

Today's Martyrs
2015-05-24 through 2015-05-30



China

Dong Shiyun (church leader, "elderly man", service interrupted by DSPS agents)

Yu (described a DSPS raid on a house church service "We negotiated with them, and they said we should go to a TSPM church because it is a state-approved church. Our church leader said that we are different from the TSPM church as we only worship God. Then, the authorities said if we don't go to a TSPM church and continue to worship on our own, we will be considered a cult. They demanded that we go to the religious affairs bureau to apply for a permit. However, I've heard it's impossible to get a permit at this point. But we did the application process and submitted the required paperwork; we haven't gotten a response yet. We were told not to hold another gathering before we received a permit")

Date: April 29, 2015

Location: Yinchun, Heilongjiang

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/05/heilongjiang-authorities-shutdown-house.html>

Fr Liu Honggeng Liu (detained without charge in 2006; released after August 9, 2014;
UPDATE: arrested, whereabouts unknown)

Date: May 7, 2015

Location: Baoding, Hebei province

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/As-the-parish-priest-at-Baoding's-Mary-Queen-of-China-Church-is-arrested,-another-Catholic-altar-is-demolished-34357.html>

Bishop Julius Jia Zhiguio (aged 80, as of March 28, 2013 has lived under constant government surveillance for several years; **UPDATE:** detained, released after 12 days)

Date: May 12 through 24, 2015

Location: Zhengding, Hebei province

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/catholic-leaders-detained-in-china/73680>

Li (wife of Pastor Wang Zhongliang, DSPS agents invaded their home when her husband was away, tied up with packing tape and beaten, taken to the police station, threatened with eviction from their home and with their son being denied schooling)

Pastor Wang Zhongliang (husband of Li)

Date: May 27, 2015

Location: Shenyang, Liaoning province

Source [warning - graphic]: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/05/pastors-wife-attacked-limbs-bound-with.html>



Congo, Democratic Republic

Bishop Placide Lubamba Ndjibu M Afr (aged 55, escaped from an attempted abduction)

Date: May 12, 2015

Location: Lulingu-Shabunda

Event: Three Assumptionist priests still missing, were abducted on October 19, 2012 in Mbau

Fr Anselme Wasikundi AA

Fr Edmond Bamutute AA

Fr Jean-Pierre Ndulani AA

Date: May 26, 2015

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/37887->

[AFRICA DR CONGO The Bishops denounce In eastern Congo three basic training camps for jihadists but the UN observes without intervening#.VWU2YcLJA5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/37887-)



Egypt

Ayman Youssef Tawfeek (accused of making Facebook posts that are insults to Islam despite being illiterate, 10 homes of Christians attacked by a mob)

Malak Youakim Ayad (automobile smashed during the riot over the insults to Islam allegations against Ayman Youssef Tawfeek)

Date: May 26, 2015

Location: Kafr Darweesh village, Bani Sweif

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1385&A=18861>

and <http://en.wataninet.com/coptic-affairs-coptic-affairs/sectarian/copts-attacked-for-alleged-disdain-of-islam/13890/>

Bishoy Armiya Boulous aka Mohammed Hegazy (aged 32, Egypt's 'most famous' convert, arrested before December 5, 2013 in Minya province and charged with "inciting sedition by communicating to a US-based [Coptic] channel unfounded information on Copts persecution in Egypt"; **UPDATE**: completed his sentence in December 2014, still incarcerated, has been beaten and dragged on concrete floors almost daily)

Date reported: May 27, 2015

Location: Tora Prison, South Cairo

Source [with photo]: <http://morningstarnews.org/2015/05/noted-convert-from-islam-in-egypt-regularly-beaten-in-prison-attorney-says/>

Sarah Youssef Ghali (aged 25, accidentally **shot dead** by a policeman with a reported history of anti-Christian acts)

Nour Rashad (cousin of Sarah Youssef Ghali)

Date: May 25, 2015

Location: Al-Mokattam, Cairo

Source [warning - graphic]: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63081>
and <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1387&A=18896>



Ethiopia

Aman Kuni (arrested along with several others after a baptism service, released on bail)

Date: April 25 - May 12, 2015

Location: Asella

Aman Kuni (**UPDATE**: threatened with death and the death of his children who have been taken by his Muslim relatives, told to kill two Christian pastors)

Pastor Girma Hippo (threatened with death)

Pastor Endezina (threatened with death)

Date: May 17, 2015

Source: <http://www.persecution.org/2015/05/23/kill-them-or-else-ethiopian-christian-jailed-then-told-to-murder-pastors/>



India

Rev Timothy Chaitanya Murmu (arrested on false charges of forced conversion after baptizing 16 people)

