

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2016-10-09 through 2016-10-15



Argentina

Fr Juan Heraldo Viroche (**found dead** in his home, a preliminary report stated cause of death as suicide, parishioners and collaborators stated their disbelief and point to multiple death threats he had received from drug criminals due to his work with addiction)

Date: October 5, 2016

Location: Tucuman

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/60910->

[AMERICA ARGENTINA A priest committed to combating drug trafficking found dead#.V_z9f8KQI5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60910-AMERICA_ARGENTINA_A_priest_committed_to_combating_drug_trafficking_found_dead#.V_z9f8KQI5s)

Bishop Virginio Bressanelli (condemned an attack by pro-abortion feminists against his cathedral in which a mural of the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo [who had opposed the Dirty War of the early 1980's] was defaced, said "At certain times of the year there are demonstrations. Unfortunately, in some cases, as in this pro-abortion demonstration, this also happens. This varnish will damage the building and we have to redecorate it in order to erase the writing...It is a sad fact [regarding the mural damage]. I think there are things that are part of the beauty of the town and the heritage of all, so we cannot accept anything like that")

Date: September 28, 2016

Location: Neuquen

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/60869->

[AMERICA ARGENTINA Pro abortion protesters deface a mural the door of the Cathedral and the Bishopric#.V_z_csKQI5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60869-AMERICA_ARGENTINA_Pro_abortion_protesters_deface_a_mural_the_door_of_the_Cathedral_and_the_Bishopric#.V_z_csKQI5s)



Australia

Nasrin Abek (aged 35, convert, Iranian immigrant, **stabbed to death** by her husband after he discovered her conversion)

Date: September 28, 2016

Location: Potts Point, Sydney, New South Wales

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3815124/Hairdresser-35-stabbed-death-Iranian-husband-Potts-Point-apartment-angry-converted-CHRISTIANITY.html>



Brazil

Fr Francisco Carlos Barbosa Tenorio (aged 37, **found dead** alongside a highway, had been stabbed)

Bishop Luciano Bergamin (reported on the murder of Fr Francisco Carlos Barbosa Tenorio, said "He was a good pastor and loved by his people. Everything leads us to believe that it was a robbery which ended in murder. Our brother was killed with a stab in his heart. Unfortunately it is another sign of violence that our Baixada lives, stained with so much blood")

Date: October 9, 2016

Location: Nova Iguacu, Baixada Fluminense region, Rio de Janeiro state

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/60944-AMERICA_BRAZIL_Priest_killed_along_the_road_near_Rio_de_Janeiro#.V_z718KQI5s

Nilton Santos Seixas (missionary, attacked by gunmen along with several native people, escaped, forced to move along with his family)

Date: September 23, 2016

Location: Vargem Grande, Itacarambi municipality, Minas Gerais state

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/60870-AMERICA_BRAZIL_CIMI_denounces_violence_against_the_Indigenous_in_Minis_Gerais_a_missionary_threatened#.V_z_K8KQI5s

Fr Joao Paulo Noll (aged 35, **murdered** by teen drug addicts after he gave them a ride in his car)

Bishop Juventino Kesting (wrote of the murder of Fr Joao Paulo Noll "We will continue to do what Father J. Paulo did: proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and be his witnesses, to defend life, to bring peace and fraternity. There is need to change this violent unjust world, in a more human dimension, in harmony for a fraternal coexistence")

Date: October 8, 2016

Location: Rondonopolis

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/60962-AMERICA_BRAZIL_The_Bishop_of_Rondonopolis_after_the_murder_of_the_priest_We_will_continue_to_do_what_father_Joao_Paulo_did#.WAHGi8KQw5s



Central African Republic

Changement Constantin (aged 43, husband, father of three, **shot dead** by Seleka militants during a robbery)

Firmain Feidang (aged 29, husband, father of three, **shot dead** by Seleka militants outside the UN peacekeeping office)

