

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – January 2021

Friday January 1, 2021



China: Beijing

Pastor Jin Tianming (placed under house arrest in [April 2011](#); **UPDATE**: reported to have been released from house arrest)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2021/01/after-nine-years-house-church-pastor.html>



Israel: Jerusalem

Bishop Atallah Hanna (reported to have denounced the destruction by arson of a Christmas tree)

<https://www.coptsunited.com/Details.php?I=2825&A=43592>



Nigeria

Auxiliary Bishop Moses Chikwe (abducted along with his driver by several gunmen on [December 27, 2020 near Owerri, Imo state](#); **UPDATE**: released)

Ndubuisi Robert (driver for Auxiliary Bishop Moses Chikwe, abducted; **UPDATE**: released, hospitalized with a cut to his hand)

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/catholic-bishop-moses-chikwe-released-five-days-after-kidnapping-in-nigeria-72086>

Sunday January 3, 2021



India: Abbigeri village, Koppal district, Karnataka state

Pastor Devendhrappa Jamalappa Lamani (aged 41, husband, father of two, home invaded by a mob during a Bible study with three Christian families: “They did not say a word and simply held me by the collar of my shirt and dragged me outside the home. They pushed me, held me by my legs and dragged me onto the road and started beating me...They repeatedly told me that it is better for me to die than live a disloyal life by corrupting the Banjara population’s minds with teachings of Jesus. Each of them was taking turns to jump on me, kick me and punch me. It was like how villains attack in movies. They were beating me up like professional wrestlers”, hospitalized)

Mallikarjuna Mukkumbi (spouse of Sanna Savithrevva, attempted to rescue Pastor Devendhrappa Jamalappa Lamani from attack)

Sanna Savithrevva (spouse of Mallikarjuna Mukkumbi, attempted to rescue Pastor Devendhrappa Jamalappa Lamani from attack)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2021/02/charges-fabricated-against-pastor-others-after-assault-sources-say/>



Sudan: Tambul, Al Jazirah state

Rev Kowa Shamal (**UPDATE**: church destroyed by arson, said “They targeted the church because they do not want to see any sign of the cross in the area”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2021/02/another-church-building-set-ablaze-in-sudan/>

Monday January 4, 2021



Kenya

Cardinal John Njue (**UPDATE**: resignation due to age reported to have been accepted)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/69328-AFRICA_KENYA_Resignation_of_the_Archbishop_of_Nairobi

Tuesday January 5, 2021



China: Sanyuan, Shaanxi province

Bishop Joseph Zong Huaide (aged 100, forbidden to practice ministry in 1961; arrested in 1965, sentenced to forced labor in 1966; released in February 1980; ordained bishop on August 9, 1987; **UPDATE: died of natural causes**)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/69648->

[ASIA CHINA Bishop Joseph Zong Huaide died at the age of 100 he devoted himself to prayer and charitable works](http://www.fides.org/en/news/69648-)



India: Abbigeri village, Koppal district, Karnataka state

Pastor Devendhrappa Jamalappa Lamani (aged 41, husband, father of two, **UPDATE: charged by police with seven criminal offenses after he pursued charges against his attackers, wife also charged, granted bail**)

Mallikarjuna Mukkumbi (spouse of Sanna Savithrevva, **UPDATE: charged by police with seven criminal offenses, granted bail**)

Sanna Savithrevva (spouse of Mallikarjuna Mukkumbi, **UPDATE: charged by police with seven criminal offenses, granted bail**)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2021/02/charges-fabricated-against-pastor-others-after-assault-sources-say/>



Pakistan: Rawalpindi

Mashal Masih (aged 17, daughter of Rafique Masih, abducted from her home)

Rafique Masih (attempted to file a police report after his daughter was abducted but was refused)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/69489->

[ASIA PAKISTAN The drama of Christian families who see the kidnapping and conversion of their daughters to Islam in the face of the impunity regarding this crime](http://www.fides.org/en/news/69489-)

Wednesday January 6, 2021



Venezuela: Barquisimeto

Br Luigi Manganiello FSC (aged 49, **died from injuries sustained in an attempted robbery** on school grounds)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/69351-AMERICA_VENEZUELA_Lasallian_religious_killed_during_an_attempted_theft

