

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2016-06-12 through 2016-06-18



Albania

Violeta Gjika (religious pilgrim, **died** after her bus caught fire from an electric spark, eleven other pilgrims hospitalized)

Date: May 27, 2016

Location: Kruja

Source: <http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/the-tragic-accident-of-a-group-of-orthodox-pilgrims-from-vlora/>



Bangladesh

Event: Christians were violently prevented from voting

Fr Albert Thomas Rozario (**UPDATE:** described the attack "There are 1,800 Catholic voters out of a total of 2,400, but none of them were able to vote due to violence and fear. Most of the 700 people who went to vote in the morning returned home without casting their vote because the attackers pounded on them")

Jonas Costa (aged 48, council member, said "I was 100 percent sure about re-election but I have been forced into defeat, but I don't accept it. We will go to court to challenge the result and demand a new election")

Bilash B Gomes (filed a police report)

Ronel Gomes (aged 23, said "They attacked me in the polling center and I rushed to my home, but they chased me and beat me at home. They threatened to kill me if I voted. We are living in fear because a legal case has now been filed. If justice is not delivered it would be tough for us to live in this area", left hand fractured)

Date: June 4, 2016

Location: Savar

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/catholics-attacked-during-local-election-in-bangladesh/76256>



Chile

Auxiliary Bishop Luis Fernando Ramos Perez (**UPDATE**: condemned a church attack during a student demonstration in which the main crucifix was removed and destroyed in the street "It is a very painful situation for us. A religious icon of great value to us has been destroyed and we do not want this to happen again in our country", later thanked the Minister of the Interior for his support, added "our churches are open, they are places of worship to come and praise God and we don't want to lock ourselves in so those who want to terrorize Chileans with violence achieve a success they don't deserve")

Fr Marek Burzawa (said "This is not the first time that they've attacked a church in downtown Santiago. Violence leads nowhere, it is very painful for us that they would attack the symbols of our beliefs, the symbols of our faith")

Fr Galvarino Jofre (said "We hope there'll be better protection and hopefully these demonstrations won't end in the same location. We're looking into legal action")

Date: June 9, 2016

Location: Santiago

Source: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/crucifix-smashed-in-attack-on-emblematic-chilean-church-37674/>
and http://www.fides.org/en/news/60205-AMERICA_CHILE_After_the_peaceful_march_some_students_break_into_a_church_and_destroy_a_crucifix#.V1-B4MIUU5s



China

Lan (stoned by a mob led by local Communist officials while leading a worship service, hospitalized, transferred to another hospital due to the severity of his injuries)

Date: May 1, 2016

Location: Fulong, Guangxi

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/06/pastor-stoned-property-destroyed-in.html>



Egypt

Dr Sameh Saad Sadiq (said that his father had received death threats in an attempt to seize the family's land)

Date reported: June 16, 2016

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1664&A=23917>

Heba (aged 17, disappeared while coming home after tutoring)

Date: April 11, 2016

Location: Cairo

Source: <http://www.persecution.org/2016/06/07/wave-of-kidnappings-rock-upper-egypts-christian-community-part-3/>

Amal Shaky (aged 19, daughter of Zakaria, college student, abducted on April 4, 2011; freed on April 20, 2011; **UPDATE**: disappeared on her way to class, police refused to file a report and accused her father of having killed her)

Zakaria (father of Amal Shaky)

Date: March 27, 2016

Location: Cairo

Source: <http://www.persecution.org/2016/06/12/wave-of-kidnappings-rock-upper-egypts-christian-community-part-4/>

Noura Youssef (wife of Amgad Romany, disappeared, last seen being followed by a Muslim who had sexually harassed her, police refused to add the stalker's name to their report)

Amgad Romany (aged 25, husband of Noura Youssef)

Date: April 20, 2016

Location: Luxor

Source: <http://www.persecution.org/2016/05/25/wave-of-kidnappings-rock-upper-egypts-christian-community-part-2/>



India

Pastor Alvish Bara (beaten by 20 Hindu militants, arrested on forced conversion charges, other Christians also beaten)

Date: June 5, 2016

Location: Balrampur district, Chhattisgarh state

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/60207-ASIA_INDIA_Protestant_pastor_and_faithful_beaten#.V19-PMIUU5s

