

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Events – February 2021

**Monday February 1, 2021**



**Nigeria: Dutse area, Miango, Plateau state**

Edward Egbuka (state police commissioner, reported on the murder of twelve Christian farmers by Fulani Muslims)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2021/05/herdsmen-kill-christians-in-nigerias-nasarawa-plateau-states/>

**Tuesday February 2, 2021**



**Nigeria: Dudu village, Miango area, Bassa county, Plateau state**

Raphael Bawa (aged 39, **shot dead** by Fulani Muslims)

Aga Mabo (**shot**, hospitalized, **died**)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2021/02/muslim-fulani-kill-11-christians-wound-two-in-nigeria/>

**Saturday February 6, 2021**



**Mali**

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

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/69553->

[AFRICA MALI The missionary kidnapped 4 years ago We ask the kidnapers to release Sister Gloria as soon as possible](#)

### **Sunday February 7, 2021**



**Nigeria: Kishosho and Zirshe villages, Kauru county, Kaduna state**

Danlami Sunday (aged 40, church elder, **killed along with four other Christians** by Fulani Muslims)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2021/02/muslim-fulani-kill-11-christians-wound-two-in-nigeria/>

### **Tuesday February 9, 2021**



**United States – Texas: El Paso**

Bishop Mark J. Seitz (wrote on Facebook following the destruction of three angel statues “We are saddened at the damage that was done at St. Pius X...At the same time, we recognize that these are things that can be repaired and replaced. We are grateful to God that no one was physically hurt in this violent outburst, because human beings are the most beautiful and irreplaceable images of God”)

<https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/crime/2021/02/10/st-pius-x-catholic-church-angel-statues-vandalized-el-paso/6712611002/>

### **Wednesday February 10, 2021**



## **Bangladesh: Aditmari, Lalmonirhat district**

Rev Lovlu S Levy (church vandalized by damaging the church sign, cutting trees, forcing the entrance, and stealing 30 chairs and two carpets worth US\$165, said “Residents in this area are fundamentalists. When I first went to the police they did not want to file the report of what happened, they also told me not to inform journalists of the attack...Muslims are angry because we have received Christ, which is why they attack us. Now we live in fear, ten new believers have fled the village for their safety”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Two-Protestant-churches-targeted,-attacked-and-ransacked-52497.html>

**Thursday February 11, 2021**



## **China: No. 1 Prison for Women of Yunnan Province, Kunyang Town, Jinning District, Kunming City, Yunnan Province, China 650600**

Ju Dianhong (reported on [January 16, 2018](#) to have been sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment in [Lincang, Yunnan province](#) for alleged involvement in the Three Grades of Servants cult, had said to the court during the trial “I am a Protestant Christian believer, and I believe in Jesus. None of my evangelism has contravened any of the principles in the Bible, and my beliefs do not constitute an evil cult. I never preached about the Day of Judgement, and all of my books are available in the Three Self Patriotic Association [government-backed church bookstore]. All I ever wanted to do was resolve conflict and do good deeds”; reported on [July 25, 2018](#) that her appeal had been denied; **UPDATE:** still imprisoned)

Liang Qin (same account, but sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment; **UPDATE:** still imprisoned)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2021/02/chinaaid-urges-supporters-and-pray-ers.html>



## **Palestine: Bethlehem**

Dr Salameh Qumsiyeh (aged 53, gynecologist, pulled from his automobile in [Bethlehem](#) by four masked men and beaten with clubs and sharp tools on [February 18, 2020](#), hospitalized in serious condition; **UPDATE:** attacked on the street, the attacker hit him in the head and neck and attempted to cut off his hands, hospitalized, tendons and veins in his hands repaired in 10 hours of surgery but will not be able to resume his medical practice)

