

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2016-11-13 through 2016-11-19



Algeria

Slimane Bouhafs (aged 49, father of Tileli, arrested in [Setif](#) on blasphemy charges on [July 31, 2016](#), suffers from inflammatory rheumatism, sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment on [August 7, 2016](#); sentence reduced on [September 7, 2016](#) to 3 years' imprisonment, fine of US\$900 dropped, appeal still underway; **UPDATE**: reported to have been threatened with assault after prison inmates saw a video of a Muslim preacher calling for non-Muslims to be "punished")

Date: November 11, 2016

Source: <http://www.persecution.org/2016/11/16/the-christian-silmane-bouhafs-is-threatened-by-fellow-inmates-in-prison/>



Belgium

Miho Irak (aged 77, Turkish citizen, Belgian resident for 22 years, father of eight including Nezahat Irak, **died of natural causes**, denied assistance to be buried in Turkey by the Turkish government after it was discovered he was a Christian)

Nezahat Irak (daughter of Miho Irak, described the refusal of the Turkish government to assist her father's burial)

Date: August 20, 2016

Location: Machelen

Source: <https://pjmedia.com/blog/turkey-even-dead-christians-cannot-escape-islamic-persecution/>



China

Pastor Li Jiang (detained while on his way to a pastoral conference in Hong Kong, wrote "Sorry I'm unable to make it due to the current situation but will pray for all of you")

Miao Yu (detained for six days while on the way to a pastoral conference in Hong Kong)

Date reported: November 10, 2016

Location: Hunan province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/11/church-leaders-detained-en-route-to.html>

Pastor Kang Jinqun (denied documents to travel to Hong Kong, incorrectly labeled as a Falun Gong member, stated that he fears he will be persecuted as Falun Gong)

Date: November 11, 2016

Location: Nanyang, Henan

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/11/officials-blacklist-pastor-as-cult.html>

Event: Police raid a church and close a Bible training class

Li Rong (sentenced to 15 days' administrative detention)

Liu Peijin (sentenced to 15 days' administrative detention)

Wang Yubiao (sentenced to 15 days' administrative detention [unconfirmed])

Wang Encheng (released [unconfirmed])

Wang Hailong (released [unconfirmed])

David (released)

Gu Li (released)

Date: November 11, 2016

Location: Xinjiang province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/11/xinjiang-escalates-pressure-against.html>

Pastor Zhang Chongzhu (abducted by police on [September 8, 2015](#) in Tongxiang, Jiaying, Zhejiang province; officially charged on [February 5, 2016](#) with 'stealing, spying, buying, or illegally providing state secrets or intelligence to entities outside China'; released on [May 9, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: expelled from two government religious associations, license to preach revoked)

Date: October 29, 2016

Location: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/11/wenzhou-pastor-ousted-from-position.html>

Gao Zhisheng (aged 52, husband of Geng He, Christian human rights attorney; **UPDATE**: disappeared after agents from Beijing arrived at his home and destroyed a copy of his new book, *Year 2017, Stand Up China*, which had been sent him from friends overseas)

Date reported: November 15, 2016

Location: Shaanxi province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/11/epoch-times-chinese-rights-lawyer-gao.html>

Pastor Li Guozhi aka Yang Hua (husband of Wang Hongwu, detained on [December 9, 2015](#) for 'illegally holding state secrets'; as of [October 19, 2016](#) has experienced serious health issues in jail including liver pain, threatened with death, family threatened, attorneys plan to sue the prosecutors for torture; **UPDATE**: wrote a letter to his wife in which he stated that he was cured of his scabies infection, told her to not worry)

Date reported: November 16, 2016

Location: Guizhou province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/11/dont-worry-imprisoned-pastor-writes-in.html>



Egypt

Camellia (aged 15, disappeared, uncle said “We don’t know if she is still alive or dead. We went to the police station many times after we filed the report to follow up with them but none of them have helped us or assured us. We accuse them of apathy towards our case”)

Date: June 16, 2016

Location: Boulaq Dakrou

Marian (aged 20, daughter of Khalaf, disappeared)

Khalaf (father of Marian, said of her disappearance “The prosecution asked the police to make investigations about the matter and its circumstances, but it was not investigated since the date of her disappearance”)

Date: August 5, 2016

Location: Abu Qurqas

Source: <http://www.persecution.org/2016/11/15/family-members-disappear-as-kidnappings-continue-to-plague-egypts-christian-community/>

Fr Bemwa Gaber (explosive device planted at his church, diffused by police, said hundreds in the church could have been wounded, again called on officials to allow construction of a security wall around the church)

