

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2016-07-03 through 2016-07-09



Belarus

Fr Andrzej Stopyra (Polish citizen, refused permission to stay in the country [had served for 25 years], said his last Mass and left the country)

Date: May 15, 2016

Location: Biarozauka, Lida district

Fr James Manjackal (Indian citizen, denied entry to the country, had visited twice before to conduct spiritual exercises)

Date: June 3, 2016

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2194



China

Pastor Li Guozhi aka Yang Hua (husband of Wang Hongwu; formally charged on [January 22, 2016](#) with 'obstructing justice' and 'gathering a crowd to disturb social order'; **UPDATE:** wrote to his wife from jail "It must be the result of everyone's prayers that my lower back pain is no longer an issue. I sleep soundly at night. Don't worry. I've adjusted to other aspects of life well. As the Book of Isaiah says, 'In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength' [Isaiah 30:15]. It's also a kind of rest, staying inside...You shouldn't be too anxious. It is best to remain peaceful and wait for God. God is omniscient. I believe that he never makes a mistake. If it is convenient, please send me a [recent] picture of you and our sons. Let's pray and leave other things to God. Thank you for investing everything in this family. I am grateful for what God has given me; let's carry the cross and hasten down the road to heaven, until the day we meet the Lord...Always be happy and peaceful. Never stop praying. Be grateful, because that's God's will conveyed through Jesus Christ...Amen! Emanuel!")

Date: June 6, 2016

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/06/imprisoned-pastors-letter-to-wife-pray.html>

Pastor Mark Ma Chao (**UPDATE**: church closed due to an 'inadequate' fire suppression system, landlady then called to say that the authorities had forced her to terminate the church lease)

Paul (church elder, described the inspection of the church fire suppression system which led to his church closure)

Date: on or before June 16, 2016

Location: Baiyun district, Guangzhou city, Guangdong province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/07/threats-from-authorities-force.html>



Egypt

Sandy Shehata (aged 16, abducted while shopping for Easter clothes, hit on her head, awoke to find herself "surrounded" by older Muslim men who demanded she convert, refused, repeatedly beaten and raped for two weeks, thrown from a truck in a deserted area, reunited with her family)

Dates: April 18 & May 3, 2016

Source: <http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2016/07/01/wave-of-kidnappings-rock-upper-egypts-christian-community-part-5/>

Lucia Murad (aged 14, daughter of a priest, attacked in front of a church by an armed assailant who later confessed to attempted murder, hospitalized)

Date reported: July 4, 2016

Location: Sohag

Source [warning - graphic]: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1677&A=24304>

Sr Athanasia (aged 54, **shot dead** on her way to St George Monastery)

Date: July 5, 2016

Location: Cairo

Source: <http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2016/07/06/nun-was-killed-in-crossfire-of-personal-feud-egypts-interior-ministry/>
and <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1678&A=24371>

Emand Megalla (father of John, disappeared, apparent abduction victim, no ransom demanded)

John (son of Emand Megalla, disappeared, apparent abduction victim, no ransom demanded)

Date: July 3, 2016

Location: Mallawi, Minya province

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1678&A=24374>

Dr Magdy Ghobrial Attia (aged 33, pharmacist, **beheaded**)

Date: July 4, 2016

Location: Tanta, Gharbia province

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1678&A=24380>
and <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/07/copt-stabbed-to-death-in-egypt-less-than-week-after-islamic-state-kills-priest/>



India

Sr Marisa O.Carm (school principal, described how her school had been harassed for two months following a demand by a local politician that admission slots be set aside for political favorites)

Date reported: June 28, 2016

Location: Pune

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/pune-mount-carmel-students-nuns-protest-harassment-by-corporator-husband-2880314/>

Pastor Jaipal (church demolished, now being rebuilt)

Date: June 16, 2016

Location: Malakpet neighborhood, Hyderabad, Telangana state

Rev Basavaraj Marudi (church invaded by Hindu extremists, service interrupted, accused of illegal conversions, worshippers were chased out, and a Hindu idol was installed)

Date: June 19, 2016

Location: Haveri, Karnataka state

Pastor Vicky (denied permission to hold a conference, evening prayer service interrupted by 100 Hindu radicals with sticks, several worshippers including women and children required medical treatment)

