

Today's Martyrs
2015-07-05 through 2015-07-11



Brazil

Cardinal Orani Joao Tempesta (automobile stolen by several gunmen in a carjacking, had previously had an automobile carjacked in September 2014)

Date: July 5, 2015

Location: Rio de Janeiro

Source: <http://www.catholicerald.co.uk/news/2015/07/10/brazilian-cardinal-carjacked-for-second-time-in-a-year/>



China

Rev Philip Woo Siu-hok (ordered on the day a new security law took effect to travel to Shenzhen and sign a 'notice of a rectification order' concerning his church training mainland clergy in 2014, threatened with punishment if he did it again)

Date: July 1, 2015

Location: Hong Kong

Source [with photo]: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/07/ejinsight-mainland-infringing-on.html>

Cao Nan (operator of the Caring Center, a shelter for the homeless and disabled, shelter raided by 200 police and government agents due to 'illegal religious activities', up to 30 residents were removed and the door welded shut)

Date: June 30, 2015

Location: Shenzhen

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/07/200-shenzhen-police-disguised-as.html>

Bishop Thaddeus Ma Daqin (**UPDATE**: has begun his third year of house arrest, the government has apparently transferred US\$14.3 million of the diocese's funds to its own and private accounts)

Date reported: July 8, 2015

Location: Shanghai

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/millions-missing-from-shanghai-church-accounts/73900>

Pastor Yang Hua (**UPDATE**: police staged an vehicular collision with his automobile while travelling with attorneys to defend detained Christians, attacked by a mob of 100 persons believed to have been under police control who beat him and vandalized his vehicle, forced to abandon his vehicle, driver's license seized)

Date: June 18, 2015

Location: Dagan, Guizhou province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/06/lawyers-investigating-persecution.html>

Event: Eight Christians have been detained for illegally meeting and for organizing cult activities, they have been split up into detention facilities in three counties, apparently to make their legal representation more difficult

Dai Xiaoqiang

Huang Huaxin (UPDATE)

Kang Chengju (UPDATE)

Kang Chenglin (UPDATE)

Tang Honggui (UPDATE)

Xu Guoqing (UPDATE)

Xu Junfen

Zhou Xunmin (UPDATE)

Pastor Yang Hua (UPDATE: reported on the detention of the eight Christians, driver's license still not returned)

Date: June 29, 2015 - probable date

Location: Dagan, Guizhou province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/07/eight-house-church-christians-from.html>

Bishop Joseph Martin Wu Qinjing (aged 46, installed as bishop, had been ordained in 2005 and placed under house arrest in September 2007)

Date: July 10, 2015

Location: Zhouzhi

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bishop-Martin-Wu-of-Zhouzhi-installed-today,-10-years-after-his-episcopal-ordination-34741.html>

Pastor Cao Wen (church closed by the authorities in recent months, two other churches and three church affiliated schools also closed)

Date reported: July 10, 2015

Location: Guangzhou

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/07/three-more-guangzhou-churches-and-three.html>



Egypt

Nesma Hamdi Gad (aged 16, disappeared)

Date: mid-June 2015

Location: Alexandria

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63545>

Pope Tawardos II (**UPDATE**: a Muslim Brotherhood member has announced on Facebook that the Brotherhood is going to assassinate him)

Fr Paul Halim (**UPDATE**: said that the church has not requested increased security for Pope Tawardos II)

Dr Naguib Gabriel (attorney; **UPDATE**: said that the Facebook posting is a violation of the new anti-terrorism law)

Date reported: July 6, 2015

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1414&A=19399>

Fr Dawood Botros (reported on July 2, 2015 to have been expelled from a hospital for attempting to give Communion to a critically ill patient at the request of the patient's family; **UPDATE**: the patient was ordered to leave the hospital after the priest file a complaint)

Date reported: July 6, 2015

Location: Alexandria

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63571>

Dr Wadie Ramses (aged 63, orthopedic surgeon, father of Amir Wadih Ramses, abducted on June 13, 2014 in el-Arish, Sinai, ransom demand of US\$ 1.4 million made; released on September 15, 2014 after a "large" ransom was paid; **UPDATE**: recounted his abduction, suffered two broken ribs and a fractured arm when beaten for resisting conversion to Islam, said "They'd ask me how, as an educated man, I could believe that God had a son. Then they'd ask me if I believe in the Quran, and when I said I didn't because that would make me a Muslim, they'd use a plastic whip. I know some of the men who beat me were members of the security forces...I was at peace during the whole ordeal, I had my faith with me", added that his abduction was "the best thing that ever happened to me" and "the best 92 days of my life" because "I had forgotten how to pray, how to talk to God, and [the abduction] proved a good time to do this...God allowed for me to go through this so I could become a better person")

