

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2016-08-28 through 2016-09-03



Argentina

Archbishop Jose Maria Arancedo (said after a church desecration in which a tabernacle was stolen “This calls us to increase our love for Jesus in the Eucharist, to strengthen our hearts joined to him, to strengthen our faith in the Lord, because these are times of the persecution of the Church, and like the first Christians we need to be strengthened and encouraged to walk with resolve on the path of faith”, ten days later four Sisters of Charity were beaten in a similar incident)

Dates: August 15 and 22, 2016

Location: Santa Fe

Source: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/eucharist-desecrated-missionaries-of-charity-assaulted-in-argentina-63151/>



China

Wang Hongwu (wife of imprisoned Pastor Li Guozhi aka Yang Hua; **UPDATE:** has been under constant police surveillance after refusing a summons to appear at a police station, a foreign visitor was prevented from visiting her, said “They keep watch at the door to my home for 24 hours. At night, they all sleep in the car”)

Dates: August 12 and 21, 2016

Date reported: August 29, 2016

Pastor Su Tianfu (**UPDATE:** reported that he has been under constant police surveillance since December 9, 2015, has been required to use police vehicles for shopping and other activities)

Date reported: August 29, 2016

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/08/wife-of-imprisoned-pastor-constantly.html>

Event: Five Christians were released from jail after four months, likely in preparation for the upcoming G20 summit

Ji Qingcao (**UPDATE:** released)

Ji Qingcou (**UPDATE**: released)

Ou Jinsi (**UPDATE**: released)

Mei Xueshun (released)

He Lijing (released)

Pastor Wen Xiaowu (**UPDATE**: not released)

Date: August 2, 2016

Location: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/08/wenzhou-releases-5-prisoners-in.html>

Zhang Kai (civil rights attorney; disappeared in Wenzhou, Zhejiang province on August 25, 2015; appeared on Chinese television on February 26, 2016 where he confessed; reported on March 23, 2016 to have been released from the 'black jail', has returned to his home; **UPDATE**: posted a statement on the internet "With a Christian faith and a free conscience, I am officially stating that the interview with a number of media...over the trial of Zhou Shifeng was against my own will...My elderly parents were living in fear and worry during the six months of detention. [I was] powerless to resist the pressure imposed by a strong regime...I am willing to confess to God for weakness and fear in my heart and spirit and I ask the forgiveness of other family members of 709" [709 is the name of the group of dissidents and Christians, derived from the number detained in mid-2015], the statement was quickly removed, fled his parents' home before it was surrounded by police, on the run; **UPDATE TWO**: reported to have been arrested)

Dates: August 30 & September 1, 2016

Location: Hohhot, Inner Mongolia

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Zhang-Kai's-criticism-of-jailed-activists-was-“forced-out-of-fear”-38451.html>

and <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/08/authorities-hunt-for-human-rights.html>

and <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/09/radio-free-asia-christian-rights-lawyer.html>



Egypt

Imad Gad (Member of Parliament and political analyst; **UPDATE**: has written a series of articles which called for a full separation of religion and state as necessary for democracy)

Date reported: August 30, 2016

Source: <http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2016/08/30/egyptian-coptic-mp-imad-gadl-separating-religion-and-state-a-condition-for-democracy/>



India

Pastor Sunny Tyagi (convert, beaten by 10 Hindus who invaded a private home to stop the service he was leading, other worshippers were threatened)

Date: August 26, 2016

Location: Gonda district, Uttar Pradesh state

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/60624->

[ASIA INDIA Protestant Pastor beaten by Hindu militants#.V8Jls8KV85s](#)

Fr Jimmy Pochakkatt (said after a state minister accused the RSS paramilitary organization of stockpiling weapons in Hindu temples "We neither support nor oppose the minister's statement. We have always reiterated that religions and places of worship should never become breeding grounds for hate and violence. If a place of worship, be it a church, mosque or temple, becomes the supporting ground for violence against anyone, the state should intervene and stop such activities. That is our stand"

