

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2016-08-14 through 2016-08-20



Bangladesh

Fr Eugene Eduard Homrich CSC (aged 88, U.S. citizen, Bangladeshi resident since 1955, left the country due to health concerns and death threats from Islamic radicals)

Fr Simon Hacha (said of Fr Eugene Eduard Homrich "He founded more than 30 primary and secondary schools, where thousands of children received a quality education. He respected and nurtured the culture of the Garo people. He himself was a Garo, having learnt the language and published a book of hymns and prayers in it")

Date: August 16, 2016

Location: Pirgacha

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bangladesh-says-goodbye-to-Fr-Homrich,-a-missionary-of-the-Garo-people-38322.html>



China

Pastor Ma Ke (criticized a new ban on religious activity in hospitals "They are interfering with people's religious beliefs, which is against the constitution...because Chinese citizens should have the freedom to choose their religion, or to have no religion. I think it's perfectly normal...people depend psychologically on their religious beliefs to a certain extent. If they are dying, for example, they know that they have nothing to fear. Religion empowers people...to be more optimistic and accepting of their treatment program. It helps them face up to times of illness, and also to face up to their own mortality")

Date: August 18, 2016

Location: Zhejiang province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/08/radio-free-asia-chinas-zhejiang-bans.html>

Wei (described how his fellow church members convinced an electrician to not follow a local official's order to cut off power to their church, the order was issued as part of an ongoing land dispute)

Date: July 28, 2016

Location: Lingbao, Henan

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/08/christians-save-church-from-demolition.html>



Congo, Democratic Republic

Event: Christians have been killed by the Ugandan Islamist group ADF-NALU, thousands have fled the area

Pastor Jean (said “We do not understand why this is happening to us. The rebels just take people into the bush to kill them or kidnap them. They attack one place for a while and cause people to run away. Then they strike the places people run to”)

Pastor Awuzo (husband, father of seven, has fled his home twice in recent weeks, said “When it is [tense], we are forced to leave, and when things get calm we return. That’s how we live now. We are always alert, always ready to leave at a moment’s notice”)

Pastor Kiveroi (said “The attackers in November [2015] arrived in their numbers at about 3pm. They killed more than 20 people and burnt down over 50 houses. Before leaving at about 5am, they looted the hospital, pharmacies and shops and set fire to the market and to homes close to the market...We used to have 350 members in church. After the rebels attacked us, we returned for services the very next Sunday. But there were just 10 of us”)

Date reported: August 15, 2016

Location: Oicha, North Kivu province

Source: <http://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/08/4588161/>



Egypt

Magda Tharwat (Egyptian Union for Human Rights [EUHR] member, participated in a demonstration at the High Court over the inability to get licenses to build churches "Why should there be a law on constructing churches and not on mosques? Restrictions on churches include its definition as a fenced place of worship, upon which governors have the authority to license with the obscure involvement of the National Security apparatus...We demand citizens' equality")

Date: August 13, 2016

Location: Cairo

Source: <http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2016/08/13/533608/>

Magdy Issac (young man, **murdered**)

Date reported: August 19, 2016

Location: Beni Suef province

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1711&A=25765>



Eritrea

Patriarch Abune Antonios (disappeared in 2007, reportedly detained by the government in a darkened room, health declining, diabetic condition requires medical attention;

UPDATE: reported to have signed a document expressing an apology for his actions and regret for the consequences, observers have expressed concern that coercion or even torture may have been used)

Date: August 8, 2016

Location: Asmara

Source: <http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/serious-concern-about-truth-of-reported-confession-of-ousted-patriarch-of-eritrean-orthodox-church/>



India

Archbishop Emeritus Raphael Cheenath SVD (aged 82; deplored the **October 3, 2013** sentencing of seven Christians to life imprisonment for the 2008 assassination of Hindu nationalist leader Laxamananda Saraswati despite a lack of evidence and Maoist claims of responsibility, the assassination led to a pogrom in which over 100 Christians were killed; **UPDATE:** **died of natural causes**, had been living outside his diocese due to death threats)