Date: June 28, 2015

Location: Cairo

Source: <http://www.cruxnow.com/faith/2015/06/30/kidnap-victim-details-92-day-ordeal-and-his-view-of-christian-plight-in-egypt/>

Event: Crops destroyed on land owned by Copts

Nasser Al Fayez Hawwash

Nagah Shehata

Armiah Emad Girgis

Saeed Abdullah

Sharif Gamal Halim

Gamal Celine Atallah

Date reported: July 9, 2015

Location: Algalaa village, Samalout, Minya province

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1417&A=19447>



India

Rev Sisir Nayak (arrested on false charges of conducting illegal conversions, denied bail)

Date: July 5, 2015

Location: Raiguda village, Keonjhar district, Orissa state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Orissa,-a-Pentecostal-pastor-in-prison-on-false-charges-of-forced-conversions-34688.html>

Pastor Anand Raj (church attacked by a mob of 40 Hindu radicals, threatened with death, police refused to file a report and ordered him to stop holding services, said "This is not the first time, the Hindu radicals attacked us. In April 2011, the radicals vandalized the church, destroyed the musical instruments, and burnt the Bibles. Again in 2013, the electricity was disconnected to the church by the authorities through the sheer influence and involvement of radical Hindu organizations")

Date: June 28, 2015

Location: Andhra Pradesh state

Source: <http://www.persecution.org/2015/07/08/christian-church-in-india-shut-down-by-police-following-series-of-assaults-by-hindu-radicals/>

Fr Satish Makhal (described the desecration of his church "He [the church watchman] and parishioners who came for morning prayers found the tabernacle missing. After a short search they found the tabernacle in the church compound. It was broken opened and the consecrated host was strewn around")

Bishop Joseph Suren Gomes (reported on the police investigation into the church desecration, said: "There is no history any communal tension in the area. They all live in peace and harmony")

Fr Joseph Chinnayan (Catholic Bishops Conference of India deputy secretary-general;
UPDATE: said "The repeated attack on the churches and missionaries is a grave concern")

Date: July 10, 2015

Location: Taherpur, West Bengal state

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/church-desecrated-in-eastern-india/73912>



Iran

Bijan Farokhpour Haghghi (detained in Shiraz on [October 12, 2012](#) in a government crackdown that may have detained between 100 and 400 Christians; released on bail on November 1,

2012; sentenced to three years in prison on [July 16, 2013](#); **UPDATE**: bail revoked, will begin his sentence soon)

Eskandar Rezaie (detained in Shiraz on [October 12, 2012](#) in a government crackdown that may have detained between 100 and 400 Christians; sentenced to one year in prison on [July 16, 2013](#); **UPDATE**: bail revoked, incarcerated at Adelaba prison)

Date reported [July 7, 2015](#)

Fatemeh Torkajouri (wife of Behrouz Kanjani, mother of a 'young' daughter, tried in absentia in Tehran on [August 6, 2014](#) for "action against national security" due to her activities with the Church of Iran, had fled the country in 2011; **UPDATE**: sentenced in absentia to 5 years' imprisonment, property and finances seized)

Date: [June 2015](#)

Date reported [July 7, 2015](#)

Source: <http://www.csw.org.uk/2015/07/07/press/2653/article.htm>



Iraq

Saher Hanna (Interior Ministry employee, abduction victim, **found dead** despite ransom payment)

Date: [July 8, 2015](#)

Location: [Bagdad](#)

Quais Abdul Shaya (abducted, **murdered** despite payment of a US\$25,000 ransom)

Dr Bashar al-Ghanem Akrawi (abducted, freed by police)

Date reported: [July 10, 2015](#)

Location: [Bagdad](#)

Source [with photo]: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63600#.VZ3vq8LJAfg> and http://www.fides.org/en/news/38168-ASIA_IRAQ_In_Baghdad_Christians_kidnapped_and_killed_despite_the_payment_of_ransom#.VaCRT8LJAfg



Kenya

Samuel Kinywa (quarry worker, **killed** by al-Shabab terrorists)

Zacharia Wambugu (quarry worker, **killed** by al-Shabab terrorists)

Bishop Joseph Alessandro OFM Cap (Maltese national; **UPDATE**: said after an al-Shabab attack that killed 14 and injured 11 "Just like the attacks that took place before, workers coming

from other areas of Kenya, therefore non-Somalis and non-Muslims are being targeted. Unfortunately it seems that this strategy is having success. Already several non-local workers have fled from Mandera in recent months. The most affected sectors are health and education. Throughout the north-east education is in serious difficulty because of the lack of teachers, coming from other areas of the Country, who refuse to go back to work there...We must say, however, that the Shabaab are also targeting several Muslim leaders who do not think like them and who support the government's action")

