

**Today's Martyrs**  
**2015-03-22 through 2015-03-28**



**Bangladesh**

'Samuel' (alias, baptized along with his wife by 'Paul', after returning home were beaten by their neighbors for leaving Islam, home vandalized)

'Paul' (alias, baptized 'Samuel' and his wife, beaten, home vandalized, fired from his job)

Date: February 2, 2015

Location: Gobindagonj, Gaibandha district

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Local-mob-beat-Bangladeshi-converts-after-baptism>



**Canada**

**Event: Christians from My Canada met with Members of Parliament to describe growing attacks on religious freedom and to call for the creation of an Office of Religious Freedom**

Bill Prankard (said “We believe it is the government’s duty to protect our religious rights under the Charter. But it is also the duty of every Christian to speak up in defence of our values and rights. Too many have been silent and complacent”)

Faytene Grasseschi (said “We were catalyzed by the persecution of Trinity Western University by the Bank of Montreal and the law societies” under which the bank successfully pressured the societies to prevent the Christian university's law school graduates from joining the bar)

Lia Milousis (said “I myself have been a victim of bullying in my high school because of my Christian faith and have sat in classes where it is mocked at university. This type of persecution is wrong and alarming. If this creeping barrage continues Canada will become a nation far removed from the values that have made it great”)

Majed El Shafie (Egyptian refugee, said “Within our schools, within our churches even, we are being told what to think and what to say...It is not so bad now compared to other parts of the world. But over the next 10 or 20 years, it will affect us all, step by step, little by little, unless we do something...I don’t blame the people who are doing this. I blame the Christians who are silent about it. In the absence of light, the darkness rules”)

Andre Schutten (said that “a radical religious secularism...[a] new religion [is running things] and even a lot of so-called Christians don’t realize they are actually living their lives in this world view”)

Charles McVety

Date: March 26, 2015

Location: Ottawa

Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/faith-leaders-decry-persecution-of-christians-in-canada-at-parliament-hill>



## China

### **Event: Two underground priests arrested after Mass, both taken to an unknown location**

Fr Shaoyun Quan (aged 41)

Fr Jianyou Cao (aged 43)

Date: March 22, 2015

Location: Mutanjiang, Heilongjiang province

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/BREAKING-NEWS:-Chinese-police-seize-two-priests-in-Mutanjiang-33786.html>

Pastor Huang Yizi (aged 40, taken into custody on August 2, 2014 while resisting the demolition of his church's cross; reported on August 26, 2014 to have been charged with 'gathering to assault a state organ', faces a possible sentence of 10 years' imprisonment, had said "I know I will be put in jail one day"; **UPDATE:** convicted of 'gathering a crowd to disturb public order', sentenced to one year in prison, appeal underway due to denials of rights during the trial)

Liu (said "A few days ago, every church in the area received a call from the religious affairs bureau, warning church members not to go to the trial")

Date: March 24, 2015

Location: Wenzhou, Pingyang county, Zhejiang province

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Zhejiang:-Protestant-clergyman-jailed-for-opposing-cross-removal-33818.html>

and <http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/03/zhejiang-pastor-sentenced-to-1-year-in.html>

### **Event: Ten members of the Total Scope Church given administrative detentions of 7 days for cult activity, released**

Wang Denglan

Zhu Zhanmei

Tang Aiqiao

Fu Chenghua

Cao Yumei

Wang Jinglian

Zhu Qiaorong

Zhuang Chonglan

Zhuang Ronghua

Zhuang Chongmei

Pastor Zhang Fangliang (arranged for legal representation for the arrested church members)

Date: March 12-19, 2015

Location: Suqian, Siyang county, Jiangsu province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/03/10-jiangsu-worshippers-administratively.html>

**Event: Eight Christians pled guilty to 'gathering a crowd to disturb public order' and 'illegal occupation of farmland', charges were lodged due to their attempt to prevent the April 28, 2014 demolition of a church**

Guo Yunhua

Zhao Rendi (sentenced to one year in prison, three years' suspended)

Chen Shiyu

Weng Jitong

Chen Daozhen

Wu Guoliang

Weng Linguang

Bian Shengguang

Zhu Jiali (charged, **died of heart disease** in 2014)

Date: March 25, 2015

Location: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/03/eight-zhejiang-christians-from-sanjiang.html>



## Colombia

Fr Fernando Meza Luna (**shot dead** in an attempted robbery)

