

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Weekly Report – 2016-04-17 through 2016-04-23



### Chile

Archbishop Fernando Chomali (commented on the need for a political solution for the Mapuche conflict in which several churches have been burned)

Date: April 18, 2016

Location: Concepcion

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/59851-AMERICA\\_CHILE\\_Mgr\\_Chomali\\_after\\_the\\_churches\\_burned\\_The\\_Mapuche\\_issue\\_is\\_a\\_political\\_issue#.VxcmfIUUfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/59851-AMERICA_CHILE_Mgr_Chomali_after_the_churches_burned_The_Mapuche_issue_is_a_political_issue#.VxcmfIUUfg)



### China

Pastor Li Jiangong (husband of Ding Cuimei, deliberately buried alive by a bulldozer which was demolishing his church, escaped)

Ding Cuimei (wife of Pastor Li Jiangong, deliberately buried alive by a bulldozer which was demolishing her church, **died of suffocation**)

Date: April 14, 2016

Location: Zhumadian, Henan province

Source [warning - graphic]: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/04/church-leaders-wife-dead-after-buried.html>

Fr Yang Jianwei (underground priest, disappeared, a total of five have disappeared in one month, only two have been released)

Date: April 15, 2016

Location: Baoding, Hebei province

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/another-priest-missing-in-chinas-hebei-province/75790>



## Ecuador

Sr Clare Theresa Crockett (aged 33, missionary, voice actor, British national, **killed in a magnitude 7.8 earthquake**, also killed were postulants Jazmina, Mayra, Maria Augusta, Valeria, and Catalina, injured were postulants Guadalupe and Mercedes and Sr Merly)

Sr Estela Morales (missionary, Spanish national, injured)

Sr Therese Ryan (missionary, Irish national, injured)

Date: April 17, 2016

Location: Playa Prieta

Source: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/god-captured-my-heart-the-story-of-a-nun-killed-in-ecuadors-quake-97210/>

and [http://www.fides.org/en/news/59849-](http://www.fides.org/en/news/59849-AMERICA_ECUADOR_Also_a_monastery_destroyed_by_the_earthquake_a_nun_and_five_postulants_among_the_272_dead#.VxceB8IUUfg)

[AMERICA ECUADOR Also a monastery destroyed by the earthquake a nun and five postulants among the 272 dead#.VxceB8IUUfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/59849-AMERICA_ECUADOR_Also_a_monastery_destroyed_by_the_earthquake_a_nun_and_five_postulants_among_the_272_dead#.VxceB8IUUfg)



## Egypt

Antonious Nawar (child, returned to his family after they paid a US\$33,825 ransom, had been abducted in front of his school)

Date reported: April 18, 2016

Location: Minbal village, Minya province

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1620&A=23075>

Fr Morkos Youssef (described how Muslims surrounded his church to protect it from attack by Muslim radicals after a Christian was accused of killing a Muslim girl, said it was the third such act of support in recent years)

Date reported: April 20, 2016

Location: Huseinia city, Sharkia province

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1622&A=23112>



## India

Pastor Deenanath (home invaded by Hindu radicals, beaten along with his seven-month pregnant wife and two small children, forced to sing a Hindu hymn, had gasoline thrown on them before they managed to escape, Bibles ripped, church burned)

Arun Pannalal (president of Chhattisgarh Christian Forum; **UPDATE:** described the attack on Pastor Deenanath and his family, accused police of trying to avoid arresting the perpetrators)

Date: April 17, 2016

Location: Tokapal, Bastar district, Chhattisgarh state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Chhattisgarh,-another-attack-on-Pentecostals:-a-pastor-and-his-pregnant-wife-assaulted-37262.html>  
and <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/raipur/Pastor-pregnant-wife-assaulted-in-Chgarh/articleshow/51888310.cms>

Archbishop Leo Cornelio (**UPDATE**: said that a state report that called for a reassessment of religious minority preferences in public schools and the certification of religious schools was part of an anti-Christian agenda and would "halt the standard of the education in the state")