Date: August 29, 2016

Location: Kerala state

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/communist-minster-accuses-hindu-group-of-misusing-temples/77008>



Indonesia

Fr Albertus S Pandiangan OFM Cap (aged 60, attacked by a 17 year old jihadist just after proclaiming the Gospel during Mass, the jihadist was slightly injured when his improvised explosive device failed to fully detonate, slightly injured on the left arm when the jihadist then used a knife and an axe against him, the attacker was restrained by parishioners and detained)

Date: August 28, 2016

Location: Medan, North Sumatra

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/A-17-year-old-inspired-by-attack-on-Fr.-Jacques-tries-to-murder-priest-38420.html>

and <http://www.ucanews.com/news/priest-hurt-in-failed-suicide-bomb-attack-on-indonesian-church/76962>



Iran

Event: Five Christians were arrested without warrant by MOIS agents while fishing and picnicking with their wives, whereabouts unknown

Amin Afshar Naderi (aged 28, convert, **UPDATE**: arrested, beaten when he asked to see the arrest warrant)

Amir Sina Dashti (arrested)

Hadi Askary (arrested)

Mohamad Dehnay (arrested)

Ram-iel Beth Tamraz (son of Pastor Victor Beth Tamraz and Shamiram Isavi; **UPDATE**: arrested)

Date: August 26, 2016

Location: Firuzkuh

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/08/iran-suspected-of-forcing-confessions-to-obtain-evidence-against-house-church-leader/>



Kosovo

Dalibor Jevtic (government minister, travelled with 150 pilgrims who were prevented from accessing 12th century church ruins by rioting Albanian nationalists)

Branimir Stojanovic (Deputy Prime Minister, travelled with 150 pilgrims who were prevented from accessing 12th century church ruins by rioting Albanian nationalists, said “Displaced Serbs will be persistent in coming back to their homes and rebuilding their destroyed properties, as well as 11 Orthodox churches which they went to before 1999”)

Date: August 30, 2016

Location: Musutiste, Suva Reka municipality

Source: <http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/obstruction-of-the-celebration-of-the-dormition-feast-is-a-violation-of-fundamental-human-and-religious-rights/>
and <http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/96569.htm>



Nigeria

Pastor Luka Ubangari (**shot dead** by Muslim Fulani gunmen while returning home from an evangelistic meeting)

Date: August 21, 2016

Location: Golfoka village

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Church-leader-in-Nigeria-ambushed-and-murdered-in-another-suspected-Fulani-herdsmen-attack>

Barki Baikoh (aged 60, farmer, **hacked to death** on his farm by Muslim Fulani herdsmen after receiving threats, managed to injure one attacker which resulted in the attacker's hospitalization and arrest)

Date: August 24, 2016

Location: Andaha town, Nasarawa state

Rev Emmanuel Haruna (said of recent attacks “Even as I speak to you, Fulani herdsmen take their cattle to farms of our church members and destroy their crops, and security agents have not been able to take measures to stop them,” he said. “These herdsmen do whatever that pleases them with Christian communities, and no one cares about such ugly trends in our state. For instance, in Rutu village, 29 of our church members were killed and their houses destroyed. Also, at Angwan Dariya village, six of our church members were killed and others displaced, while their houses too, were destroyed. In Adanba village, seven worship buildings were destroyed, and our church members were scattered. In Ogeni village, one worship building was destroyed and our church members there displaced. The attackers looted houses of food items, money, and other valuables before setting fire on the houses of Christian residents there [in Indeshi]. Many Christian communities were attacked for no justifiable reason. In Agwan Dariya village, six of our members were killed...The situation is very unfortunate and bad – we need our brethren out there to pray for Christian communities in Nasarawa state and for possible action by the government to put an end to these senseless attacks on churches. So also, if there are individuals who are blessed with the means, they too should assist these suffering Christian brethren. We shall be very grateful to see that these Christian brethren are assisted”)