Johnny Jildeh (activist, Israeli citizen, wrote on Facebook: “What happened today in Bethlehem to Dr Qumsiyeh is the outcome of clear corruption inside the Palestinian security

apparatuses. We, the Christians, are not safe in light of the presence of this corrupt authority which also practices cronyism. We all are violated, without exception, and the reason is the silence of the church and the clerics in regard to what is happening to us. We ask the clergy: if you are unable to protect your people, close the churches and help us emigrate”)

<https://www.facebook.com/johnny.jildeh/posts/717464729139624> - with translation  
<https://www.jihadwatch.org/2021/02/palestinian-authority-muslim-with-long-record-of-terrorizing-christians-tried-to-kill-noted-christian-physician>

**Friday February 12, 2021**



**China: Chengdu, Sichuan Province**

Jia Xuewei (utilities to his apartment turned off on **October 27, 2020**, used candles for light, ate unheated meals, and took cold showers, fellow parishioners took him in when winter set in; **UPDATE**: door lock vandalized with several toothpicks)

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



**Pakistan**

Cardinal Joseph Coutts (**UPDATE**: resignation due to age reported to have been accepted)

[http://www.fides.org/en/news/69581-  
ASIA\\_PAKISTAN\\_Resignation\\_and\\_appointment\\_of\\_metropolitan\\_archbishop\\_of\\_Karachi](http://www.fides.org/en/news/69581-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Resignation_and_appointment_of_metropolitan_archbishop_of_Karachi)

**Saturday February 13, 2021**



**Pakistan: Lahore**

**Two Christians were arrested for conducting a Bible study in a public park**

Haroon Ayub Masih (aged 26, accosted by Muslims while reading the Bible in public, at their insistence gave them a Christian book, went home, later charged with blasphemy, posted bail, in hiding with his family)

Salamat Mansha Masih (aged about 26, accosted by Muslims while reading the Bible in public, physically assaulted, arrested for blasphemy)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2021/02/two-christians-studying-bible-in-park-charged-with-blasphemy/>

<http://www.fides.org/en/news/69620->

[ASIA PAKISTAN Two young Christians are charged for blasphemy on false accusations that could lead to the death penalty](http://www.fides.org/en/news/69620-)

**Sunday February 14, 2021**



**Uganda: Musasa village, Kasese district**

Mariam Mbambu (secret convert from Islam, said “When my husband interrogated me about being a Christian, I refused to answer him. Soon a Christian neighbor told me that my husband was out to kill me, hence I should escape with my children. That particular day in the evening hours, I escaped with my five children. I am thankful that the church received us”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2021/03/pastors-relatives-raped-after-imams-wife-turns-to-christ/>



**Nigeria: near Ri-Bakwa village and Zirshe village, Kwall district, Bassa county, Plateau state**

Ezekiel Maja (aged 29, **killed** by Fulani Muslims)

Emmanuel Agaba (aged 39, **killed**)

Moses Daburu (aged 26, **killed**)

Kefas Bulus David (aged 31, **killed**)

Bitrus Ezra (aged 42, shot, hospitalized)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2021/02/muslim-fulani-kill-11-christians-wound-two-in-nigeria/>

**Monday February 15, 2021**



**China: Kunming Prison, Yunnan province**

Rev John Cao San Qiang (husband of Jamie Powell, father of Amos and Ben, U.S. resident, minister to Myanmar Christians, arrested [at the Myanmar border with China on March 5, 2017](#) and charged with illegal border crossing; sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment in [Pu'er, Yunnan province on March 23, 2018](#), fined US\$3,168; sentence upheld on appeal on [July 25, 2019](#); **UPDATE**: still imprisoned, has been collecting his prison poetry into a book for publication)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2021/02/in-prison-pastor-john-cao-recounts-one.html>

**Tuesday February 16, 2021**



**Palestine: Bethlehem**

Dr Salameh Qumsiyeh (aged 53, gynecologist; **UPDATE**: reported to have been released from the hospital, received death threats)

