

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2016-05-15 through 2016-05-21



Bangladesh

Fr Domenic K Halder (spoke on the rape of one of his parishioners, a 26 year old high school teacher, by her principal and another "We were advised by a local newspaper [which had a reporter who was a witness in some way]. We sought help from the local police for the victim. The girl is very frightened. We pray for her, she is still in hospital")

Date: May 13, 2016

Location: Kushtia

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Protests-erupt-after-rape-of-Catholic-teacher-37503.html>



China

He Jiyi (beaten by the local Party Secretary after he refused to withdraw a lawsuit)

Date: May 8, 2016

Location: Lucheng district, Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/05/wenzhou-house-church-leader-beaten-by.html>

Xiang Lihua (wife of Pastor Wen Xiaowen, mother of Wen "Eden" Yidian, criminally detained on [April 25, 2016](#) along with her husband and son, the detentions were likely in response for their meetings with U.S. Consulate officials in Shanghai; **UPDATE**: released, husband and son still detained)

Date: May 13, 2016

Location: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/05/zhejiang-pastors-wife-released-pastor.html>

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'; finally allowed on March 23, 2016 to meet with his attorneys in jail, said he had lost weight but has not been tortured, was repeatedly told by government officials "We know we cannot change your beliefs. However, we control everything and can completely succeed in painting you as a greedy

pastor, causing you to lose all of your reputation”; **UPDATE:** attorneys stated after a visit that they saw prison officials threaten their client, suspected he has been subjected to inhumane treatment and possible torture)

Date: April 22, 2016

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/05/guizhou-pastors-case-transferred-to.html>



Congo, Democratic Republic

Deaconess Eva Makanaiye (aged 40, mother of five, **killed** by Islamist militants)

Eva-Mamulu (aged 12, child of Deaconess Eva Makanaiye)

Alima-Franchine (aged 9, child of Deaconess Eva Makanaiye)

Sami-Sumbuka (aged 7, child of Deaconess Eva Makanaiye)

Unamosi-Jouele (aged 4, child of Deaconess Eva Makanaiye)

Amali-Daniel (aged 2, child of Deaconess Eva Makanaiye)

Rose (mother of five, **killed** by Islamist militants)

Mike Anticoli (founder of Eglise du Rocher [Church on the Rock], said “We are heartbroken, questioning our faith, half-terrified, but determined, and carrying on. We are a small but growing church organization, founded in 2005, and have 13 churches and three ministry training schools in the danger zone of North Kivu. We may be targeted due to the fact that we train local leaders and aspiring missionaries from several churches and denominations...Our pastor ran away with two of his children. The whole night he did not know where his wife was, or his three other children. People spent the night in the jungle under heavy rain. This morning our pastor came back and found his wife and children all alive. Praise God!”)

Date: May 6, 2016

Location: North Kivu province

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/05/4453970/>

Fr Gaston Mumbere AA (wrote to President Joseph Kabila to call for intervention to stop the massacres in North Kivu, added that with 8 million dead in the last 20 years "at this rate, you could become the President of the dead, cemeteries and mass graves")

Date: May 13, 2016

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/60017->

[AFRICA DR CONGO Appeal of an Assumptionist father President intervene to stop the massacres in North Kivu#.Vzq5c8IUUfg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60017-)



Egypt

Bishop Makarios (**UPDATE**: reported on a church arson attack, said "St Mary's Church in the village of Esmaelia al-Bahreia was burned down completely after an attack carried out by extremists...The [wooden] makeshift church has been used for worship for over a year... since a proper church is yet to be authorized by the government since 2009")

Date: May 12, 2016

Location: Esmaelia al-Bahreia, Minya province

Source: <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/extremists.burn.down.church.in.egypt/85988.htm>

Mariam Khamis (aged 16, abducted, family demonstrated in front of their local police station to demand her return)

Izzat Ibrahim Ezzat (rights activist; **UPDATE**: said that police know who abducted Mariam Khamis but have taken no action)

Date: May 20, 2016

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1643&A=23479>



India

Naresh Bhuiya (one of 16 Christian Dalits [untouchables] who were called to a village meeting to explain their abandonment of Hinduism, said "They wanted us to shout to hail the Hindu god. When we refused, they tied our legs and hands and beat us mercilessly", all then fled the village)

Date: May 8, 2016

Location: Palamu district, Jharkhand state

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/india-christian-villagers-beaten-over-refusal-to-convert-to-hinduism/>

Archbishop John Moolachira (**UPDATE**: commented on the electoral victory of the Hindu nationalist BJP party in Assam state "It [Hindu nationalism] may not work in Assam because of the multiplicity of tribes and cultures. We do not expect any serious problem in the state. We are praying and hoping so")

Date: May 20, 2016

Location: Guwahati

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/assam-bishop-praying-as-hindu-nationalists-win-polls/76094>