Date reported: September 1, 2016

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/09/60-year-old-christian-killed-as-violence-ruins-homes-churches-churches-in-nasarawa-state-nigeria/>

Gambo Sule (aged 38, **killed** by Muslim Fulani herdsmen)

Benjamin Auta (aged 35, **killed** by Muslim Fulani herdsmen)

Date: August 21, 2016

Location: Ningon village, Sanga local government area, Kaduna state

Solomon Musa (**UPDATE**: said “The same people suspected of carrying out this genocide, that has nothing to do with grass for cows, are the ones being given the government’s approval to sit on annexed land within communities that are completely agrarian”)

Date reported: September 1, 2016

Rev Yusufu Magaga (abducted by Muslim Fulani herdsmen)

Jacob Wakili (said “The village was attacked by Fulani herdsmen. They destroyed the ECWA worship building and abducted the pastor of the church, the Rev Yusufu Magaga, and left many others injured”)

Date: July 6, 2016

Location: Kabene-Surubu village in Kauru local government area, Kaduna state

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/09/herdsmen-in-nigeria-kill-pastor-others-as-policy-to-settle-cattlemen-decried/>



Pakistan

Ashraf Masih (blew his vehicle's horn at a woman to avoid a collision with her in traffic, in retaliation was accused by her of sexual harassment, attempted robbery and attempted abduction of her son, mother and brother forced by police to sign blank sheets of paper, urged to surrender to police)

Date: August 27, 2016

Location: Bahmaniwala, Kasur district

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/vandals-threaten-to-torch-christians-houses-in-bahmaniwala-over-fallacious-charges-against-a-local-christian/>

Laveeza Bibi (aged 58, wife of Emmanuel Masih, beaten)

Date: August 19, 201

Location: Khushal Town, Faisalabad

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6055>

Ngam (aged 17, son of Nabeela Nadeem, fled with his family from [Khanewal](#) in [December 2013](#) after attempts to convert him and his sisters to Islam at school; **UPDATE**: family fled after a teacher said during an 'Islamic science' college class "the universe was created for Muslims, and non-Muslims unfairly benefit from it. So killing Christians, Jews and Hindus is justified", the class was held on Minorities Day, the commemoration of the 1947 religious toleration speech by national founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah)

Nabeela Nadeem (aged 45, wife, mother of three including Ngam)

Date: August 11, 2016

Location: Lahore, Punjab province

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Lahore:-Christian-family-forced-to-flee-because-of-religious-hatred-38441.html>

and <http://www.fides.org/en/news/36318->

[ASIA PAKISTAN Christian family flees to save their daughters from forced conversion to Islam#.VBJAEMLwsfg](#)

Rojar Randhawa (Caritas manager, said during a press conference concerning government discrimination and police brutality against the blind "We condemn the violence against this vulnerable group who are already too sensitive")

Date: August 29, 2016

Location: Lahore, Punjab province

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/pakistani-blind-people-threaten-to-go-on-hunger-strike/76984>

Gulzar Masih (father of Asma, son-in-law arrested by police in Sialkot on or before August 1, 2016 in an attempt to force him to return his daughter to her abductor; **UPDATE**: shot, hospitalized in critical condition)

Date reported: August 30, 2016

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/unknown-assailants-gun-down-father-of-a-christian-girl-forcibly-converted-after-abduction/>

Robin Daniel (National Minority Alliance, **UPDATE**: negotiated a resolution to the riots triggered when Adnan Masih ran over the foot of a Muslim with his motor scooter, said "This is the first time in the history of the city that 60 Muslims apologize in public for their violent acts and promise not to offend verbally Christians living peacefully. I thank all the Christian leaders who supported us on this path of reconciliation")

Date: August 30, 2016

Location: Khushal Town, Faisalabad

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Muslims-ask-forgiveness-for-attack-on-Christians-in-Faisalabad-38449.html>

