

**Today's Martyrs**  
**2014-11-23 through 2014-11-29**



**Bangladesh**

Pastor Arif Mondol (detained with a second pastor for preaching the Gospel to 41 people, including Muslims, could face two years' imprisonment if convicted of offending religious sentiments)

Date: November 9, 2014

Location: Nabinagar village, Lalmonirhat district

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2014/11/two-pastors-in-bangladesh-face-charges-for-proclaiming-christ-to-muslims/>

**Event: Christian school attacked by 200 Islamists from two madrasas [Islamic schools] due to rumors of forced conversions, students uninjured, 17 arrested including 3 madrasa teachers**

John Prokash Sarker (teacher, escaped from six madrasa students armed with knives and machetes)

Sumitra Kunda (aged 25, teacher, suffered a serious head injury)

Michael Robin Mondol (principal, hidden by the school staff from the Islamists who named him as a target, said "A wave of panic swept through the school and traumatized everyone. Many students became sick in the following days")

Date: November 5, 2014

Location: Konabari

Source: [https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/11/article\\_3500298.html/](https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2014/11/article_3500298.html/)



**Central African Republic**

**Event: Christian ministers have begun to render aid to former members of the Seleka and anti-balaka militias**

Archbishop Dieudonne Nzapalainga (**UPDATE**: said of the aid being given to the former Seleka fighters "For me, as a man of God, where there are men, women and children, these are God's children, created in His image and I have the obligation to help them")

Rev Nicolas Guerekoyame-Gbangou (**UPDATE**: has begun to aid former Seleka fighters)

Fr Patrick Mbea CSSp (announced the creation of schools in a camp that houses former Seleka fighters, hopes to open other schools)

Date: November 24, 2014

Location: Bangui

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/36830->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA Mgr Nzapalainga and the Church in aid of former Seleka rebels a gesture of forgiveness and reconciliation#.VHVXt8Lwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36830-AFRICA_CENTRAL_AFRICA_Mgr_Nzapalainga_and_the_Church_in_aid_of_former_Seleka_rebels_a_gesture_of_forgiveness_and_reconciliation#.VHVXt8Lwsfg)

Fr Mateusz Dziedzic (abducted in Baboua on October 12, 2014 by the Front Democratique du Peuple Centrafricain [FDPC - a former ally of Seleka] in an attempt to free its leader from jail in Cameroon; **UPDATE**: released unharmed)

Fr Mirek Gucwa (announced the release of Fr Mateusz Dziedzic)

Date: November 26, 2014

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/36846->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA The Vicar General of Bouar Fr Mateusz is fine and was released without the use of force#.VHf\\_4cLwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36846-AFRICA_CENTRAL_AFRICA_The_Vicar_General_of_Bouar_Fr_Mateusz_is_fine_and_was_released_without_the_use_of_force#.VHf_4cLwsfg)



## China

Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-Kium SBD (**UPDATE**: said "communism has destroyed all human values. So to save human values we have to work hard to spread the good news of Jesus Christ")

Date: November 23, 2014

Location: Rome, Italy

Source [with photo]: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/zen-says-he-sees-no-good-will-from-china-toward-the-pope/72460>

Chen (church leader, described how local authorities forced the demolition of the top two stories of his church)

Date: November 25, 2014

Location: Linyi, Shangdong

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/11/authorities-remove-crosses-on-churches.html>

Guo Yongfeng (pro-democracy activist, prohibited from attending Bible study by the DSPS)

Date: November 14, 2014

Location: Shenzhen, Guangdong

Source [with photo]: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2014/11/shenzhen-authorities-block-pro.html>



## Egypt

**Event: Gunmen rob residents of a Christian village as they leave it, two cousins shot**

Ernst Kamel (cousin of Eid Gendy, shot, left for dead, said “They were ambushing anyone from our village, as all the residents of our village are Christians, to attack him and rob him. The Christians in our village are targeted...Also after our incident the security forces deployed across the village for four days. After they had left the village, the Islamic gangs came back to our village carrying the weapons, terrorizing the Christians, imposing extortion money on them amid a state of indifference and complicity by the police”)

Eid Gendy (cousin of Ernst Kamel, **shot dead**)

