

Today's Martyrs
2015-09-13 through 2015-09-19



China

Pastor Ma Chao (detained along with three other parishioners at the airport, said “We went to the Guangdong Provincial Bureau for Letters and Calls three times and twice to the Guangzhou Municipal Bureau for Letters and Calls. We have no avenue to solve these problems [i.e. persecutions]. Yesterday, we went to the office and again received no answer. We decided to go to Beijing to petition because the local government paid no attention to our problems....We were heading to the gate with the boarding passes. More than two dozen police officers were waiting for us — two in uniform, the others in plainclothes — with officials from the Baiyun District government. They took us to the back of the Baiyun District Police Station and did not say how long we had to wait. Nobody talked to us. I saw the chief of the local religious affairs bureau named Yu Guigang, who had taken our things before”)

Date: August 30, 2015

Location: Baiyun district, Guangdong province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/09/petitioners-detained-at-airport-en.html>

Pastor Zhang Chongzhu (possibly abducted by police)

Date: September 8, 2015

Location: Tongxiang, Jiaxing, Zhejiang province

Deacon Zhang Zhi (still not released after the end of his administrative detention)

Date reported: September 16, 2015

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/09/zhejiang-officials-extend-deacons.html>

Pastor Huang Yizi (aged 41, taken into custody on August 2, 2014 while resisting the demolition of his church's cross; released from prison on August 1, 2015, in good spirits but physically weak; officials forced themselves into his home on August 25, 2015 and placed his family under house arrest for 24 hours, then began 24 hour surveillance of his activities; **UPDATE**: arrested again, charges unknown)

Date: September 12, 2015

Location: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/09/released-zhejiang-pastor-taken-into.html>



Egypt

Fr Demetrios Nasr (said that the government has postponed the demolition of his church after local Christians protested)

Date: September 12, 2015

Location: Alexandria

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64345>



India

Event: Christian leaders spoke out against the state of Maharashtra's introduction of a religious conversion bill

Pramod Singh (**UPDATE:** said "This law will give the legitimacy [to persecute Christians] in the hands of the state and the non-state actors also, who would, or may be, holding the majority [intolerant] opinion...it has the tacit support of the government. These are the forces which want the society to be polarized. It basically comes...to control people, to control their destinies, to control their choice, subjugate them, to interfere in their very personal decisions")

Franklin Caesar (**UPDATE:** said "[Under] the Anti-Conversion Law, it is easy to convert Dalit Christians to Hinduism, Christians to Hinduism, whereas converting people from Hinduism to Christianity is very tough")

Date: September 11, 2015

Source [with video]: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4008146/>

Bishop Peter Machado (condemned an attack on a Christian cemetery)

Date: September 7, 2015

Location: Bharatnagar, Shahapur. Maharashtra state

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/india-a-christian-cemetery-attacked-by-vandals-several-graves-destroyed-crosses-uprooted/>

Pastor Sumatlal Bihoniya (school destroyed, fled village, local police refused to file his complaint)

Date: July 4, 2015

Location: Dhupera, Seoni, Madhya Pradesh state

Pastor Chetan Meravi (beaten and robbed at a bus station, attacker accused him of forcible conversions)

Pastor Bacchudas (beaten and robbed at a bus station, attacker accused him of forcible conversions)

Date: July 16, 2015

Location: Leelatola, Rajendargram, Anuppur, Madhya Pradesh state

Pastor Ramesh Basuniya (arrested during a church service while a Hindu mob threw stones at him and his parishioners, police refused to accept his family's bail money, local media accused him of throwing stones at Hindus)

Date: August 9, 2015

Location: Padlava, Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh state

Pastor Paras Bilwal (arrested with two parishioners and charged with forced conversions)

Date: September 5, 2015

Location: Amjhera, Dhar, Madhya Pradesh state

Event: Three pastors told to stop preaching by local Hindus, tried to file a police report against the Hindus but found a report had already been filed against them, parishioners went ahead with a service without the pastors and were attacked by 150 Hindus, 14 parishioners were arrested for "luring people to Christianity"

Pastor Suresh Mandloi

Pastor Dayal Masaniya

Pastor Ramesh Masaniya

Date: September 6, 2015

Location: Dhar, Madhya Pradesh state

Pastor Bhima (aged 49, abducted by Maoist guerrillas, escaped, the guerrillas then threatened his family of 18 who then flee the village)