Date: August 14, 2016

Location: Mumbai

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Msg.-Raphael-Cheenath,-Archbishop-emeritus-of-Orissa's-martyrs,-has-died-38306.html>

Evan Mamang Kipgen (aged 26, attacked by a gang of five men)

Date: August 18, 2016

Location: Lakshmipuram

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/5-member-gang-attacks-evangelist-from-Manipur/articleshow/53762661.cms>



Kazakhstan

Yakov Frizen (stopped by police after putting Andrei Berimets, Olga Berimets, and Zoya Tobolina in his automobile following a service in his home, detained, released)

Andrei Berimets (aged 83, detained after leaving the home of Yakov Frizen, released)

Olga Berimets (aged 79, detained after leaving the home of Yakov Frizen, released)

Zoya Tobolina (aged 79, detained after leaving the home of Yakov Frizen, released)

Natalya Kvach (detained after leaving the home of Yakov Frizen, released)

Yevgeny Seleznev (detained, released)

Nina Gurzhueva (detained, released)

Shezhana Bondarenko (detained, released)

Date: August 7, 2016

Location: Kalbatau village, Zharma district, East Kazakhstan region

Yakov Frizen (**UPDATE**: home raided by police, foreign visitors stopped and questioned)

Date: August 11, 2016

Location: Kalbatau village, Zharma district, East Kazakhstan region

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2208



Mexico

Bishop Ramon Castro Castro (on July 22, 2013 decried the mounting violence by criminal gangs and their threats to kill clergy; **UPDATE**: has become the subject of a criminal investigation for interfering in politics after he supported organizations that want to reform the state and after hosting a massive rally against same sex marriage, said “If I go to prison, no problem: from there I’ll do the work of evangelization”)

Date reported: August 16, 2016

Location: Cuernavaca, Morelos state

Source: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/this-mexican-bishop-is-willing-to-evangelize-from-jail-if-necessary-35389/>



Nigeria

Kehinde Adewunmi (aged 50, convert, husband filed for divorce because she had converted)

Date: August 11, 2016

Location: Lagos

Source: <http://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/more-news/208454-man-accuses-wife-converting-islam-seeks-divorce.html>

Event: Seven Christians were killed by Fulani Muslims

Thomas Maimasara (aged 40, cousin of Sunday Saleh, **killed**)

Sabo Boyi (aged 25, cousin of Sunday Saleh, **killed**)

Bobo Okocha (aged 18, **killed**)

Monday Hamza (aged 24, **killed**)

Waje Rubutu (aged 17, **killed**)

Linus (aged 20, **killed**)

Julius (aged 19, **killed**)

Sunday Saleh (cousin of Thomas Maimasara and Sabo Boyi, described the attack “The Christians were killed in their homes. Some of the victims were shot while others were cut with machetes”)

Rev Dr Sunday Ibrahim (said “These attacks on Christian communities are senseless and uncalled for. Why carry out attacks on communities without provocation? The Nigerian government needs to stop these killings by these Muslim herdsmen”)

Rt Rev Timothy Yahaya (**UPDATE**: said “The attacks by the herdsmen on Christian communities are not only condemnable but must be stopped by the Nigerian government. We are tired of these bloody attacks on Christians, not only in Kaduna state, but also in other parts of the country”)

Date: August 13, 2016

Location: Golkofa village, Jema’ a local government area, Kaduna state

Bishop Charles Hammawa (said of the Fulani atrocities against Christians “It appears to be a strategy to deliberately populate areas with Muslims and, by the sheer weight of superior numbers, influence political decision-making in the region”)

Date reported: August 16, 2016

Location: Jalingo, Taraba state

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/08/seven-christians-killed-in-north-central-nigeria-by-muslim-fulani-cattle-herders/>