Fr Maria Stephen (spokesman for the regional bishops' council, said of a state report that called for a reassessment of religious minority preferences in public schools and the certification of religious schools "It is highly disappointing to note that the minority panel has given a report against the minorities to the state government. The minority commission is meant for protecting and promoting the welfare of the minority institutions but by this move it has failed to do its duty")

Date reported: April 18, 2016

Location: Madhya Pradesh state

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/official-panel-upsets-church-leaders-in-central-india/75794>

Pastor Suresh Lakhra (beaten by 35 Bajrang Dal [the RSS paramilitary organization's youth wing] members at the end of a religious conference, arrested by police)

Jebakumar Dhanraj (religious conference organizer, beaten at the end of the conference by 35 Bajrang Dal [the RSS paramilitary organization's youth wing] members)

Date: April 10, 2016

Location: Nabinagar, Aurangabadin district, Bihar state

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Hindu-extremists-target-Christians-in-two-separate-attacks-in-state-of-Bihar-East-India>



## Pakistan

Zuhra Bibi (wife of Sheeda Masih, mother of three, victim of an attempted rape in her home)

Sheeda Masih (husband of Zuhra Bibi, father of three, threatened by police when he attempted to file a report concerning the attempted rape of his wife)

Date: April 13, 2016

Location: Jaleki village, Kasur

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5876>

Bishop Irfan Jamil (**UPDATE**: has led opposition to the government taking part of the cathedral property for construction of a sewage pumping station)

Rev Shahid Mehraj (said “The church congregation is very much disturbed to hear the news about building a pumping station here. Christian community strongly condemns this move for making sewerage pumping station where all the waste of neighboring areas would be stationed. We have decided not to stage protest on roads. We do it peacefully inside the church compound. We believe the Almighty has strange way of doing things and this issue would soon be resolved”)

Date reported: April 19, 2016

Location: Lahore

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/christians-protest-against-construction-of-a-sewerage-pumping-station-on-the-property-of-lahore-cathedral/>

Qaisar Masih (aged 18, son of Sardar Masih, tortured and **strangled to death** with a rope, then hung from a tree for hours)

Sardar Masih (father of Qaisar Masih, his son's killers prevented him from removing his body from the tree in which they had hanged him)

Date reported: April 22, 2015

Location: Shadman Colony [ghetto], Peer Mahal

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5883>

Dr Nazir S Bhatti (**UPDATE**: condemned the assassination of Sikh leader, provincial assembly member and minorities' minister Dr Sardar Soran Singh)

Date: April 22, 2016

Location: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5884>

Naveed Rafique (aged 13, prevented from taking an Islamic Studies exam because as a Christian he could not say certain Islamic prayers)

Date: March 29, 2016

Location: Jaranwala, Punjab province

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/a-christian-schoolboy-not-allowed-to-sit-for-an-exam-of-islamic-studies/>



## Syria

Fr Jack Murat (described the situation after his town was liberated from ISIL by Syrian and Russian soldiers: "Those who could not pay [the jizya tribute] were kidnapped, tortured and killed" in the cellar of the church, pointed to the many shoes left behind and said "They come from the terrorists...The church is the most peaceful place in the world. It radiates nothing but goodness. But knowing what has been done here, of all places, my heart bleeds")

Date reported: April 17, 2016

Location: Qaryatain

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20160417140143.htm>

**Event: Twenty-one Christians have been identified as having been killed by ISIL, 179 Christian prisoners are still missing and have likely been moved to Raqqa**

Abdo Hassib Al-Khoury (aged 42, **killed** by ISIL)

Awad Nadim Atallah (aged 53, **killed** by ISIL)

Bashar Abdelkarim Al-Sattah (aged 34, **killed** by ISIL)

Fadi Moussa Maher (aged 45, **killed** by ISIL)

Fadi Salim Atallah (aged 47, **killed** by ISIL)

Faheed Yaacoub Khazaal (aged 66, **killed** by ISIL)

George Al-Khazaal (aged 31, **killed** by ISIL)

George Ibrahim Al-Gharib (aged 44, **killed** by ISIL)

Gergess Zaghir Al-Gharib (aged 66, **killed** by ISIL)

Hani Moussa Khazaal (aged 25, **killed** by ISIL)

Ibrahim Zaghir Al-Gharib (aged 73, **killed** by ISIL)

