

Today's Martyrs
2014-10-05 through 2014-10-11



Cameroon

Bishop Bruno Ateba (said that Boko Haram activities in the north of the country have made pastoral care impossible without military escort)

Date: October 1, 2014

Location: Maroua-Mokolo

Source: <http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1412122012.html>

Mariam Unana (Nigerian refugee from Boko Haram, described the insecure and unsanitary conditions and family strains in the camp holding 15,000 persons)

James Naga (Nigerian refugee from Boko Haram and community leader, said "Most of us have lost the lives that we had been building for decades and have come to live in a place where you cannot provide for your own family. This is so frustrating to the men in particular")

Date: October 7, 2014

Location: Minawao

Source: <http://thenationonlineng.net/new/saved-from-boko-haram-but-suffering-abroad/>



Central African Republic

Fr Aurelio Gazzera OCD (**UPDATE**: reported that schools have reopened and pastoral activities have resumed, said "In Bozoum compared to other areas of Central Africa, the situation is a bit calmer, although there is still a lot of tension and we must continually react to what is happening around us")

Date: October 8, 2014

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/36504->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA Despite chaos and violence in Bozoum schools have reopened and the pastoral year has started#.VDddEsLwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36504-AFRICA_CENTRAL_AFRICA_Despite_chaos_and_violence_in_Bozoum_schools_have_reopened_and_the_pastoral_year_has_started#.VDddEsLwsfg)



Colombia

Father Andres Duque Echeverry (**stabbed to death** in an apparent robbery in a subway station)

Date: October 3, 2014

Location: Medellin

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/36484-AMERICA_COLOMBIA_Another_priest_killed_for_armed_robbery#.VDNfS8Lwsfg



Egypt

Dr Ehab Ramzy (attorney and former Member of Parliament; **UPDATE**: said that Islamists who want an Islamic state have targeted St Catherine's monastery on Mt Sinai)

Date: October 4, 2014

Location: Cairo

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=57189>

Hamdi Makonti (land seized, police have refused to help)

Date: October 4, 2014

Location: Nahda village, Alexandria province

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=57190>

Bishop Demitry Dimianos (spoke of threats and extortion demands made against the Monastery of St Catherine)

Date: October 5, 2014

Location: Mt Sinai

Source [with photo]: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=57202>

Kamal Zakher (**UPDATE**: said that the investigation into the Maspero massacre has not been completed three years after the event)

Date: October 6, 2014

Location: Cairo

Source [with photo]: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=57215>

Bishop Rizkallah Ibrahim Gouda (**UPDATE**: parishioners still meet in a wrecked and roofless church)

Date: October 8, 2014

Location: Duabiaya

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=57256>

Yaacoub Wahba Rizk (aged 77, **found murdered**)

Date: October 8, 2014

Location: Samalout, Minya province

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=57251>

Lisa Nasim Basari (aged 28, grocer, stalked by a Muslim who demanded that she marry him and convert, sexually assaulted in her store, complained to police but was arrested and tortured until she abandoned her complaint, has made a video of her experiences)

Date: October 9, 2014

Location: Minya province

Source: <http://www.copticsolidarity.org/cs-releases/3022-muslim-man-sexually-harasses-coptic-woman-to-convert-to-islam-and-marry-him>

Fr Makarios Boulus lhjb (has been prevented from entering his village since the Maspero massacre in October 2011)

Date: October 10, 2014

Location: Edfo

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=57291>



Germany

Bishop Demian (expressed surprise at the arson attack on a Coptic church)

Date: October 7, 2014

Location: Berlin

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1219&A=16022>



India

Pastor Rajesh Parthe (church destroyed by arson, crosses outside the church also destroyed)

Date: September 26, 2014

Location: Mandla district, Madhya Pradesh state

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/police-investigate-church-burning-in-india/72064>

Joseph Pawar (aged 20, husband of Ayushi Wani, briefly detained after their wedding, marriage annulled by the local superintendent because he did not convert to Hinduism, the religion of his wife)