Date reported: July 2, 2016

Location: Panchkula, Haryana state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Protestant-churches-and-believers-attacked,-one-church-under-reconstruction-37931.html>



Jordan

Rev Andrew White (aged 52, **UPDATE**: has been suspended from his charity Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East after allegations that he had paid ISIL to release sex slaves)

Date: June 30, 2016

Location: London, United Kingdom

Source: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/vicar-of-baghdad-andrew-white-suspended-from-charity-over-buying-back-sex-slaves-from-isis-165857/>



Kenya

Willie Kimani (missionary employee, abducted after leaving court with his client and his taxi driver, **bodies found**)

Dates: June 23 and July 1, 2016

Location: Nairobi

Source: <http://www.charismanews.com/world/58194-3-social-justice-missionaries-kidnapped-and-murdered>



Nigeria

Rev Zakariya Joseph Kurah (husband, father of seven, **hacked to death** by Fulani herdsmen while he was collecting wood for roofing material)

Moses (church staffer, said of a relative of Rev Zakariya Joseph Kurah “One of them whom I don’t know but was together with the late pastor told us that they were in the bush around 7-7:30 p.m. Two people came out and attacked them. Rev Kurah ran and hid, but they chased him and brutally murdered him with their machetes”)

Rev Silas Thomas (said after the murder of Rev Zakariya Joseph Kurah “He was a pastor with peaceful disposition. He was one of the pastors I worked with while I served as the secretary of ECWA Lafia District Church Council”)

Sam (nephew of Rev Zakariya Joseph Kurah, tweeted after his murder “All I want is justice to be done. Nasarawa State and the Federal Government must find the killers of my uncle... We have become preys that are hunted by marauding beasts in our land. I will keep shouting till justice is done. For how long will we suffer? He has left a very young family; three of his children are currently in the university. No one is saying anything about the clandestine killings by Fulani herdsmen happening almost every day”)

Date: June 30, 2016

Location: Obi town, Nasarawa state

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/07/muslim-fulani-herdsmen-kill-pastor-in-nasarawa-state-nigeria/>
and <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/07/4543482/>



Pakistan

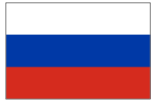
Samrah Badal (sister of Inayat Masih, mother of five, confronted at her home by several Muslim men after her brother ran off with the sister of one of them, beaten, stripped naked, dragged into the street and raped by four men in the presence of her children)

Date: June 25, 2016

Location: Lahore

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/60352->

[ASIA_PAKISTAN_Muslims_seek_revenge_gang_rape_of_a_Christian_woman#.V3nrmMKV8fg](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60352-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Muslims_seek_revenge_gang_rape_of_a_Christian_woman#.V3nrmMKV8fg)



Russia

Event: A new anti-terrorism law which would criminalize unregistered missionary activity has been passed by the Duma and is awaiting presidential signature

Bishop Sergei Ryakhovsky (appealed to President Putin to not sign the new law)

Date: June 23, 2016

Igor Yanshin (attorney, sent an online petition to the Kremlin with 37,000 signatures to protest the new law)

Date: July 4, 2016

Bishop Konstantin Bendas (**UPDATE:** wrote concerning the new law "We follow the common biblical practice of house churches, in which parishioners not only come to church on Sundays, but gather in each other's flats or houses during the week, when small services may be held, to which may be invited, among others, even people who are not members of the church. By my reckoning, in Moscow alone more than a thousand of these house churches gather every week")

Date: June 24, 2016

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2195



Turkmenistan

Akmurad Nurjanov (sentenced to prison for refusing military service, sentence suspended)

Date: December 2014

Timur Baltayev (sentenced to prison for refusing military service)

Date: January 2015

Serdar Hemdemov (**UPDATE**: sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment for refusing military service)

Date: April 2015

Location: Turkmenabad

Kerven Kakabayev (sentenced to prison for refusing military service)

Date: December 2015

Dayanch Jumayev (sentenced to 1 year's imprisonment for refusing military service)

Date: February 2016

Location: Ashgabad

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2196



Uganda

Nassif Malagara (aged 9, starved and beaten by his father after he said that he had accepted Jesus, tied to a tree and burned, rescued by neighbors, hospitalized)

Date: June 5, 2016

Location: Kakira parish area, Kisozi sub-county, Kamuli district

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/06/muslim-in-eastern-uganda-burns-9-year-old-son-for-accepting-christ-sources-say/>

