

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2016-07-17 through 2016-07-23



Egypt

Fam Khalaf (aged 27, **stabbed to death** in a mob attack on the homes of two priests, was a visiting cousin of one priest, the father of the other priest was wounded as was a third Christian and a Muslim woman)

Nagib Hanna (father of Fr Metaous, stabbed)

Fr Metaous (son of Nagib Hanna, elementary school aged son threatened with death, father stabbed)

Malak Aziz (brother of Fr Boutrous, stabbed)

Fr Boutrous (brother of Malak Aziz)

Azza Jouma (stabbed in the face)

Bishop Makarios (**UPDATE**: condemned the attack that killed Fam Khalaf, days earlier had called Egyptian society "diseased" with discrimination)

Date: July 17, 2016

Location: Tahna al-Gabal, Minya province

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20160718200222.htm>

and <http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2016/07/15/coptic-bishop-egypt-diseased-with-discrimination/>

and <http://www.fides.org/en/news/60467->

[AFRICA EGYPT Quarrel among boys degenerates in a sectarian clash a Copt killed in the village of Akoris#.V42c1MKV85s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60467-AFRICA_EGYPT_Quarrel_among_boys_degenerates_in_a_sectarian_clash_a_Copt_kill_ed_in_the_village_of_Akoris#.V42c1MKV85s)

and <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/07/one-dead-several-injured-in-islamist-attacks-on-copts-in-egypt/>

Safwat Samaan Yasaa (**UPDATE**: described the arson attack on a church that almost killed the iconographer who was restoring icons “I wonder if this was just an accident, or if this was a planned arson, but the results will be in the hands of the firefighters and the police. I am concerned they will come to yet another all too convenient ruling [of accidental cause]”)

Date: July 16, 2016

Location: Al-Madamoud, Luxor province

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/07/one-dead-several-injured-in-islamist-attacks-on-copts-in-egypt/>



India

Rita Dsa (along with 5,000 Christians protested a development plan that will remove protections for churches and cemeteries "We are very concerned that most of our churches in the city are not shown correctly. For example, Mahim Church, which is more than 400 years old, isn't marked correctly. Hundreds of churches and graveyards are either wrongly listed or excluded")

Dolphy D'Souza (**UPDATE:** said "We fail to understand how they could miss out such religious landmarks. We demand the authorities rectify this")

Anand Castelino (said that since authorities had already removed some 'illegal' crosses, "tomorrow they will demolish our churches saying they are also illegal")

Date: July 18, 2016

Location: Mumbai

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/mumbai-catholics-protest-churches-missing-from-city-plan/76633>

Event: A Christian home was ransacked by a mob of more than 50 Hindu extremists

Umesh Patel (student, son of Sudhama Patel, beaten, hospitalized in serious condition)

Sudhama Patel (father of Umesh Patel, beaten, hospitalized in serious condition)

Kiran Vishwakarma (family friend, beaten, hospitalized in serious condition)

Tomson Thomas (described the attack on the Patel family)

Date: July 17, 2016

Location: Chhattisgarh state

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/coe/4194126/4537901/4560671>



Indonesia

Cahyo Binuko (home invaded by Muslims opposed to his construction of an interfaith shrine to Mary the mother of Jesus on his property)

Date: July 13, 2016

Location: Gunung Kidul district, Yogyakarta province

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Islamists-stop-construction-of-shrine-dedicated-to-the-Virgin-Mary-near-Yogyakarta-38065.html>



Iran

Ebrahim Firouzi (convert, aged 31; **UPDATE**: beaten by prison guards when he refused to be transferred to the courthouse for a hearing without legal preparation)

Date: July 12, 2016

Location: Tehran

Source: <http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3001>

Event: Four Christians - three Azeris and one Iranian - were detained in a police raid on an engagement party

Eldar Gurbanov (Azeri citizen, detained)

Yusif Farhadov (Azeri citizen, detained)

Bahram Nasibov (Azeri citizen, detained)

Date: June 24, 2016

Location: Tehran

Pastor Amin Khaki (beaten and arrested on [March 5, 2014](#) during a picnic in [Shush](#); conviction upheld as of [March 1, 2016](#), must report within 15 days to serve his remaining 13 months in prison, including unserved time from a previous conviction; **UPDATE**: released)

Date reported: July 22, 2016

Source: <http://www.bosnewslife.com/37091-iran-detains-azeri-iranian-evangelicals>



Iraq

Auxiliary Bishop Shlemon Warduni (**UPDATE**: denounced countries that aid ISIL, said "Our people are suffering too much. Nobody loves them, nobody takes care of them...The children, the young people, they have no future. They finish studying and they have no job. Always, we cry, all over the world, for those children.")