**Palestine: Ramallah**

Johnny Jildeh (activist, Israeli citizen; **UPDATE**: reported to have been illegally detained for eight hours by Palestinian police in retaliation for his previous Facebook post, released after signing a pledge to not make any further posts critical of the police)

<https://www.jihadwatch.org/2021/02/palestinian-authority-muslim-who-attempted-to-murder-christian-doctor-goes-unpunished-victim-gets-death-threats>



**Uganda: Musasa village, Kasese district**

Rev Nelson Walina (three female relatives aged 19, 17, and 16 were raped by men sent by the husband of Mariam Mbambu in revenge for her conversion, church also scouted for a future planned attack)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2021/03/pastors-relatives-raped-after-imams-wife-turns-to-christ/>



**Nigeria: Kadabuki Dan-Marabu village , Kankara county, Katsina state**

Mati Sani (aged 65, church elder, father of Rev Ali Mati, **shot dead** by Fulani Muslims)

Ibrahim Lawal (abducted)

Mamar Rahila (abducted)

Hafsat Yusuf (abducted)

Danjuma Sani Mati (shot, hospitalized)

Rev Ali Mati (son of Mati Sani, reported on the attack, said of his father “He served as a lay leader in the church for over 35 years at different capacities”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2021/02/herdsmen-kill-church-elder-abduct-three-other-christians/>

**Wednesday February 17, 2021**



**Nigeria: Kagara town, Rafi county, Niger state**

**Fulani Muslims attacked a secondary school, killing a student and abducting 42 Christians and Muslims**

Benjamin Habila (student, **shot dead**)

Philip Dodo (husband of Hannatu Philip Dodo, abducted)

Hannatu Philip Dodo (wife of Philip Dodo, abducted)

Christiana Adama (abducted)

Faith Adama (abducted)

Shem Joshua (abducted)

Ezekeil Danladi (abducted)

Habakuk Augustine (abducted)

Polonius Vincent (abducted)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2021/02/muslim-fulani-kill-11-christians-wound-two-in-nigeria/>

**Friday February 19, 2021**



**Pakistan: Lahore**

Shakaina Masih (aged 13, daughter of Samina and Johnson Masih, domestic worker, disappeared)

Johnson Masih (husband of Samina Masih, father of Shakaina Masih, janitor, daughter disappeared, police refused to file a missing person report for two days)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2021/03/another-christian-girl-in-pakistan-kidnapped-forcibly-converted/>



**Sudan: Al Jazirah state**

Osama Saeed Kodi (Christian Youth Union chairman, abducted by masked national security personnel, beaten, threatened with death if he did not stop protesting the [January 3, 2021](#) arson attack on a [Tambul](#) church, released later in the day, said “I have been brutally beaten by national security personnel on my chest and on my right leg. I am still in pain as a result of this beating. I thank all those who stood with me during the detention. I shall continue to defend the right of the church despite all these obstacles”)

<https://morningstarnews.org/2021/02/christian-leader-in-sudan-detained-and-beaten-sources-say/>

**Monday February 22, 2021**



**India: Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh state**

Sr Bhagya SD (school principal, charged with forced conversion by a former employee)

Bishop Joseph Kodakallil (**UPDATE:** stated “This is unfounded, fabricated and a lot of lies. It is a persecution against Christians”)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Removed-from-school,-a-teacher-accuses-the-sister-principal-of-conversion-52445.html>



**Tuesday February 23, 2021**



**China: Kunming Prison, Yunnan province**

Rev John Cao San Qiang (husband of Jamie Powell, father of Amos and Ben, U.S. resident, minister to Myanmar Christians, arrested [at the Myanmar border with China on March 5, 2017](#) and charged with illegal border crossing; sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment [in Pu'er, Yunnan province on March 23, 2018](#), fined US\$3,168; sentence upheld on appeal on [July 25, 2019](#); **UPDATE**: prison officials refused to allow his attorney to give him a Bible)