Date: May 20, 2015

Location: Manohar, Odisha state

Source: [http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Odisha:-Christian-minister-imprisoned-on-\(false\)-accusations-of-forced-conversions-34336.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Odisha:-Christian-minister-imprisoned-on-(false)-accusations-of-forced-conversions-34336.html)



Iraq

Yousif Ibrahim (monk, said "We can see the battles and the airstrikes from here in front of us, especially at night. The sky lights up at night, but we of course are not scared. God protects us")

Sahar Karaikos (student, said "We are not scared, because our teachers give us a feeling of peace here, but we know we are on the frontlines, and in seconds the Islamic State could be here. I don't even want to think or speak about the destruction the Islamic State would cause if they took our monastery")

Date: May 27, 2015

Location: Saint Matthew Monastery, Al-Faf

Source [with photo]: <http://www.aina.org/news/20150527134926.htm>

Bishop Michael Muqadissi (said the majority of Christians do not want to immigrate)

Date: May 27, 2015

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63079>



Malaysia

Rev Dr Eu Hong Seng (chairman of the Christian Federation of Malaysia; **UPDATE:** spoke on the ban of Malay language Bibles by the state governments in Sarawak and Sabah "The specific requirement for non-Muslim religions to seek the approval of the federal government's Islamic agencies for the importation of religious material is in clear violation of the provisions of the Federal Constitution and the spirit of the 10-point solution")

Date: May 28, 2015

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/bibles-with-word-allah-to-be-barred-from-part-of-malaysia/73687>



Nigeria

Event: Church of the Brethren [EYN] concluded a congress at which measures aimed at countering Boko Haram attacks were taken

Rev Daniel Mbaya (said "Because so many of the churches of EYN have been damaged or destroyed, this year's Majalisa [congress] conducted an ordination service for new pastors. The current ordained ministers gathered around the candidates, laying hands on them and commissioning them for the work ahead. All this is part of the EYN and Church of the Brethren plan to strengthen the church in Nigeria")

Rev Stanley J Noffsinger (general secretary Church of the Brethren USA, said “the attendees had a sort of shocked expression on their faces. The proceedings were constantly being interrupted by announcements of tragedy – news of a pastor being killed or abducted, or a village being overrun by the terrorist group Boko Haram”)

Rev Samuel Dante Dali (husband of Dr Rebecca Dali; **UPDATE**: said that 1,290 churches out of 2,280 had been destroyed with over 700,000 church members displaced since 2009, and has begun to construct 'rescue centers aka Brethren villages' to resettle church members, added “The peace heritage of the church is still the only way consistent with the gospel that we uphold”)

Date: May 8, 2015

Location: Jos, Plateau state

Lami Aboki (spoke on the Boko Haram suicide bombing that killed a number of Christian vegetable sellers “I can't eat or sleep as the gory sight of the dead bodies keeps haunting me. I am leaving this town. We have just returned thinking the place is safe, but from what we have seen, the terrorists are bent on returning here”)

Jerry Kundisi (legislator, said that nine people were killed)

Date: May 19, 2015

Location: Garkida

Timothy Wagra (told how Boko Haram attacked around midnight “The Boko Haram gunmen started shooting sporadically, and at the end of the attack, 10 Christians were killed in the town”)

Date: May 16, 2015

Location: Wagga town, Madagali local government area

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2015/05/boko-haram-suspected-in-killing-of-at-least-29-people-most-christians-in-adamawa-nigeria/>

Fr James John (**UPDATE**: had been forced to leave his parish by Boko Haram attacks, forced to sleep on the street with other refugees, said “Twenty-five of us were forced to leave, but some already returned and I hope to do the same. I asked [Bishop] Dashe Doeme if I could return to serve in my diocese, because after so much violence there is such need to rebuild, especially spiritually”)

Date reported: May 26, 2015

Source: <http://www.misna.org/en/church-and-mission/boko-haram-odyssey-of-maiduguri-priests-26-05-2015-813.html>



Pakistan

Humayun Faisal Masih (aged 27, illiterate street sweeper, reputed drug addict, father of two daughters, separated from his wife due to mental illness, accused of Quran desecration)

after found burning newspapers with Quranic verses, beaten, arrested, Christian homes and at least one church burned in rioting)

Ashraf Gill (youth president, St Joseph's church, said "Muslim rioters came with daggers, hockey sticks and irons, they came with intention to kill or maim. They have looted our properties and caused serious damage to them. We have done nothing to hurt them so why have they treated us so harshly? Humayan is a poor sweeper, what purpose would he have for desecrating the Quran? He has been brutally treated for simply undertaking his regular job of street sweeping. This is a woeful injustice")

Rashda Alamgir (said "When the incident happened I was at home with my kids. The mob was chanting anti-Christian slogans, and destroying property. I remained confined in my home till 12am and we went from one room to another not knowing what else to do. At 12am the police helped us come out of our own home and I spent the night at my relatives' house. I came back in the morning")

