

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – June 2020

**Monday June 1, 2020**



### **United States – California: Los Angeles**

Fr Elias Sleinan (cathedral reported to have been vandalized with graffiti)

### **United States – Colorado: Denver**

Archbishop Samuel Joseph Aquila (aged 69, **UPDATE**: cathedral reported to have been repeatedly vandalized over several nights)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/cathedrals-in-6-states-damaged-by-violent-protests-91111>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman\\_Catholic\\_Archdiocese\\_of\\_Denver](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Archdiocese_of_Denver)

<https://www.the961.com/lebanese-church-los-angeles-vandalized/>

**Tuesday June 2, 2020**



### **Iran: Evin Prison, Tehran**

**Nine Christians were sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment on [October 15, 2019](#); **UPDATE**: the four who had been on bail since [July 2019](#) turned themselves in to begin their sentences**

Hossein Kadivar

Khalil Dehghanpou

Kamal Naemanian

Mohammad Vafadar Kamal

<https://www.meconcern.org/2020/06/05/iran-four-christian-converts-serve-five-year-prison-sentences/>



**United Kingdom: London**

Rev George Hargreaves (aged 62, reported to have prevailed in a religious discrimination complaint for his views on traditional Christian morality)

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8380599/Christian-pastor-wrote-Sinittas-Macho-wins-religious-discrimination-case.html>

**Thursday June 4, 2020**



**India: Kenduguda village, Malkangiri district, Odisha state**

Samaru Madkami (aged 14, convert, son of Unga Madkami, cousin of Unga Madkami, abducted, tortured, **murdered**)

Unga Madkami (convert, cousin of Samaru Madkami, relative of Unga Madkami, abducted, escaped, said “The fanatics had tried to tie me up in jute bag and throw me in the river”)

Unga Madkami (convert, widower, father of Samaru Madkami, relative of Unga Madkami, 'completely broken' by his son's murder)

Pastor Bijay Pusuru (reported on the murder of Samaru Madkami, said he wanted to be a minister)

Rev Remo (reported on the murder of Samaru Madkami)

<https://persecutionrelief.org/14-year-old-christian-lynched-odisha/>  
<https://news.barnabasfund.org/Fourteen-year-old-Indian-Christian-boy-murdered--body-chopped-up-and-buried-in-Orissa/index.html>



**Pakistan: Sawati Phatak Colony, Peshawar**

Nadeem Joseph (shot along with his mother-in-law for refusing to abandon the home they had just purchased in a Muslim neighborhood, both hospitalized)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christians-shot-at-and-wounded-for-buying-a-house-in-a-Muslim-neighbourhood-in-Peshawar-50287.html>



### **Kenya: Isiolo**

#### **Three members of a Somali family were beaten [their brother Hassan had been beaten in Nairobi in February 2016]**

Fozia (aged 21, sister of Hassan, Asha, and Aden, beaten, said "There were noisy shouts calling us infidels. They said, 'We know you do not belong to us. We have got hold of you today – we have no mercy on you people. You need to return to where you came from'...They began hitting me with sticks and a blunt object, which injured my back and my right hand. There I fainted for five hours and regained consciousness at the hospital. At the moment I am having nose bleeding, and all my body still hurts")

Asha (aged 19, sister of Hassan, Fozia, and Aden, beaten, said "The attackers injured me by hitting my head against the wall. My two front teeth got broken, and the attack caused the left side of my body to swell, but I managed to escape, leaving my sister in an unconscious state")

Aden (aged 18, brother of Hassan, Fozia, and Asha, beaten)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/07/radical-muslims-beat-21-year-old-christian-woman-unconscious-in-kenya/>



### **Nigeria: Mararraba, Donga county, Taraba state**

Rev Emmanuel Saba Bileya (husband of Juliana Bileya, father of eight aged 1 to 19, doctoral student, reported to have been **shot dead** on his farm, had sent his children away as the local violence escalated)

Juliana Bileya (wife of Rev Emmanuel Saba Bileya, mother of eight aged 1 to 19, expectant mother, reported to have been **shot dead** on her farm)

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/nigerian-pastor-and-calvin-seminary-grad-gunned-down-with-his-wife-on-their-farm.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/123852348215168/posts/625988084668256/>

**Friday June 5, 2020**



### **Pakistan**

Kamran Safdar (reported to have been twice denied admission to medical school because Quran memorization is given the most weight)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-student-discriminated-in-favour-of-Quran-memorisers-50272.html>



