

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2016-01-10 through 2016-01-16



Bangladesh

Louis Soren (aged 40, husband of Gugita, **murdered**)

Gugita (widow of Louis Soren)

Fr Emilio Spinelli PIME (reported on the murder of Louis Soren)

Date: January 8, 2016

Location: Jabripara village, Naogaon district

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Rajshahi:-tribal-Catholic-killed,-possibly-linked-to-land-feud-36356.html>

Rev Gilbert Biswas (detained by police for preaching the Gospel at a Muslim pilgrimage site)

Date: January 9, 2016

Location: Tongi

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-clergyman-arrested-as-a-threat-to-the-Bishwa-Ijtema-Islamic-pilgrimage-36385.html>



China

Event: Officials ordered a church operated kindergarten to close at the end of the academic year and banned all teachers from further employment in education, leaders still imprisoned

Cheng Jie (wife of Pastor Du Hongbo, mother of two young children, detained in [Liuzhou, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region](#) on [February 18, 2014](#), charged with "engaging in illegal business operation" for running a Christian kindergarten; convicted on [May 1, 2015](#) of "illegal business operations" for having printed course materials without a permit, sentenced to two years' imprisonment and fined US\$806, appeals planned because the permit law does not apply to internal documents; **UPDATE**: still imprisoned, forced to perform hard labor for 10 to 15 hours per day)

Li Jiatao (wife of Ma Jiawen, mother of two, detained on [June 24, 2014](#) by police in [Liuzhou, Guangdong province](#) without warrant; arrest application for illegally publishing children's

books approved by prosecutors on [July 30, 2014](#); convicted on [May 1, 2015](#) of "illegal business operations" for having printed course materials without a permit, sentenced to two years' imprisonment and fined US\$806, appeals planned because the permit law does not apply to internal documents; **UPDATE**: still imprisoned, forced to perform hard labor for 10 to 15 hours per day)

Date: [January 11, 2016](#)

Location: [Nanning Women's Prison](#)

Source [with photo]: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/01/officials-close-kindergarten-bar.html>

Hu Shigen (church elder in Beijing, disappeared on [July 10, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: formally arrested on a charge of 'subversion of state power')

Date: [January 8, 2016](#)

Location: [Tianjin](#)

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/01/beijing-church-elder-formally-arrested.html>



Egypt

Adly Aziz (aged 48, **murdered**)

Date: [January 9, 2016](#)

Location: [Samalout, Minya province](#)

Source: <http://www.mcndirect.com/showsubject.aspx?id=65550>

Fr Thomas Fekry (described parishioner protests against the government closure of their church on a permit technicality)

Date: [January 15, 2016](#)

Location: [Khosous, Cairo](#)

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1554&A=21902>



India

Sajan K George (**UPDATE**: reported on a Hindu attack on a Christian prayer service in which the Christians were arrested to 'calm tempers': "The police should have only dispersed the mob that had gathered outside the church...they [instead] acted against people who were praying in a private place")

Date: [December 31, 2015](#)

Location: [Bannur Jodukatte Puttur, Karnataka state](#)

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Hindu-extremists-disrupt-Christmas-and-New-Years-Eve-services>



Indonesia

Rev Jasman Bancin (described the provincial government efforts to tear down tents erected by his and other churches following the government's demolition of their church buildings "Mothers, children and youths blockaded them. They made their objections clear")

Fr Blasius S Yesse (spoke on the provincial government efforts to tear down tents erected by churches following the government's demolition of their church buildings "This must not happen in Indonesia...Everyone has the right to worship anywhere. No one has the right to ban others to do so. The only hope is central government intervention. So local regulations don't go too far. The state must be there to guarantee freedom of worship")

Fr Alfons Pandiangan OFM Cap (has been sheltering refugees after at least 8,000 Christians fled Muslim attacks on [October 13, 2015](#) over 'illegal' temporary; **UPDATE**: said that religious freedom in the province seems to be difficult to enforce)