Dates: September 28, October 6, 2014

Location: Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh state

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/36487-ASIA_INDIA_The_marriage_between_a_Christian_and_a_Hindu_annulled_due_to_extremist_group_protest#.VDNgWMLwsfg



Iran

Event: Three Christian converts arrested, all had been involved in making a film about Jesus

Shahram Ghaedi (aged 32, had served three months' imprisonment for his 2012 arrest;

UPDATE: home raided by police, had acted the role of Jesus in several plays due to his resemblance to the popular view of Jesus' appearance)

Heshmat Shafiei

Emad Haghi

Date: September 27, 2014

Location: Foolad-Shahr, Esfahan

Source:

http://www.mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9231:three-christian-convert-artists-arrested-in-iran&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279

Archbishop Behrouz Sadegh Khanjani (said that president Hassan Rouhani has not reduced pressures on Christians)

Date: October 9, 2014

Location: Tehran

Source [with photo]: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=57278>



Iraq

Archbishop Bashar Matti Warda (**UPDATE:** said "The reality is that Christians have received no support from the central government. They have done nothing for them, absolutely nothing... We have not had a clear denunciation of [ISIL] from Muslim leaders" who he alleged are more concerned with their international reputation, also said "We visit the tents every day and speak to the people we are helping and they say they would like to go back to their homes immediately but how can you live among the people who were your neighbors when they have betrayed you?")

Date: October 7, 2014

Location: Erbil, Kurdistan

Source: <http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1412636415.html>

Safa Jamel Bahnan (airport truck driver, refugee from Qaraqosh, is living in his sister's home with 30 other relatives, said "After being here for more than a millennium, this is the Christians' last stand in Iraq. Over the centuries, we have faced the sword so many times for our beliefs. In two, three, four years Christians will not be here because Daesh {ISIL}

kill us. We will probably be living in the U.S., Canada or Australia. Otherwise, we will be erased from this Earth")

Father Rian (refugee, said "What we are living is the last chapter of an ancient story")

Shoban Kunda (refugee, said "If the U.S. airplanes had not been here at the right moment, Erbil would have fallen and ISIL would be here...It's OK now, but the rainy season begins in one month and when winter comes it won't be good for anyone here")

Elid Matte (refugee from Qaraqosh, said "someone has to stop Daesh [aka ISIL], even if it takes years, because they want to destroy everything and bring us and the rest of the world back to the Middle Ages")

Ayman Abdul Aziz Majid (refugee, is seeking to emigrate to Canada)

Fr Zuhir (refugee from Qaraqosh, said "Bombing is not so efficacious. There will have to be troops on the ground to retake Mosul and end this very dark period")

Sonia al-Shorahchy (refugee from Qaraqosh, said "There must be soldiers, too, otherwise immigration is our only future because it is impossible for me or any of us to become Muslims")

Date: October 6, 2014

Location: Erbil, Kurdistan

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20141006172609.htm>

Fr Ghazwan Yousif Baho (usually teaches two months a year in Rome, escorted an elderly couple to Rome for their meeting with the Pope, decided to immediately return to his Iraqi parish which is ten kilometers from ISIL-held territory, said "I've met very few people who had lost faith and hope. So many suffered, so the sorrowful mysteries for us a daily act. But despite all this suffering, I've seen very few people who've lost the faith. [People] would tell me 'Father, we are safe and all our children are with us. The rest will come later. But we thank God that the Lord has saved us. We have lost everything, but we are saved.' I heard this phrase from so many people. Desperate, but they never lost their faith. And these sorrowful mysteries of the rosary for us are a daily reality, but they also give us the strength to keep going")

Date: October 9, 2014

Location: Alqosh

Source [with photo]: <http://www.aina.org/news/20141009170603.htm>



Israel

Barry Barnett (UK citizen, staff member for Jews for Jesus [a legal Israeli charity], detained without charge in Beer Sheva on November 20, 2013, Israeli members with him were not detained; deported on December 2, 2013; **UPDATE**: case to be appealed to the Supreme Court)

Date: October 6, 2014

Source [with photo]: <http://morningstarnews.org/2014/10/messianic-jew-deported-from-israel-will-appeal-to-supreme-court/>