Date: March 21, 2015

Location: Sincelejo, Sucre department

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/37489->

[AMERICA\\_COLOMBIA\\_A\\_priest\\_killed\\_after\\_a\\_violent\\_attempted\\_robbery#.VRDxUsJTEfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37489-AMERICA_COLOMBIA_A_priest_killed_after_a_violent_attempted_robbery#.VRDxUsJTEfg)



## Egypt

Kyrillos Gerges (aged 21, abducted for ransom)

Ashraf Sedik (aged 30, abducted for ransom)

Date: March 25, 2015

Location: Jabal Al-Tar village, Samalout, Minya province

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=60294>



## India

Cardinal Baselios Cleemis Thottunkal (**UPDATE**: said in response to the [March 13, 2015](#) gang rape of a 72-year old nun "India should be as concerned about its people, as it is about its cows. The country has a responsibility towards all of us – every human being – and not just cows")

Date: March 20, 2015

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/37482->

[ASIA INDIA Cardinal Thottunkal India should be concerned about human rights not just cows#.VQ-ar8JTEfg](#)

Rev Victor Dass (described an attack by Hindu nationalists on a Christian funeral procession, mourners beaten and told that the body of the Christian would pollute the village and that their opposition to the burial was part of Swachh Bharat [Clean India] campaign, casket left behind as the mourners fled)

Pastor Maipal Singh (retrieved the casket and took it to a different cemetery)

Date: March 6, 2015

Location: Pali village, outside Delhi

Source: <http://www.persecution.org/2015/03/22/villagers-attack-christian-mourners-during-funeral-in-india/>

Bishop Gerald Almeida (described an attack by Hindus against 200 Christians who were staying overnight in the cathedral courtyard for a Bible seminar "Around one o'clock in the morning, a large number of people raided the building, attacking the faithful and stealing their belongings. After the beating, the attackers destroyed the door of the cathedral and some vehicles. The police arrived several hours later, only at 4 am, when it was all over")

Marko Baba (witnessed the attack)

Date: March 21, 2015

Location: Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh state

Cardinal Oswald Gracias (**UPDATE**: condemned the vandalism of a church)

Date: March 22, 2015

Location: Mumbai

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/India,-fresh-attacks-on-two-Catholic-churches-evil-and-dangerous-33792.html>

and <http://www.ucanews.com/news/check-two-christian-churches-vandalized-by-suspected-hindu-fundamentalists/73238>

Antulal Murali (family afraid, said "I have been hearing of the church attacks across India, we fear we may be attacked too. A few years ago, the local members of the Bajrang Dal [the RSS paramilitary youth wing] had threatened us and asked us to convert to Hinduism")

Date: March 25, 2015

Location: Khuma village, Mandla district, Madhya Pradesh state

Source [with video]: <http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/fear-rules-in-tribal-pockets-of-madhya-pradesh-after-attack-on-churches-749343>

Archbishop Thomas D'Souza (**UPDATE:** said "The sisters will never leave their mission. We are not afraid of these threats...it is not clear who is behind these threats. The author of these letters threaten to burn down the school and church if the sisters do not leave. The case is already in the hands of the police and district officials have assured the sisters and provided the necessary protection")

Sr Anise Jacob (school principal, called police after receiving the threat against the school)

Date: March 22, 2015

Location: Nagrakata, Malbazar subdivision, Jalpaiguri district, West Bengal state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/West-Bengal,-death-threats-against-a-Catholic-girls'-school-33822.html>



## Iraq

Fr Immanuel Callo (reported on outbreaks of chicken pox, lice, and scabies among the refugees from ISIL)

Date: March 24, 2015

Location: Erbil, Kurdistan

Source: <http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2015/03/outbreak-of-chicken-pox-lice-and-scabies-in-assyrian-refugee-camp-in-arbel/>

### **Event: Christian family fled from Syria to avoid capture by ISIL**

Kenyas Jumaa (husband of Sittu Adam Qaysar, father of Sanaa and Asmar Jumaa)

Sittu Adam Qaysar (wife of Kenyas Jumaa, mother of Sanaa and Asmar Jumaa)

Sanaa Jumaa (daughter of Kenyas Jumaa and Sittu Adam Qaysar, mother of Jessica)

Jessica (aged 8, daughter of Sanaa Jumaa)

Asmar Jumaa (daughter of Kenyas Jumaa and Sittu Adam Qaysar)

Esther Zaya Hormez (aged 82, mother of Kenyas Jumaa)

