

Today's Martyrs
2015-11-01 through 2015-11-07



Canada

Fr Raymond Fenech Gonzi (reported on church buildings vandalized with anti-Christian and pro-abortion graffiti)

Date: October 29, 2015

Location: Welland, Ontario

Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/happy-abortions-vandal-attacks-catholic-church-with-anti-life-graffiti>



Cuba

Pastor Fausto Polemo (church partially demolished by government agents, parishioners protested and stopped the demolition)

Date reported: November 3, 2015

Location: Santiago de Cuba

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/churches-demolishing-drive-in-cuba-a-church-saved-from-being-demolished-as-christians-stage-a-sit-in/>



Egypt

Fayez Fouad (abducted and tortured for three days after refusing to convert to Islam)

Date reported: November 1, 2015

Location: Al Manah village, Nag Hammadi

Source [warning - graphic]: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=64869>



India

Arun Pannalal (**UPDATE**: condemned a call by the RSS paramilitary group for the government to enact strict population controls on religious minorities)

Dr John Dayal (**UPDATE**: said of the RSS proposal "This criminalizes both Christians and Muslims, leading to a rhetoric of poisonous hate against the two communities")

Sajan K George (Global Council of Indian Christians; **UPDATE**: said after the RSS paramilitary organization called for the government to enact strict population controls on religious minorities "Raising the Muslim bogey by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is dangerous and divisive. [Extremists] are twisting the data to stir fears among Hindus about Muslims")

Samuel Jaykumar (National Council of Churches in India; **UPDATE**: said that the RSS proposal "is trying to make these different [Indian] identities into one, which is a very dangerous trend that will take away the diversity of the country")

Date: October 31, 2015

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/hindu-hard-liners-decry-indias-demographic-imbalance/74546>

and <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hindu-paramilitary-group-calls-for-policy-change-to-contain-harmful-minorities-35779.html>

Fr Stanislaus Jebamalai SJ (organized a petition which denounced "well-orchestrated efforts" by Hindu extremists to use the government against non-Hindus, said "A very dangerous trend is gaining momentum in the country, which tolerates violence against minorities of all kinds...It is coming to you, it will be too late if you wait till it comes to you")

Date reported: November 3, 2015

Location: New Delhi

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/indias-christians-join-protest-against-growing-intolerance/74548>



Iran

Maryam Naghash-Zargaran aka Nasim (aged 37, began serving a four years imprisonment on [July 15, 2013](#), apparently has had a heart attack in Evin prison, transferred to Modares hospital on [September 29, 2013](#), condition unknown; subjected to an extremely invasive and public strip search upon returning to Evin prison on [November 12, 2014](#) after a four day furlough, health has been precarious; **UPDATE**: granted a leave for medical treatment, forced to return to Evin Prison midway through her treatment)

Dates: October 27-31, 2015

Location: Tehran

Source: <http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=2608>



Iraq

Fade Yousif (husband of Naghm Yousif Abdel Meseeh, father of Merna and Maram, refugee)

Naghm Yousif Abdel Meseeh (wife of Fade Yousif, mother of Merna and Maram, refugee, said "Even if the situation in Iraq gets better, no matter how safe it is, there's no guarantee it won't happen again. We love the land, but the land doesn't love us")

Merna (aged 9, daughter of Fade Yousif and Naghm Yousif Abdel Meseeh, refugee)

Maram (aged 7, daughter of Fade Yousif and Naghm Yousif Abdel Meseeh, refugee)

Haitham Boutros Azzo (husband of Aida Nasser Toma, father of nine children, refugee)

Aida Nasser Toma (wife of Haitham Boutros Azzo, mother of nine children, refugee, said "It is going to be sad for all the Christians to leave. But we have no other choice, do we? All we want is to be safe and settled. I can't remember one moment of rest and peace. It's been war and violence all my life here")

Date reported: November 2, 2015

Location: Ankawa, Erbil, Kurdistan

Fr Yatroun Yonan Dawood (said of the desire of Christians to leave Iraq "If you're at home, and every day your parents are hitting you, will you stay at home or will you go out? It's human nature that we look for life, not death")

Date reported: November 2, 2015

Location: Diana, Kurdistan

Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/christians-ready-leave-iraqi-homeland-doesnt-love-us-123003962.html>

or <http://www.aina.org/news/20151102152853.htm>

Bishop Rabban al-Qas (**UPDATE:** criticized the Iraqi parliament for failure to amend a law that forces all children under 18 of one parent who converts to Islam to become Muslim without their consent and without the legal recourse to leave Islam)