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2021/03/prison-rejects-request-pastor-john-caos.html>

**Wednesday February 24, 2021**



**China: Xiamen, Fujian province**

Wang Xiaofei (wife of Pastor Yang Xibo, reported that government officials ransacked more than a dozen Christian homes on [June 11, 2020](#) that had been used for prayer meetings, personal property destroyed; **UPDATE**: issued an administrative punishment notice for alleged violations of six religious affairs regulations)

Pastor Yang Xibo (husband of Wang Xiaofei, locked out of his church by the landlord under government pressure on [May 15, 2018](#), led children in prayer outside the building; government agents told him on [May 11, 2019](#) of their plan to shut his church; congregants at the [May 12, 2019](#) service were identified using facial recognition cameras that had been installed at the church entrance and were later interrogated by their employers or residential committees; wife interviewed by government agents on [May 14, 2019](#), told them she supported her husband; interviewed along with his wife by government agents on [May 18, 2019](#), issued a corrective order that was later posted on the church gate; church raided by officials on [May 19, 2019](#), ordered closed, fined US\$3,622, said "We will appeal, the government will convene a hearing, and we will persevere in walking according to legal procedures"; choir members blocked by police from entering the church for practice on [May 23, 2019](#); posted a video of police blocking entrance to his closed church on [June 30, 2019](#); nine parishioners arrested on [May 3, 2020](#) for having met for prayers in a private home; **UPDATE**: posted on Facebook "While out preaching on February 24, religious affairs bureau staff arrived at my home

and interrogated my wife. Today, she received a punishment notice [from CCP authorities], but a certificate of merit [in the eyes of God]. Officials targeted my wife because I was not at home. I received a similar notice in 2019...Thank the Lord — my wife and I are a good match")

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2021/03/siming-district-religious-affairs.html>



### **India: Uttar Pradesh state**

Bishop Gerald John Mathias (**UPDATE**: condemned the passage of an anti-conversion law by the state legislature, stated “The anti-conversion law goes against the fundamental right to profess, practice and propagate one's religion and faith. It goes against the fundamental freedom of a person to choose and practice a religion of one's choice. It is a God-given right based on natural law and guaranteed in the Constitution. It is absurd one has to get permission from the D.M. [district magistrate] if one wants to convert to another religion. It also makes inter-faith marriages almost impossible thus depriving adults’ freedom to choose their partner. Cleverly 'Ghar wapasi' ['homecoming', forced conversion to Hinduism] is not considered as forced conversion while in fact it is there that force, intimidation and threats are used to reconvert. The basic intent of the law is to ban and prohibit all conversion, even voluntary conversion...The law can be easily miss used or abused as there are several such cases already, the recent being the false accusation of a Principal Sr Bhagya SD, of Sacred Heart Convent School - a Catholic school in Madhya Pradesh”, the new law denies bail to the accused and mandates a 10 year sentence for offenses)

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/In-Uttar-Pradesh,-you-need-a-judges-permission-to-convert--52456.html>



### **Nigeria**

Pastor Bulus Yikura (abducted on [December 24, 2021](#) in [Pemi village, near Chibok, Borno state](#), in an ISWAP attack that killed 11; spoke in a [January 31, 2021](#) video in which he called for his release but added “However, if this is the end of my life, then praise be to God”; **UPDATE**: spoke from captivity in a video, stated eh would be killed on March 3rd if his abductors' demands were not met)

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

**Thursday February 25, 2021**



### **China: Kunming Prison, Yunnan province**

Rev John Cao San Qiang (husband of Jamie Powell, father of Amos and Ben, U.S. resident, minister to Myanmar Christians, arrested [at the Myanmar border with China on March 5, 2017](#) and charged with illegal border crossing; sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment [in Pu'er, Yunnan province on March 23, 2018](#), fined US\$3,168; sentence upheld on appeal on [July 25, 2019](#); prison officials on [February 23, 2021](#) refused to allow his attorney to give him a Bible; **UPDATE**: prison officials allowed his attorney to read Bible verses and pray with him over a prison video chat)