### **Turkey: Ankara**

Anna Crow Subasiguller (wife of Pastor Lutfu Subasiguller, mother of three, U.S. citizen, stay-at-home mother and housewife, ordered deported, appealed)

Pastor Lutfu Subasiguller (husband of Joy Anna Crow Subasiguller, father of three, has appealed his wife's deportation, said "I am a Turkish citizen and so are my three children")

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2020/07/turkey-orders-deportation-of-turkish-pastors-wife-in-string-of-expulsions/>

**Monday June 8, 2020**



### **Uganda: Obokora village, Obokorasub county, Kibuku district**

Marijan Olupot (convert, husband, father of three aged 10, 12, and 14, former sheikh [Islamic teacher], home set afire while occupied, fled with his family, wife beaten and hospitalized, said "We need prayers at this trying moment, as the Muslims are out to kill me. My other wife [who remained Muslim] is scheming for my death")

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

**Tuesday June 9, 2020**



**India: Delhi**

Archbishop Vincent Concessao (aged 83, **UPDATE**: hospitalized with a suspected SARS-CoV-2 infection)

<http://mattersindia.com/2020/06/former-delhi-archbishop-hospitalized-covid-19-suspected/>



**United States – Massachusetts: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge**

Fr Daniel Moloney (forced to resign as a university chaplain after he sent an email to Catholic students in which he wrote on traditional Christian theology regarding charity, judgement and sin as applied to a recent police brutality case)

<https://newbostonpost.com/2020/06/17/m-i-t-catholic-chaplain-forced-out-over-email-message-about-george-floyd/>

**Wednesday June 10, 2020**



**United States – Nevada: Las Vegas**

Sonia Perez (aged 56, hotel housekeeper, reported to have been fired after she refused to work on Sundays)

<https://www.christianpost.com/us/trump-hotel-housekeeper-claims-she-was-fired-for-refusing-to-work-sundays-sues.html>

**Thursday June 11, 2020**



**China: Xiamen, Fujian province**

Wang Xiaofei (pastor's wife, reported that government officials ransacked more than a dozen Christian homes that had been used for prayer meetings, personal property destroyed)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2020/06/authorities-attack-christian-homes.html>



### **Montenegro: Briska Gora**

Metropolitan Amfilohije (reported to have condemned the government demolition of a monastery)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/metropolitan-amfilohije-the-demolition-of-the-monastery-of-st-basil-on-briska-gora-is-an-unprecedented-crime/>

**Saturday June 13, 2020**



### **Bangladesh: Dhaka**

Bishop Moses M Costa (**UPDATE**: hospitalized in critical condition with a SARS-CoV-2 infection)

Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario (**UPDATE**: hospitalized with Dengue fever, asked for prayers for Bishop Costa)

<http://asianews.it/news-en/Archbishop-of-Chittagong,-hit-by-Covid-19,-in-a-critical-condition-50357.html>



### **India**

Pastor Augustine (parishioners threatened by Hindu radicals who claimed that all Christians carried the COVID-19 virus)

### **India: Vayalur, Tamil Nadu state**

Pastor Ramesh Jebaraj (church destroyed in an arson attack, said "We don't suspect anyone in particular. People of all faiths come here to pray. Someone may have done it out of jealousy, but we forgive them")

<https://news.barnabasfund.org/Indian-pastor-forgives-arsonists-who-razed-church-in-Tamil-Nadu/index.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Fire-destroys-Protestant-church-in-Tamil-Nadu-50349.html>

<http://mattersindia.com/2020/06/pastor-forgives-arsonists-who-razed-church-in-tamil-nadu/>

<https://www.persecution.org/2020/06/26/incidents-christian-persecution-spike-india-emerges-lockdown/>

**Sunday June 14, 2020**



**Montenegro: Budva**

Fr Boris Radovic (detained and interrogated for COVID-19 lockdown violations)

Deacon Pavle Ljeskovic (detained)

**Montenegro: Danilovgrad**

Fr Zeljko Calic (detained for 72 hours and interrogated for COVID-19 lockdown violations)

**Montenegro: Pljevlja**

Fr Sasa Janjic (detained and interrogated for COVID-19 lockdown violations, released)

Fr Bojan Strunja (detained, released)

**Montenegro: Podgorica**

Fr Mirceta Sljivancanin (detained for 72 hours and interrogated for COVID-19 lockdown violations)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/persecution-continued-priests-mirceta-sljivancanin-and-zeljko-calic-arrested/>

