

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2016-05-29 through 2016-06-04



Colombia

Bishop Omar Alberto Sanchez Cubillos OP (aged 52, said "Catatumbo is a place where many of the people are scarred, stigmatized also as victims. Catatumbo today is for the rest of the country a part of the territory which has nothing except coca, and in abundance...However few are aware of the complexity of this travailed region, whose wealth appears to have become its misfortune and the cause of its many ills that are far worse than presented by the media...Gradually the peasants became prisoners in a prison with open doors, they traded culture and traditions for work which allowed them to put bread on the table at home...Today it's a matter not only of illegal plantations, but also of a society in decomposition, a transformation of behavior and values...Catatumbo people have learned to live side by side with armed gangs. This is a territory under strict control and those in charge control also personal relations and behavior. The people have adapted to this because they love the little piece of land on which they live and they want to make sure their families are safe, left in peace, because they have seen so much, too much, and are simply not interested in contradicting anyone...people here are simply content to survive")

Date: May 31, 2016

Location: Tibu

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/60139->

[AMERICA COLOMBIA In Catatumbo people are simply content to survive testimony by Bishop Sanchez Cubillos#.V1Q2ZMIUU5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60139-AMERICA_COLOMBIA_In_Catatumbo_people_are_simply_content_to_survive_testimony_by_Bishop_Sanchez_Cubillos#.V1Q2ZMIUU5s)



Congo, Democratic Republic

Fr Egide Safari (threatened with death, extortion payments demanded)

Date: June 1, 2016

Location: Mambasa, Eastern province

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/60147->

[AFRICA DR CONGO A priest denounces the fact of having received death threats#.V1Q03cIUU5t](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60147-AFRICA_DR_CONGO_A_priest_denounces_the_fact_of_having_received_death_threats#.V1Q03cIUU5t)



Egypt

Soad Thabet (aged 70, mother of Ashraf Attiya, said after she reported to police that her home had been ransacked by a mob "The police chased us out of the police station. They said we were troublemakers...On Friday [the next day], sometime in the evening, our home was stormed. They beat my husband severely. When I started screaming, they dragged me out into the street. They repeatedly beat me and stripped me of all my clothes. They left me as naked as the day I was born...I wish they had only beaten me, no matter how hard, but not stripped me entirely naked as they did", rescued from the mob by a Muslim neighbor named Ramadan Kamal, reported the assault to police only to find that "The complaint I filed earlier on Thursday was not found. The police then claimed I never reported anything", has left her village along with her husband)

Ashraf Attiya (aged 31, son of Soad Thabet)

Bishop Makarios (**UPDATE:** said of the attack on Soad Thabet "The law should take its course until the perpetrators are brought to justice. Such issues have to be tackled head on. The root causes have to be exposed", rejected the use of the extrajudicial reconciliation meetings "Often the specter of 'consequences', or 'dangers' to our children and our businesses, is raised in order to force us to such settlements")

Dates: May 19-20, 2016

Location: Karma, Minya province

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/06/4493895/>

Mina Thabet (aged 26, civil rights activist; **UPDATE:** arrested on false terrorism charges by National Security Agency agents for continuing his civil rights work, had returned home to face arrest so that his 21 year old brother would not be arrested)

Safwat Samaan Yasaa (civil rights activist; **UPDATE:** said of the arrest of Mina Thabet and others "These people are treated as terrorists. This a problem facing everybody who works in these fields, and many have stopped writing, opposing, or objecting to what's happening, afraid they will be arrested next")

Date: May 13, 2016

Location: Dar Al-Salam, outside Cairo

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/05/egyptian-crack-down-on-human-rights-defenders-reaches-key-christian-activist/>



Iran

Maryam Naghash-Zargarani 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; as of [May 21, 2016](#) 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; **UPDATE**: has begun a hunger strike in an attempt to force prison authorities to give her proper medical treatment, is said to be nearly comatose)

Date: [May 27, 2016](#)

Location: Evin prison, Tehran

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/06/christian-prisoner-in-iran-begins-hunger-strike-over-denial-of-medical-treatment/>



Nigeria

Ango (aged 55, men's fellowship treasurer, attacked by Fulani herdsmen with machetes, left for dead, hospitalized)

Naomi Sali (aged 45, described the attack “A Christian whose name is Ango was returning from his farm at about 5 p.m. when he was ambushed and attacked by a band of three Fulani Herdsmen. Ango was pursued by three sons of the Ardo [Fulani leader] in the area. They captured him and dragged him to the bush close to a stream, where they cut him with machetes. He was left there unconscious as they thought he was dead. Ango was in pains and crying out after he regained consciousness. The Baptist pastor who found Ango in a pool of blood met some Christian women who were also returning from their farms and requested they rush to the village to alert others for help to take him to the hospital”)

Date: [May 25, 2016](#)

Location: Ninte village, Jema local government area, Kaduna state

Zakka Kagoma (aged 40, **killed along with two other Christians** by Fulani herdsmen, several homes burned)

Rev Saleh Yamusa (fled his home with his family before it was burnt, unhurt)

Date: [May 31, 2016](#)

