

Today's Martyrs
2015-07-26 through 2015-08-01



Brazil

Sr Irma Odete Francisca (aged 65, **stabbed to death** during a burglary at her convent, had worked at a drug rehab center)

Date: July 24, 2015

Location: Guaratingueta, Sao Paulo state

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/38247->

[AMERICA BRAZIL Franciscan Sister murdered#.VbXHgsLJAfg](#)



Egypt

Bishop Kamel Gergis (teacher in Sohag, arrested on **July 30, 2012** for posting defamatory cartoons of Islam and Muhammad on his Facebook page, he claims the account was hacked; convicted, sentenced on **September 18, 2012** to 6 years imprisonment;
UPDATE: sentence repealed)

Date: July 25, 2015

Location: Cairo

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63764>

Mariam Malak Zakry Tadros (aged 16, sister of Dr Bassem, student ranked first in her class, exams altered to give her a failing grade)

Dr Bassem (brother of Mariam Malak Zakry Tadros, reported on her altered exam grades)

Date reported: July 26, 2015

Location: Minya

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63772>

Galil Farouk (aged 42, farmer, home attacked with Molotov cocktails)

Date: July 26, 2015

Location: Faragallah village, Samalout, Minya province

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63776>

Michael Gabriel (farmer, land seized)

Date: July 26, 2015

Location: Beni Suef

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63778>

Girgis Kamal (aged 30, brother of Avon Kamal, quality engineer, several charges fabricated against him by police to force him to retract a complaint he made against the relative of a police officer, detained and tortured)

Avon Kamal (sister of Girgis Kamal, pressured by police to waive complaints)

Date: July 29, 2015

Location: al-Shorouk, Cairo

Source [warning - graphic]: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63805>
and <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63817>

Khalil Malak Khalil (police officer, transferred to reserve forces in preparation for a possible dismissal for "no reason")

Date: July 5, 2015

Location: Luxor

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=63811>

Wael Adel Aziz (aged 30, abducted at gunpoint, US\$256,000 ransom demanded)

Date reported: July 31, 2015

Source [with photo]: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1433&A=19733>



Ethiopia

Tofik (alias, convert from Islam in 2002, nearly beaten to death, said "Persecution isn't all bad, it has some good...We need to start by loving people. We need to love them and show them love. In an Islamic context we cannot just see each other when we have needs to support. We need to always socialize with them. We need to be patient and slowly they will come to faith in Christ")

Date reported: July 31, 2015

Source [with videos]: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/07/3953898>



India

Dhubaleswar ('well liked' Christian leader, father of two daughters, **possibly abducted and killed along with his wife** by the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force], blood and ripped pieces of clothing found at their last known location, local media reported it as a clash with Maoists)

Fr Ajaya Kumar Singh (director of the Odisha Forum for Social Action [OROSA], **UPDATE:** said "This is absolutely false. They were not Maoists, but ordinary Christians, killed in cold blood...This is a predominantly Christian village. After the violence of 2008, young

people migrated to other states in search of work. Often people have to go to the top of the hill to get a signal and call the world. Dhubaleswar and his wife were ordinary Christians, not Maoist militants")

Sukant Challanset (had left Dhubaleswar and his wife after a prayer service, accosted by armed CRPF officers, questioned at gunpoint, released after disclosing the whereabouts of Dhubaleswar and his wife)

Jibed Challanset (had left Dhubaleswar and his wife after a prayer service, accosted by armed CRPF officers, questioned at gunpoint, released after disclosing the whereabouts of Dhubaleswar and his wife)

Date: July 26, 2015

Location: Pangalipdar village, in Kandhamal district, Odisha state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/The-cold-blooded-killing-of-a-Christian-“Maoist”-couple-brings-back-fears-of-pogrom-in-Kandhamal-34886.html>

Pastor Krupiah (aged 70, husband of Rodemma, bled profusely from blows to his head during an armed attack on a **June 4, 2013** pastoral meeting in **Thukkugudu, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh state**, hospitalized, required five stitches; **UPDATE: died from progressive organ failure as a result of the 2013 beating**)

Rodemma (aged 65, widow of Pastor Krupiah)

Pastor Timothy (leader of a local pastor's fellowship, said, "More often it is the rural pastors who are the targets of the right wing Hindu nationalist groups. These pastors have no medical insurance and without adequate support, which will make things more difficult when they become victims of persecution")