**Monday June 15, 2020**



**Montenegro: Bijelo Polje**

Fr Darko Pejic (detained and interrogated for COVID-19 lockdown violations)

<http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/persecution-continued-priests-mirceta-sljivancanin-and-zeljko-calic-arrested/>

**Tuesday June 16, 2020**



**United States - North Carolina: Boone**

Fr Brendan Buckler (church burglarized, tabernacle and Eucharist stolen)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/eucharist-and-tabernacle-stolen-from-north-carolina-catholic-church-28718>

**Wednesday June 17, 2020**



**India: Sawantwadi, Maharashtra state**

Bishop Alwyn Barreto (reported to have criticized the state government for seizing the diocesan center for anti-COVID-19 efforts, said the seizure would hurt the Church's efforts to aid pandemic victims, five elderly priests in residence will have to be relocated)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Diocesan-centre-requisitioned-in-Maharashtra-to-be-used-as-anti-COVID-19-facility-50370.html>



**Turkey**

Timur Topuz (Istanbul Protestant Church Foundation chair, said “We are faced with a systematic pressure targeting Protestant churches. By requiring the pastors of several churches to have a preliminary entry permit, we see that there is an attempt to deprive the churches of pastors”)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2020/07/turkey-orders-deportation-of-turkish-pastors-wife-in-string-of-expulsions/>



<http://bianet.org/english/religion/225875-there-is-an-attempt-to-deprive-protestants-of-pastors-in-turkey>



### **Egypt: Alexandria**

Christine Zarif (aged 22, disappeared, was seen in a video announcing her conversion to Islam, after a few days returned home and said she was 'very confused' when she made the video, no other details available)

<https://www.coptsunited.com/Details.php?I=2685&A=41866>

**Friday June 19, 2020**



### **China: Hebei province**

Bishop Augustine Cui Tai (aged 70, disappeared in [mid-April 2018](#); allowed to return home on [January 24, 2019](#), banned from religious activities, weighted only 115 pounds due to ill health; arrested on [March 29, 2019](#); paroled temporarily on [January 24, 2020](#) to spend the Lunar New Year with his elderly sister; **UPDATE**: detained without charge)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bishop-Augustine-Cui-Tai-of-Xuanhua-is-again-sequestered-by-police-50421.html>



### **India: Thoothukudi district, Tamil Nadu state**

**A father and son were arrested on anti-COVID-19 charges for having kept their phone store open, beaten in police custody**

J Fenix (aged 31, son of Jayaraj, arrested, beaten in custody)

Jayaraj (aged 52, father of J Fenix, arrested, beaten in custody)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Police-accused-of-killing-two-Christians:-the-'George-Floyd'-of-India-50476.html>



### **Greece: Moria, Lesbos**

Makis Pavlellis (reported to have described a church desecration by Muslim refugees and its restoration by volunteers: "...For every 10 times they destroy it, we will rebuild it 100 times")

<https://orthochristian.com/132010.html>



### **United States**

Walt Heyer (former transgendered, **UPDATE**: speech on his experiences tagged as hate speech by YouTube and deleted, video reposted with the six 'offending' words bleeped out)

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/youtube-censors-video-testimony-former-transgender-calls-it-hate-speech.html>

**Saturday June 20, 2020**



### **United States - California**

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone (**UPDATE**: condemned the toppling of statues in a city park including one of St Junipero Serra, said "What is happening to our society? A renewed national movement to heal memories and correct the injustices of racism and police brutality in our country has been hijacked by some into a movement of violence, looting and vandalism")

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/after-st-junipero-serra-statue-is-torn-down-san-francisco-archbishop-cordileone-says-protests-being-hijacked-by-violence-72194>

**Sunday June 21, 2020**



### **India: Kolonguda village, Telangana state**

Pastor Suresh Rao (attacked by a mob of 150 while praying in the home of a sick person, said “They said that India is a Hindu nation, and there is no place for Christians...They kicked me like they would kick a football. They dragged me into the street and pushed me to the ground. There, they started to trample on me. They tore my clothes, kicked me all over my body, and punched my left eye. I have sustained a serious eye injury as a result of a blood clot...I am prepared for this kind of eventuality. I know the cost of serving Jesus in these remote villages, and I will continue to serve the people of this region”)

<https://www.persecution.org/2020/06/26/incidents-christian-persecution-spike-india-emerges-lockdown/>



### **Iran: Bushehr**

**Seven Christian converts were arrested on July 1, 2019 by Ministry of Intelligence MOIS agents in the early morning, all were placed in solitary and denied access to attorneys; UPDATE: sentenced**

