

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2016-03-20 through 2016-03-26



Belgium

Fr Michel Gaillard (Brussels Airport chaplain, later said of the terror bombing “Most of those affected here were common, simple people, catching planes for holidays, to visit family members over Easter or to do their jobs”)

Rocky Gathright (missionary, U.S. citizen, had dropped off a friend at the airport just before the Islamic terror bombing, tended to the wounded)

Richard Norby (aged 66, missionary, U.S. citizen, injured in the airport Islamic terror bombing, hospitalized with leg injuries and second degree burns)

Joseph Empey (aged 20, missionary, U.S. citizen, injured in the airport Islamic terror bombing, hospitalized with leg injuries and second degree burns)

Mason Wells (aged 19, missionary, U.S. citizen, injured in the airport Islamic terror bombing, hospitalized with a foot injury)

Fanny Rachel Clain (aged 20, missionary, French citizen, injured in the airport terror bombing, not hospitalized)

Date: March 22, 2016

Location: Brussels

Source: <http://www.charismanews.com/world/56028-missionary-survives-brussels-blast-ministers-to-victims>

and <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/brussels-attacks/mormon-missionaries-utah-among-belgian-bombing-survivors-n543446>

and <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/03/24/airport-chaplain-struck-by-profound-humanity-after-brussels-blasts/>



Bangladesh

Ali Hossain Sarkar (aged 68, convert from Islam, **stabbed to death** by three people on a motorcycle)

Date: March 22, 2016

Location: Kurigram

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Muslim-convert-to-Christianity-slaughtered-37014.html>



China

Pastor Li Guozhi aka Yang Hua (husband of Wang Hongwu; detained on [December 9, 2015](#) for 'illegally holding state secrets'; formally charged on [January 22, 2016](#) with 'obstructing justice' and 'gathering a crowd to disturb social order'; **UPDATE**: denied a visit with his attorneys)

Date: [March 8, 2016](#)

Location: Guizhou province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/03/lawyers-denied-meeting-with.html>

Zhang Kai (civil rights attorney; disappeared in [Wenzhou, Zhejiang province](#) on [August 25, 2015](#); appeared on Chinese television on [February 26, 2016](#) where he confessed "Such religion cases are sensitive, they can lift my fame quickly and bring some economic interest. Foreign countries also focus on the cases, it also improves my fame overseas"; **UPDATE**: released from the 'black jail', has returned to his parent's home)

Date reported: [March 23, 2016](#)

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/03/christian-today-china-christian-lawyer.html>

Fr Joseph Lu (led a protest of 300 Christians over the [March 17, 2016](#) beating of a nun, the nun had been photographing church property that had been seized during the Cultural Revolution, also demanded the return of the property)

Date: [March 21, 2016](#)

Location: Henan province

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/chinese-catholics-seek-return-of-confiscated-compound/75580>



Congo, Democratic Republic

Fr Jonas CRM (shot in the right arm, leg, and spine in a roadside ambush by suspected FDLR guerrillas while on his way to Mass, hospitalized, driver and another passenger also hit)

Date: [March 20, 2016](#)

Location: Katwiguru

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/59680->

[AFRICA DR CONGO Adorno father seriously injured in a road ambush in the north-east#.VvCrFcIUUfg](#)

Fr Vincent Machozi Karunzu AA (aged 51, fled to the United States in 2003 following death threats; **UPDATE**: shot dead by Congolese armed forces soldiers days after he had posted documentation of atrocities and massacres linked to the Congolese and Rwandan governments, last words were “Why are you killing me?”, had predicted his murder in October 2015)

Fr Emmanuel Kahindo AA (reported on the murder of Fr Vincent Machozi Karunzu)

Date: March 21, 2016

Location: Vitungwe-Isale village, North Kivu province

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/59691->

[AFRICA DR CONGO Assumptionist priest who denounced the exploitation of Col tan to the detriment of local populations has been killed#.VvH4o8IUUfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/59691-AFRICA_DR_CONGO_Assumptionist_priest_who_denounced_the_exploitation_of_Col_tan_to_the_detriment_of_local_populations_has_been_killed#.VvH4o8IUUfg)

and <http://www.assumption.us/news/1360-congolese-assumptionist-priest-murdered-in-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo>

and <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/gunmen-kill-congolese-priest-who-reported-on-atrocities-24672/>