Date: September 16, 2016

Location: Kaga Bandoro

Event: Seleka militants attacked a church compound and a refugee camp

Marcelline Kanga (aged 40, witnessed the attack "We were in the house when suddenly the Seleka arrived and set it on fire. They killed my uncle and stabbed my brother to death right there")

Yongon Samson (aged 48, ran from the Seleka attackers, saw a decapitated body)

Date: October 12, 2016

Location: Kaga Bandoro

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4673468/>



China

Bishop Peter Shao Zhumin (**UPDATE**: returned from 'vacation' by the government but still under government control)

Date: October 8, 2016

Location: Wenzhou

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mgr-Peter-Shao-Zhumin-back-in-Wenzhou-but-under-control-38824.html>



Congo, Democratic Republic

Jean (alias, attacked by Islamic militants while walking home from work "It was around 6pm. There were many of them. Some had guns, others machetes. They pushed me around for a while before someone forced me into the bush. Two of them slashed me with their machetes. After the second blow, I lay still like a corpse. They watched me bleed for what seemed like a very long time and then left, thinking I was dead. They went to a nearby house and set it on fire, before taking off", walked to a clinic but found it closed, added "Eventually the military passed by and noticed that I was wounded and in serious need of help, so they brought me here [to the hospital]")

Gracia (alias, church leader, said "I have no choice, it is my town. If I would run, where would I run to? It is something we experience daily, gunshots left and right. It is our daily

life...We pray that God will create in our leaders a heart for humanity, a heart of compassion and heart full of mercy, and that He may make them conscious of the evil that is being committed on our territory”)

Date: September 2016

Location: North Kivu province

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4675537/>



Egypt

Event: Four Christians were abducted for ransom on October 3, 2016; UPDATE: all were freed after a ransom of US\$16,892 was paid

Emad Lamei (brother of Rami Lamei)

Rami Lamei (brother of Emad Lamei)

Marzouq Ashamallah (father of Amir, relative of Emad and Rami Lamei)

Amir (aged 9, son of Marzouq Ashamallah)

Date: October 4, 2016

Location: Manfalout, Assiut

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Four-Egyptian-Christians-kidnapped-but-safely-returned-after-ransom-demand-met>

and <http://www.fides.org/en/news/60908->

[AFRICA EGYPT Four Copts including a child kidnapped in the province of Assiut#.V_z94sKQI5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60908-AFRICA_EGYPT_Four_Copts_including_a_child_kidnapped_in_the_province_of_Assiut#.V_z94sKQI5s)

Archbishop Mouneer Anis (aged 66; **UPDATE:** in speaking before a conference of Anglican Church leaders said that said they should be “ready to sacrifice their lives for the sake of Christ”, warned of an “ideological slavery [where] some Western churches and organizations use their wealth and influence to push their own agendas...We need to be aware of this, and resist all kinds of slavery, whether financial or ideological”)

Bishop Emeritus Bill Andrew Musk (read a history of Christianity in North Africa that cited the divisions in the church, said “The Arab invasions eventually overwhelmed the Church, but the seeds of its demise were sown long before”)

Date: October 3, 2016

Location: Cairo

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4681291/>



Ethiopia

Event: Several Christians were arrested for distributing a book that gave Christian answers to questions posed in an Islamic book about Christianity, another Christian who then questioned the legality of the Islamic book was ordered to make regular appearances to the police

Bekele (arrested)

Deborah (aged 18, arrested, later said “It is an honor to be jailed for God’s Kingdom”)

Eden (aged 15, arrested along with her mother, beaten, mother released the next day, later said “This is an honor for us. We should expect persecution. We are not afraid. We are singing and praying here in prison”)

Date: [September 20, 2016](#)

Location: Babile

Bekele (arrested on [September 20, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: released)

Date: [September 22, 2016](#)

Location: Babile

Gifti (aged 14, arrested)

Mihiret (aged 14, arrested)

Date: [September 23, 2016](#)