Date published: July 16, 2016

Location: Bagdad

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20160716181401.htm>



Kazakhstan

Sofya Bunyak (**UPDATE**: fined approximately US\$318 by police - not a court - for holding a worship service in her home)

Date: late May 2016

Location: Ekibastuz, Pavlodar region

Aleksandr Belan (fined by police - not a court - after a raid on a congregation, but a court later annulled the fine)

Date reported: July 18, 2016

Location: Sergeyevka, Akmola region

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2200



Kenya

Pastor John Njaramba Kiruga (husband of Freshia Wanjiru, father of Ian Kiruga and Lenny Kamau, **shot dead** along with five others by an al-Shabaab terrorist attack on a bus, had been returning from facilitating a peacemaking seminar for Christians and Muslims)

Freshia Wanjiru (widow of Pastor John Njaramba Kiruga)

Lenny Kamau (aged 9, son of Pastor John Njaramba Kiruga)

Ian Kiruga (aged 17, son of Pastor John Njaramba Kiruga)

Pastor Brad Bergfalk (said “Pastor John was a faithful servant who loved God and desired for others to experience that love. I was privileged to be the ordained Covenant pastor to lay my hands on him and pray. I hope his life of faith inspires a new generation of Kenyans to live into the calling God has for them”)

Date reported: July 3, 2016

Location: near the Somali border

Source: <http://covenantcompanion.com/2016/07/03/kenyan-church-moderator-led-peacemaking-seminar-prior-to-death/>



Nepal

Chinimaya Blown (arrested on human trafficking and illegal conversion charges after she brought street orphans to her orphanage)

Date reported: July 22, 2016

Location: Kathmandu

Pratik Sunar (arrested along with his wife for operating a children's home and for distributing Bibles, the only Bible found was his personal copy, wife released)

Date reported: July 22, 2016

Location: Bharatpur

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/nepalese-christian-jailed-over-religious-conversion/76652>



Nigeria

Fr Luka Sylvester Gopep (described an attack on a church "Sometime around 2pm, some Muslim youths in their hundreds left their mosque after their Friday Jumat prayer and rushed to the church premises, climbed the wall and destroyed everything in the church: the windows, the altar, musical instruments, the chapel. The security man in the church premises was beaten to pulp. Some women who were holding a prayer meeting were chased away. The seminarian who is resident in the premises was also beaten up and chased away")

Date: July 15, 2016

Location: Baki Iku, Niger State

Source: <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2016/07/irate-youths-destroy-catholic-church-property-attack-worshippers/>

Rev Augustine Akpen Leva (described recent attacks by Fulani herders "This is another jihad like the one waged by Boko Haram in the north-east of the country. The attackers carry sophisticated weapons, sometimes they even used chemical weapons on our communities. They just come, often overnight when people are sleeping. They attack defenseless people and go away. They clearly have an agenda: to wipe out Christian presence and take over the land. Lots of people have been killed and it is difficult to get an accurate death toll of the attacks. Sometimes they kill 20, another day they may kill 50. In recent weeks, more than 100 were killed in Logo and Ukum Local Government Areas...The government has failed us. There's no protection at all. The few security forces, which are often present, ran away before the attack")

Date reported: July 20, 2016

Sir Lazarus Agai (traditional ruler of the Ron/Kulere tribe, **killed** while returning home from his farm, also killed were his son, driver, and police escort)

Date: July 18, 2016

Location: Bokokos local government area, Plateau state

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/07/4559223/>
and <http://www.persecution.org/2016/07/21/fulani-herdsmen-kill-royal-monarch-and-four-others-in-nigeria/>

Pastor Hamza Alkali (aged 66, father of four, attacked by a Fulani Muslim herdsman. part of his left hand cut off, wrestled the knife away from his attacker, hospitalized, remainder of his hand and wrist amputated, said "Every Christian that is passing through persecution should stand firm, as God will not abandon such a person. Our persecutors should know

that one day they will stand before God to account for what they done here on earth. So what they should do is to come closer to God. They should repent and leave the evil ways they are following”)

Date: July 7, 2016

Location: Sabon Gida village, near Keffi, Nasarawa state

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/07/baptist-pastor-loses-hand-to-muslim-fulani-herdsman-in-nasarawa-state-nigeria/>



Pakistan

Sobia Nadeem (graduate student in physics, abducted, forcibly married and converted to Islam, escaped, court recognized the invalidity of her marriage, her abductor attempted to abduct her again from the courthouse but failed, family now threatened with 'dire consequences' if she is not returned to him)

Date reported: July 18, 2016

Location: Lahore

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/constrained-conversion-abducted-christian-girl-flees-after-forcibly-given-into-marriage-with-the-abductor/>

Yaqoob Masih (aged 56, sanitation worker, accused of blasphemy, beaten by his accuser, hospitalized, accuser arrested, police found no evidence to support the blasphemy charge)

Date: July 14, 2016

Location: Hyderabad

Source: <http://www.persecution.org/2016/07/19/christian-sanitary-worker-beaten-and-accused-of-blasphemy-against-islam-in-hyderabad-pakistan/>

Sajid Masih (son of Mehar Masih, employer refused to pay him, arrested when he protested, held by police for 3 days, forced to affix his thumbprints to unknown documents)