Thursday January 7, 2021



Rwanda

Fr Ubald Rugirangoga (fled his seminary in **Nyundo** in **February 1973** when it was attacked by Hutus including fellow seminarians; approached the local police on **April 10, 1994** for protection and for food and water for the 10,000 refugees at his parish in **Nyamasheke**, given 4 officers; parish church attacked by the Hutu militia on **April 13, 1994**, falsely accused of being a killer after the police shot a militia member, expelled from the parish and forced to travel to Bishop Thaddee Ntihinyurwa's residence in **Cyangugu** under police escort; informed by a weeping Bishop Thaddee Ntihinyurwa on **April 14, 1994** that the remaining Tutsi religious brothers at his parish had been killed, saw the Bishop's bloodied clothing; informed on **April 17, 1994** that all the refugees at his parish had been killed, and his entire family remaining in his home village including his mother had been killed; fled the country to **Zaire** with the help of Hutu Christians on **May 27, 1994** by bribing the Hutu militia, would later return to the country to establish a popular ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation that included his becoming the foster parent of the children of his mother's killer; **UPDATE: died of a Sars-Cov-2 infection** in **Salt Lake City, Utah, United States**, had spent nearly 3 months in intensive care)

<https://frubald.com/2021/04/22/on-saying-goodbye-to-father-ubald-rugirangoga/>

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26840197M/Forgiveness_Makes_You_Free pg 6-32

Friday January 8, 2021



China: Xinxiang, Henan province

Pastor Zhang Shaojie (aged 55, husband of Wang Fengrui, met with police on [November 16, 2013](#) at his registered church in [Nanle County, Henan](#), tied up without a warrant, church and family members gathered to protest his illegal detention but were beaten, parents hospitalized with hypertension, two sisters detained; convicted on [July 4, 2014](#), sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment and fined US\$16,113; health in a [Xinxiang, Henan province](#) prison in decline as of [July 7, 2017](#), described as a "bag of bones" and as having dark discolorations under his eyes, when asked if he had been beaten replied "Do you need to be beaten to become like this?"; as of [December 13, 2019](#) has been forced to take unknown medications in prison, family reported symptoms of mental disintegration during their last visit; **UPDATE**: transferred to a prison in Zhengzhou city, Henan province for 'concentrated education')

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2021/01/family-concerned-imprisoned-seven-years.html>



India: Ranchi, Jharkhand state

Fr Stan Lourduswamy 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; arrested on [October 8, 2020](#) on sedition charges; **UPDATE**: still in jail)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/69355-ASIA_INDIA_Call_to_the_UN_for_the_release_of_the_Jesuit_accused_of_sedition



Haiti: Port-au-Prince

Sr Dachoune Severe CST (abducted by armed men)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/69365-AMERICA_HAITI_Appeal_of_the_Bishop_of_Anse_a_Veau_Miragoane_to_pray_after_the_kidnapping_of_a_nun

Sunday January 10, 2021



Haiti: Port-au-Prince

Sr Dachoune Severe CST (abducted by armed men on [January 8, 2021](#); **UPDATE**: released)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/69369->

[AMERICA HAITI The nun kidnapped on January 8 released by kidnappers dozens of acts of violence occur every day](#)

Tuesday January 12, 2021



Niger: Bomoanga

Fr Pierluigi Maccalli SMA (Italian national, abducted on [September 18, 2018](#) by jihadists; released on [October 9, 2020](#); **UPDATE**: mission reported to have been invaded by five armed men on motorcycles who failed to gain entry to his bedroom, a mattress and blankets were stolen)

Fr Mauro Armanino SMA (missionary, **UPDATE**: reported on the attack on Fr Pierluigi Maccalli's mission, also said "The impunity that appears to protect the actions of these armed men and the apparent incompetence of the security forces have helped Christians to relive their daily lives in an atmosphere of fear. For some time now the men of the village of Bomoanga and probably also the inhabitants of the other villages, who are in a similar situation, have not slept in the village at night. They hide in the surrounding woods and then return home in the morning, to live with their wives, children and the rest of the family. The immediate consequence of the incident consists in the fact that the common prayers in the church, which they were hesitantly taken up again, are now suspended again")

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/69378>

Friday January 15, 2021



Nigeria: on the road from Lambata to Lapai, near Tufa village, Niger state

Fr John Gbakaan (abducted along with his brother and **killed with a machete**)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/69419-AFRICA_NIGERIA_A_Catholic_priest_brutally_killed

Monday January 18, 2021



Vietnam

Bishop Joseph Dinh Duc Dao (**UPDATE**: resignation due to age reported to have been accepted)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/69418-ASIA_VIETNAM_Resignation_and_appointment_of_bishop_of_Xuan_Loc_Viet_Nam

