

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2015-12-13 through 2015-12-19



Azerbaijan

Rashad Niftaliev (aged 28, **UPDATE**: worship service raided, nine worshippers fined US\$1,910 each, arrested 5 days later for not paying his fines which now totaled US\$4,730, has been paying the fines in small installments, released after serving 25 days imprisonment)

Dates: November 14, 19, and December 14, 2015

Location: Gyanja

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2134



Bangladesh

Bipasha D'Cruze (aged 43, sister of Ranjan Lawrence D'Cruze and Rajesh Alexander D'Cruze, stabbed, hospitalized)

Jessy D'Costa (aged 32, wife of Rajesh Alexander D'Cruze, said "If they were robbers, they could have left with valuables. They attacked with knives and guns and they came to kill")

Fr Albert Thomas Rozario (**UPDATE**: said of the attack on the D'Cruze family "The attackers came to kill people. We guess their intention was to terrorize the Christian community. We have already talked to the Home Minister about the incident and he has assured us he will look into the matter")

Nirmal Rozario (general secretary of the Bangladesh Christian Association; **UPDATE**: said of the attack on the D'Cruze family "This seems like a preplanned attack as the assailants used guns and machetes. Recent attacks on Christians have remained unpunished, which might be emboldening extremists")

Date: December 10, 2015

Location: Mohakhali district, Dhaka

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/three-seriously-hurt-after-catholic-family-attacked-in-dhaka-home/74777>



Belarus

Sergei Lukanin (attorney, detained on [November 7, 2014](#) for reading the Bible aloud in a public park, has yet to receive clarification from the government that his actions are not legal)

Date: [December 10, 2015](#)

Location: Minsk

Valery Shirei (detained for passing out religious literature in the street, said "Officers were polite and tolerant in the police station", acquitted)

Date: [September 19 and 25, 2015](#)

Location: Glubokoye, Vitebsk region

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2132



China

Cheng Chaohua (released from detention)

Huang Xiaoyuan (released from detention)

Zhou Jian (detained on [August 26, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: released from detention)

Date: [December 11, 2015](#)

Location: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Wang Yunxian (detained on [August 26, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: released from detention)

Date: [December 12, 2015](#)

Location: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Oan Liyue (detained on [September 7, 2015](#), still detained)

Date: [December 14, 2015](#)

Location: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/12/detainees-released-in-zhejiang.html>

Rev Lee Man-yuk (church construction demonstrated against by neighbors who believe it would affect the village's feng shui)

Date: [December 13, 2015](#)

Location: Hong Kong

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/rare-hong-kong-religious-protest-targets-protestant-church/74796>

Zhang Tan (published a detailed history of the Huoshi Church including its persecution)

Date: [December 9, 2015](#)

Location: Guiyang, Guizhou province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2015/12/huoshi-church-member-writes-letter.html>



Egypt

Antonious Fam Bertie (aged 10, son of Fam Berty, abducted on [December 8, 2015](#) while on the way to school by masked gunmen; **UPDATE**: released)

Date: [December 13, 2015](#)

Location: Rahmaniya village, Nag Hammadi, Qena province

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=65283>

Youhana Zakry Zaky (wife abducted in [August 2014](#), said the chief prosecutor has not responded to his complaint and told him that it does not matter if a hundred Copts die)

Date: [December 14, 2015](#)

Location: Alexandria

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=65293>

Tahani Aziz (aged 70, **stabbed to death** in her home)

Date: [December 14, 2015](#)

Location: Minya

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=65301>

Fr Bakhom Adel (said that security forces have reversed their position and will not allow the reopening of a church)

Date: [December 14, 2015](#)

Location: Al-Rahmaniah, Qena province

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=65295>

Maher al-Gohary (catechumen, has filed suit to change his religion on his national id card from Islam to Christianity, said he and his daughter have suffered persecution for years)

Date reported: [December 17, 2015](#)

Source [with photo]: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1533&A=21533>

Issac Mosad (aged 55, freed by police, had been abducted for ransom and held for 5 days)

Date reported: [December 18, 2015](#)

Location: Assiut

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1534&A=21550>



India

Event: Eight Christians arrested in September 2007 on accusations of proselytism were acquitted in court and released

K Varghese

M Thomas

S Babu

T Alexander

T James

T Joseph

T Sebastian

V Baby

Date: December 16, 2015

Location: Puttur, Karnataka state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Karnataka:-eight-Christians-acquitted-in-forced-conversion-case-36169.html>

Rajath Pradhan (husband of Swapna Pradhan, hosted a prayer meeting in his home that was attacked by Hindu radicals)

Pastor Anil Kumar (hit on the head with a bucket, suffered a deep cut, later said “Balanagar is [a] stronghold for the RSS and all its affiliates. It is becoming increasingly difficult to hold prayers in Christian homes. Even the Christians are afraid of hosting prayers in their homes”)

