

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2016-02-21 through 2016-02-27



China

Event: Family forced to leave their home due to harassment by the authorities

Cheng Jie (wife of Pastor Du Hongbo, mother of two young children, kindergarten director, detained on [February 18, 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; released on [February 17, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: forced to leave her home, has been unable to find work)

Pastor Du Hongbo (husband of Cheng Jie; **UPDATE**: said "After a few days, we plan to leave Liuzhou. We will pack in two days and take [Cheng] for a thorough examination. The public security bureau keeps calling me every couple of days, harassing and threatening")

Date: [February 24, 2016](#)

Location: [Liuzhou, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region](#)

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/02/authorities-harass-kindergarten-teacher.html>

Yan Xiaojie (detained in a 'black' jail as of [October 29, 2015](#); **UPDATE**: released)

Date: [February 2, 2016](#)

Location: [Wenzhou, Zhejiang province](#)

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/02/pastor-released-in-wenzhou-amidst.html>



India

Fr Abraham Kannampala (condemned the chemical attack on tribal activist Sori Sori "This is the first attack of this sort heard in the region in recent memory")

Date: [February 20, 2016](#)

Location: [Chhattisgarh state](#)

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/church-shocked-at-chemical-attack-on-activist-in-india/75284>

Event: Christian leaders responded to the government granting special rights to the Jat caste after members rioted, killing 16 and injuring 150

Fr Savarimuthu Shankar (**UPDATE**: said "This proves that with muscle power, you can do anything. Giving reservation to such an influential class is a gross injustice to people who really deserve these special rights...it has become easy for every community to demand it and have it by indulging in violence")

Fr Gyanprakash Topno (said "It is very unfortunate. The loss of lives and property looks like that there is no rule of law in the country")

Fr Jas (said "The situation is very bad. Everything is burned out on the streets...there is a simmering anger among non-Jats as they became the victims of the violence and suffered huge losses for no fault of theirs")

Date: February 22, 2016

Location: Haryana

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-church-leaders-denounce-newly-enacted-quotas/75286>

Event: The RSS paramilitary organization will be reissuing a book written in 1946 by one of its founders that purports that Jesus was a Tamil Hindu

Fr Nigel Barrett (said that if Jesus was Hindu "then why does the RSS has so many issues with people converting to Christianity?...This is a move in keeping with the current trend of intolerance in this country")

Fr Gyanprakash Topno (**UPDATE**: called the book "nonsensical and funny")

Date: February 24, 2016

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-church-downplays-controversial-book-on-jesus/75307>



Indonesia

Fr John Djonga (summoned for police interrogation for having said a Mass attended by Papuan separatists, said he would not appear until he had secured legal counsel and received permission from his bishop)

Fr Yulianus Bidau Mote (confirmed that Fr John Djonga was sent by his diocese to say the Mass that has been questioned by the authorities)

Date: February 19, 2016

Location: Wamena

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/indonesian-police-to-question-priest-on-treason-charge/75295>



Malaysia

Sr Rita Chew (denounced attempts to convert Christian students to Islam in public and Catholic schools, said "...conversions take place, but the government denies this fact. Some Christian parents have found that their children are taught Islamic prayers")

Date: February 20, 2016

Location: Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Kota-Kinabalu,-Islamic-proselytizing-of-children-in-Catholic-schools-36741.html>



Philippines

Event: A church operated refugee center had been attacked and burned, five people including two children were injured

Nardy Sabino (said "We condemn this violence against our tribal people and the attack on the church")

Br Nosi Balgado CSSR (said "We are urging the government to immediately respond to the incident and bring the perpetrators to justice")

Date: February 24, 2016

Location: Davao, Mindanao

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/church-run-shelter-for-refugees-torched-in-mindanao/75304>



Sri Lanka

Event: Parishioners forced out of their homes by the military before the end of the civil war in 2009 have still not been allowed to return home

Vincentamma Croos (aged 81, said "The military during the final stages of the war told us to vacate our homes around the church and that we could return soon but we have never been allowed to return and we all became displaced")

Fr Anton Thavaraja (said "Earlier there were many restrictions with people only being allow to visit the church at a time specified by the military. We had Sunday Mass at 11 a.m. but elderly people find it difficult to return home after Mass in the heat of the sun...During Lent we want to conduct the Way of the Cross but the elderly can't come to church by walking four kilometers. Therefore we have the service near where they live now in the forest")

Date: February 23, 2016

Location: Mullikulam

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/displaced-sri-lankan-catholics-yearn-for-lenten-services/75296>



Turkey

Pastor Ismail Kulakcioglu (congregation given 8 days to vacate the only church building in the city, order rescinded)

Dates: February 18 and 23, 2016

Location: Bursa

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/02/4318459/>

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2490 Black Rock Turnpike #455

Fairfield CT 06825-2400

<http://todaysmartyrs.org/>

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