

# Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

## Events – October 2020

Sunday October 4, 2020



### China: Luojiang, Fujian province

Bishop Vincent Guo Xijin (aged 62, demoted on [December 12, 2018](#) to auxiliary bishop as part of a concordant between the Chinese government and the Vatican, will serve under a government sponsored bishop; reported on [June 18, 2019](#) to have written that he was withdrawing his application for official recognition: "The government has already decided to persecute priests who refuse to sign the request [for membership in the government church]. If I am unable to protect them, it is not worth my time to be recognized as an auxiliary bishop. I am willing to face persecution together with other priests"; forced into an automobile by police on [November 12, 2019](#) in an effort to bring him to a meeting of "independent" clergy, instead taken to the residence of the official bishop in Ningde and held in custody; **UPDATE**: announced his resignation as bishop)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2020/10/xijin-guo-former-underground-catholic.html>

Monday October 5, 2020



### Pakistan: Lahore

Sawan Masih (aged 40, father of three, reported by a barber to have committed blasphemy on [March 8, 2013](#), arrested, threatened with death by a mob that later burned down over 200 Christian homes 2 Churches and 19 shops injuring 35 and causing hundreds to flee [Joseph Colony, Badami Bah, Lahore](#) on [March 9, 2013](#); found guilty of blasphemy on [March 27, 2014](#) in [Faisalabad](#), sentenced to death and fined 200,000 rupees – US\$1,044; **UPDATE**: conviction overturned after attorneys proved *mala fide* [bad faith] by the complainant)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/12/christian-in-pakistan-acquitted-of-blasphemy-after-11-years-in-prison/>

**Wednesday October 7, 2020**



**Indonesia: Emondi village, Sugapa district, Papua**

Agustinus Duwita (catechist, **shot dead** by security personnel)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/68999->

[ASIA INDONESIA Mobilization of Catholic organizations to seek justice for catechists killed in Papua](http://www.fides.org/en/news/68999-)

**Thursday October 8, 2020**



**India: Ranchi, Jharkhand state**

Fr Stan Lourduwamy SJ (aged 83, home raided by anti-terrorism police from Maharashtra state without a court order on [August 28, 2018](#), electronics and books seized, questioned and released; home raided again by Maharashtra state police on [June 12, 2019](#), hard drive and wi-fi router seized, forced to give the passwords to his email and Facebook accounts which were then changed and blocked by the police; **UPDATE**: arrested on sedition charges)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/69355->

[ASIA INDIA Call to the UN for the release of the Jesuit accused of sedition](http://www.fides.org/en/news/69355-)

**Friday October 9, 2020**



## **Niger**

Fr Pierluigi Maccalli SMA (Italian national, abducted in Bomoanga on September 18, 2018 by jihadists; **UPDATE**: released in Mali)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/68797->

[AFRICA MALI The story of Fr Maccalli is an example of the instability affecting the Sahel](#)



## **Mali**

Sr Gloria Cecilia Narvaez Argoti (Colombian citizen, abducted in Koutiala on February 7, 2017; **UPDATE**: still missing)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/68797->

[AFRICA MALI The story of Fr Maccalli is an example of the instability affecting the Sahel](#)

**Sunday October 18, 2020**



## **Chile: Santiago**

Archbishop Celestino Aos (condemned the arson attacks on two churches by anti-government protestors: “Let’s not justify the unjustifiable. God does not want violence”)

<https://cruxnow.com/church-in-the-americas/2020/10/amid-tumult-over-constitution-chile-watches-two-churches-burn/>

**Monday October 26, 2020**



## **Indonesia: Kampung Jibaguge, Sugapa district, Intan Jaya regency, Papua**

Rufinus Tigau (aged 28, catechist, **shot dead** after pleading with security personnel to stop killing)

Meinus Bagubau (aged 12, **killed**)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/68999->

[ASIA INDONESIA Mobilization of Catholic organizations to seek justice for catechists killed in Papua](#)

**Tuesday October 27, 2020**



**China: Chengdu, Sichuan Province**

Jia Xuewei (utilities to his apartment turned off, used candles for light, ate unheated meals, and took cold showers, fellow parishioners took him in when winter set in)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2021/02/jia-xuewei-finds-toothpicks-jammed-into.html>

**Thursday October 29, 2020**



**France: Nice**

**Three were killed and several injured in an attack in the Basilica of Notre-Dame**

Nadine Devillers (aged 60, wife, **beheaded**)

Simone Barreto Silva (aged 44, mother of three, Brazilian national, **stabbed, fled the basilica, died in a nearby cafe**, said “Tell my children that I love them”)

Vincent Loques (aged 55, father of two daughters, sacristan, **stabbed to death**)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/nice-basilica-terrorist-attack-who-were-the-victims-51034>

**Friday October 30, 2020**



### **Cuba: Abel Santa Maria area, outside Santiago de Cuba**

Rev Alain Toledano (husband of Marilin Alayo Correa, **UPDATE**: arrested when he attempted to video the government's demolition of a church “I began transmitting directly to Facebook so that the world would know what was happening, and for this reason they arrested me. We were more than nine hours incarcerated in the third unit of the Police of Santiago de Cuba, and we were subjected to interrogations and threats”)

Rev Julio C Sanchez (wrote “Today the government is blocking the re-opening of some of our temples that we closed due to the pandemic, based on the argument that they’re illegal, when 90 percent of our churches are illegal because they don’t offer us a pathway for making them legal”)

Pastor Palomo Cabrera

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/11/church-building-in-cuba-demolished-re-openings-blocked/>

**Saturday October 31, 2020**



### **Mozambique: Muambula village, Muidumbe district, Cabo Delgado province**

Fr Edgard Silva Junior (reported on the destruction of a church radio station by jihadists and the forced expulsion of 9 employees and their families into the jungle, the father of one employee was beheaded)

Beatriz Joao (church radio journalist, expelled into the jungle by jihadists, reached safety after 15 days)

Daniel Nantuma (church radio journalist, expelled into the jungle by jihadists, reached safety after 15 days)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/69037->

[AFRICA MOZAMBIQUE Journalists of a Catholic radio station forced to hide in the forest to escape jihadists](http://www.fides.org/en/news/69037-)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/69088->

[AFRICA MOZAMBIQUE The nine journalists of a Catholic radio who took refuge in the forest in northern Mozambique are safe and sound](http://www.fides.org/en/news/69088-)



**Uganda: near Aduku, Kwanja district**

Pastor David Omara (aged 64, husband, father of eight aged 30 to 10 including Simon Okut, **beaten and strangled to death** after a radio broadcast in which he compared Christianity and Islam)

Simon Okut (son of Pastor David Omara, witnessed the attack on his father, escaped)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2020/11/muslims-ambush-kill-pastor-after-radio-broadcast-in-uganda/>



**France: Lyon**

Fr Nikolaos Kakavelakis (Greek citizen, shot in his church, 'badly' wounded, hospitalized)

<https://www.reuters.com/article/BigStory12/idUSKBN27G0P6>

**October 2020, date unknown**

**Today's Martyrs**

**2490 Black Rock Turnpike #455**

**Fairfield CT 06825-2400**

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

Permission is granted to copy, disseminate and forward this document without charge or fee, provided no changes are made and full attribution is made to Today's Martyrs