Date: October 12, 2015

Location: Balanagar village, Mahabubnagar district, Telangana state

Rev Ronald John (**UPDATE:** said “Mahabubnagar District has experienced severe persecution in the last 11 months. Apart from countless minor incidents in the district, there have been reports of severe incidents where churches were torched or vandalized. In one case in Pebber, we saw one of the most shocking incidents of Hindu radicals mercilessly stamping children and women, causing serious injuries. It is the Christian unity that can counter this systematic infiltration of hate by the communal forces in the district”)

Date: December 17, 2015

Source: <http://www.persecution.org/2015/12/17/christian-persecution-reaches-new-heights-in-indias-telangana-state-as-country-debates-rise-in-intolerance/>



North Korea

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

UPDATE: sentenced to life imprisonment at hard labor)

Date: December 16, 2015

Location: Pyongyang

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Pyongyang-sentences-Canadian-Christian-missionary-to-life-in-prison-36161.html>



Pakistan

Salma (alias, wife, mother of three, accused of blasphemy, husband beaten when he refused to convert to Islam, in hiding)

Date reported: December 17, 2015

Location: Islamabad

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/accused-of-blasphemy-catholic-family-flees-islamabad/74805>



Philippines

Pastor Feliciano “Cris” Lasawang (aged 50, husband, father of Darwin Lasawang and six others, **shot dead** by Maoist rebels)

Darwin Lasawang (aged 24, son of Pastor Feliciano “Cris” Lasawang, **shot dead** by Maoist rebels)

Date: November 27, 2015

Location: Culaman River, north of Jose Abad Santos, Davao del Sur province, Mindanao

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2015/12/maoist-rebel-group-suspected-in-killing-of-pastor-son-in-the-philippines/>



Syria

Event: A triple ISIL suicide bombing killed up to 60 people including some Christians

George Ballo (**killed**)

Slivo Isaac (**killed**)

Milia Tolo (**killed**)

Hisham Bato (**killed**)

Date: December 11, 2015

Location: Tel Tamar

Source: <http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/?p=45332>



Tanzania

“Ally” (Christian leader, **UPDATE:** said of the government's campaign to close Non-Governmental Organizations: “Our main worry is that most of the local churches and mission-based organizations are registered as NGOs and last year more than 37 were closed on this account. They pay their fees, they report their work, but they were closed for breaking the [prohibition] of interfering with other faith affairs - converting a Muslim, preaching to a Muslim, or even [allowing] a convert [from Islam] to run and hide in their homes”)

Date: December 17, 2015

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Christian-organisations-targeted-as-Tanzanian-government-bans-hundreds-of-NGOs>



Uganda

Ismail Kuloba (aged 43, convert from Islam, police officer, **shot dead** with his own firearm when attacked by 20 Muslims while responding to a fictitious call)

Date: December 8, 2015

Location: Komodo area, Kadama sub-county, Kibuku district

Madengho Badir (aged 42, convert from Islam, father of Nabukwasi Shakira, Gessa Amuza and Wagti Musitafa, children abducted, said “I know the Muslims are doing this to frustrate my hope in Christ and to make me return to Islam. I know God will answer our prayer, and I will get back my three children, since my only hope is in Jesus”)

Nabukwasi Shakira (aged 5, child of Madengho Badir, abducted)

Gessa Amuza (aged 8, child of Madengho Badir, abducted)

Wagti Musitafa (aged 10, child of Madengho Badir, abducted)

Date: December 9, 2015

Location: Kabuna, near Budaka, Kaderuna district

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2015/12/muslim-extremists-in-eastern-uganda-kill-christian-policeman-kidnap-three-children/>



Ukraine

Fr Nikolay Sisonyuk (yard and automobile vandalized, apparently by supporters of the Kiev Patriarchate)

Date reported: December 15, 2015

Location: Ptichaya village, Rovno region

Source: <http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/88822.htm>



United States - Nevada

Event: Several churches invaded by men claiming to be Christian converts from Islam, Masses disrupted

Fr Gerald R Grupczynski SCHR

Fr Tomasz Ludwicki SCHR

Fr Richard Philiposki SCHR

Date: December 5, 2015

Location: Las Vegas

Source: <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/muslim-turned-christian-protesters-disrupt-catholic-masses-in-las-vegas/>



Vietnam

Rev Nguyen Trung Ton (detained by police)

Date reported: December 14, 2015

Location: Thanh Hoa province

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/pastor-arrested-rights-protesters-beaten-in-vietnam/74790>

Nguyen Van Dai (aged 46, attorney, husband of Khanh, beaten by police in [Quan Hanh, Nghi Loc district](#) on [December 6, 2015](#) for having attended a human rights forum that covered freedom of religion; **UPDATE**: arrested at his home on charges of 'propaganda against the state', computers, Christian and human rights materials seized)

Khanh (wife of Nguyen Van Dai, told the police: "We believe in Jesus. I told them that was our religion...but they ignored my words" and seized all of their Christian possessions)

Date: December 16, 2015

Location: Hanoi

Source [warning - graphic]: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Nguyen-Van-Dai,-a-Christian-lawyer,-detained-for-propaganda-against-the-state-36184.html>

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