljko Rojevic

Fr Ostoja Knezevic

Fr Mirko Vukotic

Fr Vasilije Brboric

Fr Dragan Krusic

Fr Nikola Marojevic

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/bishop-joanikije-of-budimlye-niksic-arrested/>

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/press-release-of-the-episcopal-council-of-the-orthodox-church-in-montenegro/>



**Turkey: Istanbul**

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I aka Dimitrios Arhondonis (aged 80, falsely accused by Turkish media on [September 7, 2016](#) of having supported the July 15, 2016 attempted coup; as of [December 29, 2017](#) media accusations of coup complicity and of collaboration with Islamic cleric Fethullah Gulen and the CIA have been 'expanding dangerously' against him, reportedly government surveillance against him has increased but his security detail has been reduced; residence in [Istanbul](#) invaded by four masked men in his absence on [November 16, 2019](#), nothing was apparently taken, police later captured the four in a gun battle in which one of the four was wounded; **UPDATE:** accused again in Turkish media of complicity in the July 15, 2016 attempted coup and of collaboration with U.S.-based Islamic cleric Fethullah Gulen, issued a statement which read "The publication of these claims cause distress among Christians, Jews and Muslims and are particularly serious and irresponsible...such information is extremely dangerous and could be the cause of dangerous acts of racism and intolerance. The same ecumenical patriarch Bartholomew feels very bitter and resentful for the accusations that have been made against him, despite his efforts for the good of our country")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Patriarch-Bartholomew,-the-rabbi,-and-group-of-Armenians-accused-of-supporting-'the-arch-terrorist'-Fethullah-G%C3%BClen-50052.html>



#### **Nigeria: Bakin-Kogi, Idanu and Makyali villages, Kajura county, Kaduna state**

Jonathan Asake (Southern Kaduna People's Union president, **UPDATE:** described a Fulani Muslim attack: "I have not been able to get to the place right now because it's dangerous, but from the reports that I have received for the Makyali attack, no fewer than seven people have been killed and many people are still missing")

#### **Nigeria: Zango Tama, Kaduna state**

Amina Yakubu (abducted)

Ayuba Sarkin Noma Udoji (abducted)

<https://news.barnabasfund.org/Fulani-militants-use-lockdown--leeway--to-kill-eight-Nigerian-Christians-24-hours-after-earlier-atrocity/>

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/05/muslim-fulanis-kill-two-christians-kidnap-two-others-in-kaduna-state-nigeria/>



#### **United States**

Dr Albert Mohler (Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; **UPDATE:** criticized New York City Council Speaker Corey Johnson's condemnation of the Christian charity Samaritan's Purse's COVID-19 field hospital in Central Park: "Now, of all things, just notice what's

not here. What's not here is any statement of thanks for an evangelical Christian ministry that not only expended funds but brought an army of volunteers and medical personnel who put themselves at risk on behalf of efforts to try to save New Yorkers in the midst of the pandemic...No one has been able to put any substance to the charge that Samaritan's Purse has ever discriminated when it comes to medical treatment on the basis of sexual orientation or anything else, that's not even alleged here. It is simply the fact that Samaritan's Purse dares to hold to historic biblical Christianity")

<https://www.christianpost.com/us/al-mohler-denounces-nyc-councilman-lgbt-groups-treatment-of-samaritans-purse.html>

**Wednesday May 13, 2020**



**Nigeria: Makyali village, Kajura county, Kaduna state**

Luka Paymaster (aged 80, **killed**)

Yaki Luka (aged 35, **killed**)

Francis Daniel (aged 37, **killed**)

Akilu Aruwa (aged 46, **killed**)

Laraba Danmori (aged 70, **killed**)

Inusa Peter (aged 30, injured)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/05/christian-families-slain-in-their-homes-in-kaduna-state-nigeria/>