Jordan

Ammar Zaki (husband, father of Athena and Ethan Zaki, fled Iraq after the ISIL takeover, now a refugee, said "Jesus Christ told people, 'leave everything and follow me'. So we did. We had to leave everything and go...to be Christian, to stay in my religion")

Athena Zaki (aged 9 months, daughter of Ammar Zaki, refugee)

Ethan Zaki (toddler, son Ammar Zaki, refugee)

Nadira Haddou (aged 57, mother of five, Iraqi refugee, said "I don't want to go back. They took our homes. They took our belongings. I have nothing to go back to. I want to go to America")

Ann Danyal (Iraqi refugee, said "I left without saying goodbye to my parents - their graves. I still see them")

Basem Peter Rafael (aged 60, Iraqi refugee, said he named his son Salam ['Peace'] during the beginning of the 1991 Gulf War "because we were waiting for peace. Now he is 23, and still we are waiting")

Fr Khalil Jaar (**UPDATE**: has taken in 500 refugees including some Muslims at his church, said "They left their homes in a few hours...leaving everything behind them. It's a very big shock. That's why I do my best to help these people to overcome this situation and to look for a better life", added that many children arrive sick "because of the trauma of the incidents they suffered in Iraq: fear, insecure, no food")

Date reported: October 5, 2014

Location: Amman

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20141005185252.htm>



Kazakhstan

Nikolai Novikov (arrested on November 10, 2013 at an unregistered Sunday religious service; fined 50 MFIs on December 18, 2013; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 5 days' imprisonment for refusing to pay his fine)

Date: August 18, 2014

Location: Oral

Anatoly Stakhnev (case opened by prosecutors on January 16 or 17, 2014, fined 50 MFIs; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 10 days' imprisonment for refusing to pay his fine)

Date: July 11, 2014

Location: Semey

Pastor Vitaly Krasilnikov (church service raided region on March 20 2013, fined 100 MFIs on April 9 2013; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 1 day's imprisonment for refusing to pay his fine)

Date: January 21, 2014

Location: Oskemen, East Kazakhstan

Sergei Golovanenko (sentenced to 2 days' imprisonment for refusing to pay his fine)

Date: March 18, 2014

Location: Burabai

Nadezhda Yefin (religious literature seized, interrogated)

Margarita Yantsen (religious literature seized, interrogated)

Date: August 20, 2014

Location: Zhezkazgan, Karaganda region

Vladimir Milintsov (husband of Regina Milintsov, found guilty of illegal sharing of faith, fined 100 MFIs)

Regina Milintsov (wife of Vladimir Milintsov, found guilty of illegal sharing of faith, fined 100 MFIs)

Date: September 29, 2014

Locations: Ushtobe and Karatal, Almaty region

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2004

Event: Two Christians arrested for distributing religious literature without state permission, sentenced to ten days' imprisonment and fined four months' average wages

Vyacheslav Cherkasov (shoe repairman)

Zhasulan Alzhanov (plumber)

Dates: May 10 and October 6, 2014

Location: Akmola region

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2005



Laos

Event: Seven Christians arrested while eating lunch after a September 28 2014 worship service; UPDATE: all except the pastor have been released from detention

Pastor Sompong Supatto (**UPDATE**: "continues to be held with wooden stocks on his legs and handcuffs, in a position of restriction and torture")

Manivanh (aged 60)

Chai (aged 56)

Anna (aged 50)

Chanthanarm (aged 18)

Neal (aged 21)

Petsamone (aged 40)

Date: October 3, 2014

Location: Boukham village, Atsaphangthong district, Savannakhet province

Source: <http://www.bosnewslife.com/33841-news-alert-laos-releases-house-church-christians-but-pastor-detained>



Nigeria

Bishop Joseph Bagobiri (**UPDATE**: said that Christians had a binding religious obligation to defend themselves against Boko Haram with “moderate and proportionate force” and that reticence by Christians to defend themselves was a “gross act of irresponsibility”)