Date reported: November 15, 2016

Location: Minya

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1773&A=28294>



Ethiopia

Event: Several Christians were arrested for distributing a book that gave Christian answers to questions posed in an Islamic book about Christianity; **UPDATE: four teenaged girls who had distributed the books were sentenced to one month's imprisonment on a charge of inciting religious violence, their pretrial incarceration was not counted as time served, transferred to a prison for common criminals**

Eden (aged 15, arrested along with her mother on [September 20, 2016](#), 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”; **UPDATE:** sentenced)

Gifti (aged 14, arrested on [September 23, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: sentenced)

Mihiret (aged 14, arrested on [September 23, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: sentenced)

Deborah (aged 18, arrested on [September 20, 2016](#), later said "It is an honor to be jailed for God's Kingdom"; released on bail on [October 19, 2016](#), re-arrested hours later; **UPDATE**: sentenced)

Date: [November 15, 2016](#)

Location: [Babile](#)

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



Indonesia

Event: A church was attacked with Molotov cocktails by an ISIL sympathizer

Olivia Intan Marbun (aged 2, hospitalized, **died of her injuries**)

Triniti Hutahayan (aged 4, hospitalized in serious condition)

Anita Sinaga (aged 4, hospitalized in serious condition)

Alfaro Sinaga (aged 5, hospitalized in serious condition)

Roina Simanjuntak (aunt of Triniti Hutahayan, later said that her family would rely on God to decide if any revenge would be taken against the attacker, said "I have a big hope that my family members, especially Triniti's mother, can face this hard time. She is still in trauma after seeing what happened to her child")

Rev Sabar Maringan Manullang (said "Some parents brought their children in. But some children refused to come into the church. So they were hurt in the bomb attack...If the pastor had not asked parents to bring their children in, the number of victims would have been higher")

Rev Gomar Gultom (said that all religious leaders needed to spread messages of peace and humanity)

Archbishop Yustinus Harjosusanto (said "Following the bomb attack, all parishes in Samarinda were guarded by security forces during their Sunday afternoon Mass celebrations")

Date: [November 13, 2016](#)

Location: [East Kalimantan](#)

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Child-injured-in-Samarinda-church-bomb-attack-has-died-39125.html>

and <http://www.ucanews.com/news/bomb-attack-on-protestant-church-in-indonesia-kills-infant/77617>

Basuki Tjahaja Purnama aka Ahok (governor, reported on [October 12, 2016](#) to have been accused of blasphemy after he stated that the Quran should not be used for political purposes, apologized, forgiven by some Muslims; object of a [November 4, 2016](#)

demonstration by 150,000 Muslims with banners reading "Arrest Asok for insulting Islam" and "Kill Asok" **UPDATE:** named as a suspect in a police blasphemy investigation despite the fact that a professor of communications has admitted to altering a recording of his original speech to incriminate him, prohibited from leaving the country, if convicted he could be sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment)

Date: November 16, 2016

Location: Jakarta

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Jakarta,-Christian-governor-Ahok-to-go-on-trial-for-blasphemy-39149.html>



Iraq

Ismail Matti (aged 14, son of Jandar Nasi, unable to flee during the [August 2014](#) ISIL takeover due to his mother's illness, forced to convert to Islam, whipped when he did not attend mosque; **UPDATE:** freed)

Jandar Nasi (mother of Ismail Matti, chronic migraine sufferer, unable to flee during the [August 2014](#) ISIL takeover; forced to convert to Islam; **UPDATE:** freed)

Date reported: November 16, 2016

Location: Mosul

Zarifa Bakoos Daddo (aged 77, widow, housemate of Badriya, said after being freed from ISIL control "One time, a young one, maybe 20 or 21, came and said we should convert. I told him we had our beliefs and they had theirs, He told me to spit on a picture of the Virgin Mary and a crucifix. I refused but he made me. The whole time I was telling God in my heart that I did not mean any of this, I knew God heard me because he tried to burn the picture and his lighter didn't work...The whole time I prayed for my people, for the town, and also for these ISIL members, that God may open their hearts, My Arabic got better from being around them, so something came out of it, thank God")

Badriya (housemate of Zarifa Bakoos Daddo)

Date: October 2016

Location: Qaraqosh

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20161116005622.htm>



Mexico

Fr Jose Luis Sanchez Ruiz (abducted on [November 11, 2016](#) after criticizing corruption and crime; **UPDATE:** released, had been tortured)

Date: November 13, 2016

Location: Veracruz

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/61172-AMERICA_MEXICO_Kidnapped_and_tortured_the_priest_who_condemned_crime_and_corruption#.WCnU4sKQw5s