**Thursday May 14, 2020**



**China: Xinyu, Jiangxi province**

Wei Zhongping (aged 57, arrested on [April 28, 2013](#) after publicly demonstrating for the release of prisoners; detained on a charge of 'subversion of state power' on [May 7, 2013](#); sentenced to six and a half years' imprisonment on [June 18, 2014](#); released on [October 27, 2019](#); **UPDATE**: arrested on a charge of 'picking quarrels and provoking trouble' after dropping off meals at the home of Liu Ping, not released)

Liu Ping (same history; **UPDATE**: received meals at his home from Wei Zhongping before his arrest)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2020/05/activist-summoned-to-police-station.html>



### **Ukraine: Sumy**

Anatoly Pavlovich Borisenko (church security volunteer, beaten on church grounds by a drunken National Guardsman on **October 22, 2015**, hospitalized in a coma; **UPDATE**: **died**, had never regained consciousness)

<https://orthochristian.com/131180.html>



### **Nigeria: Anambra**

Emeka Umeagbalasi (International Society for Civil Liberties & Rule of Law, released a report that documented the killing of “no fewer than 620 defenseless Christians and wanton burning or destruction of their centers of worship and learning” to date in 2020)

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/at-least-620-nigerian-christians-killed-so-far-in-2020-by-boko-haram-fulani-ngo-report.html>

**Friday May 15, 2020**



### **Nigeria: University of Jos, Plateau state**

Dr Kennedy Nendi Drengkat (father of Joanna Drengkat, professor of education, **shot dead**)

Joanna Drengkat (aged 6, daughter of Dr Kennedy Nendi Drengkat, abducted, recovered by police)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/05/muslim-fulanis-kill-two-christians-kidnap-two-others-in-kaduna-state-nigeria/>

**Saturday May 16, 2020**



**Montenegro: Niksic**

**A bishop and eight priests were arrested on [May 12, 2020](#) after parishioners protested the government cancellation of Liturgies due to the COVID-19 pandemic; UPDATE: released on bail**

Bishop Joanikije

Fr Slobodan Jokic

Fr Danilo Zirojevic

Fr Zeljko Rojevic

Fr Ostoja Knezevic

Fr Mirko Vukotic

Fr Vasilije Brboric

Fr Dragan Krusic

Fr Nikola Marojevic

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/his-grace-joanikije-bishop-of-budimlye-and-niksic-and-priests-released/>



**Nigeria: Ungwan Anjo, near Godogodo town, Jema'a county, Kaduna state**

Isa Dauda (**killed**)

John Zaman (**killed**)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/05/muslim-fulanis-kill-two-christians-kidnap-two-others-in-kaduna-state-nigeria/>

**Monday May 18, 2020**



## Thailand

**UPDATE: A family of Pakistani refugees have been accepted for asylum in Australia after a six year wait, travel currently impossible due to the COVID-19 lockdowns**

John Charles (aged 41, husband of Spana Saleem, father of Ashir, Abiya, and Ethan, suffers from diabetes, a stomach ulcer and a thyroid condition, incarcerated in [October 2018](#) for a visa violation, had fled Pakistan in [2014](#) after being accused of blasphemy)

Spana Saleem (aged 34, wife of John Charles, mother of Ashir, Abiya, and Ethan)

Ashir (aged 11, child of John Charles and Spana Saleem)

biya (aged 8, child of John Charles and Spana Saleem)

Ethan (aged 5, child of John Charles and Spana Saleem)

<https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/christian-family-get-refugee-status-after-6-years-wait>

**Tuesday May 19, 2020**



## India

Rev Bryan Nerren (U.S. citizen, husband of Rhonda Nerren, detained in [Bagdogra, West Bengal state](#) on [October 5, 2019](#) for not possessing forms needed for the importation of money - he had declared the US\$40,000 despite the fact it was less than the amount required to be declared by law, but customs officials admitted him without giving him the forms, passport confiscated, doctor spat on the jail floor when he admitted he was a Christian; released on bail on [October 11, 2019](#); hearing in [Siliguri, West Bengal](#) state postponed on [October 22, 2019](#) until December 12, 2019; **UPDATE:** charges dismissed, left the country, required to forfeit the money and pay over US\$6,000 in penalties and fees)