Date: July 7, 2015

Location: Ketulnaar, Bijapur, Chhattisgarh state

Event: Six female converts ordered to stop attending church, four refuse, beaten, flee the village

Savitri Korram

Lalita Korram

Phulo Netam

Subai Netam

Date: July 12, 2015

Location: Nawagad, Jaitalkhar, Kondagoan, Chhattisgarh state

Event: Christian conference attacked by up to 50 Hindu extremists, attendees beaten, vehicles vandalized

Pastor Sushant Gyanic (beaten)

Date: July 18, 2015

Location: Piprod, Raipur, Chhattisgarh state

Sukhdev Negi (killed in front of his wife and three children by Maoist guerrillas)

Date: August 12, 2015

Location: Gudsakal, Bhairamgarh, Bijapur, Chhattisgarh state

Jankon Bai Juri (elderly woman, **died of natural causes**, denied a Christian burial, the next day police and media convince the villagers to allow the funeral)

Date: August 13, 2015

Location: Sulega, Narayanpur, Chhattisgarh state

Event: Six converts to Christianity expelled from their village, including three sisters

Lalita Mandavi

Tija Mandavi

Tejai Mandavi

Date: August 25, 2015

Location: Nawagam, Jaitlkhar, Kondagaon, Chhattisgarh state

Pastor Gurumurthy Madi (aged 29, **killed** by Maoist guerrillas after refusing to hand over a former Maoist convert)

Date: August 15, 2015

Location: Telarai, Malkangiri, Odisha state

Purna Mallick (father of five, **killed** by a mob which blamed his faith for the deaths of two villagers by illness, his children were bathed in cow dung)

Date: July 5, 2015

Location: Kesara, Mohana, Gajapati, Odisha state

Pastor Rani Gil (sexually assaulted and stabbed, another pastor assaulted, church and cross urinated on)

Date: August 23, 2015

Location: Batala, Gurdaspur, Punjab state

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2015/09/4008171/>

Dr John Dayal (Christian activist and member of the National Integration Council; **UPDATE**: has seen an increase in death threats, Hindu radicals have obtained his cell phone number and posted it on the internet)

Pramod Singh (president of the Christian Lawyers Association; **UPDATE**: met with the Delhi police chief to express concern over the threats to John Dayal)

Abraham M. Pattiyani (governmental member of Delhi Minority Commission, met with the Delhi police chief to express concern over the threats to John Dayal)

Fr Savarimuthu Shankar (spokesperson of the Archdiocese of Delhi; **UPDATE**: met with the Delhi police chief to express concern over the threats to John Dayal)

Karuna Dayal (daughter of John Dayal, online newspaper editor, wrote "John Dayal, my father, an Indian citizen, journalist and minority rights activist. I have seen his activism grow each day, and his savings getting depleted because he is too voluble, too opinionated, and too unafraid to be employed as the full-time journalist that he once was. That was his choice to make. He lives by the choice, and makes a living with the spare writing or speaking assignment that comes his way. However, what should not be a choice is his

right to live fearlessly in his own country. His activism does not give permission, to those who do not agree, to unleash threats and abuse online")

Date: September 15, 2015

Location: Delhi

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Death-threats-for-Christian-activist-John-Dayal:-Hindu-conspiracy-behind-my-public-humiliation-35318.html>

Event: Three church ministers and employees have been arrested on sexual abuse charges at the instigation of Hindu radicals

Fr Joseph Dhanaswami (high school principal, arrested)

Sr Christ Maria CSS (arrested)

Fr Antony Bara (said that the charges were made under pressure from the Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad)

Bishop Patras Minj (said that police were clearly aware that the charges were false and were acting under pressure to tarnish Christians)

Date: September 11, 2015

Location: Chhattisgarh state

Event: Church vandalized

Fr Joshi Varghese (said "They managed to break one window of the sanctuary and attempted to defile the holy place by throwing stones inside it)

Date reported: September 15, 2015

Location: Haldibadi, Chhattisgarh state

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/church-workers-accused-of-sex-abuse-in-central-india/74266>

Event: Christians attacked during a prayer meeting

Mukh Dev (aged 60, attacked in his home with an axe, suffered a deep gash, had hosted the prayer meeting)