Date: October 4, 2014

Location: Zangon Kataf

Source: <http://www.osundefender.org/?p=189717>

Fr Gideon Obasogie (wrote that 154 parishes had been lost to Boko Haram)

Date: October 7, 2014

Location: Maiduguri

Source: <http://thenationonlineng.net/new/boko-haram-beheads-seven-in-borno/>

Adamu (aged 28, neck cut by Boko Haram militants after he refused to convert to Islam, left for dead, rescued days later by a fellow church member and taken to a hospital in Cameroon, suffered nerve damage, is undergoing rehabilitation)

Date: April 2013

Location: Musari village, Mungono area, Gwoza, Borno state

Ayuba (aged 29, husband, father of three aged 7, 5, and 1, shot three times after he refused to convert to Islam, left for dead, wife found him and had him brought to Cameroon for hospitalization, said “I have been praying that these Boko Haram gunmen will eventually get to know Jesus, repent of their crimes against the church, and become the followers of Jesus”)

Date: December 20, 2012

Location: Mainari village, Borno state

Source [warning - graphic]: <http://morningstarnews.org/2014/10/two-attempted-murders-by-boko-haram-show-islamic-extremist-motives/>

Pastor Rotimi Obajimi (abducted by Boko Haram, escaped after 10 months in captivity)

Dates: January 6 and October 10, 2014

Location: Maiduguri

Source: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-pastor-escapes-boko-haram-after-10-months-in-captivity-127859/>



Pakistan

Sardar Mushtaq Gill (attorney; **UPDATE:** decried the growing alliance between ISIL and the Pakistani Taliban as a major threat to religious liberty)

Date: October 6, 2014

Location: Lahore

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=4984>

Arif Masih (complained about the lack of utilities at Christian graveyards, Muslim graveyards have no such lack)

Fr Yousaf Amanat (expressed anger of the condition of the Christian graveyards “Why has the [municipal] authority ignored our graveyards despite us being equal citizens of the country?”)

Fr Ashraf Bhatti (complained “The irony is that one would only find two grave diggers in graveyards which is far fewer than what should be”)

Date: October 6, 2014

Location: Islamabad

Source: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/771850/the-final-stop-living-as-a-minority-and-beyond/>



Palestine

Fr Issa Musleh (said that continued emigration of Christians will make their churches into museums)

Date: October 7, 2014

Location: Jerusalem

Source [with photo]: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=57238>



Philippines

Bishop Alberto Ramento (**stabbed to death** in his home, murder still unsolved)

Date: October 3, 2006

Location: Tarlac, Luzon

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/justice-remains-elusive-eight-years-after-bishops-murder/72113>

Pastor Jerry Sanchez (described a grenade attack on his church that killed 2 and wounded 3)

Felomina Ferolin (aged 54, nurse, **died** en route to the hospital)

Gina Cabilona (aged 39, teacher, **died** in the hospital)

Bishop Reuel Norman Marigza (condemned the "dastardly" attack on the church)

Date: October 8, 2014

Location: Pikit, North Cotabato province, Mindanao

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/North-Cotabato:-grenade-attack-on-Protestant-church,-two-dead-and-three-wounded-32373.html>

and <http://www.ucanews.com/news/church-bombing-kills-two-in-southern-philippines/72138>



Syria

Fr Hanna Jallouf OFM (abducted by the al Qaeda-affiliated Jahbat al-Nusra Front along with up to 20 parishioners, whereabouts unknown;

released and returned to his residence, under house arrest, the four women abducted with him also released, whereabouts of the other parishioners unconfirmed;

five Christians still in captivity, including his uncle, a cook and his brother, and a custodian and his brother)

Bishop George Abu Khazen OFM (**UPDATE**: reported on the abduction of Fr Hanna Jallouf OFM)