Fatemeh Talebi (aged 28, wife of Pooriya Peyma; **UPDATE**: fined US\$200)

Habib Heydari (aged 39; **UPDATE**: sentenced to one year in prison)

Marjan Falahi (aged 34, wife of Sasan Khosravi; **UPDATE**: fined US\$300)

Maryam Falahi (aged 36, nurse, wife of Sam Khosravi; **UPDATE**: fined US\$400, banned for life from public sector employment [so she cannot work as a nurse])

Pooriya Peyma (aged 28, husband of Fatemeh Talebi, **UPDATE**: sentenced to 91 days in prison)

Sam Khosravi (aged 37, husband of Maryam Falahi, son of Khatoon Fatolahzadeh, brother of Sasan Khosravi; **UPDATE**: sentenced to one year's imprisonment followed by 2 years' internal exile)

Sasan Khosravi (aged 36, husband of Marjan Falahi, son of Khatoon Fatolahzadeh, brother of Sam Khosravi; **UPDATE**: sentenced to one year's imprisonment followed by 2 years' internal exile)

<https://www.meconcern.org/2020/07/01/iran-christian-converts-sentenced/>

**Monday June 22, 2020**



**India: Belagadia, Dhanbad district, Jharkhand state**

**A church was vandalized while under construction after two teachers were arrested on false forced conversion charges**

Kaina Pansal (teacher, arrested)

Sushant Pradhan (teacher, arrested)

**India: Thoothukudi district, Tamil Nadu state**

**A father and son were arrested on anti-COVID-19 charges for having kept their phone store open, beaten in police custody**

J Fenix (aged 31, son of Jayaraj, arrested on [June 19, 2020](#), beaten in custody; **UPDATE:** hospitalized, **died**)

Jayaraj (aged 52, father of J Fenix, arrested on [June 19, 2020](#), beaten in custody; **UPDATE:** hospitalized)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Police-accused-of-killing-two-Christians:-the-'George-Floyd'-of-India-50476.html>

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Jharkhand,-two-Christians-accused-of-proselytism;-Hindu-radicals-vandalize-a-Pentecostal-church-50436.html>



**Iran: Tehran**

Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani (aged 41, convert, husband of Fatema Pasindedih Nadarkhani, father of Daniel and Yoel, arrested on [July 24, 2016](#) in [Rasht](#) on national security and Zionism charges, released but given one week to produce a US\$33,000 bail or face re-arrest; called into court in [Rasht](#) on [June 14, 2017](#) on charges of 'actions against national security, were accused of accepting a half million pounds from the British government, told they would receive a verdict in 20 days, a hardline judge then joined the hearings and said 'Christians make foolish claims'; sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on [June 24, 2017](#); 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:** sentence reduced from 10 to 6 years' imprisonment)

Saheb Fadaie (convert, arrested on [May 13, 2016](#); charged on [September 10, 2016](#) with acting against national security and consumption of communion wine; called into court in [Rasht](#) on [June 14, 2017](#) on charges of 'actions against national security, accused of accepting a half million pounds from the British government, told he would receive a verdict in 20 days, a hardline judge then joined the hearings and said 'Christians make foolish claims'; sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on [June 24, 2017](#); arrested in [Rasht](#) on [July 24, 2018](#), transferred to [Evin Prison in Teheran](#); sentenced in [Tehran](#) on [September 22, 2018](#)

to 18 months' imprisonment for 'spreading propaganda against the regime', sentence to run concurrently with his current imprisonment; refused to renounce his faith his faith when the [Tehran](#) court ordered him to do so on [January 15, 2019](#) to avoid prison; **UPDATE:** sentence reduced from 10 to 6 years' imprisonment)

Mohammad-Reza Yohan Omidi – aka Mehdi Reza Omidi Youhan (convert, arrested on [May 13, 2016](#); released on bail on [June 7, 2016](#); charged on [September 10, 2016](#) with acting against national security and consumption of communion wine; called into court in [Rasht](#) on [June 14, 2017](#) on charges of 'actions against national security, were accused of accepting a half million pounds from the British government, told they would receive a verdict in 20 days, a hardline judge then joined the hearings and said 'Christians make foolish claims'; sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on [June 24, 2017](#); arrested in [Rasht](#) on July 24, 2018, transferred to [Evin Prison in Teheran](#); **UPDATE:** sentence reduced from 10 to 2 years' imprisonment, will be eligible for release in one month)