Fr Mossa Shaker (said “just a few days after the incident of the shooting of the two Copts, some armed masked Muslim thugs stopped a pickup-truck owned by a Christian man loaded with mango fruit. They seized his pickup-truck and 500 Egyptian pounds from the owner. The Christian residents of Muharraq Monastery village are living in a state of tyranny, bullying, and oppression by the Islamic gangs of three neighboring villages called Alaghima village, the Great Manshiyya village, and Khashba village without any intervention from the police to protect them”)

Date: September 3, 2014

Location: Muharraq Monastery, Assiut province

Source: <http://www.persecution.org/2014/11/26/a-deadly-shooting-in-upper-egypt/>

Fr Shenouda Sabry (described a bomb explosion near his church)

Date: November 28, 2014

Location: Al-Wasty, Beni Suef province

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=58243>

Nagwa Shehata (sister of Magdi Shehata Kheir, disappeared on her first day at work after a vacation)

Magdi Shehata Kheir (aged 26, brother of Nagwa Shehata, commented on his sister's disappearance)

Date: November 19, 2014

Location: Giza

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=58250>



## India

**Event: Another church attacked by Hindu fundamentalists, eight wounded, church vandalized, threats made to not rebuild**

Pastor Robert Solomon D'Souza (detained by police for questioning)

Kribakaran (aged 35, hit on the head with an iron bar, collapsed, hospitalized)

Krupakar (legs broken, hospitalized)

Wilson (legs broken, hospitalized)

Date: November 23, 2014

Location: Gangammalaya, Bangarapet, Karnataka state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Karnataka,-Hindu-radicals-attack-a-Pentecostal-church:-eight-injured,-two-serious-32775.html>

and <http://www.persecution.org/2014/11/26/church-service-attack-in-southern-india-leaves-christians-churches-broken/>



## Indonesia

Fr Yohandes Purba Tamtomo (spoke at a Constitutional Court hearing in favor of overturning the ban on interfaith marriages)

Date: November 25, 2014

Location: Jakarta

Source [with photo]: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/prohibiting-interfaith-marriage-violates-rights-indonesian-bishops/72470>



## Iran

Maryam Naghash-Zargaran aka Nasim (aged 35, began serving four years imprisonment on July 15, 2013, apparently has had a heart attack in Evin prison in Tehran, transferred to Modares hospital on September 29, 2013; **UPDATE**: subjected to an extremely invasive and public strip search upon returning to prison after a four day furlough, health has been precarious)

Date: November 12, 2014

Source [with photo]:

[http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9469:female-christian-prisoner-strip-searched-upon-her-return-to-prison&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279](http://mohabatnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9469:female-christian-prisoner-strip-searched-upon-her-return-to-prison&catid=36:iranian-christians&Itemid=279)



## Iraq

Fr Jalal Yako (returned to the country to persuade Christians to stay, decided that the violence of the Islamic State [ISIL] required him to reconsider, said "everything has changed since the coming of Daesh [ISIL]. We should flee. There is nothing for us here")

Johanna Towaya (described how the Kurdish Peshmerga militia assured Christians they would defend them from ISIL and then abandoned them)

Adel Matti (husband of Fida Boutros Matti, father of three, pretended to convert to Islam to save his family)

Fida Boutros Matti (wife of Adel Matti, separated from her husband, put in a cell with Yazidi girls aged 10 to 18 and witnessed their serial rapes, told her captors that her 10 year old daughter was 8, agreed with her husband that they needed to convert, released, escaped to Kurdish territory)

Date: August 7, 2014

Location: Qaraqosh

Source [with photo]: <http://www.aina.org/news/20141123191542.htm>

Samir Abdul-Samad (lost his official documents when he fled Mosul in mid-July 2014)

Fr Ayman Aziz Hermiz (said “The displaced can get hold of new official papers they lost – such as identity cards or certificates of nationality as well as ration cards. But the problem is they have to go to Baghdad to do this and a lot of them cannot afford to travel there, or stay there, in order to do this. Passports can be replaced in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah”)

Yonadam Kanna (member of parliament; **UPDATE**: said that the government in Bagdad needed to replace the official documents of displaced Christians what were stolen by ISIL, added that the government needed to create a National Commission for the Displaced)

Date: November 20, 2014

Source: <http://www.niqash.org/articles/?id=3579>

Abu Nabil (family displaced)