Nigeria

Pastor Dauda Samson (reported on the killing of one Christian in Tudun Wada on November 4, 2016, and the killings of three Christians in Angwan Ali, nine in Pasakori village, seven in Ungwan Misisi and one in Angwan Kagoro-Gidan Waya, all on October 27, 2016, added "Two churches were destroyed at Angwan Ali and Sabon Gari villages, while all 22 Christians killed by the herdsmen are members of local church congregations in area villages")

Date reported: November 9, 2016

Location: Kaduna state

Markus Usman (described the murder of a Christian who was dragged into the bush and hacked to death while on his way to church)

Date: October 20, 2016

Location: Tavhira, Kaura local government area, Kaduna state

Event: Muslim herdsmen attack a village and burn it to the ground

John Zogo (aged 85, village head, **shot dead**)

Yakubu Abuja (aged 80, **shot dead**)

Adamu Bulus (aged, 30, **shot dead**)

Majhe Audu (aged 50, **shot dead**)

Karu Amos (aged 42, **shot dead**)

Confidence Kibadu (aged 29, **shot dead**)

Kurma Amos (aged 44, **shot dead**)

Waje Goska Williams (national chairman of the Kaninkon Development Association, identified the victims, wrote "We are under unprovoked and sustained attacks by people who are not known but who are working closely with the local Fulani people that we have lived with for many years. The motive of the attacks is clearly unknown, but we can see that it is a genocidal mission...The professionalism employed by the attackers is such that [they could be] only trained people who have the backing and aid of some people in government and the security forces. We are particularly worried because there seems to be a conspiracy of silence and complacency on the part of the security agencies and the Kaduna state and federal governments on the plight of our people ... The attacks, especially that of 27th October, wherein the village head of Ungwan Misisi and some

elders were gruesomely murdered in cold blood by some people who came as soldiers, clearly shows the conspiracy by the security men in wiping out our people...These attacks have gone on for more than one week, and the security men are either not there, or they are aiding and abetting the attackers to annihilate our people and destroy their hard-earned properties”)

Date: October 27, 2016

Location: Ungwan Misisi, Jema’ a local government area, Kaduna state

Aku Hosea (said “We are very disturbed that it is no longer safe to carry out our day-to-day activities, especially congregating to worship in our various churches. Our farms too, have become no-go areas, as Christian farmers get killed on their farms on a daily basis”)

Date reported: November 9, 2016

Location: Kaduna state

Grace Daniel (said “Most Christian villages are now desolate, and Christians are now displaced persons. Many have been killed and their homes destroyed”)

Date reported: November 9, 2016

Location: Kafanchan village, Kaduna state

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/11/fulani-herdsmen-increasingly-militant-in-killing-22-christians-in-kaduna-nigeria/>

Event: A church organized a service to pray for divine intervention from Muslim attacks

Stephen Babbada (called for peace and dialog)

Robinson Parsom (evangelist, said “The farmers and herdsmen must live in peace with one another, this barbaric act must be stopped. For the past 20 years I have never witnessed such wanton destruction of lives and properties”)

Rev Vinkho Myambabagi (called on Christians to shun hatred and show love, and hold onto God as they cope with the economic recession and their agricultural activities)

Date: November 13, 2016

Location: Demsa, Adamawa state

Source: <http://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/north-east/215262-herdsmen-attack-adamawa-community-seeks-divine-intervention.html>

Habiba Isiyaku (aged 14, daughter of Isiyaku Tanko, abducted while returning home from school, forcibly converted to Islam and forcibly converted to a palace employee of the local emir, police refused to release her and returned her to the palace)

Isiyaku Tanko (father of Habiba Isiyaku, said "My little girl was abducted...on her way from school. After my investigations, I discovered that Jamilu Lawal, who lives in our community, was responsible for my daughter’s disappearance...The Emir further informed me that he had received the sum of N50,000 [US\$156] as dowry from Jamilu Lawal for my daughter and that he would give her in marriage in accordance with Islamic rites and injunctions...He accused me of defaming him at the police station and I was intimidated and coerced to sign an apology drafted on my behalf by palace officials")

Rev Nelson Onyekachukwu (said "We told the Emirate Council that the girl is 14 years old. She is supposed to be in school and not given in marriage. We are not pleased and we demand justice. You cannot give any [child] in marriage without the consent of her parents")

Rev Dr Musa Asake (**UPDATE:** said "It is an unfortunate situation. This has been going on in the north. In fact, our Christian girls are abducted but nothing is done about it. It is so sad that, while we are praying to live in peace, the other side is not showing a sign of peace. I don't know where it is in the religion that teaches that they can take someone's daughter, convert her from Christianity to Islam and marry her off...I also want to make it very clear: if it were Christians doing this to Muslim girls, Nigerians would have been burnt to ashes. So, to me, it is a total disrespect and a complete disobedience of the law of the land and the law of God")

Mark Lipdo (**UPDATE:** said that every legal means to obtain her release would be pursued)