Iran

Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani (aged 37, husband of Fatema Pasindedih Nadarkhani, father of Daniel and Yoel, released on [September 8, 2012](#) from prison with time served, had been sentenced to death for apostasy; re-arrested on [December 25, 2012](#) and returned to prison because the director of Lakan Prison claimed he had been released several days too early and needed to complete his term and finish his paperwork, was unable to celebrate Christmas with his family; released [January 7, 2013](#); **UPDATE**: arrested)

Fatema Pasindedih Nadarkhani (wife of Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani; arrested)

Yasser Mosayebzadeh (home raided by VEVAK agents on [February 16, 2015](#), religious items seized, warned on [February 17, 2015](#) to leave the country; **UPDATE**: arrested)

Date: [May 13, 2016](#)

Location: Rasht

Source [with photo]: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/iran-christian-persecution-pastor-yousef-nadarkhani-arrest-163895/>

Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani (aged 37, arrested on [May 13, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: released)

Fatema Pasindedih Nadarkhani (arrested on [May 13, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: released)

Saheb Fadaie (home raided by VEVAK agents on [February 16, 2015](#), religious items seized, warned on [February 17, 2015](#) to leave the country; **UPDATE**: still under arrest)

Mohammad-Reza Yohan Omid (**UPDATE**: still under arrest)

Date: [May 14, 2016](#)

Location: Rasht

Source: <http://www.bosnewslife.com/36868-breaking-news-iran-pastor-nadarkhani-and-wife-released-three-other-christians-detained>

Maryam Naghash-Zargaran aka Nasim (aged 38, began serving four years imprisonment on [July 15, 2013](#), apparently has had a heart attack in prison, transferred to Modares hospital on [September 29, 2013](#), condition unknown; subjected to an extremely invasive and public strip search upon returning to prison on [November 12, 2014](#) after a four day furlough, health has been precarious; granted a leave for medical treatment on [October 27, 2015](#), forced to return to prison on [October 27, 2015](#) midway through her treatment; **UPDATE**: has continued to endure significant medical problems in prison, currently has nausea and pain in her ear, has been told to not move her head for two weeks, may require surgery, also suffers from spinal pain)

Date: [May 21, 2016](#)

Location: Evin prison, Tehran

Source [with photo]: <http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=2913>



Kazakhstan

Roman Dimmel (aged 53, arrested in [Konstantinovka, Taiynsha district, North Kazakhstan region](#) on [October 28, 2014](#) for distributing religious literature; convicted on [February 6,](#)

2015, fined US\$500; sentenced in [Shet](#) on [November 23, 2015](#) to 3 days' incarceration for refusing to pay his fine; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 3 more days' incarceration for refusing to pay his fine)

Date: [May 3, 2016](#)

Location: [Shet district, Karaganda Region](#)

Robert Leven (charged by police after distributing religious material)

Date: [September 11, 2015](#)

Location: [Arkalyk, Kostanai region](#)

Gennadi Zhiron (arrested in [Arkalyk, Kostanai region](#) on [September 10, 2015](#) for distributing religious literature, released after 5 hours of questioning, literature seized; charged by police on [September 11, 2015](#) after distributing more religious material; **UPDATE**: fined US\$252)

Yuri Bekker (arrested in [Arkalyk, Kostanai region](#) on [September 10, 2015](#) for distributing religious literature, released after 5 hours of questioning, literature seized; charged by police on [September 11, 2015](#) after distributing more religious material; **UPDATE**: fined US\$252)

Date: [March 24, 2016](#)

Location: [Arkalyk, Kostanai region](#)

David Leven (**UPDATE**: charged by police in [Arkalyk, Kostanai region](#) on [September 11, 2015](#) after distributing religious material; acquitted on [March 24, 2016](#); charges reinstated on [April 11, 2016](#); charges dismissed)

Date: [April 28, 2016](#)

Location: [Arkalyk, Kostanai region](#)

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2176

Nikolai Levin (convicted of leading an illegal religious meeting in [Sandyktau](#) on [February 11, 2014](#), fined 100 MFIs; **UPDATE**: fined US\$63 for refusing to pay his previous fines)

Date: [April 20, 2016](#)

Location: [Sandyktau](#)

Bagitzhan Zholdybayev (arrested in a cafe following a religious service, six others arrested, charged with 'violation of procedures established in law for conducting rites' possibly for having consumed tea in the cafe)

Aleksandr Revkov (arrested in a cafe following a religious service, six others arrested, charged with 'violation of procedures established in law for conducting rites' possibly for having consumed tea in the cafe)

Date: [April 17, 2016](#)

Location: [Atyrau](#)

Dina Sarsebekova (convicted of illegal missionary activity, fined US\$636)

Date: [April 25, 2016](#)