Associate Pastor Mitilesh Kumar (dragged from the home of Mukh Dev, ordered to stop worshipping Jesus, replied they were not doing anything wrong and would not stop, beaten with abrasions and a deep cut on his head)

Munni Devi (aged 60, beaten unconscious, both hands fractured, entire body covered with bruises)

Mani Matiya (aged 30, beaten unconscious with blows to the head with a spade)

Sarita Kumar (aged 18, sister of Pappu Kumar, sustained stomach wounds)

Pappu Kumar (aged 16, brother of Sarita Kumar, skin on his stomach cut open)

Pastor Sarvajit Bharti (verbally abused, motorbike vandalized, said of his parishioners "Four of them received treatment for 10 days, while the rest were given first aid and some medicines. Since April of this year we have been pressured to choose between Christ and our lives, and we are constantly threatened to be chased out from the village if we do not denounce Christ")

Date: September 4, 2015

Location: Hututag village, Palamu district, Jharkhand state

Rev Akash Nandi (described an attack on seven Christian families who were also prohibited from walking on the road or from using the village well “One baptized widow out of intense fear and pressure decided to return to Hinduism, and two men who started attending church services also promised not to take part in any of the Christian meetings again”)

Date: September 9, 2015

Location: Sagarkatta village, Chaibasa municipality, Jharkhand state

Buthram (sons aged 10 and 12 given food by Hindu radicals, **both died from poison**)

Date: June 2015

Location: Sagarkatta village, Chaibasa municipality, Jharkhand state

Rev Akash Nandi (UPDATE: described an attack on four Christian families “The believers in this village could not go anywhere, as they are restricted from walking on the road and taking water from the public pump, and the children were banned from the school. They were not allowed to take care of their herds of cattle, and the extremists threatened to kill and take hold of all their possession if they did not denounce Christ”)

Date: late August 2015

Location: Lupungi Messasai village, Chaibasa municipality, Jharkhand state

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2015/09/christians-in-jharkhand-india-attacked-with-axes-clubs/>



Laos

Rev Singkeaw Wongkongpheng (**stabbed to death** by five men in his home, son pursued and severely injured one attacker who was hospitalized and identified as a possible police officer)

Date: September 8, 2015

Location: Na-ang village, Chomphet district, Luang Prabang province

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-clergyman-killed-in-bungled-abduction-involving-policeman-35320.html>



Mexico

Lauro Nunez Perez (detained three times since July 2015 for refusing to convert to traditionalist Catholicism, fears that leaving his home will result in another arrest, officials refuse to register his children for school)

Date reported: September 14, 2015

Location: La Chachalaca village, Santiago Camotlan municipality, Villa Alta region, Oaxaca state

Source: <http://www.csw.org.uk/2015/09/14/news/2762/article.htm>



South Sudan

Fr Placide MCCI (Congolese national, shot in a road ambush, underwent surgery in Nairobi, Kenya)

Date: September 11, 2015

Location: near Makur Hagar and Agany villages

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/38473->

[AFRICA SOUTH SUDAN A Comboni Congolese missionary wounded in a road ambush#.VfjZsLlsfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/38473-)



United Kingdom

Most Rev Justin Welby (Archbishop of Canterbury, **UPDATE:** said that the government's plan to accept 20,000 Syrian refugees from camps will discriminate against Christians since Christians avoid refugee camps due to fear of targeting by Islamist groups inside them)

Date: September 12, 2015

Archbishop Emeritus George Carey (former Archbishop of Canterbury; **UPDATE:** wrote “The frustration for those of us who have been calling for compassion for Syrian victims for many months is that the Christian community is yet again left at the bottom of the heap. Mr Cameron’s policy inadvertently discriminates against the very Christian communities most victimized by the inhuman butchers of the so-called Islamic State. Christians are not to be found in the UN camps, because they have been attacked and targeted by Islamists and driven from them. They are seeking refuge in private homes, church buildings and with neighbors and family”)

Date: September 5, 2015

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11860902/Archbishop-warns-Cameron-over-Syrian-refugees.html>



United States

Maria Goldstein (request to print an anti-Planned Parenthood flyer denied by Office Depot, later received an apology after retaining legal counsel)

Date: August 20, 2015

Source: <http://www.charismanews.com/us/51978-office-depot-apologizes-for-discriminating-against-christian>

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