

Today's Martyrs
2015-09-06 through 2015-09-12



Azerbaijan

Irina Zakharchenko (aged 54, widow, disabled, cited for distributing religious literature door to door in Pirallahi on [December 5, 2014](#), detained by the NSM secret police on [February 17, 2014](#) for a pretrial detention of three months', facing possible five years' imprisonment; pretrial detention extended another two months on [May 7, 2015](#); detention extended on [July 4, 2015](#) to September 17, 2015; **UPDATE**: pretrial detention extended another three months)

Valida Jabrayilova (aged 38, cited for distributing religious literature door to door in Pirallahi on [December 5, 2014](#), detained by the NSM secret police on [February 17, 2014](#) for a pretrial detention of three months', facing possible five years' imprisonment; specific charges still not made against her, request on [April 10, 2015](#) to be transferred from the NSM headquarters to house arrest denied, three Muslim prisoners with similar allegations granted house arrest; pretrial detention extended another two months on [May 7, 2015](#); detention extended on [July 4, 2015](#) to September 17, 2015; **UPDATE**: pretrial detention extended another three months)

Date: [September 4, 2015](#)

Location: Baku

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2098



Egypt

Maher Fayez Habib (aged 18, secondary school student, reported on [May 18, 2015](#) to have been arrested on a charge of insulting Islam, held for 4 days in jail; judge ordered him held another 15 days on [June 12, 2015](#); reported on [June 29, 2015](#) to have been ordered held another 45 days; ordered held another 15 days on [August 9, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: ordered held another 15 days)

Date: [September 5, 2015](#)

Location: Beni Suef

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64290>

Fr Luka Asaad (church demolished after shopkeepers broke through the adjoining wall and wrecked the church from the inside)

Date: [September 5, 2015](#)

Location: Rashid, Beheira province

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64258>



India

Rev Sunny Oommen (arrested for leading prayers in a private home, released after 5 hours)

Rev John Alexander (arrested for leading prayers in a private home, released after 5 hours)

Kapoor Chand Jairam (convert, home raided by police, told then that he had invited Rev Sunny Oommen and Rev John Alexander to his home and that he had not been forced to convert)

Bishop Gerald Almeida (**UPDATE**: said "The law and order situation in the state has almost collapsed as government officials act [in a] biased manner against Christians. When a family cannot sit together and pray, you can imagine the situation...We cannot predict what will happen to us [but we will] continue to uphold the law of the land")

Richard James (said "the constitution guarantees following any religion of our choice and the radicals are infringing upon our rights")

Date reported: September 7, 2015

Location: Kesla village, Seoni district, Madhya Pradesh state

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-bishop-calls-anti-christian-harassment-a-serious-worry/74221>

Pastor Sushil Lima (aged 45, arrested on forced conversion charges while visiting an elderly Christian, released later in the evening)

Mahendra Nayak (along with his wife visited Pastor Sushil Lima in jail)

Date: August 23, 2015

Location: Kanheipur village, Odisha state

Mahendra Nayak (along with his wife visited Pastor Sushil Lima in jail on August 23, 2015;

UPDATE: along with his wife was forced to attend a village meeting, tortured and threatened with banishment)

Date: August 24, 2015

Location: Kanheipur village, Odisha state

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Police-and-Hindu-radicals-insult-and-attack-Christians-visiting-elderly-believer-in-India>



Iran

Naghmeh Shariat Panahi Abedini (wife of Saeed Abedini, who has been sentenced to eight years imprisonment; **UPDATE**: announced that she will be fasting until September 26, 2015 for the release of her husband and all persecuted Christians around the globe, has asked others to join with her)

Date: September 6, 2015

Source: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/pastor-saeed-abedinis-wife-naghmeh-fasting-21-days-for-husband-and-persecuted-church-asks-christians-to-join-her-144993/>



Laos

Bountheung Phetsomphone (aged 43, husband, father of three, evicted from his home, then arrested and imprisoned on August 12, 2012; **UPDATE**: arrested for spreading Christianity)

Neuy (aged 40, husband, father of three, arrested for spreading Christianity)

Date: September 2, 2015

Location: Nong-hang

Source <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Khammouane:-two-Laotian-Christians-arrested-on-charges-of-spreading-the-faith-35243.html>



Mexico

Rene Vazquez (detained by village authorities for 24 hours for breaking a curfew which has been applied only to Protestants, two others stopped with him but not detained, money and cell phone stolen by the authorities)

Date: August 31, 2015

Location: Union Juarez village, La Trinitaria municipality, Chiapas state

Source: <http://www.csw.org.uk/2015/09/04/news/2755/article.htm>



Nigeria

Bishop Moses Tabwaye (abducted)