Date reported: November 22, 2014

Location: Najaf

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=58120>



## Jordan

Samira (Syrian refugee, said “My husband is illegally working in a restaurant that sells juices for people. We have to; otherwise, we couldn’t afford the rent”)

Date reported: November 24, 2014

Location: Mafraq

Fatim Bohlak (aged 52, wife of Issa, Syrian refugee, left after their home was bombed to "all bricks and ruins")

Issa (aged 63, husband of Fatim Bohlak, Syrian refugee, retired civil servant, said that the Jordanians as becoming less friendly to the refugees)

Issm Darwish (aged 33, Syrian refugee, sells coffee on the streets to support his family)

Zait Masri (aged 24, Jordanian citizen, spoke on the plight of the Syrian refugees “The last thing we heard in the media was Syrian women marrying Jordanians to get citizenship...The camps are just bad. Some of them would sleep out in the snow...It’s almost impossible for them to find work. It’s hard enough for us to get work”)

Fr Rifat Bader (Jordanian resident, said that most of the Iraqi refugees do not want to go back)

Date reported: November 24, 2014

Location: Amman

Source: <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/syrian-and-iraqi-refugee-mega-crisis-is-out-of-control/>



## Kenya

Douglas Ochwodho (survived an attack in which Al Shabaab insurgents killed 28 non-Muslims they had pulled from a bus, including his wife, said “We were ordered to lie down, many of us, because we could not recite the Quran”)

Date: November 22, 2014

Location: near Mandera

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2014/11/al-shabaab-executes-28-non-muslims-in-northern-kenya/>



## Lebanon

Christina (Syrian refugee, survived a rebel attack on a bus, hand tremors from imbedded shrapnel)

Date reported: November 24, 2014

Location: Beirut

Source: <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/syrian-and-iraqi-refugee-mega-crisis-is-out-of-control/>

Nour Astifo (father of Sandra Astifo, Syrian refugee)

Sandra Astifo (aged 3, daughter of Nour Astifo, Syrian refugee)

Mazen Bulos (Iraqi refugee, said "When I was born there was the Iran war, then a war with Kuwait, then a siege, then the 2003 war and then sectarianism. Then bombings, murder, kidnappings, and now this year we have Daesh [ISIL]. I swear since we have been born we haven't had peace, from war to war...How can you not fear a man who beheads? And we are 15 minutes away from him")

Salar Amer Habib (aged 52, Iraqi refugee)

Valentina (young girl, refugee)

Date: November 26, 2014

Location: Dikwaneh, Beirut

Source [with photos]: <http://www.aina.org/news/20141125193843.htm>



## Nigeria

Archbishop Ignatius Ayau Kaigama (**UPDATE**: said at a national prayer pilgrimage “Brothers and sisters, there is no better time to storm the heavens with prayers and petitions than now...Our darling innocent school girls from Chibok are still being held over six months since their abduction. Only God knows the psychological and physical trauma they are going through...There are still ongoing terrorist activities that are not only causing the loss of lives and so much havoc but are enjoying territorial expansion. Bombings and slaughter of innocent Nigerians, especially in the northeast, have become regular”)

Date: November 13, 2014

Source: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/facing-boko-haram-nigerians-storm-the-heavens-with-prayers-32290/>

Fr Patrick Tor Alumuku (**UPDATE**: said "A few months ago in Kano the police discovered tailors who were sewing tunics for nun intended for bombers that were to mingle in the crowd of faithful to blow themselves up...In the last month there have been at least 4 or 5 attacks committed by women suicide in Nigeria. The last one was in the market of Maiduguri, on November 25, with two women suicide that caused 70 deaths according to the last toll. Previously similar attacks took place at the University of Kano and in that of Kotangora, while last week a girl blew herself up in a school classroom with thirty students. The alarm regarding the growing use of suicide women bombers is demonstrated by the fact that the Nigerian police recommended to shorten the exposure time of the Blessed Sacrament in the churches of Abuja on Sunday, November 23, the feast of Christ the King, and to reduce the procession. The police advised us to throw out unknown women who looked pregnant because the bombers hide bombs under false bellies")

Date: November 27, 2014

Location: Abuja

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/36850-AFRICA\\_NIGERIA\\_Boko\\_Haram\\_plans\\_attacks\\_with\\_suicide\\_women\\_bombers\\_disguised\\_as\\_nuns#.VHf-tsLwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36850-AFRICA_NIGERIA_Boko_Haram_plans_attacks_with_suicide_women_bombers_disguised_as_nuns#.VHf-tsLwsfg)