Location: [Orel](#)

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2177



Kenya

Sr Veronica Rackova SSPS (aged 58, Slovak citizen, shot by Sudan People Liberation Army soldiers while driving an ambulance in [Yei, South Sudan](#) on [May 16, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** [died of her injuries](#))

Date: May 20, 2016

Location: Nairobi Hospital

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/60075->

[AFRICA SOUTH SUDAN Slovak missionary who was shot and seriously wounded has died#.V0A-mMIUfg](#)



Lebanon

Fr Paul Karam (**UPDATE:** said that Syrian refugees cannot register the births of their children nor find proper burial grounds for their dead, have resorted to mass graves)

Date: May 20, 2016

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Caritas-Lebanon:-the-plight-of-Syrian-refugees-who-cannot-register-newborns-or-bury-their-dead-37550.html>



Nepal

Fr Silas Bogati (called on the government to repeal the unconstitutional anti-conversion law rather than reduce the punishments)

Date: May 16, 2016

Location: Kathmandu

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/nepal-should-scrap-anti-conversion-law-not-water-it-down/76049>



Pakistan

Maryam Mushtaq (aged 24, college student, daughter of Mussarat Mushtaq, sister of Romail Mushtaq, abducted by two masked men on a public street, two witnesses chased the abductor's automobile on motorcycles but the abductors escaped)

Romail Mushtaq (aged 11, son of Mussarat Mushtaq, brother of Maryam Mushtaq, witnessed his sister's abduction, threatened with violence by her abductors)

Mussarat Mushtaq (aged 53, mother of Maryam and Romail Mushtaq, filed a police report on her daughter Maryam's abduction, police reported that Maryam had converted to Islam and married a Muslim, the police will likely be forced to continue the case due to the large number of witnesses to the abduction, said "Three years ago my husband died of cancer, two years ago Maryam's sister died. Now kidnappers have taken away my daughter, I am devastated. Maryam was a good intelligent hard working girl, she went back to college to improve her chances for employment so that she could support her family. The kidnappers have destroyed her future. Maryam had a good relationship with her brother Romail and remaining sister Khusboo [23 years], they would know if she had been interested in this man. None of them have ever even seen him before. Maryam like the rest of us attends church every week there is no way she would give up her whole life and salvation to marry a Muslim man. Jesus has always been the center of her life")

Date: May 12, 2016

Location: Bihar Colony [ghetto], Lahore

Source [with photos]: <http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/brazen-abduction-of-christian-girl-in-broad-daylight-by-two-masked-muslim-men-sparks-concern-over-he>

Imran Masih (aged 25, hospital janitor, beaten on [April 15, 2016](#) by three pharmacists for allegedly having a blasphemous video on his cell phone, in hiding with his family; **UPDATE:** mosque loudspeakers drew a crowd of 1,000 which was then incited to kill him, a bounty of US\$9,551 was posted for his death, many local Christians fled their homes, those that remained were threatened with death and refused business at local food stores)

Date: May 7, 2016

Location: Chak 44, Mandi Bahaudin

Source: <http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/pakistani-christian-accused-of-blasphemy-for-watching-debate-on-islam>

Faraz Masih (aged 30, tortured by police)

Doya Masih (aged 40, tortured by police)

Date reported: May 14, 2016

Location: Lahore

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/bilawal-bhutto-slams-lahore-police-for-savagely-torturing-two-christians/>

Tahira Gill (aged 55, nurse, mother of Zeeshan Gill, critically injured in the [March 27, 2016](#) suicide bombing in [Lahore](#), hospitalized; **UPDATE:** [died from her injuries](#))

Date: May 16, 2016

Location: Lahore

Source [warning - graphic]: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/gulshan-e-iqbal-park-blast-outcome-another-christian-succumbs-to-critical-injuries/#comments>

Event: A family is shot by assailants who called them 'dirty Christians'

Ayaan (aged 2, son of Samssoon Masih, grandson of Ishaq Masih, **shot dead**)

Samssoon Masih (son of Ishaq Masih, father of Ayaan, painter, wounded in the shooting death of his son)

Ishaq Masih (father of Samssoon Masih, grandfather of Ayaan, wounded in the shooting death of his grandson)

Date: May 3, 2016

Location: Nazimabad colony [ghetto], Faisalabad

Source [warning - graphic]: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5911>

Michael Masih (aged 32, husband, father of two, former bodybuilder and physical trainer, attempted to stop a group of 35 Muslims who were harassing and attacking Christians while leaving church on **February 14, 2016**, badly beaten, fight stopped by his Muslim friends, later that day the attackers invaded his home and beat his bed-ridden paralyzed father, some Christian neighbors fled their homes after being threatened; home attacked by a Muslim mob on **February 15, 2016**, shots fired into the air, chased by the mob but escaped in an automobile driven by a Muslim friend, police intervened and demanded both sides publicly reconcile, embraced and publicly forgave his attackers; **UPDATE**: shot in the chest while walking home from work, hospitalized, bullet not removed, unable to work)