Date: September 7, 2015

Location: Onicha-Ugbo-Ewohimi Road, Edo state

Source: <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2015/09/anglican-bishop-kidnapped-abducted-bank-manager-rescued/>

Fr Gabriel Oyaka CSSP (abducted)

Date: September 7, 2015

Location: Okene-Auchi road, Kogi state

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/38441-AFRICA_NIGERIA_Another_priest_kidnapped_more_and_more_religious_victims_of_road_ambushes#.VfJL9cLlsfg

Rt Rev Benjamin Kwashi (archbishop, said “As a pastor, I have conducted more burial services of those killed through attacks than weddings and naming ceremonies since 2001. It’s sad to note that most victims of the attacks are harmless children, some infants, women and youth”)

Daniel Meshak (said that 50,000 Christians have been displaced from their homes in Barkin Ladi and Riyom local government areas)

Date: August 31, 2015

Location: Jos, Plateau state

Akare Mangam (**shot dead** by Muslim Fulani gunmen, body desecrated)

Mashingil Mangam (**shot dead** by Muslim Fulani gunmen, body desecrated)

Paul Akare (**shot dead** by Muslim Fulani gunmen, body desecrated)

Elizabeth Ezekiel (**shot dead** by Muslim Fulani gunmen, body desecrated)

Josephine Sunday (**shot dead** by Muslim Fulani gunmen, body desecrated)

Rev Dachollom Datiri (**UPDATE**: confirmed the attack)

Date: August 31, 2015

Location: Tanabu village, Gashish district, Barkin Ladi local government area, Plateau state

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2015/09/clergyman-in-nigeria-has-conducted-more-funerals-than-weddings/>



Norway

Shahrzad Sakiani (convert, wife of Mahmoud Mohammadi, arrested in [Stockholm, Sweden](#) on [June 23, 2015](#) after her asylum request was rejected, scheduled for deportation to Iran on [July 15, 2015](#), had previously been arrested in 2010 at a house church in Iran and fled the country while on bail; **UPDATE**: deported to Norway, Norwegian authorities put her on a plane to Iran within 24 hours of her arrival back in Norway, physically resisted, clothes torn, unable to stop screaming, lost control of her bladder, beaten on the flight by a Norwegian immigration agent of Iranian descent, cross necklace ripped from her upon her arrival in Tehran, Iranian officials refused to take custody of her when she refused to

identify herself, returned to Norway, escaped from detention, now in an undisclosed location)

Mahmoud Mohammadi (convert, husband of Shahrzad Sakiani, reported on his wife's [June 23, 2015](#) arrest in [Stockholm, Sweden](#) after her asylum request was rejected and on her scheduled deportation to Iran on [July 15, 2015](#), had previously been arrested in 2010 at a house church in Iran and fled the country while on bail; **UPDATE**: deported to Norway)

Date: [September 5, 2015](#)

Location: [Oslo](#)

Source: <http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=2490>



Pakistan

Jamshed Masih (brother of Pervaiz Masih, described his brother's arrest on blasphemy charges and how police invaded the homes of every Christian in the village and beat every one, including pregnant women, an eight day old baby, and the baby's mother who had been recovering from a C-section, all in an attempt to coerce his location)

Aneeqa Maria Akhtar (attorney, **UPDATE**: said "Every Christian we met at Garra village had a similar story to tell us. They were all tortured by the police for no reason other than that they are poor Christians who cannot fend for themselves")

Date: [September 1, 2015](#)

Location: [Garra village, near Mandi Usmanwala, Kasur district, Punjab province](#)

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2015/09/police-hasty-brutal-in-arrest-of-christian-accused-of-blasphemy-in-pakistan/>

Sarfraz Masih (brother of Sajjad Masih, who was sentenced to life imprisonment on blasphemy charges on July 13, 2013, said "All my efforts to prove his innocence have so far been in vain and I have become a target for fanatics. An appeal is now pending in the Lahore High Court. But it may take years for the hearing to begin. I have resisted four years of intimidation, including death threats, while pursuing my brother's case vigorously. But I can't take it anymore. Our family has decided to go to Sri Lanka and apply for asylum. We are well aware of the risks involved and pray to Jesus that things will be different for us in Sri Lanka")

Pastor Rifaqat Sadiq (said of the plight of Pakistani refugees in Thailand "Owing to poverty and lack of resources, some young girls are forced into prostitution to make a living. But they are still clinging to the hope that they will be granted refugee status by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees")