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/tenn-pastor-returns-home-after-being-detained-in-india-for-7-months.html>



## Egypt: Ghobrial, Alexandria

Fr Ruice Markos (church reported to have been attacked with a Molotov cocktail, no damage or injuries occurred, suspect arrested thanks to church security video)

<https://www.coptsunited.com/Details.php?I=2664&A=41592>

<https://www.coptsunited.com/Details.php?I=2664&A=41605>

Wednesday May 20, 2020



## China

Gao Zhisheng (aged 56, human rights attorney; released from prison on [August 7, 2014](#); has been described by his attorney on [August 15, 2014](#) as "utterly destroyed" by his captivity - he is unintelligible and speaks only in single words, shows no emotion, and lost almost all of his teeth due to malnutrition; detained on [September 24, 2015](#) after accounts of torture while in prison became public, released but under house arrest in [Yulin, Shaanxi province](#), denied medical access; has been denied access to a dentist due to fears evidence of torture will be documented, wrote on [November 3, 2015](#) "...there is no understanding [by the authorities], just repeating over and over that they are 'the world's second largest superpower', and adding that they have a 'responsible behavioral style'. When, just a short while ago, a common person's teeth are destroyed and lost, [the attempt to correct the damage] is deemed a matter of 'national security'...the outside world can speculate that because I cannot treat my teeth, I must always be in a mood of personal, bitter hardship and torture. This is not entirely true. The world I find inside books occupies me to the point that I forget to eat. I do not even have the leisure to negotiate [with the police] regarding my suffering. To me, it is incredibly precious that I now have books to read. Generally speaking, I know I will disappear immediately again after my book is published. So I am determined to try my best to read more books. This is something I need to do before this happens. This is very crucial to me"; reported on [November 15, 2016](#) to have disappeared after agents from Beijing arrived at his home and destroyed a copy of his new book, *Year 2017, Stand Up China*, which had been sent him from friends overseas; disappeared on [August 13, 2017](#); confirmed on [September 7, 2017](#) to be in police custody in [Beijing](#); **UPDATE**: still missing)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2020/05/lawyer-missing-for-more-than-1000-days.html>



## Turkey

**An elderly couple in poor health who were the last Christians in [Meer village, Ayairnak province](#) were abducted on [January 11, 2020](#)**

Houmouz Diril (aged 71, husband of Simoni Diril, father of Fr Remzi Diri, abducted; **UPDATE**: still missing)

Simoni Diril (agen 65, wife of Houmouz Diril, mother of Fr Remzi Diri, abducted; **UPDATE:** body found, cause of death not released by the authorities)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Turkish-MP,-the-Diril-are-victims-of-the-state's-anti-Christian-policy-50133.html>



### **United States – Mississippi: Holly Springs**

Pastor Jerry Waldrop (church destroyed in an arson attack following his opposition to the state COVID-19 stay-at-home order)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/church-fighting-mississippi-coronavirus-restriction-was-burned-down-62262>

<https://www.charismanews.com/us/81295-pentecostal-church-burned-down-after-suing-for-right-to-hold-services>

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/bet-you-stay-home-now-you-hypokrits-mississippi-church-destroyed-suspected-arson-attack.html>