Date: July 7, 2015

Locations: Soko Mbuji, near Mandera and Garissa

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/38137->

[AFRICA KENYA The project of the Shabaab to liberate the north east from non](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38137-AFRICA%20KENYA%20The%20project%20of%20the%20Shabaab%20to%20liberate%20the%20north%20east%20from%20non%20Somalis%20continues%20said%20the%20coadjutor%20Bishop%20of%20Garissa#.VZyO3sLJAfg)

[Somalis continues said the coadjutor Bishop of Garissa#.VZyO3sLJAfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38137-AFRICA%20KENYA%20The%20project%20of%20the%20Shabaab%20to%20liberate%20the%20north%20east%20from%20non%20Somalis%20continues%20said%20the%20coadjutor%20Bishop%20of%20Garissa#.VZyO3sLJAfg)
and <http://morningstarnews.org/2015/07/al-shabaab-mounts-another-attack-on-non-muslims-near-mandera-kenya/>



Mexico

Bishop Oscar Armando Campos Contreras (condemned the beating of three elderly nuns during a robbery, wrote "We cannot continue to avoid our responsibility to eradicate this evil that will end by destroying social development and even the lives of many people, including the lives of our young people")

Date: June 29, 2015

Location: Matias Romero municipality, Oaxaca state

Fr Victorino Lopez Nolasco (severely beaten during a robbery, recovered)

Date: September 2014

Location: Matias Romero municipality, Oaxaca state

Source: <http://www.csw.org.uk/2015/07/03/news/2650/article.htm>

and <http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/bishop/bcamcon.html>



Nepal

Chari Bahadur Gahatraj (**UPDATE:** said of the new draft constitution "We want secularism to be institutionalized in such a way that it is an unchangeable provision in the new constitution. We want the constitution to ensure religious rights and form a religious commission")

Date: July 6, 2015

Location: Kathmandu

Source: <http://www.aa.com.tr/en/politics/550887--nepal-s-christians-muslims-slam-draft-constitution>



Nigeria

Garba Manu (described a suicide bombing on a church in which the pastor and four others, including two children, were killed)

Tabita Adamu (aged 44, mother of Haske and Nuhu, sister of Habila Adamu, **killed**)

Haske (aged 18, daughter of Tabita Adamu, **killed**)

Nuhu (aged 11, son of Tabita Adamu, **killed**)

Rev Daniel Dotun Okerinola (husband, father of three, **killed**)

Habila Adamu (brother of Tabita Adamu, wounded in a 2012 Boko Haram shooting; **UPDATE**: said his sister had forgotten money for the church collection and sent six of her children and her husband home to get it, saving their lives, surviving family members are in shock)

Date: July 5, 2015

Location: Potiskum, Yobe state

Source: <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2015/07/suicide-bomber-kills-rccg-pastor-5-others-in-yobe/>
and <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/07/3921524/>

Bishop Joseph Bagobiri (**UPDATE**: described a Fulani Muslim attack that killed 9 Christians and seriously injured 13)

Date: June 16, 2015

Location: Katsak village, Kaduna state

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Gunmen-storm-Nigerian-village-and-brutally-murder-nine-Christian-villagers>

Monica Enoch (schoolgirl, abducted on April 14, 2014 in Chibok, Borno state by Boko Haram gunmen; **UPDATE**: reported to have been **stoned to death** for refusing to convert to Islam)

Rev Enoch Mark (**UPDATE**: father of Monica Enoch, said of the report of his daughter's death "To die for the sake of Christ, that's the happiest thing for me. I'm grateful that she didn't change her religion")

Date: July 1, 2015

Source [with video]: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/international-persecution/in-heaven-because-she-refused-to-convert>

Rev Isaiah Oluwagbayibi (spoke of the arson attack on his church and a second church by local Muslims after a Boko Haram suicide bomber attacked their mosque "A bomb exploded in

a mosque, and then they came to burn down our church – what has our church got to do with what happened in their mosque? Are Boko Haram terrorists members of our church? Why are they doing this to Christians in northern Nigeria? We love Muslims and have shown love to them in practical ways, but in return for our love for them, they repay us with evil attacks...I reported as the pastor of this church in March 2012, but prior to my coming, this worship auditorium was destroyed thrice by these Muslims. When I came, the church was completely destroyed. I had to write letters of appeal to other Christians soliciting funds to carry out major repairs. We're only able to worship here on Sunday under protection from the police. Right now I can only estimate that the destruction done to the church is about 5 million naira [US\$24,800]")

