

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2016-01-03 through 2016-01-09



Brazil

Fr Antonio Alves de Almeida (aged 67, **stabbed to death** in an apparent robbery)

Date: June 10, 2015

Location: Boca do Rio, Salvador, Bahia state

Source: <http://www.fides.org/eng/attachments/view/file/PastoralCareWorkerskilledin2015.doc>



Egypt

Fr Ayub Yusif (**UPDATE**: reported that Christian cemeteries [sic] in his village have been turned into a garbage dump)

Date: January 2, 2016

Location: Dalga

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=65494>



Kenya

Dr Rita Fossaceca (aged 51, radiologist, missionary, Italian citizen, **killed** during an attempted robbery in her home)

Date: November 28, 2015

Location: Mijomboni

Source: <http://www.fides.org/eng/attachments/view/file/PastoralCareWorkerskilledin2015.doc>

Meshack Owino (**shot dead** while trying to flee al-Shabaab terrorists who had stopped his bus)

Date: December 21, 2015

Location: Elwak

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/01/non-muslims-targeted-in-islamic-extremist-attacks-in-mandera-kenya/>



Nigeria

Gloria Kwashi (wife of Archbishop Benjamin Kwashi, has been operating an orphanage for 400 children orphaned by the Islamist violence)

Rt Rev Benjamin Kwashi (archbishop, husband of Gloria Kwashi; **UPDATE**: has led night prayers at the orphanage)

Date: December 27, 2015

Location: Jos, Plateau state

Source: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/international-persecution/christians-in-nigeria-having-nothing-but-everything>



Sudan

Pastor Hafiz Mengisto (as of December 14, 2015 has been tried on a charge of interfering with a civil servant, charged after challenging the demolition of part of his church; **UPDATE**: acquitted)

Date: December 29, 2015

Source:

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/sudanese.pastor.acquitted.of.obstructing.church.demolition/75776.htm>

Elshikh Kadoud (convert from Islam, arrested, charged with apostasy, had been turned in by his own father)

Date: early December 2015

Source: <http://www.bosnewslife.com/36089-sudan-detains-christians-churches-demolished>



Syria

Event: Church leaders denounced the ISIL suicide bombing of three Christian-owned restaurants

Patriarch Ignatius Ephrem Joseph III Yonan (**UPDATE**: said "Most victims were young people willing to welcome the New Year with hope and joy. In tears and gloomy hope, Christians of Qamishli welcomed 2016...It was a sinister message the terrorists wanted to send to the Christians of this city, sowing death and tears...a message of horror... We pray to the Lord to end this tragedy: Enough of this terrorism, enough is enough")

Patriarch Ignatius Ephrem II (aged 50; **UPDATE**: wrote "The old people weep, the young are losing hope and the children's joy is wiped away...The enemy of humanity is spreading its power everywhere in our beloved Middle East, seeking to destroy the homes of the children of God and to lead them astray. What god do these suicide bombers worship? What religion do they follow? They use blood, slaughter, and killing as a way to please their god. Where are the people of good conscience to act against these attacks? Is it not time to wake up from their deep sleep and to do all that is possible to protect the remaining people in this region, whose sole concern is to live in peace in their homeland? Is it not the fit time to unite and collectively fight all forms of terrorism and extremism?")

Date: December 30, 2015

Location: Qamishli

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20160104154804.htm>
and <http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/?p=45660>

Fr Dhiya Azziz OFM (aged 41, Iraqi citizen, abducted on [December 23, 2015](#) by persons unknown [on the road between Lattakia and Yacubiyah](#) while returning from visiting his parents who are refugees in Turkey, all other persons in his taxi also missing; **UPDATE**: released)

Date: January 4, 2016

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Fr.-Dhiya-Azziz,-parish-priest-kidnapped-in-Syria,-is-released-36311.html>



United Kingdom

Pastor James McConnell (aged 78, beginning on [June 17, 2015](#) had been under prosecution for an anti-Islamic homily posted to the internet; **UPDATE**: acquitted)

Date: January 5, 2016

Location: Belfast, Northern Ireland

Source: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/freedom-of-speech/victory-for-preacher-in-free-speech-case>

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