Mercy Paul (schoolgirl, abducted on April 14, 2014 in Chibok, Borno state by Boko Haram gunmen, escaped by jumping from a truck, now studying in the United States)

Date reported: November 28, 2014

Location: Canyonville, Oregon

Source [with video]: <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/missing-nigeria-schoolgirls/i-jumped-one-womans-story-escape-boko-haram-n257451>

Hannatu Ishaku (widow of Yohanna Ishaku, mother of two daughters, lost her husband and two sons in a Boko Haram attack, said “Maybe they had taken refuge at the church building when they fell into the hands of the attackers”)

Yohanna Ishaku (husband of Hannatu Ishaku, father of two daughters, **killed along with his two sons** in a Boko Haram attack, bodies found near their church)

Date: early 2014

Location: Damboa

Daniel Kadzai (Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria - North Central Zone, said "The Federal Government has toyed with the lives and limbs of the Christians in Northern Nigeria for political gains. There is no explanation the government can give as to why the Federal troops will run away from the towns prior to the attack on such towns by Boko Haram without putting up any resistance, if the government does not have a hand in the whole genocide on Northern Christians as is being speculated in the local and foreign media...The international community has refused to notice the pogrom on Northern Nigerian Christians. Rather they have shifted their attention and resources only to Iraq, Syria, Gaza and Afghanistan as if those being killed in Nigeria are not human beings")



## Pakistan

Rakha Shahzad (aged 35, **died during torture** while in police custody)

Fr Francis Nadeem OFM Cap (**UPDATE**: condemned the murder of Rakha Shahzad)

Date: November 25, 2014

Location: Lahore

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/36826-ASIA\\_PAKISTAN\\_Christian\\_tortured\\_and\\_killed\\_while\\_in\\_police\\_custody#.VHViEsLwsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/36826-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Christian_tortured_and_killed_while_in_police_custody#.VHViEsLwsfg)

Ashiq Masih (husband of Asia Noreen Bibi, **UPDATE**: appealed to the President to spare his wife from her death sentence for blasphemy)

Date: November 25, 2014

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=58187>

Elishba Bibi (aged 28, three months pregnant, beaten with a pipe for having disagreed with her attackers' family, stripped naked and dragged into the streets, miscarried)

Date: November 16, 2014

Location: Christian colony [ghetto], Rana Town, Sheikhpura district, Punjab province

Source [with photo]: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/pakistani-christian-woman-miscarries-after-stripped-beaten-in-public/72497>





## Sudan

**Event: five church leaders arrested for opposing the demolition of their church, hundreds of church members have acted as human shields protecting the remaining buildings**

Pastor Dawood Fadul (**UPDATE**)

Elder Fathi Hakim

Elder Nouh Manzoul

Deacon Iman Hamid

Tilal Mafishi

Date: November 25, 2014

Location: North Khartoum

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2014/11/police-in-sudan-arrest-church-leaders-for-refusing-to-surrender-worship-property/>



## Syria

Fr Elias Hanout (aged 38, presided over the Divine Liturgy as artillery shook his church, later said "It's simple. If the West wants Syria to remain a country for Christian people, then help us to stay here: stop arming terrorists")

Afaf Azam (aged 52, said as artillery shook his church during the Divine Liturgy "I have been coming to this church since I was born. But now the situation is very bad. Everyone is afraid. Jihadists control villages around us")

Eva Astefan (aged 43, mother of Adel Astefan, aunt of Joseph Haroun, applied for UN asylum after her daughter was shot dead by a sniper in 2012)

Adel Astefan (aged 14, daughter of Eva Astefan, **shot dead** in 2012 by a sniper)

Joseph Haroun (aged 29, nephew of Eva Astefan, said "Its our country and we love it, but we feel we have little choice [but to leave]. The terrorists kidnap and kill our men and dangle the holy cross over their bodies")

Date: November 22, 2014

Location: Izraa

Source [with photo]: <http://www.aina.org/news/20141122151543.htm>

Georges Bakhache (said "A lot of members of our community have left because they lost their jobs and because of terror of Daesh [ISIL]. Despite it all, we will not leave our land. Impossible...[ISIL terrorists] are not in town but they're not far...Christians panicked

when they saw what happened to the Christians of Mosul [Iraq. It made] a big stir here and Christians left for Lebanon, Sweden, Canada, America and Armenia")