Rev Joshua Tuwan (aged 49, spoke of the arson attack on his church and a second church by local Muslims after a Boko Haram suicide bomber attacked their mosque "On Sunday night we pleaded with the security agencies to intervene to save our church from being destroyed. Quite a number of window glasses were destroyed. The quick intervention of soldiers led to prevention of major destruction on the church building by the Muslims...We've been forced to insure this church building instead of using the funds for missions, for we do know that the church has become an object of attack by the Muslims. And it is our desire that no matter the pressure, the hate, and the threat from these Muslims, we intend to ensure that the church remains standing in this place until Jesus comes. He really loves them, and He is the real author of peace. I have always prayed that Muslims in northern Nigeria would know Jesus, and I know that it shall come to pass as these same Muslims who are destroying the church of Jesus Christ, would have their children one day becoming followers of Jesus, and they shall use their resources to build the churches they are now destroying. That is my prayer for them, and we love them")

Date: July 5, 2015

Location: Jos, Plateau state

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2015/07/boko-haram-unleashes-bloodshed-in-attacks-in-nigerias-central-northeastern-states/>



Pakistan

Aftab Akash ('young boy', threatened with death when apparently tricked into converting to Islam and then recanted [the account is unclear as to details], family and all local Christians also threatened)

Date: July 2, 2015

Location: Wazirabad, Punjab province

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/wazirabad-mob-gathered-to-burn-christian-boy-alive-for-not-converting-to-islam/>

Event: Three Filipino missionaries have been ordered by the Interior Minister to leave the country after 10 years, **UPDATE: the High Court upheld their expulsion**

Sr Miraflor Aclan Bahan

Sr Delia Coyoca Rubio

Sr Alizabeth Umali Seguenza (school principal, a teacher at the school who left under 'strained' circumstances is the wife of the Interior Minister who issued the expulsion order)

Date: June 30, 2015

Location: Islamabad

Bernadette L Dean (U.S. citizen, threatened with death for assisting with textbook revisions, is leaving the country)

Date: May 12, 2015

Location: Karachi, Sindh province

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2015/07/catholic-educator-flees-pakistan-amid-hate-campaign-by-islamic-extremists/>

Nasir Saeed (**UPDATE:** criticized a prime ministerial 'summary' which stated that it would be henceforth forbidden to translate sacred Arabic words such as allah, masjid, sala'at or rasool into their English counterparts [e.g., God, mosque, prayer, prophet] because it could result in more false accusations against non-Muslims)

Date: July 7, 2015

Source: <http://directory.ucanews.com/news/christians-concerned-over-pakistans-translation-rule/2412>

Pastor Ameen (reported on an attack by Muslims on a Christian family, despite attempts at reconciliation “Attackers want to attack again on them, they are trying to make it religious issue”, added that the entire Christian community is now fearful of attack)

Date: July 7, 2015

Location: Faisalabad

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5465>



Sudan

Event: Twelve Christian women leaving a church service were arrested for 'indecent dress', later stripped naked at the police station so that their clothing could be 'better inspected', the court fined one of the twelve women US\$84 for 'indecent dress' inside the courthouse

Pastor Felmon Hassan (called as a defense witness, said that the women's dress would be acceptable in Christianity)

Dates: July 2 and 6, 2015

Location: Khartoum

Source: <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article55610>

and <http://uncova.com/in-sudan-12-christian-girls-leaving-church-service-arrested-forced-to-strip-for-wearing-skirts-and-trousers>



Syria

Fr Dhiya Azziz OFM (aged 41, Iraqi citizen, **UPDATE**: abducted possibly by Al-Nusra)

Date: July 4, 2015

Location: Yakubiyah village, Jisr ash-Shugur district, Idlib province

Source [with photo]: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-the-Custody-of-the-Holy-Land,-Nusra-Front-might-be-holding-priest-seized-in-Syria-34698.html>



Uganda

Hassan Muwanguzi (convert, abandoned by his family, beaten, and fired from his teaching position for converting to Christianity; poisoned by relatives with insecticide on [March 31, 2014](#) in [Kadimukoli village, Budaka district](#), treated, refused further treatment due to financial hardship; victim of a home invasion in [Katira](#) on [June 16, 2014](#) by four Muslims who stated their intention to kill him, locked himself in a room, the men then attacked his 12 year old daughter Grace in an apparent attempt to force him to leave the room, knocked unconscious when he attempted to rescue his daughter who later died; **UPDATE**: met with a man who claimed to have important information, brought witnesses, the man confessed to have been hired to kill him, three days later while he was away his home was invaded by a group of Muslims who stole personal items including his computer, neighbors threatened)

Dates: June 29 and July 2, 2015

Location: Budaka district

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2015/07/islamic-extremists-in-uganda-try-to-kill-former-muslim-sheikh-who-survived-poisoning/>



United States - Ohio

Judge C Allen McConnell (refused to officiate at a same sex wedding citing his “personal and Christian beliefs”)

Date: July 6, 2015

Location: Toledo

Source [with photo]: <http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/80551.htm>

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