Jalal Al-Gharib (aged 30, **killed** by ISIL)

Hani Afif Khazaal (aged 27, **killed** by ISIL)

Mourfaq Ibrahim Khalaf (aged 49, **killed** by ISIL)

Moutazz Moussa Khazaal (aged 39, **killed** by ISIL)

Nassim Moussa Khazaal (aged 42, **killed** by ISIL)

Rafic Ibrahim Khalaf (aged 52, **killed** by ISIL)

Wadad Mtanous Malghouj (aged 67, **killed** by ISIL)

Wassim Moussa Khazaal (aged 40, **killed** by ISIL)

William Fayez Al-Khoury (aged 33, **killed** by ISIL)

Ziad Farah (aged 49, **killed** by ISIL)

Date reported: April 17, 2016

Location: Qaryatain

Source: <http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/?p=46904>

Fr Jihad (spoke on the liberation of his town from ISIL “The residents who have fled, both Christians and Muslims, are afraid. They fear that ISIL may come back again. The swift return of the people is also dependent upon how long the city will remain a military zone. Further, infrastructure such as water and electricity has largely been destroyed. And besides, many residents no longer even live in Syria, but have fled to other countries...The walls of the church are still standing, even though the roof is no longer there. The altar, unfortunately, was destroyed. They also smashed the sarcophagus of St Elian. St Elian is greatly revered by the Christians. Muslims also used to go on pilgrimage to his grave. We want to gather the holy relics and give them a worthy place

again. Until the possible restoration of the monastery, the remains could be taken to another place...A great deal more vital than the restoration of the stones and the recovery of the monastery is the reconciliation of hearts”)

Date reported: April 8, 2016

Location: Qaryatain

Source: <http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1460360829.html>



### **United States - Florida**

Fr Rene Wayne Robert OFM (aged 71, **killed** by a recently released prisoner for his automobile)

Date: April 10, 2016

Location: unknown, body found in Waynesboro, Georgia

Source [with photo]: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/59866-AMERICA UNITED STATES A priest who disappeared a week ago found dead#.VxhhgsIUUfg>

### **United States - Georgia**

Dr Eric Walsh (public health director, part time minister, job offer with the state Department of Public Health withdrawn after the department investigated the contents of his homilies)

Date: May 16, 2015

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2016/04/20/fired-for-preaching-georgia-dumps-doctor-over-church-sermons.html>

### **United States - New York**

Kim Vaillancourt (wife of Phil, mother of Ryan, Hailey, Kamila, Josie and Charlie, gave birth to her son Wyatt Eli one month early, had been diagnosed with an aggressive brain cancer after seeking help for headaches only days after adopting Kamila, Josie and Charlie - help she sought only because she was pregnant, delayed chemotherapy and radiation treatment to save Wyatt but had surgery for the same reason, has been given about a year to live but would have lived only days without the surgery)

Date: April 15, 2016

Location: Tonawanda

Source [with photo]: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/mom-puts-off-treatment-for-aggressive-brain-cancer-to-save-her-baby>

### **United States - Texas**

Terri Bevers (aged 45, fitness instructor, **murdered** in a church)

Date: April 18, 2016

Location: Midlothian

Source: <http://www.charismanews.com/us/56615-manhunt-underway-as-christian-found-dead-in-dallas-church>



## **Vietnam**

Tran Thi Hong (wife of Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh [who has been serving 11 years in prison for 'undermining national unity'], taken from her home by police after she refused to answer questions concerning her [March 30, 2016](#) conversation with U.S. diplomats, beaten at the police station, returned and dumped unconscious in the road in front of her home)

Date: April 14, 2016

Location: Pleiku, Gia Lai province

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Police-Vietnamese-beat-wife-of-jailed-Mennonite-pastor-37258.html>

Phan Vinh Su (church leader, described an attack by 100 masked men on Christians who were trying to prevent an illegal seizure of church property, added that construction on the parcel began "surrounded by police all day and night")

Date: April 13, 2016

Location: Tay Son district, Binh Dinh province

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/vietnamese-christians-protest-seizure-of-church-property/75807>

## **Today's Martyrs**

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