Tuesday January 19, 2021



Uganda: Nakisimi village, Pallisa district

Janati Kyoleka (aged 25, secret convert, wife, mother of three aged 5, 2, and 5 months, beaten by her husband when he suspected her conversion, doused with acid, suffered burns on her right side from breast to thigh including genitalia, hospitalized, released when she could no longer afford treatment, said “I know my marriage with my husband is over. I am grateful to God that my children are with me”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2021/02/christian-mother-in-uganda-hit-with-acid-for-her-faith-sources-say/>



Burkina Faso: while traveling the road from Soubakaniedougou to Banfora

Fr Rodrigue Sanon (disappeared)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/69447->

[AFRICA BURKINA FASO Catholic priest missing Bishop asks for prayer for his release](http://www.fides.org/en/news/69447-)



Canada

David McLoone (LifeSiteNews writer, reported that LifeSiteNews had been banned from Twitter for stating “Biden names transgender ‘woman’ as Assistant Secretary of Health. ‘Rachel’ Levine is a father of two who divorced his wife in 2013 after 30 years of marriage”)

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/twitter-suspends-two-lifesite-accounts-for-calling-transgender-woman-a-man>

Thursday January 21, 2021



Burkina Faso

Fr Rodrigue Sanon (disappeared on [January 19, 2021](#) while traveling the road from [Soubakaniedougou](#) to [Banfora](#); **UPDATE: body found**)

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/69451->
[AFRICA BURKINA FASO The body of the missing priest has been found victim of bandits or terrorists](http://www.fides.org/en/news/69451-)

Friday January 22, 2021



India: Khala village, Garhwa district, Jharkhand state

Sukender Korwa (convert, husband of Asha Korwa, father of two aged 3 and 6, beaten for his conversion, threatened with death)

Asha Korwa (convert, wife of Sukender Korwa, mother of two aged 3 and 6, threatened with death, said “Our house is very close to the main road, and they get annoyed by even the

slightest of the noises that can be heard when we praise and worship. On the day of the first attack...a batch of strongmen from the community stormed into our home and started badgering us, ‘Why are you shouting hallelujah? How dare you worship a foreign god!’”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2021/04/christians-confined-to-home-by-police-tribal-threats-in-india/>



United States - New York: Brooklyn

Fr Guy Massie (live-streamed Masses blocked by Facebook, reason unknown)

United States – Ohio: Columbus

Pro-abortion demonstrators trespass a cathedral and disrupt Mass

Bishop Robert J Brennan (Mass interrupted by pro-abortion demonstrators who chanted “Two, four, six, eight, this Church teaches hate”, “Jesus hates you”, and “If hell is real, you can burn in it”)

Bishop Edward Malesic (said after the Mass “There are two sides here, and it’s very odd. Let me tell you, if I was an outside observer, I know exactly which side I would choose. There’s beauty and there’s ugliness. There’s peace and there’s violence. There’s love and there’s hatred. There’s life and there’s death”)

<https://netny.tv/episodes/currents/facebook-blocks-brooklyn-parish-from-livestreaming-masses/>
<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/pro-life-mass-in-columbus-cathedral-disrupted-by-pro-abortion-protesters>

Saturday January 23, 2021



United States – California: San Francisco

Matt Hadro (Catholic World Report writer, wrote an article that triggered Twitter to ban Catholic World Report, the article stated “Biden plans to nominate Dr. Rachel Levine, a biological man identifying as a transgender woman...”)

Carl E. Olsen (Catholic World Report writer, later wrote concerning their Twitter ban "Twitter is clearly indicating that unless CWR and other outlets jump through arbitrary and constantly-changing rhetorical and ideological hoops, they cannot use Twitter. Just as bad, Twitter is implicitly making CWR admit to hateful or bigoted language, even though such was never the case. Not only is such an approach subjective in nature, it is an

overtly biased, unfair, and discriminatory approach that both stifles free speech and undermines CWR's right to report on current events")

<https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2021/01/28/twitter-freezes-cwrs-account-over-news-story-on-transgendered-dr-rachel-levine/>

Sunday January 24, 2021



Philippines: Patpat village, Malaybalay, Bukidnon province, Mindanao

Fr Rene Bayang Regalado (**shot dead**)

http://www.fides.org/en/news/69465-ASIA_PHILIPPINES_Catholic_priest_killed_in_Mindanao



United States

Pastor Michael L. Brown (**UPDATE**: banned for 12 hours from Twitter after posting “Will I get punished by Twitter for saying that, in God's sight, ‘Rachel’ Levine [nominated by Biden to be his assistant secretary for HHS] is a man?”), wrote "what about Twitter's extraordinary double standards, as Bible-believing conservatives like me get bashed and mocked and cursed by the minute on these platforms, specifically for being who we are and believing what we believe, and that is somehow fine and dandy")