Date: July 22, 2015

Source: <http://www.persecution.org/2015/07/30/christian-pastor-dies-two-years-after-beating-by-hindu-radicals/>

Ayaid Prasad (home invaded by RSS paramilitary members when three pastors gathered to pray over his ill daughter)

Pastor Harchand Singh (beaten, said "The police asked us uncomfortable questions, like how much money we offered to people to convert them to Christianity")

Pastor Rajan Gill (**UPDATE:** said "Hurling verbal abused against us, about 15 extremists rushed towards me and started to push, kick and slap me, and they tore my shirt and beat me up. When one church member, Ranjinder Masih, came to defend me, he was mercilessly beaten up...The police simply told the crowd that they have beaten us enough, and that they will take us inside the police station now. I asked one police officer why they did not intervene when the mob beat us up right in front of the police station. He replied that it was not his duty to intervene outside the police station")

Ranjinder Masih (aged 36, beaten for 15 minutes in front of the police station by the RSS mob before police intervened, eardrum damaged)

Date: July 18, 2015

Location: West Delhi

Pastor Praveen Kumar (described repeated attacks against his parish: “The RSS clad in their uniforms stopped some church members on their way to the church and chased them back to their homes. They teased and uttered vulgar words to the ladies from our church and deliberately offered prasad [food offered to idols] when the congregation came out from the church...The Station House Officer at that time was B.R. Sangla, and every time we asked for his help, he said that we were the ones creating trouble, and he threatened to lock us up. Finally, one member of the National Minority Commission, Abraham M. Patiani, helped us out by addressing our issue to the Deputy Commissioner of Police, who told the anti-Christian people not to bother us again”)

Date: August and September, 2014

Location: West Delhi

Source [warning - graphic]: <http://morningstarnews.org/2015/07/police-complicit-in-attack-on-christians-in-west-delhi-india-sources-say/>



Iraq

Patriarch Louis Raphael I Sako (**UPDATE:** published a prayer that he asked all Christians worldwide to pray on August 7, 2015: "Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to pray to the Father in your name, and you assured us that whatever we asked for, we would receive. Therefore, we come to you with complete confidence, asking you to give us the strength to stand fast in this violent storm, to reach peace and security before it is too late")

Date: July 30, 2015

Source [with photo]: <http://www.aina.org/news/20150730182501.htm>



Kenya

Elsie Karemi (survived the Garissa University College Islamic terror attack, said "I heard gun shots at 5.50am and I managed to hide in the wardrobe for one and a half days. When I was rescued I found out my roommates did not survive. Because of my tiny wardrobe space, I was unable to walk for two weeks after that but I thank God for sparing my life")

Abwamu Duncan (survived the Garissa University College Islamic terror attack, shot in the arm then twice more as she pretended to be dead)

Date: April 2, 2015

Location: Garissa

Source:

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/the.garissa.massacre.stories.from.the.survivors/60079.htm>

Esther (mother of three, laborer, has moved her family out of the city, said: "It is because of Al-Shabaab that I moved out of Garissa. You can be shot anytime while you are walking. Even when we're at home they can just come from the bush")

Patrick Gitau (said "Every Sunday I'm here it's my cathedral. Yeah I'm here I was baptized in this church")

Bishop Joseph Alessandro OFM Cap (Maltese national, shot in the hip on a bus by outlaws in 1993; **UPDATE**: said "We are people of God, we are people of faith. God never abandons us and maybe in moments when we feel that we are left on our own. There are those moments that God might be very close to us. Even if we don't feel him")

Sr Evelyn Ingoshe (said "I knew that there was a danger in coming to this place of the country for a non-Muslim but I followed my heart and wanted to do it")

Date: July 27, 2015

Location: Garissa

Source [with video]: <http://www.cnn.com/2015/07/26/world/garissa-color/>



Iraq

Christina Khidr Ebada (aged 3, abducted on August 22, 2014 from her mother's lap by ISIL militants in Qaraqosh; **UPDATE**: a Christian woman named Rana in a phone conversation after her capture by ISIL said that she had cared for Christina, said Christina was later given to a Muslim family to be raised as a Muslim)

Rana (aged 31, wife of Diyaa, captured by ISIL, reported on the whereabouts of Christina Khidr Ebada and Rita, possibly sold into slavery)

Rita (aged 18, captured by ISIL while attempting to rescue her elderly father, sold into slavery)