**Thursday May 21, 2020**



### **China: Zhengzhou, Henan province**

Jiang Tianyong (aged 48, husband of Jin Bianling, son of Jiang Lianghou, human rights attorney, abducted by police in [Changsha, Hunan province](#) on [November 22, 2016](#); charged with 'subversion of state power' on [May 31, 2017](#); sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment on [November 20, 2017](#); as of [June 27, 2018](#) had been forced to take an unidentified medication in prison and has shown a memory deficit as a possible result, legs appear to have been injured due to torture or shackles, has been denied access to clothing and money sent by his family; released from prison on [February 28, 2019](#), disappeared, father and sister disappeared; allowed to returned home with his father and sister on [March 1, 2019](#), wife has begun a petition for him to travel to the U.S. for medical treatment; as of [August 5, 2019](#) has still been suffering from effects of his prison medication, prevented by police from travelling for a medical exam; **UPDATE:** police increased surveillance of his home, still denied medical treatment for swollen legs and abdominal pain)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2020/05/lawyer-harassed-ahead-of-government.html>





### **Montenegro: Stari Bar**

Fr Nikola Radovic (home surrounded by young people, threatened, wife and children frightened, people left after he began to video record the confrontation, later offered to pay the fine for the principal offender)

<https://orthochristian.com/131400.html>

**Friday May 22, 2020**



### **Egypt**

Hanan Edward (sister of Shenouda Edward, reported to have disappeared)

Shenouda Edward (brother of Hanan Edward, reported to have filed a police report on his sister's disappearance, police did nothing)

Raymonda Girigs (wife, reported to have disappeared)

### **Egypt: Alexandria**

Amani Isaac Hakim (reported to have disappeared)

Christina Maher (aged 15, reported to have disappeared)

### **Egypt: Koum Faraj, Abul Matamir, Behira province**

Fr Yassa Sobhy (reported to have been beaten by police when he tried to prevent the demolition of his church)

<https://www.coptsunited.com/Details.php?I=2665&A=41629>

<https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2020/05/22/coptic-solidarity-condemns-increased-persecution-of-coptic-christians-and-journalists-in-egypt/>

**Saturday May 23, 2020**



### **China: Wuhan, Hubei province**

Preacher Luo (arrested in a police raid on his church while he leading a prayer gathering on Zoom, taken to the police station, interrogated for four and a half hours, released)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2020/05/preacher-seized-during-zoom-event.html>



### **Turkey: Istanbul**

Garo Paylan (aged 48, Member of Parliament; **UPDATE**: tweeted after a cross was ripped down from a church “Attacks continue on our churches. The cross of our Surp Krikor Lusaroviç Armenian Church was removed and thrown away. Hate speech by the ruling power normalizes hate crimes”)

Edvart Ayvazyan (church foundation, said the attack was recorded on video)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Man-rips-cross-from-Armenian-church-in-latest-attack-against-Christian-sites-in-Istanbul-50204.html>

**Sunday May 24, 2020**



### **Congo, Democratic Republic: Lose-Lose, North-Kivu**

Mrs Paluku Mumethya (church community organizer, **killed** by Islamic militants)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/67990-AFRICA\\_DR\\_CONGO\\_A\\_bloody\\_week\\_in\\_North\\_Kivu\\_49\\_people\\_massacred\\_by\\_terrorists](http://www.fides.org/en/news/67990-AFRICA_DR_CONGO_A_bloody_week_in_North_Kivu_49_people_massacred_by_terrorists)

**Tuesday May 26, 2020**



### **India: Mau district, Uttar Pradesh state**

Pastor Dinesh Kumar (husband of Mamta, beaten by Hindu radicals after a prayer meeting, hospitalized, in a coma)

Mamta (wife of Pastor Dinesh Kumar, said after he was beaten “I was screaming out loud when I saw my husband. My mind went blank and I had no words. I thought something fatal took place looking at him with no movement. I remembered he used to tell me, ‘I am in the ministry and committed to taking the Gospel to the people. I know the cost and some time it may be my life’”)

<http://mattersindia.com/2020/06/pastor-hospitalized-after-attack-by-radicals/>



#### **Turkey: Pontus, Argyroupoli area**

Garo Paylan (aged 48, Member of Parliament; **UPDATE:** reported to have spoken in Parliament on the continuing desecration of a church and cemetery abandoned during the Pontic Greek genocide: "The church has withstood the test of time, but in recent years the frescoes that adorn the walls of the church have been literally destroyed. The tombs around the church have been looted by treasure hunters")

