

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2016-02-07 through 2016-02-13



Bangladesh

Nirmal Rozario (general secretary of the Bangladesh Christian Association; **UPDATE**: described an attack on sleeping nuns by 20 armed robbers, one nun was slapped until their savings for convent repairs was turned over)

Fr Naren J Baidya (said "They vandalized the convent's chapel and desecrated the Eucharist from the tabernacle")

Date: February 7, 2016

Location: Chuadanga district

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bangladesh,-Catholic-nuns-robbed-and-beaten-in-the-night-36626.html>

and <http://www.ucanews.com/news/bangladesh-catholic-church-convent-attacked-desecrated/75171>



Burkina Faso

Dr Ken Elliot (husband of Jocelyn Elliot, Australian citizen, missionary, abducted by al-Qaeda linked militants in Ouagadougou on January 15, 2016; **UPDATE**: still in captivity)

Date reported: February 8, 2016

Source:

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/burkina.faso.al.qaeda.frees.kidnapped.missionary.jocelyn.elliott.but.husband.ken.still.held/78997.htm>



Canada

Leye Oyelani (Christian event coordinator, reported on October 29, 2015 to have been denied a permit by the Toronto, Ontario government for 2016 because the event included songs that contained the name of Jesus and thus violated the city's anti-proselytizing policy;

UPDATE: reported that the municipal agency has agreed to allow the Christian event to proceed)

Peter Ruparella (said "I believe it's a victory for all Christians")

Beena Ruparella (said "We can now say the name of Jesus in the public square")

Date: February 4, 2016

Source [with photos]: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/breaking-christian-festival-wins-fight-to-sing-name-of-jesus-in-toronto-squ>



Central African Republic

Bishop Juan Jose Aguirre Munos (**UPDATE:** said "Since the beginning of 2016 my diocese has been continuously under LRA [Lord's Resistance Army] attack and nobody talks about it. We have been attacked everywhere for over a month. The LRA has attacked more than six villages in the area. Here in Bangassou we have welcomed many displaced people who fled from Niakari area, where the diocese has a place of pilgrimage. In Niakari, last week, the LRA abducted and beat up the residents. Three days ago I went to Bakouma, where on January 21, the local mission had been ransacked, and I brought with me the two nuns and seminarians who were operating there. The LRA group that ransacked the Bakouma mission almost certainly enjoyed the complicity of a Seleka group, the former Central African rebellion. For over two hours the nuns and seminarians were at the mercy of some fifteen armed men...What hurts me the most is that nothing is said about what happens in Bangassou, but we report the news such as the arrest of one of the LRA leaders, Okot Odek, who was captured far from Bangassou, in the north of the Country. Odek is a boy who had been kidnapped by the LRA and then became a criminal leader of this group. But there are several other LRA leaders who continue to hassle us")

Date reported: February 10, 2016

Source [with photo]: http://www.fides.org/en/news/59384-AFRICA_CENTRAL_AFRICA_The_Bishop_of_Bangassou_We_are_continuously_under_LRA_attack_but_nobody_talks_about_it#.Vr04y8IUUfg



China

Pastor Huang Yizi (aged 42, arrested again on [September 12, 2015](#), charges unknown; **UPDATE:** released)

Date reported: February 5, 2016

Location: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/02/authorities-release-zhejiang-pastor.html>

Cao Nan (operator of the Caring Center, a shelter in [Shenzhen](#) for the homeless and disabled, shelter raided on [June 30, 2015](#) by 200 police and government agents due to 'illegal religious activities', up to 30 residents were removed and the door welded shut; **UPDATE**: described a police raid on another Caring Center shelter, 15 patients and staff seized and relocated to another shelter)

Date: February 4, 2016

Location: Huizhou, Guangdong province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/02/officials-raid-christian-care-center.html>



Egypt

Samira A (aged 25, housewife, disappeared)

Date reported: February 9, 2016

Location: while travelling from Edmu village, Minya province to Cairo

Source: <http://www.copticsolidarity.org/media-news-events/news/4557-coptic-housewife-disappears-under-mysterious-circumstances-in-minya>

Susanna Reda Thabit (reported on [February 3, 2016](#) to have disappeared under mysterious circumstances; **UPDATE**: returned home safely after hundreds of Copts publicly demonstrated against her disappearance)

Date: February 10, 2016

Location: Samalout, Minya province

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1573&A=22238>



India

Event: Three Christians arrested for celebrating religious rites without permission

Rev Rampal

Lalu Gautam

Ranjeet

Date: February 7, 2016

Location: Nodia, Uttar Pradesh state

Rev Sajju K John (evening prayers with 20 other Christian leaders interrupted by Hindu radicals, forced onto the street, beaten, arrested by police but released without charge)

Date: February 6, 2016

Location: Robertsganj, Uttar Pradesh state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Rising-violence-against-Christians-in-Uttar-Pradesh-ahead-of-state-elections-36633.html>



Kazakhstan

Pastor Maksim Tashenov (church service raided by police without warrant, an Indian citizen in attendance was questioned and harassed)

Date: January 30, 2016

Location: Aktau

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2147



Kenya

Hassan (aged 26, convert from Islam, beaten by a Muslim gang on [October 27, 2011](#), lost two teeth; **UPDATE**: beaten by Muslim relatives while on the way to church, 15 year old brother escaped, suffered major head and abdominal injuries, hospitalized)

Date: February 7, 2016

Location: Nairobi

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/02/muslim-relatives-of-somali-christian-in-kenya-beat-him-unconscious-for-his-faith/>

Anatstacia Mikwa (student, wounded in the [April 2, 2015](#) Islamist attack on Garissa University College, **UPDATE**: has been able to regain the ability to walk with crutches after 28 surgeries)