Date: February 22, 2015

Source [with photos]: <http://www.latimes.com/world/middleeast/la-fg-iraq-christian-refugees-20150323-story.html>

Archbishop Bashar Matti Warda (**UPDATE**: said "For me, ISIL is a cancer. So sometimes you take some hard measures, unfortunate measures, to deal and treat this cancer", when asked if he supported a military defeat of ISIL he replied "Please God")

Fr Yusuuf Ibrahim (said he is not optimistic for the future of Christians in the Mideast)

Archbishop Nicodemus Sharaf (wept when he said "I think they [ISIL] burn all the books. And we have books from the first century of the Christianity. They take everything from us, but they cannot take the God from our hearts, they cannot")

Date reported: March 22, 2015

Location: Erbil, Kurdistan

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20150319184443.htm>



## Kenya

Simon (husband, father of Annah and Karuiki, **killed** by Somali terrorists)

Date: July 5, 2014

Annah (aged 25, daughter of Simon, sister of Karuiki, beaten by Somali terrorists at her home)

Karuiki (son of Simon, brother of Annah, beaten by Somali terrorists at his home)

Date: February 22, 2015

Location: Hindi, Lamu county

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2015/03/two-christians-attacked-church-building-burned-in-coastal-kenya/>

**Event: Four Christians shot after leaving their automobile repair shop by al-Shabaab terrorists, one killed, three hospitalized, two released**

Allan Otieno (automobile repairman, **shot dead**)

Kelvin Ochieng (automobile repairman, shot by al-Shabaab terrorists, hospitalized)

Date: March 15, 2015

Location: Mandera

**Event: Four Christians **shot dead**, one wounded in an al-Shabaab terror attack on a money transfer store**

Muthengi Mwithi (**killed**)

Mwangangi Mucee (church youth leader, **killed**)

Munyoki Mwinzi (**killed**)

Peter Iguna Muthui Mucee (**killed**)

Kithinji Muthengi (critically injured, airlifted to a Nairobi hospital)

Date: March 17, 2015

Location: Wajir

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2015/03/five-christians-killed-one-critically-wounded-by-islamic-extremists-in-kenya/>



## Lebanon

Francie Yaacoub (aged 50+, Syrian refugee, fled her village during an ISIL attack "We left in our pajamas. My son walked barefoot, we left without our shoes on. The shells were falling all around us...We had to flee because the safety of your children is the most important thing")

Simaan (aged 50, Syrian refugee, said "How can we be comfortable, living on aid? The whole world, from the UN to the United States and Russia, is responsible. They [ISIL] have destroyed our whole civilization...and the world is watching")

Date reported: March 18, 2015

Location: Sid al-Boushriyeh, east of Beirut

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20150318132048.htm>

'Michael' (alias, husband of 'Hannah', father of 'Elizabeth', Syrian refugee after fleeing his home, said "In our village, we are simple people. Just imagine, you live in your own house, you never owned a weapon, you never argue with anyone. We lived in harmony with everyone. Then ISIL came. They rob, kill, destroy, burn. Just because we are Christians....We had the best life. It was lush and green. They even destroyed trees, everything. Now our lands are like a desert")

'Hannah' (alias, wife of 'Michael', mother of 'Elizabeth', Syrian refugee after fleeing her home)

'Elizabeth' (alias, aged 10, daughter of 'Michael' and 'Hannah', Syrian refugee after fleeing her home)

Date: February 23, 2015

Location: Beirut

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20150318150841.htm>

Chorbishop Yatron Koliaana (said "Many initiatives were taken by the international community to avoid the extinction of some types of animals. Isn't it worth it to protect our people?")

Date reported: March 18, 2015

Location: Beirut

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20150318150841.htm>

Fr Denha Youssef (has personally aided 700 Iraqi refugee families of all religions)

Mysa (daughter, mother, Iraqi refugee, said "We were very afraid. We left quickly, and two of my brothers were killed by ISIL")

Date reported: March 19, 2015  
Location: Hazmiyeh, outside Beirut  
Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20150319195345.htm>

Ison (aged 8, Syrian refugee, is looking forward to moving to Australia)

Date reported: March 19, 2015  
Location: Beirut  
Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20150319195540.htm>



## Nigeria

Pastor Daniel Awayi (reported on the numerous Boko Haram attacks on his church and village)

Date reported: March 25, 2015  
Location: Potiskum, Yobe state  
Source [with video]: [https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/03/article\\_3784577.html/](https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/03/article_3784577.html/)