Location: Babile

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4672884/>



France

Guy Coponet (aged 87, husband of Jeanine Coponet, forced to video the beheading of Fr Jacques Hamel, stabbed in the arm, back, and throat, survived by pretending to be dead, later said “I had to film my friend Father Jacques’s murder! I can’t get over it. They even checked the quality of the image and that I wasn’t trembling too much...I was convinced I would die, but...I was calm. The emergency medic who treated me told me ‘you had divine protection because the knife attacks missed your vital organs. But it really wasn’t far away – it’s like a miracle’”)

Date: [July 26, 2016](#)

Location: [Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray](#)

Source: <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/09/30/mass-goer-forced-to-film-fr-hamels-murder-speaks-of-ordeal/>



India

Dhanasekharan (aged 34, **stabbed to death** after being lured out of church with a cell phone call)

Date: October 2, 2016

Location: Padappai, Tamil Nadu state

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Christian-politician-stabbed-to-death-in-India-Christians-injured-Bibles-destroyed-during-attack-on-Gideons-International-stall>
and http://www.fides.org/en/news/60895-ASIA_INDIA_A_Christian_politician_killed_in_Tamil_Nadu#.V_z-hsKQI5s

Pastor Daniel (home meeting stopped by Hindu radicals and police)

Date reported: September 29, 2016

Location: Shimoga district, Karnataka state

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/60863-ASIA_INDIA_Hindu_extremists_disrupt_meetings_among_Christians#.V_z_zsKQI5s

Fr Varghese Vallikatt (Kerala Catholic Bishops Council deputy secretary general, reacted to a report that the Islamic State has planned to attack local Christians and that a terror cell had been broken up by the National Investigation Agency "We cannot take the threat lightly. The spread of IS militancy poses a threat to all mankind")

Fr Paul Thelakkat (**UPDATE:** said that ISIL "is trying to purge Christianity from their ancient lands. This is because they identify Christianity with West. In order to attack the West, they rightly or wrongly attack the Christians, even outside the West")

Date reported: October 12, 2016

Location: Kerala state

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/islamic-state-threat-to-kerala-christians-worries-leaders/77353>



Indonesia

Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama aka Ahok (**UPDATE:** accused of blasphemy after he stated that the Quran should not be used for political purposes, apologized, forgiven by some Muslims)

Date reported: October 12, 2016

Location: Jakarta

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Jakarta's-“blasphemous”-Christian-governor-kicks-up-a-storm-38842.html>



Iran

Maryam Naghash-Zargaran aka Nasim (aged 37, hospitalized, reported on [September 16, 2016](#) to have been ordered to return to prison by the prosecutor's office, is currently physically unable to comply; **UPDATE**: sent back to prison, needed medical treatment terminated)

Date: [September 17, 2016](#)

Location: Tehran

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/06/4488553/>



Iraq

Fr Yousif Ibrahim (brother of Deacon Ragheed Fahmy Ibrahim; **UPDATE**: said that he advises Christians to leave Iraq, said "The future here is bad. Every time a terror group appears under a different name and sets out to persecute Christians. I'm a monk, like a soldier I don't think about [myself]...My brother Ragheed used to say in the last months before he was killed: 'We have a lot of sins. These sins cannot be washed but by [Jesus's] blood!' I consider him a hero killed for the name of Jesus...I forgave them. Believe me, I can tell you even Ragheed's wife now forgave those who killed her husband. Paul used to persecute Christians, but later he knew Him and believed...Jesus, when on the way to Golgotha, told the women not to weep for him but for themselves. For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry? Persecution is a pride for us")

Date: [October 14, 2016](#)

Hanaa (wife of Khalid, mother of seven, fled with her children from [Qaraqosh](#) on [August 6, 2014](#), husband and father-in-law disappeared on [August 10, 2014](#); **UPDATE**: refugee, shares a residence with two other families, said of her son in the army "He so wants to go back and see our house in Qaraqosh. In May this year he was shot while fighting IS in nearby Tel Skuf. He's getting married soon...our joy will only be complete if we hear anything about Khalid", cried when she said "I carry Khalid's photo and run here and there, trying to hear anything about him")