Cuba

Mario Felix Lleonart Barroso (husband of Yoaxis Marcheco Suarez; **UPDATE**: arrested just hours before the arrival of U.S. President Barack Obama, denied food and water, had been stabbed with a pin on public transport earlier in the week, later developed jaundice and a distended stomach)

Yoaxis Marcheco Suarez (wife of Mario Felix Lleonart Barroso; **UPDATE**: placed under house arrest with their children)

Date: March 20, 2016

Location: Taguayabon, Villa Clara Province

Source: <http://www.csw.org.uk/2016/03/21/news/3029/article.htm>



Egypt

Michael (aged 8, student, leg fractured in more than one location by his teacher, hospitalized)

Date reported: March 21, 2016

Location: Minya

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1601&A=22731>

Gergis Fawzy (arrested on blasphemy charges)

Date reported: March 23, 2016

Location: Suez

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1602&A=22769>



India

Pastor Sumati Prakash Kharadia (attacked by a mob of 25 Hindu extremists, hospitalized with multiple fractures)

Date: March 20, 2016

Location: Sabli village, Rajasthan state

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/59698-ASIA_INDIA_Protestant_Pastor_attacked_in_Rajasthan#.VvNSzsIUUfg



Indonesia

Bishop Franciscus Kopong Kung (welcomed increased police security for Holy Week)

Date reported: March 21, 2016

Location: Larantuka, East Flores district, East Nusa Tenggara province

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/authorities-tighten-security-for-holy-week-in-east-flores/75538>



Macedonia

Event UPDATE: The retrial of the Serbian Orthodox bishops continued, the prosecution's chief witness has disappeared, the court has continued to reschedule hearings for two months for the purpose of delay and has refused to allow the Church to use its frozen but empty bank accounts nor open new accounts

Archbishop Jovan aka Zoran Vraniskovski (aged 50)

Bishop Marko aka Goran Kimev

Bishop David Ninov

Date: March 11, 2016

Source: <http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/?p=46554>



Pakistan

Fouzia Sadiq (aged 31, wife, mother of Muqadas, Saniya, and Sahil, abducted by her employer on [July 23, 2015](#) and forcibly married and converted to Islam; escaped from her abductor on [February 8, 2016](#), in hiding; **UPDATE**: recaptured by her abductor when she went to her mother's home to celebrate Palm Sunday)

Date: [March 20, 2016](#)

Location: [Burj Mahalam Chak No.35, Pattoki](#)

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5846>

Asif Manawer (described how local officials drained a sewer line into a 40 foot deep pit next to a Christian ghetto of 540 families with over 4,000 residents, several residents have become ill and moved, alleged that the draining was done to force Christians to move from land that is rising in value)

Pastor Naveed Akhtar (expressed concern that adults travelling in the dark and children could fall into the sewage pool, said "Our church building is extremely close to the effluent pool. During heavy rain and considering the growing depth of the water we are fearful that our church will become water logged and contaminated. I believe this act of hatred was intentional and that local officials are planning to forcibly vacate the land so that it can be used by developers and Christians are removed from close to the Muslim city. We residents however will stand against this injustice. We are equal citizens of the country and our quality of life should be restored")

Date reported: [March 20, 2016](#)

Location: [Jhang](#)

Source: <http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/Christians-flushed-out-by-local-authority-in-sewage-scandal>

Nabila Bibi (fiancée of Sajid Masih, daughter of Bashir Masih, abducted one month before her wedding, forced to convert to Islam and to marry a Muslim on or before [October 16, 2015](#) in [Changa Manga, Punjab province](#); **UPDATE**: returned to her family through legal action, said under questioning "I have strong faith that Jesus is Alive and He died for our sins, I have no faith in Islam")

Rev Saleem Masih (assisted the recovery of Nabila Bibi from her abductor)

Date reported: [March 24, 2016](#)

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5851>

Chaudhry Javed (attorney, published a report showing that a municipal sanitation department is composed of 60 Christians and 80 Muslim "ghost" [no-show] employees, the Muslims are paid a higher hourly wage)