Fr Evaristus Bassey (**UPDATE:** reported that "The terror and suffering that the people of Nigeria have experienced is extreme. We at Caritas, along with other people of goodwill, are doing our best. But the needs are staggering")

Date: March 26, 2015  
Location: Rome, Italy  
Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/37528-AFRICA Rome Caritas meeting A million displaced persons and refugees fleeing Boko Haram#.VRTWGcJTEfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37528-AFRICA_Rome_Caritas_meeting_A_million_displaced_persons_and_refugees_fleeing_Boko_Haram#.VRTWGcJTEfg)

Fr Patrick Tor Alumuku (**UPDATE:** said on the eve of the country's presidential election "In those areas it is hard to imagine that regular elections will be held, given the large number of internally displaced persons. According to some estimates, 80-90% of the occupied areas by Boko Haram have been freed in recent weeks by the army of Nigeria, with the help of Chad and Niger. One can see how the military offensive prepared itself in recent months thanks to the supply of weapons from South Africa, after Western countries, particularly the United States, refused to sell arms to Nigeria...In Nigeria, however, one wonders why, if our military had the ability to hunt Boko Haram, this was not done before, why now, on the eve of elections?")

Date: March 27, 2015  
Location: Abuja  
Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/37535-AFRICA NIGERIA On the eve of the vote 90 of the areas freed from Boko Haram Why was it not done before#.VRY2y8JTEfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37535-AFRICA_NIGERIA_On_the_eve_of_the_vote_90_of_the_areas_freed_from_Boko_Haram_Why_was_it_not_done_before#.VRY2y8JTEfg)



## Pakistan

Sunny Masih ("young adult", **burned alive** in a brick kiln)

Date: March 20, 2015

Location: Sheikhpura, Punjab province

Dr Nazir S Bhatti (**UPDATE**: criticized the government for its refusal to arrest the Muslims who on several occasions have lynched and burned Christians, but then moves quickly against Christians who did the same to Muslims in [Lahore](#) on [March 15, 2015](#))

Date: March 22, 2015

Location: Karachi

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5257>

Fr Srif John (criticized the government's arrest of 200 Christians for the murder of two Muslims after the attacks on two churches that killed 19: "The police conducted a raid in the district and indiscriminately arrested people without identifying them based on names in the FIR [police report]. We are not opposed to the arrest of those who have done something wrong, but the arrest of innocent people is unacceptable")

Date: March 24, 2015

Location: Lahore, Punjab province

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Attacks-in-Lahore,-police-arrest-200-Christians-33800.html>

### **Event: Two masked men on a motorbike shot at policemen guarding a church, escaped**

Fr Emmanuel Yousuf Mani (**UPDATE**: said that two bystanders were injured in the attack)

Sardar Mushtaq Gill (attorney, **UPDATE**: said "It is unbelievable how militants fired at the church guards and managed to flee. We urge the government to beef up security at churches")

Date: March 24, 2015

Location: Lahore

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/masked-gunmen-fire-on-police-at-catholic-church-in-lahore/73256>

Fr Francis Gulzar (**UPDATE**: commented on the murder of two Muslims after the March 15, 2015 terror attack: "It is very sad what happened after the massacre. Christians are guilty of a crime; the violent reaction is not Christian and not evangelical. It is the first time in Pakistan's history that Christians, from being victims became tormentors. It was an inhumane act that we all condemn. We hope justice always triumphs", added that justice must be the same for everyone "Many wonder: where are the murderers of Minister Shahbaz Bhatti? Where are the perpetrators of the massacre of Gojra, where in 2009 a Muslim mob destroyed a Christian neighborhood burning eight faithful alive? Where are the culprits who lynched a Christian couple in Kot Radha Kishan in November 2014?")