Pakistan

Javed Sahotra (attorney, husband of Mary Javed; **UPDATE**: threatened with death by a politician for his defense of a young Christian man who had eloped with a Muslim woman)

Zain Amar (family threatened by a politician after he had eloped with a Muslim woman)

Date: August 13, 2016

Location: Sahiwal

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/sahiwal-christian-attorney-facilitating-a-christian-respondent-threatened-by-a-politician/>

Event: Christians were arrested and tortured during a Christian festival

Kailash Masih
Touseef Masih
Kashsash Masih
Irfan Masih
Nabeel Masih
Babar Masih
Nasir Masih
Nadeem Masih
Inderyas Masih
Jan Masih
Janbaz Masih
Tooti

Date: August 15, 2016

Location: Marriamabad, Sheikhupura district

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/marriamabad-police-goes-on-the-attack-against-christians-on-the-pretext-of-security-provisions/>

Event: Christians have pled for the government to fix drainage problems at a cemetery

Chaudhary Payara
Shehzad Francis
Siyal Paul
Khalid Patras
Javaid Qaisar

Date: August 15, 2016

Location: Mian Channu

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/mian-channu-primordial-graveyard-of-christians-rendered-squalid-by-dint-of-governments-neglect/>

Naqash Yousuf (aged 26, jailed on a murder charge, expressed thanks for the construction of the first Christian chapel in a jail "Some 40 to 50 Christian prisoners now visit the chapel and attend Sunday prayers")

Samina Nawab (chairperson of Angel Patient Care Services, which funded the chapel construction)

Date: August 5, 2016

Location: Karachi

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/pakistan-jail-opens-chapel-for-christian-prisoners/76891>



Sudan

Event: Two pastors held in jail for months have been brought into court and charged with espionage, complicity to execute a criminal agreement, waging war against the state, calling for opposition of the public authority by violence or criminal force, and inciting hatred between classes

Rev Hassan Abdelrahim Tawor (arrested in [Omdurman](#) on [December 18, 2015](#) by the NISS secret police; **UPDATE:** charged in court)

Rev Kowa Shamal (arrested in [Khartoum Bahry](#) on [December 18, 2015](#) by the NISS secret police; released on [January 16, 2016](#); arrested by the NISS secret police without charge on [May 24, 2016](#); **UPDATE:** charged in court)

Date: [August 14, 2016](#)

Location: [Khartoum](#)

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/08/4587909/>



Syria

Fr Ziad Hilal SJ (**UPDATE:** spoke on the current conditions "...the city it's divided between two sides. Between the opposition and the government, then people couldn't move from one side to the other side. And a lot of people couldn't go from here to there, from there to here, to get to their jobs – and so they lost their jobs, they lost their houses...I met a Catholic family where three children are working in a restaurant, one is 7 or 8 years old, the other one is 10 years old and the third one, he is 14 years old. Their father has died, we don't know how, and their mother is also working. And the boss of the restaurant told me – you see these three children are working and I couldn't tell them no it is summer now because they are helping their mother. I was choked")

Date reported: [August 15, 2016](#)

Location: [Aleppo](#)

Source: <http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1471220542.html>

Samir Samaan (said "Today we have started receiving aid for Muslim families from the 1070 district who fled severe fighting. We try to give away essential things, hot meals and medicines. We help as much as possible with accommodation and medical care")

Date reported: [August 15, 2016](#)

Location: [Aleppo](#)

Source: <http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/syrian-aleppos-christians-open-aid-center-for-muslims-fleeing-war-zone/>

Patriarch Gregorios III Laham (aged 82; **UPDATE**: said that it is impossible to confirm or deny an Amnesty International report that asserts 18,000 people have died in government prisons since 2011, added that the situation is critical in Aleppo and in Madaya where "The area is under Daesh [ISIL] siege and government and aid is not getting through because the terrorists mingle among the population and use civilians as human shields as they successfully did in Palmyra and Homs in the past")