Yang Hui (attorney, read Bible verses to Rev John Cao San Qiang over a prison video chat after he was unable to deliver the Bible, prayed with him, wrote "In this spiritual war, serving the sentence peacefully proves to be the best way to win. Eventually, the crown of righteousness will be retained for Pastor Cao. Our heavenly Father will take care of Pastor Cao as well as his mother. No need to worry. We try our best to do whatever we can do, and entrust everything else to God")

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2021/03/prison-rejects-request-pastor-john-caos.html>



### **Bangladesh: Ali Kadam, Bandarban district**

Sathiram Tripura (church building site demolished, said "Members of the community set aside the money for 15 years to build the brick church. Not being able to finish the construction is very sad")

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Two-Protestant-churches-targeted,-attacked-and-ransacked-52497.html>

**Friday February 26, 2021**



### **France: Montbeton**

Bishop Yves Ramousse (aged 93, expelled from [Phnom Penh, Cambodia](#) by the Khmer Rouge in [April or May of 1975](#); **UPDATE**: [died from a SARS-Cov-2 infection](#))

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Msgr.-Yves-Ramousse,-the-French-bishop-expelled-from-the-Khmer-Rouge,-has-died-52464.html>



## United Kingdom

Richard Page (aged 74, Justice of the Peace in **Kent**, disciplined on **January 16, 2015** after he admitted that his Christian faith influenced his adoption rulings; reported on **March 10, 2016** to have been removed from his position as a National Health Service financial director one month before retirement after giving a January 2015 interview in which he said that there was not enough evidence to show that adoption by same sex couples was in a child's interest, the interview was for a documentary on Christians being forced out of public life; case against his former employer dismissed by the Employment Tribunal on or before **October 24, 2017**, said "I am very disappointed by this outcome but I am determined to appeal. This case is much bigger than me now. It is about how ordinary folk, just like me, are becoming increasingly fearful to speak out against the homosexual agenda. They bully, intimidate and force you out of your job. It is time for this to stop"; appeal denied by the Employment Appeal Tribunal on **June 19, 2019**; **UPDATE**: appeal denied by the Court of Appeals, will appeal to the Supreme Court)

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns, **UPDATE**: stated "This is the first time the Court of Appeal has endorsed the perverse distinction between unlawful discrimination for Christian beliefs and lawfully dismissing someone for offending an LGBT audience by expressing those beliefs...This is simply an artificial way to exclude Christian beliefs from the protection of the law. Nobody would get away with applying a similar distinction to any other protected characteristic. You would not get away with dismissing a homosexual for coming out as a homosexual, and then saying: 'we duly respect your sexual orientation as long as you keep it to yourself'", and stated "The perversity of the ruling is best demonstrated if you consider the converse. Imagine if Richard had 'come out' on Piers Morgan's show and said that he didn't think that Christians could ever make good parents if they disagreed with same sex 'marriage'. Would he have been sacked from the NHS? I think not")

[https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christian-who-said-children-do-best-when-raised-by-a-mother-and-a-father-loses-court-of-appeal-challenge-against-double-sacking?fbclid=IwAR0Hb0BoyNeYYxGcMSvYYPJ8uPeZR9SR\\_0-pA\\_vLLg4p-G1CSybXd-IDRno%23](https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christian-who-said-children-do-best-when-raised-by-a-mother-and-a-father-loses-court-of-appeal-challenge-against-double-sacking?fbclid=IwAR0Hb0BoyNeYYxGcMSvYYPJ8uPeZR9SR_0-pA_vLLg4p-G1CSybXd-IDRno%23)

<https://christianconcern.com/comment/whats-so-offensive-about-a-man-like-richard-page/>

**February 2021, date unknown**

## **Today's Martyrs**

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

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