Date: March 25, 2015

Location: Yohounabad, Lahore, Punjab province

Source [with photo]: <http://directory.ucanews.com/news/release-innocent-among-christians-arrested-lahore-vicar-general/2097>



## South Sudan

Pastor Adam Haron (aged 37, convert from Islam, threatened with death by Muslim extremists for his evangelism, the next day a Land Cruiser without a license plate attempted to run him over, detained three days later on the pretext he was a Sudanese spy, beaten, US\$820 stolen, two days later given 364 lashes with a tree branch, released after three months, said “This detention has been a great encouragement to my spiritual life”)

Dates: November 9, 10, 13, 15, 2014, and February 18, 2015

Location: Aweil

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2015/03/pastor-in-south-sudan-jailed-lashed-after-radical-muslims-threaten-him/>



## Sudan

Rev Yat Michael (arrested by NISS secret police in Khartoum on [December 21, 2014](#) without charge after delivering a homily; **UPDATE**: still detained)

Rev David Yein Reith (arrested by NISS secret police on [January 9, 2015](#) while returning home from a prayer meeting; **UPDATE**: still detained)

Date: [March 27, 2015](#)

Location: Khartoum

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2015/03/pastor-in-south-sudan-jailed-lashed-after-radical-muslims-threaten-him/>



## Turkey

Kevork (Syrian refugee, entered the country illegally in October 2014, said “My family is still in Syria. They are afraid, so my goal is to get to Europe and bring them there”)

Gabriel (Syrian refugee, was able to flee ISIL by airliner thanks to his possession of a passport, said “Without the Kurds, we would have been slaughtered. Christians don't have the support of an army or militia”)

Date reported: March 27, 2015

Location: Mardin

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/03/3787426/>



## Ukraine

Fr Piotr Rosochacki (Polish citizen, told by Russian authorities in [Simferopol, Crimea](#) on [September 9, 2014](#) that his residency permit will not be renewed; as of [October 24, 2014](#) has left the area, said "Although other priests and nuns have Ukrainian residence permits for Crimea valid into next year [2015], the Russian authorities have said they will regard them as valid only until the end of this year..."; **UPDATE**: said he would like to resume his ministry "But there is no opportunity to return. There is no possibility at present to get a visa to serve as a priest because our parishes aren't registered")

Date: [March 24, 2015](#)

Fr Mariusz Wozniak OP (fined US\$70 for working under a tourist visa, expelled)

Date: [February 2015](#)

Location: [Crimea](#)

Source: [http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2051](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2051)

Fr Vasily Moysyuk (reportedly threatened by members of the Freedom party, the Right Sector paramilitary group, and Ukrainian Catholic clergy, 80 police officers intervened)

Date: [March 22, 2015](#)

Location: [Stenka village, Buchach district, Ternopil region](#)

Source: <http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/78208.htm>



## United Kingdom

Mike Overd (street preacher; **UPDATE**: fined £200 [US\$300] and ordered to pay £1,200 [US\$1,800] in court costs for preaching in favor of traditional morality, the judge told him that he should have referred to Leviticus 18:22 and not 20:13, since he did not fully quote that verse he said "I am being punished for words that never passed my lips...I am amazed that the Judge sees it as his role to dictate which parts of the Bible can and can't be preached. I did not quote the full text of Leviticus 20 or make reference to the death penalty but the Judge is telling me that I should use other parts of the Bible. This is not free speech but censorship. The Judge is redacting the Bible...I have been ordered to pay compensation for causing 'emotional pain' to someone who approached me aggressively demanding to debate the issue. There was no harm, injury or theft, just a simple disagreement over theology which I have now been fined for...")

Date: March 24, 2015

Location: Taunton

Source: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/freedom-of-speech/judge-censors-bible-for-public-preaching>



### **United States - California**

Bianca Travis (president of the Chi Alpha student ministry organization which has been banned from the California State University-Stanislaus campus because it requires its leaders to be Christian, said “How can someone lead us if they don’t share our mission? It’s impossible to genuinely lead a worship service or Bible study unless you believe what you’re teaching”)

Date: March 23, 2015

Location: Turlock

Source: <http://christiannews.net/2015/03/23/college-ministry-kicked-off-campus-for-requiring-leaders-to-be-christian/>

### **United States - Illinois**

Patriarch Dinkha IV (aged 79, **UPDATE: died of natural causes**)

Date: March 26, 2015

Location: Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota

Source [with photos]: <http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2015/03/catholicos-patriarch-mar-dinkha-iv-enters-eternal-rest/>



### **Vietnam**

Peter Tran Vu Anh Binh (still incarcerated, friends and family marched on Hanoi during [August 24-28, 2012](#) to protest the continuing incarceration; **UPDATE: handcuffed and taken away by guards after he protested their forcible removal of his rosary beads, whereabouts unknown, cellmates have begun a hunger strike until they are told of his location and condition**)

Date: March 19, 2015

Location: Xuyen Moc prison, Ba Ria Vung Tau province

Source: <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/vietnam/strike-03252015151924.html>

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