Angel Nabirye (aged 24, infant daughter poisoned by her Muslim in-laws after she was seen eating during the Ramadan fast, she had broken the fast to breastfeed the ill baby)

Date: June 17, 2016

Location: Busandha village, Kiloba parish, Bukanga sub-county, Luuka district

Efranse Kadondo (aged 50, widow, **killed in her home** after filing a police complaint when her land was seized to build a mosque)

Date: June 23, 2016

Location: Naigobya village, Kiyunga sub-county, Luuka district

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/06/muslim-villagers-in-eastern-uganda-kill-christian-woman-infant-girl-sources-say/>



Uzbekistan

Stanislav Kim (home raided by police on [July 20, 2015](#), passport, books, and automobile seized, detained, interrogated, released at 1 AM, summoned the next day for more questioning; **UPDATE:** fined US\$459; home raided again, Christian literature seized; questioned at the police station for six hours; indicted for illegal possession of religious literature, threatened with 3 years' imprisonment if he does not cooperate with police)

[Dates:](#) August 8, 2015, May 17-18 & June 27, 2016

[Location:](#) Urgench, Khorezm region

Nikolai Serin (**UPDATE:** present at the home of Stanislav Kim when it was raided by police; questioned at the police station for six hours)

[Dates:](#) May 17-18, 2016

[Location:](#) Urgench, Khorezm region

Nikolai Serin (present at the home of Stanislav Kim when it was raided by police, questioned; **UPDATE:** home raided by police, Christian literature seized)

[Dates:](#) June 19, 2016

[Location:](#) Navoi, Navoi region

Gulnara Rahimov (wife of Oybek Rahimov, home raided during a worship service, all present were questioned at the police station for 3 hours, fined 10 times the monthly minimum wage, husband also fined although he was not a member of her church)

[Dates:](#) February 17 & March 22, 2016

[Location:](#) Gullanbog, Yangiaryk district, Khorezm region

Event: Christians fined 30 times the minimum monthly wage for attending a worship service at the home of Aziz Pulatov, sentenced to 10 days in jail

Andrei Yu

Yelena Yu

Event: Christians fined 100 times the minimum monthly wage for attending a worship service at the home of Aziz Pulatov

Aziz Pulatov

Fazliddin Tukhtayev

Event: Christians fined 50 times the minimum monthly wage for attending a worship service at the home of Aziz Pulatov

Akpar Pulatov

Shahzoda Pulatova

Mukaddas Rakhmatova

Zuhra Tashayeva

Malyuda Kuldasheva

Event: Christians fined 30 times the minimum monthly wage for attending a worship service at the home of Aziz Pulatov

Shahnoz Gulomova
Shahzoda Mavlyanova
Mukhabbatkhon Mirzayeva
Mokhidil Zairova
Gulnora Norova
Dilfuza Kobilova
Orom Khaydarova
Soliya Niyazova
Mahliyo Zhurayeva
Ibodillo Zhurayev
Gulchehra Ibadova
Shoista Mamedova
Shahin Norov
Zarina Kosimova
Munavvar Mardonova
Azamzhon Ismatilloev
Farida Amonova
Zarina Amonova

Event: Christians fined 5 times the minimum monthly wage for attending a worship service at the home of Aziz Pulatov

Gulbahor Mavlonova
Nilufar Ibrohimova
Mizhgona Ismatillayeva

Date: January 27, 2016

Location: Kogon, Bukhara region

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2192



Venezuela

Bishop Baltazar Porras Cardozo (condemned an attack by a gang on five seminarians in which they were beaten, stripped naked, and forced to run through the streets)

Date: July 1, 2016

Location: Merida

Source [warning - graphic]: http://www.fides.org/en/news/60361-AMERICA_VENEZUELA_Mgr_Baltazar_Porras_Attack_on_students_and_seminarians_This_violence_disqualifies_the_government#.V3npg8KV8fg



Vietnam

Fr Anthony Nguyen Van Duc OSB (**UPDATE**: protested the demolition of a cross at his monastery by government officials)

Date: June 20, 2016

Location: Thien An

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/benedictines-condemn-desecration-of-cross-in-central-vietnam/76430>

Today's Martyrs

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

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