Father Imad Daher (**UPDATE:** said "We will celebrate Christmas...We will celebrate with a Mass for peace")

Date reported: November 27, 2014

Location: Aleppo

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20141126225316.htm>



### **United States - Georgia**

Fire Rescue Chief Kelvin Cochran (church deacon, suspended for one month without pay for publishing a book defending traditional Christian morality)

Date reported: November 27, 2014

Location: Atlanta

Source [with photo]: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/atlanta-fire-chief-fined-more-than-14000-for-publishing-christian-views-of>

### **United States - Missouri**

Pastor Carlton Lee (church destroyed by arson, has received death threats)

Date: November 25, 2014

Location: Ferguson

Source: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/michael-brown-familys-church-torched-destroyed-pastor-suspects-white-supremacists-to-blame-130281/>



### **Uzbekistan**

Denis Absattarov (home raided by police for holding an illegal religious service, police proceeded to plant religious literature, fined US\$245)

Kurbanay Abdiyeva (caught in the police raid on the home of Denis Absattarov, fined US\$45)

Arina Kim (caught in the police raid on the home of Denis Absattarov, fined US\$45)

Vladimir Mehseriyakov (caught in the police raid on the home of Denis Absattarov, fined US\$45)

Dates: September 5 and October 2, 2014

Location: Syrdarya

Durdona Abdullayeva (mother of Ulugbek Kenzhayev, home raided by police, fined US\$1,330 for illegal possession of religious materials)

Ulugbek Kenzhayev (son of Durdona Abdullayeva, home raided by police, fined US\$1,330 for illegal possession of religious materials)

Dates: [October 24 and November 11, 2014](#)

Location: [Tashkent](#)

Stanislav Ovsyannikov (caught in a police raid, fined US\$1,120)

Aleksandr Kyulminov (caught in a police raid, fined US\$890)

Dmitry Grebenkin (caught in a police raid, fined US\$890)

Dmitriy Khramov (caught in a police raid, fined US\$890)

Madina Marajapova (caught in a police raid, fined US\$890)

Ravshan Rahmanov (caught in a police raid, fined US\$890)

Rustam Saksanbayev (caught in a police raid, fined US\$890)

Sergey Shlufman (caught in a police raid, fined US\$890)

Yuriy Aleksandrov (caught in a police raid, fined US\$890)

Dates: [October 22 and November 10, 2014](#)

Location: [Tashkent](#)

**Event: Christians fined on appeal for an illegal religious service**

Nurman Shelmatov (fined US\$3,560)

Dilmurod Rakhmatullayev (fined US\$3,560)

Gulshad Ermanova (fined US\$2,670)

Lana Abushayeva (fined US\$890)

Zulaykho Rakhmatullayeva (fined US\$890)

Khadija Tilepova (fined US\$890)

Buaysha Muminova (fined US\$890)

Balkhiya Baytasheva (fined US\$890)

Shakhnoza Usmanova (fined US\$890)

Ibrahim Usmanov (fined US\$890)

Aliya Sek (fined US\$890)

Flora Li (fined US\$890)

Snezhana Li (fined US\$890)

Zaniya Kisenbayeva (fined US\$890)

Kaldigul Kulshinbayeva (fined US\$890)

Khidoyat Chinibekova (fined US\$223)

Albina Umarova (fined US\$223)

Gulbahor Shelmatova (fined US\$223)

Date: October 27, 2014

Location: Taskkent

Aleksei Meshkov (husband of Diana Meshkov, home raided by police on August 5, 2014, religious books seized, raid appears to have been retribution for their attempt to re-register their church; **UPDATE**: fined US\$890)

Date: September 12, 2014

Location: Samarkand

**Event: Christians fined after a police raid on a church summer camp**

Vladislav Potrapelyuk (fined US\$134)

Arkadiy Belik (**UPDATE**: fined US\$134)

Pavel Peychev (**UPDATE**: fined US\$134)

Sergey Zakharov (**UPDATE**: fined US\$134)

Gulnara Khokhlova (fined US\$89)

Dates: July 30 and September 5, 2014

Location: Tashkent

Source: [http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2018](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2018)

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