Date reported: July 19, 2016

Location: Gujrat

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/gujrat-christian-wage-worker-handed-over-to-police-over-demand-for-lawful-wages/>

Isaac Samson (son of Younus Saidq, hospital accountant, abducted near Orangi Town on February 29, 2012 while travelling to work in a minivan by Pasto speaking assailants; **UPDATE:** still missing)

Date reported: July 20, 2016

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/karachi-police-dawdling-fails-to-recover-abducted-christian-youth-despite-four-years-on/>



Russia

Vakhtang Kipshidze (church spokesman, said “Unfortunately today [in Russia] there is a movement that shows interest in the pagan past, and some organizations are trying to reincarnate this quasi-religion...Baptism, for us, was a historic choice and an irrevocable fact. Attempts to revise it, even citing pagan apologetic arguments, are based on an invention of the pagan representation of reality" added that to reverse this historic choice "is a step towards self-destruction")

Date reported: July 20, 2016

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Orthodox-Church-warns-that-youth-neo-paganism-is-a-challenge-for-the-future-38089.html>



Sudan

Gisma Saeed (Christian school principal, arrested and removed from her school, government agents then installed a new principal, released, school land is likely targeted for transfer to a Muslim business; arrested along with 13 others while trying to prevent seizure of the school; released after paying a US\$50 fine)

Date: June 2 and July 7-10, 2016

Location: North Khartoum

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/07/government-fires-teacher-from-christian-school-in-north-khartoum-sudan/>



Syria

Fr Ibrahim Alsabagh OFM (aged 44, **UPDATE**: said “Within four hours, 250 rockets fell on the inhabitants of western Aleppo...Close the borders through which the weapons, food and fighters are being supplied. To 95 per cent, the supplies are arriving from Turkey and they arrive with backup. We are not talking about individuals, but of entire organized forces operating with logistics...Anyone who shoots rockets at residential houses, churches, schools and hospitals is not a ‘moderate rebel’!”)

Date: July 20, 2016

Location: Aleppo

Source: <http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1468975987.html>

Archbishop Jean-Clément Jeanbart (**UPDATE:** told of a rocket attack that hit a parochial school but the children escaped injury in their shelter, wrote "The next day, when a great crowd had gathered for Sunday Mass, I was at a loss for words, but I called on the faithful to join me in a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord, Who, once again, had seen fit to protect us. It was a good occasion to remind Christians that they are not alone and that our Good Shepherd is always there, very close to us, and that He never leave us orphaned or without help for even a single instant...In reviewing the course of events of the past five years of this pitiless war, we cannot fail to see his salutary actions among us. This terrible and infernal war, would have utterly destroyed us or driven us to despair and madness, had it not been for his tender care...As I am writing this, deafened by the explosions of intense bombing raids, I raise my eyes on high, to ask God to shorten the duration of this long trial, which, for five years, has not stopped hurting his people...May our friends who wish us well accompany us with their prayers, may they be at our sides to defend our cause, strengthen our resistance and help us stay put")

Dates: July 2-3, 2016

Location: Aleppo

Source: <http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1468804420.html>



Turkey

Pastor Tim Stone (church windows broken by assailants who took advantage of anarchy during a military coup)

Date: July 15, 2016

Location: Malatya

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/07/4558489/>

Canon Ian Sherwood (said that anti-Christian intolerance is increasing in the country)

Date: July 20, 2016

Location: Istanbul

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20160719214406.htm>



Uganda

Kuluseni Iguru Tenywa (aged 53, convert, former imam, driven from his home by his relatives)

Date: June 27, 2016

Location: Budhagali village, Jinja district

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/07/former-imam-in-eastern-uganda-loses-home-family-work-after-turning-to-christ/>



United Kingdom

Andrea Leadsom (aged 53, Member of Parliament, forced to withdraw from her campaign for Prime Minister after anti-Christian attacks in the media and from Conservative Party members)

Date: July 11, 2016

Location: London

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Editorial-Barnabas-Fund-calls-for-a-national-conversation-about-anti-Christian-prejudice-and-bullying>



United States - California

Gigi Kurz (Loyola Marymount University employee, accused of a hate crime after defending traditional Christian morality, suspended, reinstated after 2 weeks)

Date reported: July 22, 2016

Location: Los Angeles

Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/catholic-university-employee-vindicated-after-being-accused-of-lgbt-hate-cr>

United States – New York

Javier Chavez (department store detective, fired for directing a man who claimed to be a woman to leave the women's dressing room)

Date: May 2016

Location Flushing, Queens, New York City

Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/macys-fires-catholic-employee-for-supporting-natural-gender>



Vietnam

Su (alias, described the imprisonment of at least 108 tribal pastors since 2001, many have finished their sentences but have not been released)

Date reported: July 14, 2016

Source: <http://www.christianaid.org/News/2016/mir20160714.aspx>

Today's Martyrs

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

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