Dates: October 6-10, 2014

Location: Knayeh village, Orontes valley

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/As-monk,-parishioners-are-abducted-in-Syria,-Gregory-calls-on-the-world-to-stop-extremists-32359.html>

and <http://www.aina.org/news/20141007141530.htm>

and <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Fr-Hanna-released,-fate-of-co-religionists-unknown-32382.html>

and <http://www.fides.org/en/news/36510->

[ASIA_SYRIA_The_four_women_abducted_along_with_Father_Hanna_have_been_released_no_message_from_the_kidnappers#.VDdcNcLwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36510-ASIA_SYRIA_The_four_women_abducted_along_with_Father_Hanna_have_been_released_no_message_from_the_kidnappers#.VDdcNcLwsfg)

and <http://www.fides.org/en/news/36520->

[ASIA_SYRIA_Five_Christians_of_the_Orontes_Valley_still_held_by_Islamic_jihadists#.VDijo8Lwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36520-ASIA_SYRIA_Five_Christians_of_the_Orontes_Valley_still_held_by_Islamic_jihadists#.VDijo8Lwsfg)

Sr Maria of Nazareth (Argentine citizen, has moved to Syria from Gaza)

Date: October 9, 2014

Location: Aleppo

Archbishop Jean-Abdo Arbach (said "To date our archdiocese has counted 96 martyrs [killed]. The fate of 26 people is uncertain")

Date: October 9, 2014

Location: Homs

Source [with photo]: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/our-church-is-in-danger-catholics-in-aleppo-homs-85201/>

Joy (has decided to stay to help the children she sees in the street from her window)

Abed (has decided to stay in his hometown to help)

Date: October 9, 2014

Source: <http://www.bpnews.net/43507/syrian-christians-stay-behind-to-help>



Turkey

Said (former restaurateur, Syrian refugee, wife in Sweden, told how his grandfather was deported from Turkey to Syria in 1915, said "Wherever we go, we're foreigners")

Lahdo (attorney, Syrian refugee, said of his escape "They were stopping vehicles while we were going to the city of al-Hasakah, demanding money and killing those who didn't pay with machine guns. There was no security left. No electricity, no water, no life; everything was gone")

Hasina Georgis (aged 74, fled Syria only to ease her children's concerns)

Georget (aged 58, Syrian refugee along with her twin 38 year old children, said "We had no means to live in Syria. Opposition fighters were bombing homes too, and we heard that they were beheading people in their sleep")

Date: October 7, 2014

Location: Istanbul

Source [with photos]: <http://www.aina.org/news/20141006214010.htm>



Ukraine

Fr Leonard Aduszkiewicz (said "We are woken at night by explosions, and the fighting is continuing, despite the truce. The people here feel utterly helpless; they are coming into the churches, praying and weeping")

Fr Pavel Tomaszewski (has assisted Fr Leonard Aduszkiewicz)

Date: October 2, 2014

Location: Mariupol

Source: <http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1412205175.html>

Archpriest Anatoly Mikhnevich (church attacked and occupied by pro-government militants, scufia [clerical hat] torn from his head, the local mayor is attempting to have the occupation ratified by popular vote on October 11, 2014)

Date: October 5, 2014

Location: Pereiaslav-Khmelnyskyi

Source: <http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/74228.htm>



United Kingdom

Mike Overd (street preacher; **UPDATE**: charged with a religious aggravation public order offense for drawing comparisons between the lives of Jesus and Muhammad)

Date: October 3, 2014

Location: Taunton

Source [with photo]: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/freedom-of-speech/street-preacher-to-be-prosecuted-for-comparing-the-lives-of-jesus-and>



United States - California

Auxiliary Bishop Robert McElroy (said the state government “directly targeted” two Catholic universities and violated Federal civil rights laws when it ordered them to cover abortions via their health insurance)

Date: October 3, 2014

Location: San Francisco

Source: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/calif-abortion-mandate-deemed-a-flagrant-violation-of-civil-rights-74580/>



Vietnam

Francis Xavier Dang Xuan Dieu (convicted on January 9, 2013, sentenced to 13 years imprisonment for "carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the people's

administration"; **UPDATE:** has been beaten for months and forced to be a slave to prisoners)

Date: October 9, 2014

Location: K3 barrack, Camp N. 5, Yên Dinh, Thanh Hoa province

Source [with photo]: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Vietnamese-Catholic-intellectual-treated-like-a-slave-in-prison-32380.html>

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