Pastor Lalta Prasad (aged 58, assaulted along with his wife by four masked men with wooden sticks during a worship service of more than 50 Christians, denied medical treatment)

Dinanath Jaiswar (said “The doctor on duty warned the couple of the consequences of getting a medical examination done and on filing a case against the assaulters on the basis of the medical test. The couple got extremely frightened and agreed not to get into further trouble and decided not to proceed with the medical examination and thus the police complaint was not filed. The political pressure on the police and the medical staff is evident in this case”)

Date: May 29, 2016

Location: Naupur village, Jaunpur district, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Meera Rani (beaten by 25 members of the ABVP [the student wing of the BJP Hindu nationalist political party] during a church service, one of her fingers was fractured and her neck was cut under the ear)

Arun Kumar (described the attack “The church service was disrupted by members of the ABVP disguised as students. They stormed the venue, created a disturbance and proceeded to beat the Christians present using their belts. They also pelted stones at the women and children present...Many of the Christians were seriously injured and had to be admitted to the local hospital for treatment and first aid...The ABVP people have warned the Christians not to conduct any more worship services in the church or else next Sunday they will come with guns and swords and will kill the Christians and cut them to pieces”)

Date: June 5, 2016

Location: Kas Mahal, Patna, Bihar state

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/More-attacks-on-Indian-Christians-at-Sunday-worship>

Kamli Kawasi (aged 22, sister of Bamaan Kawasi, beaten unconscious by four men because her family was Christian, hospitalized with significant internal bleeding, has lost the hearing in her left ear, now in hiding with her family)

Bamaan Kawasi (aged 19, brother of Kamli Kawasi, had been the initial target of his sister's attackers, now in hiding with his family)

Pastor Bhupendra Khora (**UPDATE**: described the attack on Kamli Kawasi)

Date: May 15, 2016

Location: Parapur village, Lohandiguda area, Bastar district, Chhattisgarh state

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Hindu-extremists-in-India-beat-young-Christian-woman-unconscious>



Iraq

Najiba (wife, refugee along with her husband)

Date reported: June 9, 2016

Location: near Duhok

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/06/4501605/>

Archbishop Nicodemus Daoud Sharaf (**UPDATE**: said "We Syrians, are the original inhabitants of this land, then we became a minority and now we are merely refugees in our own country. Christians are cheap people, you can kill them, they count for nothing...the demon first attacks the families to destroy people and the church")

Date reported: June 2, 2016

Location: Strasbourg, France

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20160602184447.htm>



Kazakhstan

Yegor Prokopenko (aged 89; **UPDATE**: home raided by police during a worship service, fined US\$625)

Date: May 22, 2016

Location: Zyryanovsk, East Kazakhstan region

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2188



Malawi

Bishop Monfort Stima (expressed concern over the growing radicalization of Muslims and the growing violence after Friday prayers)

Date: May 26, 2016

Location: Mangochi

Source: <http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1464229470.html>



Nepal

Event: Seven Christians have been arrested for illegal conversions

Balkrishna Rai (arrested)

Banita Dangol (arrested)

Bhim Bahadur Tamang (arrested)

Bimal Shahi (school principal, arrested)

Kiran Dahal (arrested)

Philip Tamang (arrested)

Prakash Pradhan (school principal, arrested)

Date: June 9, 2016

Location: Dolakha district

Source: <http://www.christiantimes.com/article/nepal-authorities-arrest-seven-christians-over-allegations-of-converting-people-to-christianity/57081.htm>



Nigeria

Bridget Patience Agbahime (aged 74, wife of Pastor Mike Agbahime, plastic wares and kitchen utensils shopkeeper, **beaten to death** by a mob after being accused of blasphemy, she had asked her accuser to not perform his Islamic abulations in front of her shop)

Pastor Mike Agbahime (widower of Bridget Patience Agbahime, witnessed the mob attack on his wife, rescued by police)

