

Today's Martyrs
2014-10-26 through 2014-11-01



Argentina

Pastor and parishioner shot at multiple times in an apparent murder attempt by organized criminals in revenge for their work with addicts and prostitutes, not injured, given police protection

Pastor Marcelo Nieva (aged 34, husband of Janet, father of Marta)

Daniel Carreno

Date: October 21, 2014

Location: Rio Tercero, Cordoba province

Source: <http://dynamic.csw.org.uk/article.asp?t=press&id=1795&search=>



China

Pastor Zhang Shaojie (convicted on July 4, 2014 for fraud and disturbing public order, sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment and fined US\$16,113; **UPDATE:** family ordered to vacate his home, which will be sold at auction to pay his fine)

Wang Fengrui (wife of Pastor Zhang Shaojie, **UPDATE:** disabled, ordered to vacate her home along with her daughter and in-laws)

Zhang Wenqiang (aged 80, father of Pastor Zhang Shaojie, ordered to vacate his home along with his 78-year old wife, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter)

Zhang "Shanshan" Linxin (daughter of Pastor Zhang Shaojie and Wang Fengrui, **UPDATE:** ordered to vacate her home along with her husband, mother, and grandparents)

Date: October 26, 2014

Location: Nanle county, Henan province

Source [with photo]: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/10/henan-government-threatens-to-auction.html>

Rong Xiahu (home searched on May 16, 2014 by DSP agents looking for church members' names and phone numbers, Sunday worship service on June 8, 2014 broken up; **UPDATE:** given a written warning to leave the county, has left the province)

Dates: June 29 and October 28, 2014

Location: Mengla county, Xishuangbanna autonomous region, Yunnan province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/10/yunnan-missionary-driven-out-of-town.html>



Congo, Democratic Republic

Fr Jean-Berchomans Nguna (reported to have been missing for three weeks)

Date: October 28, 2014

Location: Abbey

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/36638->

[AFRICA CONGO DR A Congolese priest has disappeared for three weeks in Ituri#.VFBfo8Lwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36638-)



Egypt

Shadia Alham (widow, farmland seized by 'fanatics', police have refused to enforce a court order for its return)

Date: October 31, 2014

Location: Minya

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1237&A=16327>



India

Event: Social justice minister Thavar Chand Gehlot said that the government should not aid Christian Dalits ['trampled upon', untouchables] because there are none

Rev Kumar Swamy (national coordinator, All Indian Christian Council; **UPDATE:** criticized the government's continued discrimination against Dalits who are Christian or Muslim “As a Dalit Christian leader, I have to state that the position of the minister is unfortunate. The constitution clearly states that citizens will not be discriminated on the basis of religion”)

Rev Sunil Raj Philip (executive secretary of the Commission on Dalits, National Council of Churches, said “Whether Christians or Muslims do not have caste system is not the issue. The fact is that caste identity till today is a dominant identity in India and results in all forms of discrimination...Nobody can escape the Indian caste system by converting to other religions. After the conversion, they do not live in vacuum but in a casteist society itself...[Minister Gehlot's statement] is meant to fool the citizens of India pretending that casteism does not affect these religions. The minister is trying to cover up the fact that casteism in India is a product of Hinduism and it has spread its web to the entire social matrix of India...The fact that the minister admits that if this reservation is granted to

Dalit Christians and Muslims, Hindu Dalits will convert [to these faiths] is a telling point about forced allegiance to a religion. The State is actually involved in inducement through giving of reservations”)

Franklin Caesar (noted on May 12, 2014 that his court challenge to government discrimination against Dalit Christians has been delayed before the Supreme Court for 10 years by government evasions; **UPDATE**: said “On the political level, Hindu nationalists say all Indians are Hindus. But when it comes to the issue of equal rights to all Dalits, they divide them on the basis of religion...With the BJP in power, what is the point of protesting?”)