Date: April 26, 2016

Location: Paulabad

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/An-ordinary-story-of-persecution:-Michael-Masih,-a-bullet-in-the-ribs-for-defending-Christians-37463.html>

Qaisar Jahan (hired as a 'water man' who delivers water to students, as of **February 9, 2016** 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"; **UPDATE**: reinstated in his position by the Education District Office, headmistress ordered to publicly apologize to him)

Date reported: May 16, 2016

Location: Partab Nagar, Faisalabad

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/A-Christian-water-man-marginalised-for-his-religion-gets-his-job-back-37530.html>

Suleman Hadayat Maish (aged 14, son of Hadayat Masih, **killed** by his employer who had slapped him for wasting hay which caused him to fall and suffer a lethal head injury, body then hung with a rope in the stable in an attempt to fabricate a suicide, autopsy showed evidence of sodomy)

Hadayat Masih (Army janitor, father of Suleman Hadayat Maish)

Date: May 8, 2016

Location: Chehl Kalan village, Gujranwala, Punjab province

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5926>

Prof Anjum James Paul (**UPDATE**: wrote to the Chief Minister [Governor] to complain that a Muslim scholar did not have his PhD thesis approved because it was concerned with discrimination against religious minorities in the educational system)

Date: May 18, 2016

Location: Punjab province

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5927>

Sonia Bibi (seamstress, sister of Shoukat Gill, accused of blasphemy for using floor mats with pictures of local politicians, local police found the allegations to be baseless)

Shoukat Gill (brother of Sonia Bibi)

Date: May 16, 2016

Location: Gujrat

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5928>

and <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=5929>



South Sudan

Sr Veronica Rackova SSPS (aged 58, Slovak citizen, shot by Sudan People Liberation Army soldiers while driving an ambulance)

Date: May 16, 2016

Location: Yei

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/60075->

[AFRICA SOUTH SUDAN Slovak missionary who was shot and seriously wounded has died#.V0A-mMIUufg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60075-)



Sudan

Telahoan Nogose Kassa Ratta (aged 36, arrested in Bahri on December 14, 2015; **UPDATE**: released)

Date: May 10, 2016

Location: Khartoum

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/05/sudan-releases-one-of-two-church-leaders-arrested-in-december/>



Turkey

Aziz Dagcin (condemned the desecration of a Christian cemetery, said "We call for an end to the desecration of our tombs: they do not contain anything other than the bones of our ancestors, who were buried wrapped in sheets. There are no valuables, and the same goes for our monasteries")

Date: May 12, 2016

Location: Mus

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/60006-ASIA_TURKEY_Armenian_cemetery_desecrated_in_Mus#.Vzq43sIUUfg



Uganda

Pastor Micah Byamukama (aged 61, widower, **died from poisoning with insecticide** after disputing the Islamic theology of Jinns)

Date: May 15, 2016

Location: Kasecha village, Kibuku district

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/05/baptist-pastor-poisoned-to-death-in-eastern-uganda/>



United States - North Carolina

Pastor Matt Bentley (stabbed multiple times after interrupting a burglary at his home, treated at a hospital, released)

Date: May 11, 2016

Location: Charlotte

Source: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/megachurch-pastor-stabbed-4-times-north-carolina-home-invasion-163856/>



Vietnam

Fr Thadeus Nguyen Van Ly (aged 70's, sentenced on **March 30, 2007** to 8 years' imprisonment and 5 years' house arrest, had previously spent 14 years in prison **between 1977 and**

2014; **UPDATE:** released, refused a pardon because he said he did nothing wrong, thanked the impending visit of U.S. President Obama as the cause of this 'good will' gesture)

Date: May 21, 2016

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/To-please-Obama,-Hanoi-releases-Catholic-human-rights-icon-Fr.-Van-Ly--37560.html>

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 on [April 14, 2016](#) after she refused to answer questions concerning her March 30, 2016 conversation with U.S. diplomats, beaten at the police station in [Pleiku, Gia Lai province](#), returned and dumped unconscious in the road in front of her home; **UPDATE:** forced by police to attend a meeting at the People's Committee Office, the following day was held to the ground by four policewomen who repeatedly pinched her, the day after was taken by police at 6 AM along with her 18 year old son [leaving her other children unattended], abused for 3 hours which including having chopsticks forced into her mouth, released, her son was released later that day)

Dates: May 11-13, 2016

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Jailed-Vietnamese-pastors-wife-severely-beaten-son-arrested-family-harassed>

Today's Martyrs

For more information please visit our web site at: <http://todaysmartyrs.org/>

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