<https://www.romfea.gr/diafora/37265-ierosuloi-leilatisan-ellinorthodoji-ekklisia-ston-ponto> - with translation

**Wednesday May 27, 2020**



#### **Russia: Belozersky district, Kurgan region**

Metropolitan Daniel (aged 42, reported to have been investigated by police after his opening of an apologetics center to counter cults resulted in criminal cult charges filed by a neo-pagan member of an antisemitic cult)

<https://orthochristian.com/131427.html>



#### **Uganda: Kasasira West Cell, Kasasira West Ward**

Mbulakyaalo Badawuyi (aged 27, convert, attacked by Muslims in his home, said “They destroyed the door and made entry, but I escaped through the rear door. They followed me and got hold of me and began beating me up. Neighbors came when I screamed for help”, treated at a medical clinic, home destroyed by arson)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/06/villagers-burn-home-beat-wife-of-former-muslim-sheikh-in-eastern-uganda/>

**Thursday May 28, 2020**



**Nigeria: Kwashie area, Miango town, Bassa county, Plateau state**

**Fulani Muslim gunmen killed five Christians at a ministore, no theft occurred**

Asabe Samuel (aged 42, sister of Sunday Samuel, store owner, **shot dead**)

Shadrach Joshua (aged 25, **shot dead**)

Abba Adi (aged 35, **shot dead**)

Gideon Tuku (aged 56, husband of Ruth Gideon, father of six, agriculture teacher, **shot dead**)

Audu Ahmadu (aged 52, **shot dead**)

Sunday Samuel (brother of Asabe Samuel, said "I opened my bedroom window in order to find out what was happening. I saw armed men with guns shooting all around, and I thought they'll force their way into my house. I heard the attackers speaking to themselves in Hausa and Fulfulde, calling for a quick retreat from the spot. I decided to go out and find out what had actually happened. I rushed to the store and found my sister and four others had been killed by the gunmen...I strongly believe that some of these security personnel who are Muslims are conniving with these armed men to attack our people")

Ruth Gideon (widow of Gideon Tuku, mother of six)

Adamu Moses (relative of Audu Ahmadu, said "I heard sounds of gunfire and then heart-wrenching cries from the store. I bolted out of the house and decided to get there no matter what. And on getting there, I found out that he had been killed alongside the other four victims")

Ibrahim Agu Iliya (aged 42, organized an unarmed vigilante roadblock that ended with the capture of the militants who had attacked the store)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/06/civilians-apprehend-muslim-fulani-suspects-in-killing-of-five-christians-in-nigeria/>

**Friday May 29, 2020**



### **India**

Archbishop Peter Machado (**UPDATE**: accused of attempting to cover up crimes allegedly committed by another bishop and of ignoring the creditable accusations made by 37 priests)

<http://mattersindia.com/2020/06/mysore-bishop-accused-of-sexual-misconduct-murder/>  
<http://mattersindia.com/2020/06/dioceses-given-ultimatum-to-cancel-priests-transfers/>



### **United States – Kentucky: Louisville**

Archbishop Joseph E Kurtz (**UPDATE**: issued a statement deploring vandalism of the cathedral residence)

### **United States – Minnesota: Minneapolis**

Mae Desaire (church communications director, commented on church damage including burnt pews during the recent rioting: “Our damage in comparison to what is going in the city is really just minimal, and we’d really like to focus on that”)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/amid-riots-minneapolis-basilica-damaged-by-fire-88474>  
<https://cathstan.org/news/us-world/louisville-cathedral-damaged-as-protests-over-floyd-death-turn-violent>

**Saturday May 30, 2020**



### **United States - New York: New York City, Manhattan**

Cardinal Timothy Dolan (**UPDATE**: cathedral vandalized with graffiti)