Date: January 8, 2016

Location: Aceh Singkil district, Aceh province

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/sharia-police-prepare-to-remove-church-tents-in-aceh/74919>



Iran

Misem Hojatti (arrested in his parent's home by plain-clothed intelligence officers on [December 23, 2015](#), hand-cuffed and slapped, religious items, electronics, and a Christmas tree seized; **UPDATE**: released on bail)

Date: January 6, 2016

Location: Esfahan

Source: <http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=2770>

Naghmeh Shariat Panahi Abedini (wife of Saeed Abedini, who has been sentenced to eight years imprisonment; **UPDATE**: wrote "My travels over the last three years have opened my eyes to the condition that the body of Christ is in: pursuing fame, wealth and 'followers / numbers' has become normal in the Christian world. We are becoming like the world and we are totally OK with that")

Date: January 10, 2016

Source: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/naghmeh-abedini-christians-pursuing-fame-despite-enemies-god-warning-154621/>



Kenya

Event: The government has withdrawn its proposal to regulate churches after Christian opposition

Bishop Philip Anyolo (said the proposal was a "clear violation of the constitution")

Date: January 13, 2016

Source: <http://www.ecumenicalnews.com/article/kenya-government-climbs-down-on-religious-restrictions-after-catholic-evangelical-opposition/37423.htm>



Mali

Beatrice Stockly (social worker, missionary, Swiss citizen, abducted on April 15 2012, released on April 24, 2012; **UPDATE**: abducted, had received death threats)

Date: January 8, 2016

Location: Abaradjou, Timbuktu

Hamar Oumar Dicko (Christian radio station employee, **killed**)

Samuel Dicko (Christian radio station employee, **killed**)

Date: December 17, 2015

Location: Timbuktu

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/01/4215120/>
and <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/08/swiss-national-beatrice-stockly-abducted-second-time-mali-timbuktu>



North Korea

Pastor Lim Hyeon-Soo (aged 61, Canadian citizen, disappeared after his January 31, 2015 entry to the country; sentenced in Pyongyang on December 16, 2015 to life imprisonment at hard labor; **UPDATE**: stated in an interview that he spends 8 hours a day, 6 days a week digging holes for an orchard in frigid temperatures in a labor camp where he is the only inmate)

Date: January 12, 2016

Source [with photo]: <http://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2016/January/Pastor-Digging-Holes-in-Labor-Camp-Desperate-for-Family-Contact>

Pastor Kim Dong Chul (aged 60, U.S. citizen, detained on espionage charges)

Date: January 12, 2016

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-usa-detainee-idUSKCN0UQ0PY20160112>



Pakistan

Event: A young Muslim was caught burning books in a church, arrested, police said he could not be prosecuted due to mental illness, witnesses said he was not mentally ill and pointed out that mentally ill Christians are usually prosecuted in similar circumstances, the arsonist was also seen being dropped off at the church by others.

Sadiqa Bibi (wife of John Masih, caught a young Muslim burning Bibles and hymnals in church)

John Masih (husband of Sadiqa Bibi, detained a young Muslim for burning Bibles and hymnals in church)

Allah Wasaya (detained a young Muslim for burning Bibles and hymnals in church)

Al Tamash Hunny (detained a young Muslim for burning Bibles and hymnals in church)

Date: January 7, 2016

Location: Kasur

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5747>

Pastor Yaqoob Saroya (church heavily damaged in an arson attack by Muslims who objected to the use of loudspeakers during a service)

Dildar Bhatti (catechist, described details of the arson attack on his church "The police were called, who initially said it was a short circuit, but there were no electric wires near the fire and none were burned. Also, the church boundary wall had footprints, suggesting someone had scaled it")

Karamat Masih (said "All the local Christians are now in great fear, the fire illustrates that Christians are not wanted in the local area")