Jameel (aged 11, son of Khalid and Hanaa, said he thinks of his father always, cried when his mother spoke about his father)

Date: [October 14, 2016](#)

Location: Erbil, Kurdistan

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4679918/>



Italy

Marina Nalesso (television anchor, under attack for wearing a crucifix or religious medals while broadcasting)

Date: September 24, 2016

Source: <http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/tv-presenter-crucified-for-wearing-crucifix-atheism-turns-into-militant-form/>



Jordan

Wael Suleiman (director of Caritas Jordan; **UPDATE:** said of the 2 million refugees in his country "Jordan is open to all, we are aware of carrying out an important humanitarian mission, and we want to continue. In recent times 200 thousand Syrian refugees have been regularized as legal workers. But now refugees and immigrants represent 40 percent of the population. The national debt has grown exponentially in recent years. Many Jordanians are now poorer than many immigrants. If the international community does not take note of the explosive situation and does not intervene to support this effort carried out by the entire Country, there will come a time when even here all doors to enter the Country will be closed and those who had fled from hunger and war will have to be repatriated")

Date: October 5, 2016

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/60902-ASIA_JORDAN_Jordan_is_the_Country_with_the_highest_number_of_refugees_Caritas_Jordan_unsustainable_and_dangerous_situation#.V_z-HsKQI5s



Kenya

Cege (barber, **killed** by al-Shabaab terrorists, five other Christians also killed)

Date: October 6, 2016

Location: Mandera

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4665242/>



Kosovo

Fr Sasa Mitrovic (described the use of a cemetery chapel as a public toilet)

Date: October 15, 2016

Location: Pristina

Source: <http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/sad-scenes-at-the-orthodox-christian-cemetery-in-pristina-a-chapel-turned-into-a-public-toilette-many-graves-overrun-by-weeds/>

Bishop Teodosije Sibalic (aged 53, **UPDATE**: complained of a government order to halt construction work at a monastery “The construction ban at the Holy Archangels Monastery is a deliberate act of misuse of institutional powers directed against our freedom of worship and normal life of our Church”)

Date: October 12, 2016

Location: Prizren

Source: <http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/kosovo-ministry-of-culture-bans-reconstruction-works-at-holy-archangels-monastery-near-prizren/>



Mexico

Event: Four young evangelists were found dead on a roadside, had most likely been abducted by organized crime, had been tortured

Wilivaldo H (papaya farmer, **shot dead**)

Adan V (U.S. resident, **shot dead**)

Jesus L (hog breeder, **shot dead**)

Jesus Alejandro A (day laborer, **shot dead**)

Fr Luis Segura Barragan (reported on the murder of Wilivaldo H, Adan V, Jesus L, and Jesus Alejandro A)

Date: October 4, 2016

Location: San Juan de los Platanos, Michoacan state

Source: <http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2016/10/05/4-members-catholic-evangelist-group-murdered-in-mexico-authorities-say/>

and <http://www.lavozdemichoacan.com.mx/seguridad/eran-evangelizadores-los-4-ejecutados-en-apatzingan/> - with translation



Nigeria

Fr Emmanuel Dim (seminary rector, abducted, US\$8,000 ransom demanded)

Fr Chukwuemeka (university chaplain, shot in the head during the abduction of Fr Emmanuel Dim, hospitalized)

Fr Hyginus Aghaulor (reported on the abduction of Fr Emmanuel Dim, said "The Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria has decided and directed that ransom should not be paid for the kidnap of any of its priests and anybody that is demanding for ransom for the release of any priest kidnapped is wasting time. If anybody or group goes ahead to pay ransom for the release of any priest, the person or the group is on his own...One begins to wonder if Catholic priest have become [an] endangered species...While innocent people are left unprotected, we have seen barrage of military wares and personnel protecting the pipelines in Niger Delta, as if oil is more important than people's life. Why should people be killed without provocation in their own traditional lands?")