### **United States – Virginia: Richmond**

Rector Charlie Dupree (church vandalized on the previous two nights)

<https://www.fox5ny.com/news/police-release-photos-of-suspects-responsible-for-st-patricks-cathedral-graffiti>

[https://www.richmond.com/news/local/downtown-richmond-houses-of-worship-vandalized-during-weekend-destruction-some-will-keep-graffiti-as-a/article\\_022115b9-cd5f-578d-bb4d-af44a27ac9ee.html](https://www.richmond.com/news/local/downtown-richmond-houses-of-worship-vandalized-during-weekend-destruction-some-will-keep-graffiti-as-a/article_022115b9-cd5f-578d-bb4d-af44a27ac9ee.html)

**Sunday May 31, 2020**



**United States – Arkansas: Little Rock**

Rev Robert L James (church set on fire, roof destroyed)

**United States - District of Columbia**

Rev Rob Fisher (church vandalized and damaged by fire)

**United States – Illinois: Chicago**

Sr Tracey Matthia Dugas FSP (bookstore vandalized)

**United States – Texas: Dallas**

Fr Jonathan Austin (chapel vandalized, windows broken)

**United States – Virginia: Richmond**

Rev Dr James L Nesmith Jr (church vandalized, windows broken)

<https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2020/may/31/2-little-rock-fires-under-investigation/>  
<https://www.joinmychurch.com/churches/Lewis-Street-Church-Of-Christ-Little-Rock-Arkansas-United-States/223987>

<https://stjohns-dc.org/blog/2020/05/heavy-but-hopeful-hearts/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St.\\_John%27s\\_Episcopal\\_Church,\\_Lafayette\\_Square](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._John%27s_Episcopal_Church,_Lafayette_Square)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/nuns-praying-for-looters-after-attack-on-catholic-bookstore-89415>

<https://www.fox4news.com/news/cleanup-underway-for-dallas-businesses-vandalized-after-friday-nights-george-floyd-protest>

<https://christianchronicle.org/virginia-churchs-windows-broken-by-protesters/>

**May 2020, date unknown**



### **Bangladesh: Kalachandpur district, Dhaka**

Subhra Graga (mother of two daughters aged 17 and 20, beautician, unemployed due to the COVID-19 lockdown, sexually assaulted along with her daughters [on or before May 18, 2020](#) by her landlord and his son when she was unable to pay the rent on time, strangled, rescued by neighbors)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Coronavirus:-Christian-woman-attacked-and-molested-for-not-paying-the-rent-50121.html>



### **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; sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment in [February 2020](#) on a charge of 'membership of a group hostile to the regime'; **UPDATE:** sentenced to an additional year's imprisonment on the 'propaganda against the state' charge)

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



**Nigeria: Magunguna, Idazo, Ungwan Galadima, Ungwan Guza, Etissi, Ungwan Ma'aji, Ungwan Dantata, Ungwan Araha 1 and 2, Ungwan Goshi, Ungwan Shaban, Ungwan Jibo, Ungwan Maijama'a, Ungwan Sako, Ungwan Maidoki and Ungwan Masaba, all satellite settlements of Kallah, Libere and Gefe towns, Kajuru county, Kaduna state**

Awema Maisamari (Adara Development Association president, reported that in 2020 so far 107 Christians have been killed in 63 attacks on Kajuru county communities, 49 injured, at least 66 abducted, 111 houses destroyed by arson, 32 villages destroyed, 20,000 people displaced, the attacks had accelerated in the past two weeks and especially [between May 18-21, 2020](#): "Killings, maiming, burning, looting and kidnapping have continued unabated from village to village. Our brutalized, dehumanized, terrified and traumatized community members are reeling in pain, ever wondering why this contrived anarchy is still being condoned by the powers that be")

<https://news.barnabasfund.org/At-least-20-Christians-killed-in-four-day-Fulani-militant-spree-in-16-Nigerian-villages/index.html>

## **Today's Martyrs**

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

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