Date: October 21, 2014

Source: https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/10/article_3443328.html/

Sajan K George (President of the Global Council of Indian Christians; **UPDATE**: condemned an attack by 40-50 members of the Bajrang Dai [a Hindu nationalist youth organization] in which 12 Christians were injured)

Arun Pannalal (president of Chhattisgarh Christian Forum; **UPDATE**: said “The attack happened without any provocation. Christians had gathered for the meeting, which never happened and instead they were attacked”)

Date: October 25, 2014

Location: Madota village, Bastar district, Chhattisgarh state

Sources: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/More-violence-in-Chhattisgarh:-40-Hindu-radicals-attack-a-Christian-community-32531.html>

and <http://www.ucanews.com/news/christians-attacked-in-central-indias-chhattisgarh-state/72259>

Fr Ajay Kumar Singh (**UPDATE**: spoke concerning Hindu nationalists "They even want to impose only one language, Sanskrit, even though hundreds of languages are spoken in India...Especially under threat is the Christian minority because it is rejected by extremists as alien and because they regard the Christian message as endangering the caste system...It is important for us to understand what is happening. As a Church we must think way beyond the bounds of the individual dioceses, we must act regionally, nationally in order to find responses to this challenge. Otherwise [the pogrom in] Orissa 2008 will be repeated, even worse than then because we learnt no lessons from it")

Date: October 15, 2014

Source [with photo]: <http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1413326169.html>

Sajan K George (**UPDATE**: described the forced conversion of 310 Christians to Hinduism, the third such case in two months)

Date: October 26, 2014

Location: Jaunpur district, Uttar Pradesh state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Uttar-Pradesh:-310-Christians-reconverted-to-Hinduism-with-threats-32541.html>

Fr Cedric Prakash SJ (**UPDATE**: criticized the decision of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh [RSS] paramilitary organization to expand its news agency to the Telugu, Urdu and Oriya languages "... its ideology is not only fundamentalist but it is also fascist...Narendra

Modi, the current prime minister of India, was schooled in its ideology. His government has also replaced governors and chief ministers with figures who toe the RSS line...India indeed faces hard times ahead...for the secular and pluralistic fabric of India, which, given the ideology of the RSS, is bound to be destroyed")

Date: October 29, 2014

Location: Ahmedabad, Gujarat state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Indian-Jesuit,-radical-Hindu-news-service-is-a-tragedy-for-democracy-32559.html>

Rev Bhupendra Kohra (**UPDATE:** described an attack on Christians that led to 12 hospitalizations, with 7 in serious condition "Some of the injured Christians were admitted in a hospital in Jagdalpur, and some local Christians have also been forced to go into hiding due to the constant threats they received from the right-wing groups")

Date: October 25, 2014

Location: Madota village, Bastar District, Chhattisgarh state

Laxman (beaten unconscious by his three brothers, still hospitalized)

Rev Akhilesh Edgar (**UPDATE:** said "The Hindu extremists were behind the attack" on Laxman)

Dates: October 20-31, 2014

Location: Tokapal area, Bastar District, Chhattisgarh state

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2014/10/bans-on-christian-activity-in-chhattisgarh-state-india-escalate-into-violence/>



Iraq

Metropolitan Daoud Matti Sharaf (said "Winter is coming. We need shelter. Not tents, but houses and 'caravans' [winterized 'tents' with flooring]. We have no hope. Only God. We will not return to Mosul unless there is international protection...[People in the West] say they do not know. How can you not know? You either support ISIL or you have turned off all of the satellites. I am sorry to say this, but my pain is big. I am an archbishop and I have no churches. I am not afraid of anything. I have lost everything")

Date: October 26, 2014

Location: Erbil, Kurdistan

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20141026155800.htm>

Athra Mansour (Syriac language teacher, said his town was empty)

Date: October 27, 2014

Location: Tel Isqof

Basima al-Safar (muralist, said "I will paint the Christians as homeless people, emigrating with bags. I will paint the truth")

Thaer Saeed (grandfather, said "No one is working here. I drive a taxi from Baghdad to Alqosh and I can't work because it's too dangerous and there are no customers")

Deacon Salim Qoda

Deacon Wadhah Sabih (said "we are living cautiously; every family is ready to flee")

