

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2016-06-05 through 2016-06-11



Azerbaijan

Eldar Aliyev (home raided by police during a worship service, literature including Bibles seized, charged with holding an unapproved religious meeting)

Arzu Ibrahimova (told that an administrative offense would be put in her file for 'failing her parental responsibilities' for attending or allowing her child to attend the worship service)

Date: January 9, 2016

Location: Mingachevir

Eldar Aliyev (**UPDATE**: convicted, fined US\$1,000; appeal denied)

Dates: March 3; April 22, 2016

Locations: Mingachevir, Shaki

Givi Khusishvili (home raided by police during a worship service, 56 attendees detained for hours, religious items including Bibles seized)

Qurbanova (detained during the police raid on the home of Givi Khusishvili, case proceeding)

Date: March 23, 2016

Location: Gakh

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2184



Bangladesh

Sunil Gomes (aged 71, brother of Fr Proshanto Gomes, fruit and vegetable shopkeeper, **murdered** by reputed ISIL members after returning to his shop after Mass)

Sopna Gomes (aged 45, daughter of Sunil Gomes, said "He was an innocent, simple and pious man. We don't know why he was murdered like this. We are living in fear")

Fr Proshanto Gomes (**UPDATE**: said of his brother's murder "I am shocked, saddened. My brother had no enemies. This seems a premeditated murder, an exceptionally brutal one which is unprecedented in this area and people are afraid")

Fr Bikash Rebeiro (reported on the murder of Sunil Gomes)

Date: June 5, 2016

Location: Bonpara village, Natore, Rajshahi district

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Islamic-murders-in-Bangladesh:-Catholic-slaughtered,-policeman's-wife-killed-in-front-of-child-37690.html>
and <http://www.ucanews.com/news/catholic-hacked-to-death-in-bangladesh/76240>



China

Bishop Stephen Yang Xiangtai (forced by police to cancel a novena he had organized after three church tabernacles had been desecrated, police surrounded the village where the desecration had occurred to prevent outside worshippers from arriving)

Date: June 3, 2016

Location: Xiao Di Ba village, Handan, Hebei province

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/After-hosts-and-tabernacle-desecrated-in-Handan,-police-ban-reparation-ceremonies-and-novenas-37695.html>



Iran

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; 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; as of [May 27, 2016](#) has begun a hunger strike in an attempt to force prison authorities to give her proper medical treatment, is said to be nearly comatose; **UPDATE:** has been granted a medical leave, hospitalized)

Date: June 6, 2016

Location: Evin prison, Tehran

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/06/4488553/>



Uzbekistan

Pastor Latifahon Mamazhanov (brother of Marifzhon Mamazhanov, arrested in Fergana on [March 12, 2016](#), sentenced to 15 days' imprisonment for 'not submitting to authorities'; released on [March 28, 2016](#), had been held in a cell designed for two with seven others, fed poor food once a day, cell contained lice and bedbugs, two prisoners with tuberculosis were deliberately placed in the cell; **UPDATE**: has fled the country with his family to avoid further persecution)

Murot Turdiyev (drove to the prosecutor's office in Fergana to protest the [March 12, 2016](#) arrest of Pastor Latifahon Mamazhanov, denied entry to the office by police, automobile seized for unspecified traffic violations; tried on charges of 'failure to carry out the lawful demands of a police officer or other persons carrying out duties to guard public order', court issued him a warning on [March 28, 2016](#), automobile returned; **UPDATE**: police cut the electricity to his home while he was on trial on March 28, 2016, spoiled food in his refrigerator worth US\$37, has fled the country with his family to avoid further persecution)

Date: May 25, 2016

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2182

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

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