

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2016-03-06 through 2016-03-12



Cameroon

Bishop Bruno Ateba Edo (**UPDATE**: said that although Boko Haram has been defeated militarily "Everybody is afraid of the suicide bombers. There is a kind of psychosis. Whenever people gather together, as they do at markets, people don't know who is who, and it is impossible to keep tabs on everyone")

Date reported: March 7, 2016

Source: <http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1457313281.html>



Canada

Cardinal Thomas Collins (**UPDATE**: said that the proposed new euthanasia law which included provisions to euthanize children and to prevent Christian doctors and hospitals from avoiding involvement in euthanasia should "shock us to the core")

March 6, 2016

Location: Toronto

Source: <http://www.catholicerald.co.uk/news/2016/03/08/cardinal-urges-canadians-to-fight-euthanasia-proposals/>

and [with video] <https://www.archtoronto.org/media-centre/news-archive/chancery-news/cardinal-thomas-collins-euthanasia-assisted-suicide-march-2016>



Ethiopia

Bishop Abraham Desta (described an attack on a pastoral center, convent, and clinic in which the villagers who were served by the center looted and burnt it)

Date reported: March 2, 2016

Location: Gighessa

Source: <http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1456892546.html>



India

Ms Sahu (one of 65 worshippers attacked and beaten in a church by 20 Hindu radicals, women had their clothes torn, one child was thrown on the floor)

Arun Pannalal (president of Chhattisgarh Christian Forum; **UPDATE**: said the attack was probably mounted by the Bajrang Dai, the youth wing of the RSS paramilitary organization "This is the fourth attack on churchgoers in Chhattisgarh in the past five weeks")

Pastor Paul Ciniraj (President of the Christian Ministers of the Churches in India - CMCI, condemned the attack, said "Persecution towards Christians, Dalits and other minorities are seemingly increasing throughout India. Priests, pastors, missionaries, evangelists and believers are being murdered, beaten, abducted and jailed. Women are being raped. Churches and institutions stoned, vandalized and demolished")

Date: March 6, 2016

Location: Kachana colony, Raipur, Chhattisgarh state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Chhattisgarh,-seven-Hindu-radicals-arrested-for-vandalizing-Pentecostal-church--36876.html>

and <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5829>



Indonesia

Thomas Jefferson Baru (Catholic Youth leader, participated in a demonstration against the continued police harassment of Fr John Djonga)

Date: March 2, 2016

Location: Manokwari

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/papuan-catholic-groups-protest-harassment-of-priest/75393>

Eman Dapaloka (former seminarian, described how his parish of 7,000 has been unable to build a church since forming in 1999 and since receiving a building permit in July 2015)

Date: March 7, 2016

Location: North Bekasi district, West Java province

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bekasi:-Islamic-extremists-demonstrate-against-the-construction-of-a-Catholic-church-36878.html>



Pakistan

Event: A newlywed couple was taken hostage by a brick kiln owner in an attempt to force relatives to pay back debts

Imran (aged 24, husband of Sonia, tortured for four days, **throat slit** when the demands were not met)

Sonia (wife of Imran, raped by the son of the owner's manager, widowed)

Date reported: March 5, 2016

Source [warning - graphic]: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/christian-man-killed-by-brick-kiln-owner-in-revenge-for-relatives/>

Justice James Joseph (denied permanent status on the Lahore High Court, had been the only Christian on the court, and only the second ever appointed - the first, Jamshed Rehmatullah, was also denied permanent status in August 2009)

Date: March 2, 2016

Location: Lahore, Punjab province

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/lahore-high-court-to-remove-only-christian-judge-from-bench/>

Aasiya Noreen aka Asia Bibi (aged 51, wife of Ashiq Masih, mother of five including Isham, daughter of Soran Masih, still incarcerated on a 2009 blasphemy conviction and death sentence; **UPDATE**: security increased in her prison following calls by Islamists for her immediate execution, the calls were prompted by the execution of the killer of Governor Salmaan Taseer, who had been killed for publicly defending her)

Date: March 8, 2016

Location: Multan prison, Punjab province

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/03/security-increased-for-asia-bibi-following-execution-of-islamist-assassin-in-pakistan/>



Syria

Fr Ahmed (said after the Syrian government forced al-Nusra fighters to leave his city "Look they came even here, look what they have done to our church. All smashed, burned. They have stolen valuable icons and have burned those which have no value. Even the bowl of holy water and clothes of priests were burned, even the stones were broken")

Date reported: March 7, 2016

Location: Maaloula

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20160307122821.htm>



Yemen

Event: Armed men attacked a nursing home, killing 16 employees and residents including 4 nuns

Sr Anselm MC (aged 57, Indian citizen, **shot dead**)

Sr Judit MC (aged 41, Kenyan citizen, **shot dead**)

Sr Marguerite MC (aged 44, Rwanda citizen, **shot dead**)

Sr RegINETTE MC (aged 32, Rwanda citizen, **shot dead**)

Sr Sally MC (Indian citizen, escaped by hiding in a refrigerator)

Fr Tom Uzhunnalil SDB (aged 56, Indian citizen, abducted)

Date: March 4, 2016

Location: Aden

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Vicar-of-Arabia:-Sisters-of-Mother-Teresa-killed-for-religious-reasons-36859.html>

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