Mrayma Mansour (disc jockey, wanted international protection against ISIL, said "If this doesn't happen I will get my passport, family and try to go to another country because it won't be safe")

Date: October 27, 2014

Location: Alqosh

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20141027171746.htm>

Martin Barni (seminarian, fled his town with the Eucharist ahead of the ISIL advance)

Date: August 7, 2014

Location: Karamlesh

Source [with photo]: <http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1413507719.html>

Sr Luma (fled her town with 35 other nuns and an orphan girl ahead of the ISIL takeover, said "We had only one choice: face death or leave")

Date: August 2014

Location: Qaraqosh

Source [with photo]: <http://www.aina.org/news/20141029033328.htm>

Fr Andrzej Halemba (head of the Middle East department of Aid to the Church in Need, said "Without question, we are talking about genocide here. Genocide is not only when the people are killed, but also when the soul of a people is destroyed. And that is what is happening in Iraq now. It is the most tragic thing that I have ever experienced. I have seen people who have been deeply wounded in their soul. In the various crises in this world I have often seen people who have lost everything. But in Iraq there are Christians who have had to leave everything and take flight three or four times...They are all very traumatised. Normally in such situations it is the women who pull everything together. But in Kurdistan I have seen women who have looked into nothingness and have closed up on themselves. The tears in their eyes are dry")

Date: October 29, 2014

Source [with photo]: <http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1414546563.html>

Mazen Samuel Ayoub (aged 57, fled his home during the ISIL takeover, lost all of his possessions at an ISIL checkpoint, told 'Get out and leave the car. Nothing belongs to you anymore. You are running away from Mosul! You are running away! Where are you going to go? Wherever you go, we will follow you')

Date: June 10, 2014

Location: Mosul

Source: <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/features/2014/10/31/the-iraqis-determined-to-seize-control-of-their-future-after-fleeing-isis/>

Ayad (reported that ISIL has been planting explosives in the abandoned homes of Christians to kill them if they should return)

Date: October 30, 2014

Location: Tel Keppe

Source: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/isis-militants-plant-bombs-inside-villagers-homes-to-explode-when-they-return-says-iraqi-christian-whose-town-was-captured-128879/>



Jordan

Maythim Najib (aged 37, abducted and stabbed 12 times in Mosul, Iraq, now a refugee, said of ISIL "diversity is dead or at least dying")

Radwan Shamra (aged 35, saw two friends shot dead in Mosul, Iraq, now a refugee)

Saif Jebrita (photographer, fled Mosul in Iraq after told by ISIL fighters that photography was un-Islamic, said "We are very much part of the Arab culture, we are citizens of Iraq. What do we go back to? There is no home, and if this continues, there will be no country")

Date: October 27, 2014

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20141027031852.htm>



Kosovo

Bishop Teodosije (deplored the appearance of pro-ISIL graffiti on October 12, 2014 in Decani and verbal threats made against Christian monks and nuns; **UPDATE**: requested that a fence be installed around the monastery)

Abbot Archimandrite Sava (**UPDATE**: said that the October 12, 2014 pro-ISIL graffiti was the most serious event since a 2007 rocket propelled grenade attack)

Date: October 12, 2014

Location: Decani

Source: <http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2014/10/one-day-after-first-graffiti-new-extremist-graffiti-on-the-gates-of-decani-monastery-bishop-teodosije-requests-the-barbed-wire-fence/>



Nigeria

Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme (**UPDATE**: said "The last one month has seen the intensification and aggressive devastation of the Boko Haram activities...Many of our people are being

forced out of their ancestral homes, villages and towns. Right now, thousands are living in caves on the mountains, some in the forest, the few who were able to escape are being absorbed by friends and relatives in Maiduguri, Mubi and Yola. Thousands have managed to escape into the Cameroons and are living under very difficult conditions of lack of food, shelter and medication...Women who could not escape were forced to convert to Islam and married out to the terrorists, some of the elderly who cannot escape are being killed, some are left to die from hunger and starvation...we will ever remain grateful and thankful to all of you for your prayers, support and closeness in this moment of great trials and tribulations...We are committed to witness to the Gospel and pay the price when the time comes")