Date: August 18, 2016

Location: Damascus

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Patriarch-Laham:-the-dead-in-Syrian-prisons,-new-front-in-information-war-38337.html>

Bishop Mario Zenari (apostolic nuncio [Vatican ambassador]; **UPDATE**: said "One always hopes to see an end to violence, but all one sees instead is the war intensify...The suffering of children are those who strike our attention the most. Even the pope in his appeal in the Angelus of 7 August mentioned the unarmed civilian population, particularly children who are among the most innocent victims. Since the beginning of the war, 14,000 children and minors they have died in the conflict...We continue to make appeals for peace, for an end to violence, but they go unanswered, powerless, falling on too many deaf ears")

Date: August 18, 2016

Location: Damascus

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Nuncio-in-Damascus,-children's-eyes-are-the-mirror-of-the-atrocities-committed-in-Syria-38348.html>



Thailand

Nargis Maqsood (aged 50, Pakistani refugee, detained)

Date: September 10, 2015

Imran Gill (aged 27, Pakistani refugee, disabled, requires crutches, detained, unable to stand or sit in detention)

Date: June 3, 2016

Pastor Yousaf (husband of Son, Pakistani refugee, detained with his wife and two sisters, son not detained)

Son (wife of Pastor Yousaf, Pakistani refugee, detained, son not detained)

Ruth Masih (wrote concerning the detention of Pastor Yousaf, Son, and his sisters)

Date reported: August 1, 2016

Location: Bangkok

Source: <http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/emergency-appeal-for-release-of-desperate-pakistani-christian-asylum-seekers-in-thailand>

Kathriya Louis (aged 20, Pakistani refugee, said “Our Muslim neighbors [in Pakistan] did not like us because they knew we were Christians. Whenever we prayed or played Christian music they would come to our house and shout at us. My brothers were always caught up in arguments and fights and were harassed and bullied daily...My family is still deeply traumatized by the attack. I cry when I remember the day of the attack, none of us will ever forget it. We felt in fear of our lives and needed to flee quickly. We came to Thailand because it is easy to get here, visa is cheap and easy to get while flights are inexpensive. Also, most other countries do not accept Pakistanis. And my pastor told us to go to Thailand because others had escaped there. We were told that the UN would help us...I am really worried. We are all scared that the [Thai] soldiers and police will come in larger numbers to take us all away. We all know how badly detainees are treated in the immigration detention center, and none of us want to go there. My family and I are planning what to do in an emergency, we are also thinking of spending time outdoors in tourist areas to prevent being caught at home again. Please ask people to pray for us”)

Date: August 19, 2016

Location: Bangkok

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/life-is-unbearable-as-an-asylum-seekers-in-thailand-pakistani-christian-asylum-seeker-entreats-all-to-pray-for-her/>



United States - Colorado

Major Steve Lewis (Air Force officer, voluntarily removed a Bible from his desk after an atheist group demanded he be "aggressively punished" for having it, case under review by his superiors)

Date reported: August 19, 2016

Location: Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs

Source: <http://www.charismanews.com/opinion/american-dispatch/59370-atheists-demand-aggressive-punishment-for-air-force-major-who-dared-to-open-his-bible>

United States - Kentucky

David Buckley (aged 40, stabbed in the neck in church by his son, hospitalized)

Brent Duvall (said "I was praying at the altar when I heard a commotion. I thought it was someone going into cardiac arrest or a seizure. I found out it wasn't that. It's a lost and fallen world we live in. It shouldn't surprise us")

Alicia Bell (said "It's scary, but in today's society this can happen anywhere...I'm praying for anybody that was hurt")

Date: August 14, 2016

Location: Bowling Green

Source: http://www.bgdailynews.com/news/bg-man-accused-of-stabbing-father-during-church-service/article_694b0970-6241-11e6-a8a3-6ba470e5a362.html

Today's Martyrs

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

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