Yasser Mosayebzadeh (convert, arrested on [May 13, 2016](#); charged on [September 10, 2016](#) with acting against national security and consumption of communion wine; called into court in [Rasht](#) on [June 14, 2017](#) on charges of 'actions against national security, were accused of accepting a half million pounds from the British government, told they would receive a verdict in 20 days, a hardline judge then joined the hearings and said 'Christians make foolish claims'; sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on [June 24, 2017](#); arrested in [Rasht](#) on [July 25, 2018](#), transferred to [Evin Prison in Teheran](#); **UPDATE:** no change in sentence announced)

<https://www.meconcern.org/2020/06/22/iran-reduction-in-sentences-for-pastor-yousef-nadarkhani-and-associates/>



### **Uganda: Lake Nakuwa**

Pastor Peter Kyakulaga (aged 25, husband, father of two aged 2 and 4, **drowned** for evangelizing Muslims)

Tuule Mumbya (aged 22, husband, father of one aged 2, **drowned**)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/07/pastor-church-member-die-for-proclaiming-christ-in-eastern-uganda/>

**Tuesday June 23, 2020**



### **Philippines: Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao**

Archbishop Antonio Ledesma SJ (aged 77, **UPDATE**: retired)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonio\\_Ledesma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonio_Ledesma)



**India: Thoothukudi district, Tamil Nadu state**

Jayaraj (aged 52, father of J Fenix, arrested on [June 19, 2020](#) on anti-COVID-19 charges for having kept his phone store open, beaten in custody; hospitalized on [June 22, 2020](#);

**UPDATE**: died)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Police-accused-of-killing-two-Christians:-the-'George-Floyd'-of-India-50476.html>



**Pakistan: Youhanabad, Lahore, Punjab province**

Raja Walter (beaten by police while distributing free food to at least 300 people per day during the COVID-19 pandemic, including iftar meals during Ramadan, heart medicine thrown away by police, the attack was likely triggered by the use of loudspeakers for prayer)

[http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Police-beat-Raja-Walter,-a-Christian-who-prays-and-gives-free-food-to-the-poor-\(videos\)-50445.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Police-beat-Raja-Walter,-a-Christian-who-prays-and-gives-free-food-to-the-poor-(videos)-50445.html)

**Wednesday June 24, 2020**



**China: Guangzhou, Guangdong province**

Huang Yan (aged 50, wife of Wu Guisheng, human rights attorney, beaten by security officials in 2010, miscarried; beaten by security officials in 2012, miscarried, the beating continued while she was in the bathroom attending to the miscarriage; reported on [January 3, 2017](#) that government officials forced her doctors to cancel a procedure for ovarian cancer, escaped the country to a 'safe location'; **UPDATE**: husband hospitalized in critical condition, months earlier had heart surgery with suspect procedures)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2020/06/activists-husband-in-critical-condition.html>



### **Turkey: Istanbul**

Pastor Zach Balon (U.S. citizen, told he would not be allowed to re-enter the country if he left, cancelled his trip and appealed the decision)

<https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2020/07/turkey-orders-deportation-of-turkish-pastors-wife-in-string-of-expulsions/>

**Thursday June 25, 2020**



### **Israel**

Ron Cantor (Messianic Jewish cable television station ordered shut by the government)

<https://news.kehila.org/shelanu-tv-not-in-violation-of-license-read-for-yourself/>



### **Nigeria**

former U.S. Representative Frank Wolf (**UPDATE:** stated in a Zoom meeting by In Defense of Christians: "Almost daily reports show increasing violence and death in Nigeria...Boko Haram has committed genocide in Nigeria, has killed over 27,000 Nigerians, more than ISIL killed in Iraq and Syria combined. The Fulani militants are committing genocidal massacres against Nigerian Christians")

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/nigeria-could-be-next-rwanda-or-darfur-if-world-doesnt-act-advocates-warn.html>

<https://youtu.be/8s0t4Z2pg4k>



### **Cuba: Guantanamo**

Pastor Ramon Rigal (husband of Ayda Rigal, father of Ruth and Daniel, reported on [July 14, 2017](#) to have been sentenced to one year at hard labor for removing his children from government schools to avoid anti-Christian teaching; sentence reduced to home arrest on