Talal Abdul Ghani (disappeared, had been whipped after refusing to convert to Islam)

Date: August 22 and September 2014

Location: Qaraqosh

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/26/magazine/is-this-the-end-of-christianity-in-the-middle-east.html?_r=0



North Korea

Pastor Lim Hyeon-Soo (aged 60, Canadian citizen, disappeared after his [January 31, 2015](#) entry to the country; **UPDATE**: confessed to attempting to overthrow the state)

Date: July 31, 2015

Location: Pyongyang

Source [with photo]: <http://www.charismanews.com/world/50817-canadian-pastor-confesses-to-trying-to-overthrow-north-korean-state>



Pakistan

Arif Yousaf (aged 29, brother of Tariq Yousaf, arrested the week previous to **October 30, 2013** after Tariq was charged with blasphemy; **UPDATE**: acquitted, released)

Date reported: July 26, 2015

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/arif-yousuf-the-victim-of-blasphemy-law-in-pakistan-released/>
and <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5500>

Aleem Masih (aged 28, husband of Nadia, brother of Naeem Masih, abducted and **shot dead** by his wife's family)

Nadia (aged 23, convert from Islam, widow of Aleem Masih, abducted and shot by her family for having converted to Christianity and marrying a Christian, left for dead but survived)

Naeem Masih (brother of Aleem Masih, husband of Parveen Naeem)

Parveen Naeem (wife of Naeem Masih, reported that she heard people celebrating the murder of Aleem Masih and that they were saying they could send their sons to death more happily if they kill more Christians)

Date: July 30, 2015

Location: Lahore, Punjab province

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/headlinenewsd.php?hnewsid=5512>



Syria

Patriarch Gregorios III Laham (aged 81, **UPDATE**: said "If [the West] helps moderates in Syria in a direct way, [it is] helping ISIL in an indirect way. If you give money to the weak, moderate groups one day, it will get into the hands of the powerful, militant groups the next. We see this happening every day")

Date: July 29, 2015

Source [with photo]: <http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1438132938.html>



Tajikistan

Event: Christians arrested during a raid on a private home, detained for several hours, authorities demanded they renounce their faith and return to Islam

Nazira Oripova (home raided during a worship service, Bibles seized, detained)

Bimavlyuda Yokubova (detained)

Yusufjon Yakubov (detained)

Umeda Mansurova (detained)

Abdujamol Bobojonov (detained)

Tillakiz Yakubova (detained)

Kimarbon Bobojonov (detained)

Farogat Muhiddinova (detained)

Date: July 18, 2015

Location: Bobojon-Gofurov district, Khujand, Sugd region

Event: Two women detained for conversing with a police agent on the street about their faith, hit and slapped when they refused to sign a confession

Gulnora Tegniyeva

Chaborkhon Bozorboyeva

Date: July 26, 2015

Location: Khujand, Sugd region

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2085



Ukraine

Fr Roman Nikolaev (shot outside his home, hospitalized in critical condition; **UPDATE: died**)

Date: July 25-29, 2015

Location: north Kiev

Source: <http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/80956.htm>

and [with photo]: <http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2015/07/priest-attacked-in-kiev-dies/>

Sr Alevtina (aged 62, **found murdered**, hands were tied and evidence of torture found)

Date: July 29, 2015

Location: Kiev

Source: <http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/2015/07/nun-of-ukrainian-orthodox-church-of-the-moscow-patriarchate-murdered-in-kiev/>



United States - Colorado

Pastor Randy Pfaff (church denied rental use of a public school on Sunday)

Date: July 28, 2015

Location: Florence

Source: <http://christiannews.net/2015/07/30/church-booted-from-public-school-after-district-settles-lawsuit-filed-by-jewish-teacher/>

United States - Kentucky

Rev David Wells (dismissed as a volunteer religious counsellor for state youth services after declining to sign a form stating that he would not describe homosexual activity as 'sinful')

Date reported: July 25, 2015

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/a-us-state-forbids-pastors-to-call-homosexuality-sinful/>

United States - Louisiana

Anna Harrington (wife of Fr Matthew Harrington, delivered her fourth child Irene one month early in a complicated surgery, received 31 units of blood)

Irene (newborn daughter of Anna and Fr Matthew Harrington, diagnosed with hemifacial microsomia)

Date: July 21, 2015

Location: St Francisville

Source [with photo]: <http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/80777.htm>

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