Date: November 3, 2015

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Kurdish-bishop,-ban-on-18-year-olds-choosing-their-religion-is-anti-Christian-35771.html>

Mayada Abdul Rhani (mother, refugee, said of Muslims "They recruit and train kids like mine to behead people. How could I ever live with those people? It was difficult to live with them before ISIL, now it's impossible")

Date reported: November 4, 2015

Location: Alqosh

Source [with photo]: <http://www.aina.org/news/20151103204428.htm>



Kazakhstan

Viktor Leven (German citizen, husband of Yelizaveta Leven, father of eight, application for Kazakh citizenship denied in 2009, fined and ordered deported as an unregistered missionary in October 2009 for having prayed with Kazakh Christians, decision reversed in Akmola in November 2009 but reinstated when prosecutors complained; **UPDATE:** the United Nations Human Rights Committee ruled that his human rights had been violated)

Yelizaveta Leven (stateless person, wife of Viktor Leven, mother of eight children who are all younger than 15 and who were all born in Kazakhstan)

Date: October 21, 2015

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2115



Kyrgyzstan

Event UPDATE: Two Christian women won their appeal that confirmed the dismissal of fraud charges, NSC secret police attempted twice to detain their attorneys prior to the hearing, then invaded the judges' chambers in an attempt to influence or delay the ruling

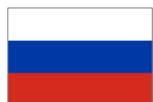
Nadezhda Sergienko (aged 56, mother of Oksana Koryakina, under house arrest on March 20, 2013 on fraud charges after her church filed registration applications; acquitted on all charges on October 7, 2014, judge called the case 'fabricated'; **UPDATE:** released from house arrest)

Oksana Koryakina (aged 35, daughter of Nadezhda Sergienko, under house arrest on March 20, 2013 on fraud charges after her church filed registration applications; acquitted on all charges on October 7, 2014, judge called the case 'fabricated'; **UPDATE:** released from house arrest)

Date: October 29, 2015

Location: Osh

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2116



Russia

O Fioktistova (tried for illegally organizing a public religious event for handing out literature from a wheeled stand, acquitted)

K Tutinova (tried for illegally organizing a public religious event for handing out literature from a wheeled stand, acquitted)

Date: July 1, 2015

Location: Elista, Kalmyk Republic

T Ganzha (tried for illegally organizing a public religious event for handing out literature from a wheeled stand, convicted, fined US\$302)

Date: July 24, 2015

Location: Perm

O Belokon (tried for illegally organizing a public religious event for handing out literature from a wheeled stand, convicted, fined US\$151)

Date: July 27, 2015

Location: Perm

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2117



United Kingdom

Rev Barry Trayhorn (prison gardener, volunteer prison chaplain, resigned from his gardening position after being harassed following a May 2014 homily, said "I simply said what the Bible says. Prisoners need to hear God's word just as much as anyone else. If people come to a Christian chapel service, we cannot hold back the gospel truth that God forgives those who repent. As I led the worship, I spoke about the wonder of God's love and the forgiveness that comes through Jesus Christ to those who recognize their sin and repent. I said that I am the worst sinner I know. But that wasn't politically correct. The mere mention of homosexual behavior in the Bible verses that I quoted provoked complaint. I was barred from taking part in chapel services and trouble came my way. I was put under enormous pressure for daring to say what the Bible says")

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns; **UPDATE:** said "It is astonishing that Barry was forced out of a sex offenders' prison for repeating what the Bible says about sexual behavior – during a chapel service – as he spoke about repentance and forgiveness. This is an important case. Freedom to maintain a clear gospel witness in prisons needs to be protected")

Date: November 4, 2014

Location: HMP Littlehey, Cambridgeshire

Source [with photo]: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/freedom-of-speech/christian-prison-worker-forced-to-resign-after-quoting-bible-in-chape>



United States - Washington state

Joe Kennedy (assistant football coach, suspended by his school for refusing to stop public prayer, the school stated it was afraid of a lawsuit should he continue)

Date: October 28, 2015

Location: Bremerton

Source: <http://www.persecution.org/2015/10/30/washington-school-district-places-football-coach-on-leave-until-he-stops-praying-on-field/>

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