Date: September 26, 2016

Source:

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/priests.are.an.endangered.species.in.nigeria.one.kidnapped.two.shot/96749.htm>

Fr Emmanuel Dim (seminary rector, abducted on September 26, 2016; **UPDATE**: released)

Fr Francis Chidume (announced the release of Fr Emmanuel Dim)

Date: September 30, 2016

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/60876->

[AFRICA NIGERIA The Rector of the Major Seminary of Tansi released#.V_z-8cKQI5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60876-)

Lazarus Nwafor (seminarian, **beheaded** by Fulani herdsmen)

Ogbodo Nwarum (wife, pregnant, **stomach slit open** by Fulani herdsmen)

Date: August 25, 2016

Location: Ndiagu, Attakwu, Akegbe-Ugwu in Nkanu-West local government area, Enugu state

Aondoaka Maka (farmer, **killed** by Fulani herdsmen)

Date: September 8, 2016

Location: Antsongo Akiki, Jatau village, Bornon Kurkur, Bali local government area, Taraba state

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4672538/>

Amina Ali Nkeki (schoolgirl, abducted on April 14, 2014 in Chibok, Borno state by Boko Haram gunmen; **UPDATE**: recovered by the Nigerian army with her Boko Haram husband and their child, insisted that her husband had been forced into joining)

Date: May 17, 2016

Location: Sambisa Forest

Serah Luka (recovered from Boko Haram by the Nigerian army along with 96 other women and children)

Date: May 19, 2016

Location: Shettima Aboh, Damboa local government area, Borno state

Event: Boko Haram released 21 schoolgirls it had abducted in Chibok, Borno state on April 14, 2014

Agnes Gafane aka Agnes Gapani?

Asabe Goni
Blessing Abana
Comfort Amos
Comfort Habila
Deborah Andrawus
Deborah Abari aka Deborah Ja'afaru?
Gloria Yaga aka Glory Dama?
Glory Mainta
Helen Musa
Jummai John
Luggwa Sanda
Mary Usman Bulama
Maryama Bashir aka Maryam Basheer?
Mayamu Lawan
Pindah Nuhu
Rahab Ibrahim
Rebecca Mallam
Rebecca Ibrahim
Saratu Emmanuel
Saratu Markus

Date: October 13, 2016

Location: Banki, Borno state

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4678875/>



Pakistan

Sarfraz Masih (aged 45, father of Zeeshan Masih, spoke on the "unbearable pain" of the murder of his son "I was only few yards away from the place of occurrence, but I was informed more than two hours later... We are poor and Christian, so that is why the police are brazenly denying facts – and to save the culprits")

Date: August 23, 2016

Location: Shreejan Wala Dhera

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4673248/>

Event: Dozens of Christians remain jailed for the riot and lynching that followed the March 15, 2015 attempted suicide bombings of two churches

Sr Genevieve Ram Lal (national director of the Catholic Women's Organization, said "The locals have many grievances with the justice system. We have been raising the issue of our sons and brothers whenever we meet Christian ministers. I hope the chief minister of Punjab province will listen to our requests. Peace will only return to the attacked Christian neighborhood after the freedom of jailed Christians...Now that the bread-winners are behind bars, the women of affected families have no choice but to seek jobs. The church is helping them by waiving off school fees of the children whose fathers are in jail")

Rev Arshad Ashknaz (UPDATE: said "The Christians are not terrorists, 75 percent of those arrested were not even identified in the camera which filmed the lynching incident. The police themselves caught the bomb suspects. It was all just an accident. It's been more than a year and a half and they have been punished enough...Whenever we speak with government officials, they offer to trade the Christian prisoners with those who burnt alive a Christian couple in a brick kiln")