Date: [March 24, 2016](#)

Location: [Pakpattan, Punjab province](#)

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5852>



Sudan

Pastor Ayoub Tilian (arrested, released, ordered to appear at the NISS secret police, questioned about statements at a pastoral meeting in Ethiopia concerning persecution in Sudan)

Date: March 21, 2016

Location: Omdurman

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/03/authorities-in-khartoum-sudan-arrest-another-church-leader/>



Syria

Archbishop Jacques Behnan Hindo (**UPDATE:** spoke on the recent ISIL terror attacks in Europe: "Although several European leaders until recently had the fall of the government of Assad as the main geopolitical goal, they also aimed at accrediting the jihadist militia of al-Nusra Front [an al-Qaeda affiliate] as 'moderate Muslims'...European leaders, and the entire West have maintained for decades the preferential axis with Saudi Arabia and the emirates of the Arabian Peninsula. In recent decades, they have ensured these Countries the possibility of financing the whole of Europe, and also in Belgium, the birth of a network of mosques where Wahhabism was preached, the ideology that poisons Islam and serves as the ideological basis for all jihadist groups. And all this happened because economic logic and billion dollar contracts with oil bosses prevailed: flows of money and resources...Europe on the issue of refugees chose to become hostage to Turkey. I understand the European difficulties, but I highlight that the IDPs [refugees] welcomed in Europe in 2015 do not exceed 0.2 percent of the population, while in a small Country like Lebanon their share now corresponds to half of the local population. I understand the tears of the European Commissioner for Foreign Policy. But I want to point out that for 5 years thousands of Syrian Muslims and Christians, men women and children have been killed. And there are no tears for them...unfortunately innocent people [in Paris and Brussels] reap what European powers have sown in Syria and Iraq in the last few years")

Date: March 23, 2016

Location: Hassake

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/59702->

[ASIA SYRIA Syrian Archbishop on the massacres in Brussels unfortunately Europe is reaping what has been sown in Syria and Iraq#.VvNUzcIUUfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/59702-)



Uganda

Amina Napiya (aged 42, convert from Islam, widow, mother of five aged 13, 10, 8, 6, and 4, 13 year old daughter raped by a man who said the rape was in retribution for leaving Islam, fled from her home with her children after receiving texted death threats, in hiding)

Date: February 25 and March 16, 2016

Location: Nakajete village, Budaka

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/03/christian-widow-children-in-uganda-flee-after-threats-rape/>



United Kingdom

Lord David Alton (human rights advocate; **UPDATE**: responded to the House of Lords voting down 148 to 111 an Immigration Bill amendment which would have required a High Court judge to rule whether ISIL has been committing genocide “It was disappointing that both the Government and Opposition declined to respond to the powerful calls made from around the Chamber. This was a day when Britain neither salved its conscience or offered practical help but chose to look the other way...When historians come to consider the lamentable failure of both parliament and government to speak and act they will surely conclude that we failed to recognize the crime above all crimes”)

Date: March 22, 2016

Location: London

Source: <http://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/03/22/house-of-lords-blocks-move-to-have-isis-atrocities-declared-genocide/>



Uzbekistan

Boris Prokopenko (Kazak citizen, detained at a border crossing for possession of religious materials on his electronic devices, held for two days, released after having an administrative case opened against him)

Date: March 13, 2016

Locations: Gisht-Kuprik and Tashkent

Galina Podtikhova (stopped in a public park along with Nilufar Bulatova on June 22, 2015, police found religious material on their tablet; **UPDATE**: fined US\$463)

Nilufar Bulatova (stopped in a public park along with Galina Podtikhova on [June 22, 2015](#), police found religious material on their tablet; **UPDATE**: fined US\$463)

Date: July 2, 2015

Location: Kattakurgan City, Samarkand region

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2160



Vietnam

Nguyen Huu Vinh (aged 60, former police officer, arrested in May 2014 on 'abuses of freedom and democracy' and 'violating State interests' charges; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment)

Date: March 24, 2016

Location: Hanoi

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hanoi:-Catholic-blogger-sentenced-to-five-years-for-defamation-of-the-Party-37035.html>

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