Date: January 6, 2016

Location: Baath, Manga Mandi, Lahore

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5749>

and <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/01/4241296/>

and <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/christians-not-wanted-in-pakistan-says-a-believer-from-the-church-which-was-set-on-fire-few-days-ago/>

Bashir Masih (church service disrupted by two Muslims who were persuaded to stop but who then filed a police report alleging they had been beaten by the Christians, the next day the Christians filed their own police report only to have their homes attacked by 30 men with axes and clubs)

Gulshan ("boy", fought with one of the Muslims, separated by the other Christians)

Dates: January 3-4, 2016

Location: near Pasrur

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/01/4241296/>
and <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/01/muslims-in-pakistan-disrupt-christians-worship-storm-homes/>

Saima Bibi (aged 15, sister of Riaz Masih, abducted, forcibly converted to Islam, and forcibly married to her abductor)

Riaz Masih (brother of Saima Bibi, described her abduction and forcible marriage and conversion)

Fr Joseph Louis (said of the abduction and forcible marriage and conversion of Saima Bibi "This is unacceptable, we totally condemn this. The girl was not even mature as the Child Marriage Restraint Act defines the official age of marriage for girls to be 16 years. We demand that courts give justice to the affected family")

Date reported: January 14, 2016

Location: Kasur district, Punjab province

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/family-says-teen-forced-to-convert-to-islam-after-kidnapping/74964>

Liaquat Masih (aged 47, husband of Rubina, father of Khurram, Kinza, Adeel, and Zarish, driver, arrested for allegedly stealing gold from his employer, tortured by police, **died of a heart attack while being tortured**)

Rubina (aged 40, widow of Liaquat Masih)

Khurram (aged 20, son of Liaquat Masih and Rubina, arrested and tortured, witnessed his father's death)

Kinza (aged 15, daughter of son of Liaquat Masih and Rubina)

Adeel (aged 12, son of Liaquat Masih and Rubina, arrested and beaten by police along with 5 other Christians during a peaceful demonstration against police misconduct prior to his father's wake)

Zarish (aged 9, son of Liaquat Masih and Rubina)

Dates: November 15, 2015 and January 13-14, 2016

Location: Gujranwala

Source: <http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/5th-christian-man-dies-while-in-custody-of-pakistans-christianophobic-police>



Slovakia

Fr Anton Srholec SDB (aged 86, **died of cancer**, had spent 10 years in prison ending in 1960 for pursuing a theological education)

Date: January 7, 2016

Location: Bratislava

Source: <http://spectator.sme.sk/c/20070713/priest-former-dissident-srholec-died.html>



Thailand

Pervaiz Ghori (Pakistani refugee, **died** in a detention center)

Date: January 10, 2016

Location: Bangkok

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/no-hope-in-hell-another-pakistani-christian-dies-in-thai-detention-center/>

and <http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/another-pakistani-christian-asylum-seeker-dies-in-brutal-thailand-immigration>

Zahid Younis (Pakistani refugee, wrote a letter to Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau asking for asylum for himself and others)

Date: January 14, 2016

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5753>



United Kingdom

Event: Four Christian Members of Parliament signed a letter stating that a government proposal to establish government oversight of Sunday schools could lead to their closure when traditional Christian beliefs were taught

David Burrowes

Fiona Bruce (**UPDATE**)

Gary Streeter

Sir Gerald Howarth

Date: January 11, 2016

Location: London

Source: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/education/sunday-schools-could-be-banned-for-teaching-biblical-view-of-marriage-say-mps>



Zimbabwe

Pastor Patrick Mugadza (aged 45, arrested on a charge of criminal nuisance for silently holding a sign that read 'Mr. President, the people are suffering. Proverbs 21:13' outside the Zanu PF party conference, ordered held on an excessive bail of US\$500, trial postponed when the arresting officers failed to appear in court)

Dates: in mid-December 2015 and January 5, 2016

Location: Victoria Falls

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Pastor-arrested-after-peaceful-protest-in-Zimbabwe>

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