Date reported: October 7, 2016

Location: Youhanabad, Lahore, Punjab province

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/christians-defend-dozens-charged-in-pakistan-murder-case/77299>

Event: PEMRA, the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority, has ordered all 11 Christian cable television stations to cease operations

Dr Nazir S Bhatti (UPDATE: said "Most of these 11 Christian Channels have not enough funds but they are working with missionary spirit to spread Word of Lord among poor Christian worshipers that's why they are depending on Internet and Cable sectors while Muslim Channels are marketing with big budgets")

Fr Mushtaq Anjum MI (said "The proclamation of the Good News is considered illegal. For some years now, with great efforts, Christian communities have organized television networks, cable or web, to talk to Christians and to speak of the Christian faith. Christians have no place in public television channels. We want to understand why they are called illegal. This is another discriminatory law that affects non-Muslims...We demand the intervention of Christian Federal Minister Kamran Michael because this is a real attack on the freedom to practice one's religion. It is also an attack on the vision of the founder of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who imagined a free society and not an Islamic country. Instead, in doing so, it continues to treat members of religious minorities as second-class citizens...stop these acts of intimidation and cancel such prohibition")

Date: September 22, 2016

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/60938->

[ASIA_PAKISTAN_Eleven_Christian_TV_channels_declared_illegal_attack_on_religious_freedom#.V_z7wsKQI5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/60938-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Eleven_Christian_TV_channels_declared_illegal_attack_on_religious_freedom#.V_z7wsKQI5s)

and <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6120>

Nabeel Masih (aged 16, arrested on blasphemy charges on or before September 21, 2016 after accused of posting a photo of the Kabaa in Mecca on his Facebook page near a photo of a

pig, family fled their home; **UPDATE:** police asked the court for additional time to investigate cybercrime charges against him)

Aneeqa Maria Akhtar (attorney, head of the Christian rights organization The Voice; **UPDATE:** has been representing Nabeel Masih against blasphemy charges, has received death threats)

Date: October 8, 2016

Location: Chak 66, Bhai Pheru, Kasur district, Punjab province

Source: <http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/BlogRetrieve.aspx?PostID=734428>

and <http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/police-intent-to-destroy-christian-tee>

and <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6109>

and <http://www.fides.org/en/news/60933->

[ASIA PAKISTAN Threats to a Christian NGO that defends cases of digital blasphemy#.V_z8PcKQI5s](#)

Event: A Christian family was attacked in their home while they slept by Muslim neighbors who tied them up and demanded their conversion to Islam under pain of death

Fiaz Masih (aged 54, husband of Mumtaz, father of Waris, Kalsoom, Syma, Shakeela, Beena, Arif, Jamella, and Rukhsana)

Mumtaz (aged 50)

Waris (aged 31)

Kalsoom (aged 27)

Syma (aged 24)

Shakeela (aged 22)

Beena (aged 21)

Arif (aged 20, abducted with his sister Jamella and taken to a mansion, tortured, overheard his sister's screams while she was raped multiple times, told he could stop the rapes if he converted to Islam, refused, escaped)

Jamella (aged 17, abducted with her brother Arif and taken to a mansion, tortured, raped multiple times, whereabouts unknown)

Rukhsana (aged 14)

Date: September 15, 2016

Location: Samanyala village, near Kasur, Punjab province

Source: <http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/brick-kiln-slave-family-beaten-and-dauhter-kidnapped-for-not-converting-to-Islam>

Fouzia Bibi (aged 30, daughter of Bashira Bibi, forced into an Islamic marriage with one of her mother's employers)

Bashira Bibi (aged 50, mother of Nasreen Bibi, Fouzia Bibi, Sumaira Bibi, Sofia Bibi, Sonia Bibi, Paris Masih, Iqra Bibi, under pressure by her employers to convert to Islam along with her family, left their employ, beaten by her former employer after he met her while she worked cleaning utensils at a Muslim wedding, the former employer attempted to kill her with an axe, hospitalized)