Date reported: February 12, 2016

Source: <http://www.persecution.org/2016/02/12/how-a-persecuted-christian-brought-to-the-edge-of-death-in-kenya-can-forgive-her-persecutors/>



Niger

Jocelyn Elliot (wife of Dr Ken Elliot, Australian citizen, missionary, abducted by al-Qaeda linked militants in [Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso](#) on [January 15, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: freed)

Date reported: February 8, 2016

Source:

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/burkina.faso.al.qaeda.frees.kidnapped.missionary.jocelyn.elliott.but.husband.ken.still.held/78997.htm>



Pakistan

Qaisar Jahan (hired as a 'water man' who delivers water to students, has been fighting demotion to janitor by the Muslim headmistress after it was discovered he was a Christian, said "Two other friends of mine have been hired as 'water men' in other schools but have been forced to do the janitorial work. I will not do it")

Lala Robin Daniel (activist, **UPDATE**: has been assisting Qaisar Jahan in his attempt to retain his job)

Date reported: February 9, 2016

Location: Partab Nagar, Faisalabad

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/A-‘water-man’-discriminated-in-high-school-because-he-is-Christian-and-should-not-give-water-to-students-36634.html>

Shunila Ruth (member of the provincial parliament, called on the provincial government to rescue 13-year old Sana Shahid from her abductors)

Date reported: February 8, 2016

Location: Punjab province

Source [with photo and video]: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/christian-politician-shunila-ruth-urges-punjab-government-to-recover-sana-shahid/>

Fouzia Sadiq (aged 30, wife, mother of Muqadas, Saniya, and Sahil, abducted by her employer on July 23, 2015 and forcibly married and converted to Islam; **UPDATE**: escaped from her abductor, in hiding, accused by her abductor of stealing gold, family has been threatened by police with arrest of an innocent family member if she is not returned)

Muqadas (aged 9 years, child of Fouzia Sadiq)

Saniya (aged 7 years, child of Fouzia Sadiq)

Sahil (aged 5 years, child of Fouzia Sadiq)

Paris (brother of Fouzia Sadiq, aided her escape, said "God has worked a miracle. I never thought I would see my sister again! Our whole family has grieved her loss as if she was dead. Now she is free we will do whatever we can to make sure she is not forced backed into the depravity her Muslim captor subjected her to. We ask for the prayers and support from Christians everywhere. There is a huge injustice happening in Pakistan and if you do not protect us and ignore our plight one day it could be your daughters and sisters that are trapped. I pray Christians respond to our pain and offer help as we are desperate and need your assistance")

Date: February 8, 2016

Location: Burj Mahalam Chak No.35, Pattoki

Source: <http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/christian-girl-escapes-muslim-abductor-who-raped-and-forced-her-into-islamic-marriage>



Peru

Cardinal Juan Luis Cipriani Thorne (**UPDATE**: criticized the United Nations for advocating abortion in response to the Zika virus, said "There is a genius, a Herod who believes it is necessary to order death, all those who have a child in this period must abort, because there is this danger, even if it is not fully proven. But if in doubt, the best thing is for all to die")

Date: February 7, 2016

Location: Lima

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/59368-AMERICA_PERU_Zika_virus_Cardinal_Cipriani_compares_man_to_a_modern_Herod#.Vrvb-sIUUfg



Syria

Bishop George Abu Khazen OFM (**UPDATE**: said "The meeting between Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill is perceived by Christians as the fruit of the cross they are experiencing. The suffering of all Christians in the Middle East bears the fruit of unity. This for us is a great consolation and helps us to move forward, even if we still have to suffer...A few days ago a senior representative of the Moscow Patriarchate explicitly said that what made Cuba's meeting urgent was the common concern for the suffering of fellow Christians in the Middle East. We have also spoken about this in sermons and in our meetings: the faithful feel they have more courage when they realize that their sufferings have to do with the unity between the separated brethren, where Christ embraces us and comforts us all")

Date: February 12, 2016

Location: Aleppo

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/59393-ASIA_SYRIA_The_Bishop_of_Aleppo_the_meeting_between_Francis_and_Kirill_is_also_the_fruit_of_our_suffering_And_this_comforts_us#.Vr587MIUUfg



Uganda

Laurence Maiso (aged 28, convert from Islam, husband, **killed** in his home four days after receiving death threats from a local imam, the imam was seen leaving his home with seven other men on the night he was killed)

Date: January 27, 2016

Location: Numuseru village, Naboa sub-county, Budaka district

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/02/imam-arrested-in-killing-of-christian-convert-in-eastern-uganda/>



United Kingdom

Rev Peter Ould (statistician, criticized as deceptive a poll that purported a majority of Church of England members supported same sex marriage)

Date: February 4, 2016

Source: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/same-sex-marriage/poll-spun-to-apply-pressure-to-church-of-england-on-same-sex-marriage>

Michael Jones (aged 66, street preacher, arrested in his home in **Hornsea** on **December 2, 2015** by police who refused to show identification, held and interrogated for eight hours, charged with religious harassment for anti-Islamic statements; **UPDATE**: charges dropped after a recording of his street preaching demonstrated that the allegations were fabricated)

Date: February 12, 2016

Location: Beverley

Source: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/freedom-of-speech/charges-dropped-against-pensioner-who-was-imprisoned-for-exposing-isi>



United States - California

Pastor Clark Van Wick (has filed a complaint in federal court against the County of Riverside which has banned churches from Temecula Wine Country, said "It's a tragedy to see our religious liberty eroded in this country where men and women have fought and died to protect our liberty. It's un-American to see churches outlawed like we're seeing here in the neighborhood I've lived in for 27 years")

Date reported: February 11, 2016

Source: <http://www.charismanews.com/us/55104-calvary-chapel-sues-for-religious-ban-in-wine-country>

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