July 6, 2017; detained on [April 16, 2019](#); put on trial on [April 18, 2019](#) with only a half hour warning, denied an attorney; sentenced on [April 22, 2019](#) to 2 years' imprisonment for illegal homeschooling, denied family visitations; **UPDATE**: reported to have been released, said "You can tell all the brothers who have been praying for us that we are very grateful for their prayers and all the support they have given us. I know those prayers came to the throne of God and he answered them. It is beautiful to see how although they do not know me personally they have cared for me and my family, putting the passage into practice. 'Remember the prisoners as if you were prisoners together with them.' Thank God I am with my family again")

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/cuba-releases-pastor-after-1-year-in-prison-for-homeschooling-his-children.html>

**Friday June 26, 2020**



**Mozambique: Macomia, Cabo Delgado province**

Sr Blanca Nubia Castano (wrote about a jihadi attack on Facebook: "It was fierce, cruel and lasted three days [May 28-30, 2020]...As a result of this barbarism, the town center was completely destroyed, the majority of the administrative infrastructure was damaged and the commercial and shopping center was reduced to ashes...We still don't know the number of civilian victims or those of the security forces. On 3 June people slowly began to return to their homes, some of which had been burnt, while others had been looted...Our mission was saved because it is situated in the hills, close to a military base")

<https://acninternational.org/mozambique-carmelite-sisters-testify-to-the-barbarity-of-the-jihadists-after-three-days-of-violence-in-cabo-delgado/>

**Saturday June 27, 2020**



**China: Beijing**

Liu Xianbin (husband of Chen Mingxian, father of Bridgette Chen, pro-democracy and human rights activist, sentenced in [February 2011](#) to 10 years imprisonment for subverting state power; **UPDATE**: released, walked 12 hours to return home)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2020/06/breaking-liu-xianbin-released.html>





## **Saudi Arabia**

Francisco Buenaventura (Philippine citizen, Migrante International spokesman, commented on the recent spike of 350 dead Filipino workers in the country due to the COVID-19 pandemic: "Christians and Muslims must receive the medical attention needed for our workers to recover from the virus. Our nurses are taking care of Muslim patients [but this does not happen to Christians]", also claimed that 23,000 Filipino workers have been laid off, have been unable to leave the country, and are homeless and subsisting on rubbish)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Church-and-NGO-call-for-investigation-into-the-deaths-of-hundreds-of-Filipinos-in-Saudi-Arabia-50457.html>

**Tuesday June 30, 2020**



## **China: Hong Kong**

Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-Kium SDB (aged 88, **UPDATE**: posted a video on Facebook in which he denounced the new Hong Kong security law and the government's continued attempts to 'Sinicize' the Church, said "The national security law enacted by the mainland in Hong Kong cannot completely guarantee true religious freedom...[which means the affairs of the Church] are handled by ourselves without the need to involve the government...If anyone arbitrarily amends Catholic teachings, we shall say 'You are not Catholic'")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Card-Zen:-New-security-law-will-not-guarantee-full-religious-freedom-50499.html>



## **Iran**

**Security agents arrested Christians in coordinated raids in three cities**

**Iran: Malayer, Hamedan province**

Ebrahim (convert)

Sohrab (convert)

Yasser (convert)

## **Iran: Tehran**

Arash (convert)

Farhad (convert)

Farhad (convert)

Joseph Shahbazian

Maliheh Nazari (aged 46, convert, wife, mother of 2 sons [one has cancer], arrested in a raid on her home)

Mina (convert, sister of Miryam)

Maryam (convert, sister of Mina)

Reza (convert)

Salar (convert)

Somayeh 'Sonia' Sadegh (aged 36, convert, daughter of Masoumeh Ghasemi, sports coach, gym owner, arrested)

<https://www.meconcern.org/2020/07/06/iran-coordinated-arrests-of-christians/>

<https://mohabatnews.com/?p=39923>

<https://mohabatnews.com/?p=39961>



## **Turkey: Istanbul**

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I aka Dimitrios Arhondonis (aged 80, **UPDATE**: again called on the government to not convert the basilica of Hagia Sophia back into a mosque)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bartholomew:-turning-Hagia-Sophia-into-a-mosque-would-cause-a-rift-between-Christians-and-Islam-50485.html>

**June 2020, date unknown**



## **Canada: Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario**

Jonathan Bradley (aged 20, journalism student, fired from his university newspaper for past acknowledgments of Christian teachings on sexuality)

<https://lifesitenews.com/news/canadian-journalism-student-sacked-from-school-paper-because-of-his-catholic-views>

## **Today's Martyrs**

**2490 Black Rock Turnpike #455**

**Fairfield CT 06825-2400**

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

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