Location: Ninte village, Jema local government area, Kaduna state

Naomi Sali (aged 45, **UPDATE**: fled her home during a Fulani attack)

Date: [May 31, 2016](#)

Location: Andaha village, Jema local government area, Kaduna state

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/06/muslim-fulani-herdsmen-in-nigeria-kill-three-christians-attack-another-with-machetes/>



Pakistan

Pastor Kamal Chugtai (worship service with hundreds of parishioners invaded by several policemen who forced them out of the church and mistreated women, beaten when he demanded they stop their misconduct, taken to his home which was then searched and ransacked without warrant, beaten again at the police station, charged along with 34 other Christians, released, complained to higher officials but was ignored, said “but we shall not be silenced; we shall continue to raise our voice on behalf of minorities. I am glad my community is standing by me in the fight for justice”)

Pervaiz Younus Khokhar (arrested)

Date: May 19, 2016

Location: Christian Town, Faisalabad

Source [with photo]: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Faisalabad:-hundreds-of-Christians-protest-police-brutality-against-their-pastor-37623.html>

and <http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/despair-for-faisalabad-christians-after-police-arrest-dozens-for-alleged-terrorism>

Jagga (forced to flee his village along with his wife after a Muslim relative had been falsely accused of blasphemy)

Waris Masih (said “My uncle Jagga and his wife were called by their landlords, who told them to leave the village, or they would face dire consequences. Since then, at least 10 Christian families have locked their houses and gone to their relatives for an unspecified time”)

Date: May 23, 2016

Location: Kot Amam Din village

Source: <http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/06/4494176/>



Sudan

Bishop Emeritus Macram Max Gassis (wrote on continued military attacks “...on May 18 teachers at the San Vincenzo Ferrer school counted 15 bombs which fell close to the school, three no more than a 300 meters away. [On 26 May a missile launched by a fighter jet hit the school compound causing serious damages] The missile tore holes in the roof of the library and to make things worse it began to rain and the books must have been soaked”)

Date: May 31, 2016

Location: El Obeid, Nubia

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/60137->

[AFRICA SUDAN Continual bombing in Nuba Mountains area a Catholic school damaged Bishop Gassis reports#.V1Q3lcIUU5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60137-)



Uganda

Mariam Nakiryra (aged 30, mother of five, **strangled to death** by her Muslim husband for leaving Islam, the husband attempted to bury his five children but was stopped by neighbors of both faiths)

Date: May 8, 2016

Location: Mbaale village, Imanyiro sub-county, Mayuge district

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/05/muslim-in-eastern-uganda-kills-christian-wife-for-leaving-islam-relatives-say/>



United Nations

Bishop Joseph Bagobiri (Nigerian citizen, presented the report ***The Impact of Persistent Violence on the Church in Northern Nigeria***, in which was stated "Christian communities in the predominant Christian states in the Middle Belt areas are the most affected by the Muslim Fulani herdsmen forceful invasions and attacks. This is a blatant foreign invasion of the ancestral lands of the Christian and minority communities. In these middle belt states, the Fulani herdsmen have incessantly terrorized many communities, wiping out some from existence, and in places like Agatu in Benue State and Gwantu and Manchok in Kaduna State, these attacks assumed genocidal character, as between 150 – 300 vulnerable persons were killed overnight")

Date: May 30, 2016

Location: New York City

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/60130->

[AFRICA NIGERIA More than 1 3 million Christians forced to flee from northern Nigeria says a Bishop#.V1Q7QsIUU5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60130-)



United States - New York

Fr Marc Roselli SJ (aged 61, beaten by two robbers outside his church, later said Mass with a black eye)

Date: June 2, 2016

Location: Staten Island

Source: <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/nyc-crime/cops-bust-men-attacked-robbed-priest-staten-island-church-article-1.2659616>



Vietnam

Event: A group of Christians had been deliberately run over by a military truck

Pastor Dang Ba Nham (aged 56, husband, **killed**, wife seriously injured, hospitalized)

Phan Thi Thanh Huyen (convert, **died the next day**)

Hoang Ngoc Hung (church elder, hospitalized, given a 20% chance of survival)

Date: May 5, 2016

Location: Vinh

Pastor Dang Ba Nham (**UPDATE**: funeral held, church crowded to overflowing, when the eulogist asked "Who will take his place?" approximately 30 young people stood)

Date: May 8, 2016

Location: Vinh

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/05/accident-kills-evangelical-pastor-new-christian-in-vietnam/>



Zambia

Fr Cleophas Lungu (**UPDATE**: said "The Catholic Bishops of Zambia are disappointed with politicians who have continued to perpetuate political clashes despite committing themselves to end political violence at the meeting that was called for by the Church leaders", expressed particular disappointment with Catholic politicians who turn to violence)

Date: June 1, 2016

Location: Lusaka

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/60142-AFRICA_ZAMBIA_Bishops_denounce_Politicians_do_not_keep_their_promises_to_end_violence#.V1Q1vMIUU5s

Today's Martyrs

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

or write to

**2490 Black Rock Turnpike #455
Fairfield CT 06825-2400**

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