Date: September 22, 2016

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6116>

Dr Nazir S Bhatti (**UPDATE**: called on the government to provide police protection to the family of Asia Bibi due to her upcoming hearing with the Supreme Court)

Date: October 10, 2016

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6126>

Aasiya Noreen aka Asia Bibi (aged 51, convicted of blasphemy and sentenced to death in 2009; **UPDATE**: appeal to the Federal Supreme Court put on indefinite hold after one of the three judges on her panel recused himself, 150 Muslim leaders called for her execution regardless of the Court decision)

Date: October 13, 2016

Location: Islamabad

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4678103/>

Fr Morris Jalal (**UPDATE**: commented on the placement of Christian journalist Cyril Almeida on the exit control list after he wrote of the Punjab Province Chief Minister's [Governor's] confrontation with the Inter-Services Intelligence Director over the intelligence agency's release of arrested terrorists "Things can get ugly. Almedia only reported what the foreign secretary stated in an earlier report. We stand with media for rightly checking the pulse of the current situation. Putting a ban on terror groups is not enough, they must be completely stopped from operating in the country. We must regain the trust of international community")

Fr Qaier Feroz (executive secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Commission for Social Communications, commented on the placement of Christian journalist Cyril Almeida on the exit control list "The government should protect journalists instead of shielding non-state actors. We support freedom of expression and speech, the basic human rights. Action against the journalist exposes a lack of will to fight terror groups")

Date reported: October 13, 2016

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/pakistan-bans-catholic-reporter-from-travelling-abroad/77347>



Philippines

Archbishop Emeritus Fernando Capalla (criticized by President Duterte in response for his criticism of the killing of 3,500 suspected drug dealers and users)

Date reported: October 12, 2016

Location: Davao

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/duterte-blasts-bishop-for-criticizing-anti-narcotics-war/77343>



Russia

Donald J Ossevaarde (U.S. citizen, husband of Ruth, convicted on [August 14, 2016](#) on illegal missionary charges after hosting prayer meetings and Bible study in his home in [Oryol](#), fined US\$700; **UPDATE**: appeal denied, has said he will continue to appeal, court appointed attorney advised him to leave his home because "anything might happen" to him and his family)

Date reported: [October 5, 2016](#)

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4664093/>

Pastor Alexander Demkin (acquitted on illegal picketing charges, charges were brought after he erected a temporary playground on church property)

Date: [September 23, 2016](#)

Location: [Suzanovo, Orenburg province](#)

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Russian-pastor-declared-innocent-of-picketing-charge-as-concerns-remain-over-the-impact-of-new-anti-terror-laws-on-Christians>



Saudi Arabia

Irma Edloy Jotojot (aged 35, Philippine citizen, raped and **murdered**)

Date reported: [October 14, 2016](#)

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/bishop-calls-for-probe-into-death-of-filipino-migrant-worker/77359>



Sudan

Bishop Andudu Adam Elnail (**UPDATE**: said the government was "not interested in the Christian religion...There is no freedom for us, we cannot build churches. We are treated as second-class citizens")

Date: [September 2016](#)

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4674457/>



Syria

Archbishop Antoine Audo SJ (**UPDATE**: said "For weeks we are again in a situation of general terror, even though we try to keep public institutions such as universities open. The neighborhoods controlled by the rebels are hit by sophisticated weapons, which spread death, although the rebels have no planes. Among the Christians alone, in the past two weeks, there have been over twenty deaths. But Western media does not talk about what happens to us. For all of us who are here, all the global media system appears maneuvered by geopolitical interests that manipulate information. Everything becomes an excuse for propaganda. And the role and operations implemented by countries such as Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia continue to be hidden")

Date: October 6, 2016

Location: Aleppo

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/60922-ASIA_SYRIA_The_children_of_Aleppo_call_for_peace_The_Chaldean_Bishop_Western_information_manipulated#.V_z86MKQI5s