Kashif A Javed (said "I know many others who have either left [the country] or are giving it serious consideration")

Nadeem John (aged 38, shopkeeper, sold everything and fled to Thailand, the Thai government scheduled his asylum interview for 2019, spent his savings, returned to Pakistan)

Date reported: September 9, 2015

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/persecution-sees-more-pakistani-christians-seeking-asylum-abroad/74236>



Philippines

Rev Christopher Ablon (spoke about military harassment of the investigation of the murder of tribal peoples "The military harassed the group that investigated [a] reported massacre last week...The military's allegation [of communist sympathies] is meant to malign the credibility of the mission")

Sr Rowena Pineda (massacre investigator, said "Threats, harassment, and intimidation are not new")

Sr Noemi Degala SMSM (**UPDATE:** said "We are legal associations with proper documents")

Sr Theodora Bilocura OSB (demonstrated with tribal people after a massacre)

Date reported: September 7, 2015

Location: Mindanao

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/church-groups-decry-military-harassment-in-mindanao/74220>

Archbishop Antonio Ledesma SJ (said that failure to pass a new basic law in Bangsamoro as required by the 2014 peace accord will fuel Islamic extremism)

Date: September 8, 2015

Location: Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/archbishop-in-mindanao-warns-against-rise-of-islamic-extremism/74229>



Syria

Metropolitan Dionysius Jean Kawak (**UPDATE:** said that the 270 Christians abducted by ISIL have been allowed to return to their homes "The church knows everyone is alive and are back in their homes. We can also confirm the agreement, according to the Sharia law, that they are forcing a tax on our people, four golden dinars per person a year, about 17 grams of gold [US\$614] per adult. They are also preventing our people from building churches and monasteries in and around the town. We are not supposed to pray in public and if we are praying in the house we can not let anyone hear. Twenty out of the 270 were able to flee and leave the village and this is what they told us. They are in Homs and they spoke to the church")

Date: September 5, 2015

Location: Al-Qaryatain

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20150905013109.htm>

Archbishop Jacques Behnan Hindo (**UPDATE:** said that ISIL is lowering the price to free the 230 Christians captured in February 2015 and that their freedom may now be possible)

Date: September 8, 2015

Location: Hassake

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/38427->

[ASIA_SYRIA_Archbishop_Hindo_the_demands_of_the_jihadists_for_the_release_of_the_Assyrian_hostages_are_more_accessible#.Ve-gU8Llsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38427-ASIA_SYRIA_Archbishop_Hindo_the_demands_of_the_jihadists_for_the_release_of_the_Assyrian_hostages_are_more_accessible#.Ve-gU8Llsfg)



United States - Kentucky

Kim Davis (aged 49, county clerk, jailed for contempt of court for refusing to issue same sex marriage licenses, court denied her request to remove her pro forma signature from the licenses, still being held despite the fact her office has complied with the law by issuing licenses, appeal underway;

released)

Dates: September 3 - 8, 2015

Location: Rowan county

Casey Davis (county clerk, said he will not issue same sex marriage licenses, is currently away on vacation, proposed to the legislature that the officiator of a wedding issue the license)

Date: September 4, 2015

Location: Casey county

Source: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/will-more-clerks-be-going-to-jail-2nd-christian-kentucky-clerk-defies-ruling-to-issue-marriage-licenses-to-gay-couples-144556/>

and <http://www.christianpost.com/news/kentucky-clerk-kim-davis-who-refused-marriage-licenses-to-same-sex-couples-released-from-prison-144819/>

United States - Oregon

Judge Vance Day (under investigation by the Commission on Judicial Fitness because he told his staff in 2014 that he would no longer officiate at any weddings due to his religious beliefs on same sex marriage)

Date: September 3, 2015

Location: Marion county

Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/oregon-judge-hit-with-ethics-probe-after-refusing-to-do-gay-marriages>

United States - South Carolina

Lt Commander Wes Modder (U.S. Navy chaplain, husband, father of four, accused on [December 6, 2014](#) by his superior officer at the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command, Goose Creek of failing "to show tolerance and respect" in counseling sessions and of being unable to "function in the diverse and pluralistic environment" of his command, allegations are linked to the chaplain's defense of traditional Christian morality; **UPDATE:** the navy refused to allow the superior officer to bring charges to the Board of Inquiry, wrote that the officer's evidence that he demonstrated "substandard performance" does not meet the "standard of gross negligence or complete disregard of duty")

Date: [September 3, 2015](#)

Source: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/navy-chaplain-exonerated-from-possible-discharge-after-expressing-biblical-beliefs-on-homosexuality-144810/>

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