Samuel Masih (aged 55, Christian ghetto security guard, **shot dead** in a terror attack after opening the gate to the ghetto)

Ata-ur-Rehman Saman (**UPDATE**: commented on twin terror attacks - one against a Christian ghetto - that resulted in 13 killed and over 50 wounded, added that the quick police response that prevented any deaths of ghetto residents "for sure will send a clear message to the forces against the state that operate in our country . The terrorists could have caused more damage if security forces had not intervened in time")

Joel Amir Bobby (expressed "clear condemnation of the terrorist attack against the Christian colony [ghetto]. It really means that terrorists strike Christians, who are already living in fear and in precarious conditions. We ask that the colony be immediately placed protection and in particular the churches")

Rojar Randhawa (**UPDATE**: said the government must offer "protection against fanatics. The authorities must protect everyone, Christians and Muslims, the violence perpetrated by these sectarian criminals")

Rt Rev Sarfarz Humphrey Peters (**UPDATE**: condemned the "brutal act of terrorism against the Christian community")

Fr Yunis Riaz (said "People are afraid, we are mourning Samuel's death. About 30 Christian families live in the colony...They are simple people, most of them work as cleaners in public offices. They are people with a strong faith: we will overcome this...The Taliban indiscriminately hit civilian and military targets, schools and families: they want to destroy peace and have visibility, threatening institutions. We will remain united in protecting social and religious peace. As Christians, we will do our part, praying and working peacefully, building peace in our daily lives every day")

Frederich Azeem Ghauri (lawmaker; **UPDATE**: said "I personally visited the area and the army have cordoned off it and search is going on. The terrorists had water and food with them, which shows that they had planned a massacre on a large scale, but God has been kind to save the community. One suicide bomber entered an under-construction house and blew himself up. Luckily there was no-one there, so everyone remained safe")

Date: September 2, 2016

Location: Warsak Dam, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Peshawar-attack-on-a-Christian-colony.-Condemnation-of-politicians-and-activists-38471.html>
and <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/09/4613961/>



Russia

Sergei Zhuravlyov (arrested while preaching in [early August 2016](#), accused of illegal missionary activity)

Date reported: August 27, 2016

Location: St. Petersburg

Source: <https://themoscowtimes.com/news/russia-charges-ukrainian-religious-leader-under-controversial-anti-terror-law-55148>

Drake Oldham (missionary, U.S. citizen, jailed and deported on visa technicalities along with five others)

Date: August 24, 2016

Location: Samara

Source: http://news.hjnews.com/allaccess/cache-valley-father-reacts-to-missionary-s-deportation-from-russia/article_0e7ac88b-a239-5940-92a7-264eca81c299.html



United States - Nebraska

Event: A family committed to missionary work in Japan died in a traffic accident while travelling for their final training

Jamison Pals (aged 29, [died](#))

Kathryne Pals (aged 29, [died](#))

Ezra (aged 3, [died](#))

Violet (aged 23 months, [died](#))

Calvin (aged 2 months, [died](#))

Gordy Engel (father of Kathryne Pals)

Nancy (mother of Kathryne Pals, said "The last time we saw Jamison and Kathryne, we got together and held hands and prayed with them...That was the last time we saw them")

Date: July 31, 2016

Location: near Brule

Source: http://www.omaha.com/news/nebraska/we-do-forgive-you-parents-of-woman-killed-in-i/article_76afdde4-5c0f-11e6-be64-1f74c1b9f60d.html



Vietnam

Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh (husband of Tran Thi Hong; **UPDATE**: has suffered from high blood pressure and sinusitis, allowed a visit in prison with his wife who later said "He was too weak to walk and officers had to help him into the meeting room...I give him medicine but officers dispense it irregularly")

Date: August 17, 2016

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/prisoners-of-conscience-on-hunger-strike-in-vietnam/76982>

Today's Martyrs

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

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