Date: October 29, 2014

Location: Maiduguri

Source: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/life-is-cheaper-than-salt-a-nigerian-bishop-facing-boko-haram-62944/>

Joshua Chinasa (fled his village during an attack "We are in serious trouble as these boys have taken over our towns, splitting in groups with some Boko Haram members advancing towards Mararraban Mubi and Vintim, the home town of Chief of Defence Staff, Air Marshal Alex Badeh, giving Nigerian troops a hot chase. Mubi has now become a ghost of itself as people in their hundreds are fleeing for their lives. Even here in Maiha, we saw military vehicles zooming off towards Yola, the state capital")

Date: October 30, 2014

Location: Uba

Source: <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2014/10/residents-flee-mubi-insurgents-take/#sthash.usbxC7pQ.dpuf>

Peters Joshua (described the aftermath of a Boko Haram attack "Thousands of people have deserted Mubi and neighboring towns as people scatter into various directions, with some heading towards Cameroon Republic as others headed for Yola and Maiha towns. Many ran into the bush")

Date: October 28, 2014

Source: <http://thenationonlineng.net/new/scores-die-as-boko-haram-seizes-barracks-prison/>



Sierra Leone

Br Themis Adams (Australian citizen, former rock musician; **UPDATE:** reported on the continuing Ebola epidemic surrounding his mission)

Date: October 28, 2014

Location: Freetown

Source [with photo]: <http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2014/10/some-mornings-when-i-wake-up-with-a-sniffle-or-a-symptom-of-any-type-i-think-to-myself-this-is-it-i-have-ebola-fr-themis-adams/>

Fr Anthony Patrick S Santianez CFX (missionary, Philippine citizen, intends to stay in the country despite the Philippine government's request that all its citizens leave Ebola affected areas)

Date: October 31, 2014

Location: Makeni

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Filipino-priest-says-he-will-remain-in-Sierra-Leone-and-risk-Ebola-for-his-faithful-32575.html>



Sudan

Ibrahim Ismaeil Ibrahim (aged 34, convert, human rights author, husband, father of a son aged 7 and a daughter aged 5, attacked in his home after it was discovered he had left Islam, fled the country for another undisclosed African country, now resides in a UNHCR refugee camp)

Date: January 2013

Location: Geneina, West Dafur

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2014/10/human-rights-defender-in-sudan-without-home-country-after-muslim-extremist-gun-attack/>



Turkmenistan

Event UPDATE: Eight Christians released from prison in an amnesty

Aibek Salayev

Amirlan Tolkachev

Bahram Shamuradov

Dovran Matyakubov

Matkarim Aminov

Merdan Amanov

Pavel Paymov

Suhrab Rahmanberdiyev

Date: October 22, 2014

Location: Seydi Labor Camp

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2009



United Kingdom

Aisleen Hubert (aged 21, has brought a private prosecution against 3 doctors implicated in illegal gender-selection abortions after Crown prosecutors refused to prosecute)

Date: October 27, 2014

Source [with photo]: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/abortion/private-prosecution-of-gender-selection-abortion-doctors>

Nohad Halawi (dismissed from her position in a duty free shop at Heathrow Airport due to unfounded allegations brought by Islamist staff in retaliation for her defense of a Christian colleague from their harassment, 22 colleagues [including Muslims] signed a petition in her defense; **UPDATE**: the Court of Appeals ruled that she had no discrimination protection under the law because she was a contract employee, said that she will appeal on the basis that EU law differs in this matter)

Date: October 28, 2014

Location: London

Source: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/religious-freedom/court-of-appeal-says-christian-worker-has-no-discrimination-protectio>



United States - North Carolina

Event: Legalization of same sex marriage and denial of any conscientious objection has led to several resignations of judges and magistrates

John Kallam Jr

Gilbert Breedlove

Bill Stevenson

Tommy Holland

Gayle Myrick

Jeff Powell

Date reported: October 30, 2014

Source: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/four-more-north-carolina-judges-resign-over-refusal-to-conduct-same-sex-weddings-128890/>

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