Rev Joseph Hayab (reported on the murder of Bridget Patience Agbahime, “We got it on good authority that the slain woman never blasphemed the prophet Muhammad, that the mastermind of the killing was fond of always provoking the [now] deceased and so, on that fateful day, we learned, the said man was doing ablution in front of the woman’s shop and was cautioned – that was all. The man raised the alarm that she blasphemed prophet Muhammad. The man deliberately provoked the woman in question just to carry out that gruesome and barbaric act. All those that perpetuated the killing of the innocent woman must be fished out and brought to book”)

Date: June 2, 2016

Location: Kano city, Kano state

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/06/4500305/>

and <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/06/muslim-mob-in-northern-nigeria-kills-pastors-wife-on-blasphemy-accusation/>

Methodus Chimaije Emmanuel (aged 24, trader, **killed** by a mob after being accused of blasphemy)

Rev Daniel (said by telephone “The incident began with Facebook chats between a Muslim and Christian youth in the town. The Muslim youth mobilized other Muslims in the town on claims that the Christian youth had blasphemed the prophet Muhammad. The Muslims went to Fellowship Baptist Church along Allawa Road, Pandogari, and burned down the church”, added that two Christians had been shot and wounded)

Larai (said by telephone “Pandogari is a no-go area as the situation is terribly bad. Christians are being attacked even as I speak to you now”)

Date: May 29-30, 2016

Location: Pandogari, Rafi local government area, Niger state

Source: <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2016/05/4-killed-churhes-burnt-niger/>

and <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/06/muslim-mob-kills-christian-in-niger-state-nigeria-for-blasphemous-facebook-post/>

Francis Emmanuel Olokpo (aged 41, carpenter, stabbed for eating in his shop in the daytime during Ramadan, hospitalized)

Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah (**UPDATE**: said “The ugly things we have seen in the last one week are ungodly and totally unacceptable. Somebody goes out to buy food and you attack him and say, ‘Why are you not fasting?’ It is totally unacceptable. The culprits must be arrested, tried and punished. There is no other way you can end this impunity”)

Sunny Oibe (director of National Issues of the Christian Association of Nigeria, wrote “The attack on the carpenter for allegedly eating when Muslims were fasting goes to show the level of intolerance of some people, particularly some of our Muslims. Even if somebody refuses to fast, nobody has the right to embark on such animalistic behavior of attempting murder. The leadership of the Christian Association of Nigeria is asking Nigerian security agencies to ensure that this matter is not swept under the carpet”)

Date: June 7, 2016

Location: Kaduna city, Kaduna state

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/06/muslim-gang-in-nigeria-stabs-non-muslim-for-eating-on-ramadan/>



Norway

Event: The government's child welfare agency has agreed to return the children from a Christian family after an international outcry

Marius Bodnariu (husband of Ruth, father of five, Romanian national)

Ruth Bodnariu (wife of Marius, mother of five, Romanian national)

Date reported: June 7, 2016

Source: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/family/children-to-be-reunited-with-christian-parents>



Pakistan

Khaleel Masih (aged 42, husband of Nazia Bibi, father of six, ice cream vendor, beaten unconscious by a mob for being unclean and for having an evil spirit, bicycle damaged, ice cream destroyed, US\$24 stolen, police refused to file a report and forced him to sign a forgiveness contract, said "I am now terrified of selling my ice-creams I only go to Christian communities but this has drastically reduced my income. Soon I will not be able to feed my children. I have reached my lowest point and seek refuge from God")

Nazia Bibi (wife of Khaleel Masih, said "These Muslims attacked my innocent husband while he was working. They say Christians have an evil spirit in them but we are peaceful and innocent victims who harm nobody? The Police ignored our pleas for help and I find this very demoralizing. My children have always been bullied at school but now the bullying is worse, what have we done to deserve this?")