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/blogs/i-just-got-locked-out-of-twitter-for-stating-the-biological-reality-about-one-of-bidens-new-team>

Monday January 25, 2021



United States - New Jersey: Wayne

Pastor Jonathan Cahn (video entitled “Prophetic Message To Joe Biden” shadowbanned [i.e., deleted from search engine query results] by Google and YouTube, YouTube reversed the shadowban days later, but Goggle did not)

United States - Ohio

Fr Mark Hodges (reported to have been suspended from ministry after being present at the January 6, 2021 demonstration at the U.S. Capitol despite his efforts to calm the crowd, to protect the police from attack, and leaving before the riot fully broke out - the suspension was provoked by misrepresentations made by Orthodox LGBT activists)

<https://www.theamericanconservative.com/dreher/jonathan-cahn-big-tech-vs-christians/>
<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/priest-suspended-for-attending-jan-6-dc-rally-is-target-of-lgbt-attacks>

Thursday January 28, 2021



Pakistan: Karachi

Tabeeta Nazir Gill (aged 42, mother of two young children, maternity hospital nurse, gospel singer, accused by a coworker of blasphemy, beaten, locked in a storeroom until police arrived, police released her after concluding the allegation was baseless)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2021/01/attacked-christian-nurse-charged-with-blasphemy-in-pakistan/>

Friday January 29, 2021



Pakistan: Karachi

Tabeeta Nazir Gill (aged 42, mother of two young children, maternity hospital nurse, gospel singer, accused by a coworker of blasphemy on [January 28, 2021](#), beaten, locked in a storeroom until police arrived, police released her after concluding the allegation was baseless; **UPDATE**: police filed charges against her after an Islamist mob besieged the police station, in hiding with her family)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2021/01/attacked-christian-nurse-charged-with-blasphemy-in-pakistan/>

http://www.fides.org/en/news/69503-ASIA_PAKISTAN_About_face_of_the_police_Christian_woman_from_Karachi_denounced_for_blasphemy



Canada: Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario

Jonathan Bradley (aged 21, journalism student, fired from his university newspaper in [June 2020](#) for past acknowledgments of Christian teachings on sexuality; **UPDATE**: reported to have filed a discrimination complaint with the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal)

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

Sunday January 31, 2021



India: Khala village, Garhwa district, Jharkhand state

Sukender Korwa (convert, husband of Asha Korwa, father of two aged 3 and 6, beaten on [January 22, 2021](#) for his conversion, threatened with death; **UPDATE**: beaten along with his entire family for their conversion, threatened with arrest)

Asha Korwa (convert, wife of Sukender Korwa, mother of two aged 3 and 6; **UPDATE**: same account, said “The mob brought with them the village president, media and police officers. As the media clicked our pictures and videotaped the attack, the police watched as mere spectators. They did not stop the assailants or the media...I asked them that they have warned us and gone away just few days ago, so why did they return to attack us again? What mistake have we done that they were beating my small children?...Police officers at Garhwa police station summoned my husband to the police station and told him that he has been held responsible for the breach of peace and public tranquility under Section 107 of the Criminal Procedure Code. They told him that nobody from my family will step out of the village and that, if necessary, they would take our entire family into custody...In less than 24 hours, the videos and photographs got circulated across the state. We did not kill anyone, we did not steal anybody’s money, and we did not cheat anyone. Yet we have been in the spotlight only because we have put faith in Christ. They have projected us as criminals”, later said “The first 10 days of February, we could not breathe in our own home. The police officers were stopping by to enquire if we have committed a breach of peace. They would go to our neighbors to take their report as to whether we behaved well...At least 40 members of the Korwa community have come to Christ, but we could not gather for prayers even during Holy Week. We are worshipping secretly in homes...We do not know for how long this will continue. We must share the gospel among our Korwa community members. They also should know and experience the love of Christ”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2021/04/christians-confined-to-home-by-police-tribal-threats-in-india/>



Nigeria

Pastor Bulus Yikura (abducted on [December 24, 2021](#) in [Pemi village, near Chibok, Borno state](#), in an ISWAP attack that killed 11; **UPDATE**: spoke from captivity in a video in which he called for his release but added “However, if this is the end of my life, then praise be to God”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2021/02/islamist-terrorists-in-nigeria-threaten-to-e from captivityxecutel-pastor/>

January 2021, date unknown

Today's Martyrs

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

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