Pastor Riaz Arif (sent his wife and children to a safe location, stayed behind with his elderly mother)

Chaudhry Alam Masih (home threatened by rioters, said "They were very charged up, and some of them were carrying weapons. They were raising religious slogans and demanded that Masih should be handed over to them so that they could burn him the same way he had allegedly burned the holy pages. They also tried to break into our homes and broke open several doors of nearby houses. The protestors carrying weapons fired into the air, spreading more panic among us")

Hizkiel Sahotra (said "Many people showed up outside my house and started chanting slogans against Christians. I don't know what would have happened if police or Rangers hadn't shown up and chased them off")

Date: May 25, 2015

Location: DhoopSari ghetto, Gulshan Ravi area, Lahore

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/police-clash-with-protestors-after-humayun-masih-charged-with-295c/>

and <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/pakistani-christian-hamyun-masih-arrested-form-burning-holy-quran/>

and <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5360>

and <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5361>

and <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/residents-of-dhoop-sari-speak-out-fear-grips-fleeing-locals/>

and <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/residents-of-dhoop-sari-speak-out-fear-grips-fleeing-locals/>

and <http://morningstarnews.org/2015/05/islamic-mob-attacks-houses-church-over-blasphemy-accusation-in-pakistan/>

Pastor Suhail Masih (beaten by armed men in his church along with five parishioners)

Date: May 26, 2015

Location: Chakwal City

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/church-vandalized-5-including-pastor-beaten-by-armed-assailants-in-chakwal/>

Sehrish (alias, family law attorney, said “They would like to force me to convert to Islam and have me married to one of their brothers or even to themselves. As a Christian I have to watch my back all the time...Please pray for me that I am able to seek justice for abused women from Hindu and Christian backgrounds and also to remain safe myself”)

Date: May 29, 2015

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/female-christian-lawyer-aims-to-work-for-pakistani-believers/>



Sudan

Hamida Osman (mother of 3 year old Kaka Abdu Kuku Tiral, both **killed** in a government air raid)

Date: May 25, 2015

Location: Kauda, South Kordofan state

Nour Kalowas (**killed** in a government air raid)

Date: February 6, 2015

Location: Tangali village, Dalami county, South Kordofan state

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2015/05/sudans-aerial-bombing-kills-3-year-old-girl-wounds-mother-in-nuba-mountains/>



Syria

Ramziyya Rehana (aged 80, captured by ISIL on February 23, 2015 in Tel Jazira, **UPDATE:** released, has a fractured hip)

Yoniyya Kanoon (aged 70, captured by ISIL on February 23, 2015 in Tel Shamiram, **UPDATE:** released)

Date: May 25, 2015

Location: Hasaka region

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20150526172505.htm>



Tanzania

Pastor Samson Gwajima (brother of Bishop Gwajima, head slashed with a sword or machete during a home invasion, had a 2 inch deep wound, had received death threats from the local mosque, still unconscious)

Dates: May 15 and 19, 2015

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Tanzanian-pastor-attacked-at-home-as-tensions-rise-over-Islamic-courts-bill>



Thailand

Papa Thongchai (businessman, has been financially supporting a church for Pakistani refugees, has delivered food and other necessities)

Date reported: May 25, 2015

Location: Bangkok

Source: <http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/the-truth-about-christians-in-thailand>



United Kingdom

Rob Hughes (street preacher, arrested, released after 11 hours due to insufficient evidence, filed a wrongful arrest lawsuit, awarded US\$3,836 plus legal fees)

Date: September 4, 2014

Location: Basildon

Andrew Geuter (street preacher, arrested, released after 5 hours due to insufficient evidence)

Date: April 23, 2015

Location: Hereford

Source: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/freedom-of-speech/street-preachers-cleared-of-all-charges>



United States - Connecticut

Rev Dr Augustus Sealy (aged 54, husband of Sharon Sealy, shot while placing flags on his church property to commemorate Memorial Day, hospitalized in serious condition)

Sharon Sealy (wife of Rev Dr Augustus Sealy, said “He hasn’t lost any hope. You know, this is something that happened that was really terrible and shouldn’t have happened and we’ve already prayed for that person who actually committed the crime”)

Date: May 25, 2015

Location: Hartford

Source: <http://www.courant.com/breaking-news/hc-hartford-shootings-0725-20150524-story.html>
and <http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/Hartford-Police-investigating-304847031.html>

United States - North Carolina

Lance Corporal Monifa Sterling USMC (convicted at court martial for refusing an order to remove a displayed Bible verse from her workstation despite the existence of personal messages on other workstations, **UPDATE:** appeal underway)

Date reported: May 26, 2015

Location: Camp Lejune

Source: <http://www.charismanews.com/us/49804-marine-court-martialed-for-displaying-bible-verse-in-workplace>

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