Date: May 17, 2016

Location: Pogabhaduki, near Chunia

Source: <http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/christian-ice-cream-seller-brutally-beaten-for-fear-of-evil-spirit-contamination-of-ice-creams>

Babu George Salamat (spoke after gunshots were fired into his church on June 4, 2016 "These are terrible times in Pakistan, Christians are not safe and many of us will be killed for our faith. Muslims in this country are brought up hating us - they persecute us as they fear the power and authority of Jesus. But we will continue to show love as Christ commanded and will pray for the word of God to touch their hearts and change their lives")

Date: June 10, 2016

Location: Dhoopsari, Sandha, Lahore, Punjab province

Source: <http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/no-respite-for-lahore-christians-two-years-after-mob-attack-on-st-josephs-community-gun-shots-fired->

Pastor Riaz Rehmat (assaulted by police after a noise complaint was registered against the church)

Rizwan Aslam (witnessed the police raid on his church)

Date: June 12, 2016

Location: Fazlia colony [ghetto], Lahore, Punjab province

Source: <http://www.newsx.com/world/32476-christians-in-lahore-protest-against-police-harassment>

and <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/06/4512847/>



Spain

Cardinal Antonio Canizares Llovera (aged 70, protested a 'blasphemous portrayal' of the Virgin Mary by a homosexual group and called for reparative prayer)

Date: June 13, 2016

Location: Valencia

Cardinal Antonio Canizares Llovera (aged 70, **UPDATE**: criminal investigation begun for homilies in which he said "The family is being stalked today, in our culture, by endlessly grave difficulties, while it suffers serious attacks, which are hidden from no one...We have legislation contrary to the family, the acts of political and social forces, to which are added movements and acts by the gay empire, by ideologies such as radical feminism, or the most insidious of all, gender ideology" and "[gender ideology is] the most insidious and destructive towards humanity in all of history...world powers are seeking to impose it more or less stealthily with evil laws, which one should not obey", if convicted would face up to 4 years' imprisonment)

Date: June 14, 2016

Location: Valencia

Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/spanish-government-opens-investigation-of-cardinal-after-he-complains-of-ga>



Sri Lanka

Janani (aged 21, convert, wife, **beaten to death** by her mother after her conversion)

Date: May 31, 2016

Location: Ampara district

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Christian-daughter-killed-by-Hindu-mother-in-Sri-Lanka-for-converting-to-Christianity>



Syria

Mostafa Abu Alzer ('elderly man', forced to convert to Islam, could no longer make his jizya [tribute] payments as required of Christians by the Sharia [Islamic] law, his only other remaining option was death)

Date reported: June 15, 2016

Location: Raqqa

Source [with photo]: <http://www.aina.org/news/20160614213235.htm>



Thailand

Mehwish Anna (wife of Sajjad Chand, mother of Sataish and Priscila, Pakistani refugee, arrested for overstaying her visa; **UPDATE**: released on bail after interviewed for a BBC documentary)

Dates: September 10, 2015, May 11, 2016

Location: Bangkok

Source: <http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/Pak-Christian-Asylum-seeker-set-free-after-9-month-incarceration-in-brutal-Thai-detention-centre>



Uganda

Yokannah Zirinkuma (aged 50, widower, father of two daughters aged 17 and 22, **found dead** in a pool of blood, had been strangled and had other wounds)

Pastor Samuel Keffa (said “Yokannah mentioned to me that three Muslims from his village followed him till he entered the church for the seminar, and that he did not know where they went after that. He looked fearful for his life”)

Date: June 4, 2016

Location: Kadama village, Kibuku district

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/06/christian-killed-in-eastern-uganda-after-religious-discussion-with-muslims/>



United Kingdom

Wilson Chowdhry (**UPDATE:** criticized the British government for denying asylum to Christian converts from Muslim countries because they fail "Bible trivia" questioning, their failures happen due to a lack of Bibles in their countries of origin, lack of religious training, or translation errors)

Date: June 5, 2016

Location: London

Source: <http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/converts-to-christianity-seeking-asylum-in-the-uk-rejected-on-very-spurious-grounds>

Toni Coulton (director of Festive, described how a college has banned a Christian student fellowship on the grounds that it violated the government's counter-terrorism and extremism initiatives)

Date: June 7, 2016

Source: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/freedom-of-speech/prevent-strategy-used-to-ban-christian-union>



Vietnam

Fr Joseph Nguyen Van Than (Mass in a private home interrupted by 30 police and other officials, three people who attempted to record the interruption were beaten and their phones seized)

Date: June 12, 2016

Location: Muong Khuong, Lao Cai province

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/police-assault-catholics-breakup-mass-in-vietnam/76301>

Today's Martyrs

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

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