Tanzania

Pastor Damson Maonesho (aged 53, husband, father of nine, home destroyed in an arson attack by Muslims, said "My wife had visited a close neighbor. Usually in the afternoon the baby is asleep. I think one of the targets was the small baby", has taken refuge in an 882 square foot shelter, said "Sleeping on the cemented floor, which is very cold at night, made our 9-month-old child catch pneumonia. We are appealing for friends to settle us in a rented house, which will require about \$500 dollars, because I have a large family")

Date: August 13, 2016

Location: Kidimuni

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/10/burning-of-pastors-house-in-zanzibar-tanzania-leaves-family-of-11-homeless/>



Turkey

David Byle (aged 46, Canadian-U.S. citizen, husband of Ulrike, father of five, detained without charge in Istanbul on April 6, 2016 for 30 days pending deportation, labelled 'a danger to public order' by the Interior Ministry; released from detention on April 15, 2016, deportation still pending; **UPDATE**: deportation still pending due to the post-coup arrests of judges and prosecutors)

Date: October 14, 2016

Pastor Patrick Jensen (U.S. citizen, church property in [Gaziantep](#) sealed by police on [August 28, 2014](#), detained, fined US\$1,350 for working without a permit, ordered to be deported on [September 14, 2014](#), appeal filed on [September 26, 2014](#); deportation order overturned in [November 2014](#); **UPDATE**: denied re-entry to the country at the airport, no reason given)

Date: [August 27, 2016](#)

Location: [Istanbul](#)

Event: Two American missionaries detained as a 'national security risk', denied access to U.S. diplomats, attorneys, and fellow parishioners, told they would be deported

Andrew Brunson (husband of Norine Brunson)

Norine Brunson (wife of Andrew Brunson)

Date: [October 7, 2016](#)

Location: [Izmir](#)

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/10/4680155/>



United Kingdom

Fr Anthony O'Brien (described the burglary and vandalism of the cathedral "Two images in glass, specially made for the cathedral, have been smashed beyond repair and may be impossible to replace. People from throughout the world visit the cathedral and those here this morning have been both shocked and horrified at what has taken place")

Date: [October 6, 2016](#)

Location: [Liverpool](#)

Source: <http://www.catholicerald.co.uk/news/2016/10/06/thieves-ransack-liverpools-catholic-cathedral/>



United States - Pennsylvania

Archbishop Charles J Chaput (quoted a civil rights attorney that the Wikileaks revelations of Hillary Clinton campaign emails showed "some of the worst bigotry by a political machine I have seen...[a] Church has an absolute right to protect itself when under attack as a faith and Church by civil political forces...Now there is clear proof that this [anti-Catholic] approach is deliberate and will accelerate if these actors have any continuing, let alone louder, say in government...Look where we are now. We have political actors trying to orchestrate a coup [by the laity against bishops] to destroy Catholic values, and they even analogize their takeover to a coup in the Middle East, which amplifies their bigotry and hatred of the Church")

Date: October 14, 2016

Location: Philadelphia

Source: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/for-archbishop-chaput-catholic-spring-group-did-untold-damage-88927/>



Vietnam

Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh (husband of Tran Thi Hong, on [July 31, 2012](#) an appellate court in [Gia Lai](#) upheld his sentence of 11 years for "undermining unity"; **UPDATE**: along with three other Christians has been fed prison food and water contaminated with ground glass, lead, insecticide, and dead flies)

Tran Thi Hong (wife of Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh; taken by police at 6 AM on [May 13, 2016](#) along with her 18 year old son [leaving her other children unattended], abused for 3 hours which including having chopsticks forced into her mouth, released, her son was released later that day; **UPDATE**: reported on the contaminants in her husband's prison food and water)

Date reported: October 12, 2016

Location: Phuoc Co jail, Vung Tau

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/vietnam-religious-prisoners-given-contaminated-food/77325>

Today's Martyrs

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

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