Danjuma Byang (said "Nobody has forgotten the hot debates...in the Constituent Assembly...which drafted the 1979 Constitution about the place of Sharia in it...Christian members kicked against the full implementation of full Sharia because non-Muslims would fall victim of this law. Muslim leaders have always argued that it's meant for Muslims only. But Christians have always refused to buy the argument because in practice, non-Muslims have often been dragged before Sharia law")

Date: August 16, 2016

Location: Wawar Kaza village, Kankara local government area, Katsina state

Ese Rita Oruru (aged 13, abducted on August 12, 2015 and forcibly married and converted to Islam; **UPDATE:** freed, pregnant)

Date: March 29, 2016

Location: Bayelsa state

Patience Paul (aged 15, abducted and forcibly married and converted to Islam)

Date: September 2015

Location: Sokoto

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/11/4727148/>

Rev Chollom Sale (**killed** in a Muslim attack along with more than 20 others)

Date: months before November 2016

Location: Lo-Birin village, Plateau state

Event: Muslims attacked a village just 30 minutes after it was visited by UK Member of Parliament Baroness Caroline Cox and U.S. Bishop Stewart Ruch III

Evangelist Hassan John (witnessed the attack, said "God protected our team and we had escaped the ambush set for us. No one was hurt. Just for those that came after us on the same village road. Am still in touch with the pastors in the village but so far there are no fatalities")

Gyang Boyi (witnessed the attack, said "Barely thirty minutes after your team left, armed men came into the valley, the only way out of the village, and started shooting at people driving through. Many shot at were youths driving back from a wedding. They must have thought it was your team")

Date reported: November 17, 2016

Location: Lo-Birin village, Plateau state

Source:

http://www.christiantoday.com/article/christian_peer_and_us_bishop_narrowly_escape_ambush_by_islamist_gunmen_in_nigeria/101087.htm



Pakistan

Event: Christians protested the seizure of a Christian cemetery

Pastor Binyamin Mattu

Izhaq Masih

Date: November 11, 2016

Location: Gujranwala

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/gujranwala-christians-rant-and-rave-over-illegal-seizure-of-graveyard/>

Shalokh Irfan (magazine manager, son of David Irfan, family threatened over his publishing activities that 'propagate Christianity')

Jacqueline Sultan (attorney, called for police protection for Shalokh Irfan and his family)

Chaudhary Azra (attorney, called for police protection for Shalokh Irfan and his family)

Sumaira Gill (attorney, called for police protection for Shalokh Irfan and his family)

Date: November 1, 2016

Location: Karachi

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6182>



Philippines

Archbishop Socrates Villegas (**UPDATE:** said "Persecution is not limited to violence. Bashing in social media where truth is made to appear as a lie and a lie appears to be true is another form of persecution. Whenever we talk to call for respect of human life and dignity, we are tagged as an enemy and become targets of trolls")

Date: November 14, 2016

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/philippine-church-faces-religious-persecution/77614>



Spain

Polonia Catellanos (Christian Lawyers Association, reported on [November 23, 2015](#) to have said that the association would bring legal action against the Pamplona city council that allowed an art exhibit in a municipal building in which 240 stolen consecrated hosts were used to spell the Spanish word for 'Pederasty', had already brought suit against the artist; **UPDATE**: objected to a judge's dismissal of the association's suit against the artist after the judge falsely ruled '...nowhere in the exhibit was it indicated that the hosts with which he had spelled out the word 'pederasty' were consecrated hosts...', said that judge made an effort to “rule out deliberate harmful intent” and that an appeal would be filed)

Date: [November 16, 2016](#)

Location: Pamplona

Source: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/stealing-hosts-for-anti-catholic-art-not-illegal-spanish-judge-says-18013/>



Sudan

Rev Samuel Suliman Anglo (Christian school headmaster, arrested on [September 5, 2016](#) along with 12 teachers by the NISS secret police on charges of supporting rebels, all released on bail after 8 hours' detention, school property seized; arrested on [October 6, 2016](#) along with 5 teachers when he objected to the government takeover of the school; released on [October 9, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: appeals court revoked the order to close the school, said “The court has ordered that the school continue to function with the current administration without interference from the commissioner. Things are normal, thank God”)

Rev Ismail Zakaria (teacher, arrested on [October 6, 2016](#) when he objected to the government takeover of the school; released on [October 9, 2016](#))

Date: [November 14, 2016](#)

Location: Madani, Al Jazirah state

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/11/christian-school-closed-in-sudan-ordered-to-re-open/>



Turkey

Tuma Celik (documented the history of attempts by the government to seize the oldest Assyrian monastery, said "When we take into account all of these demands we see that the Turkish

state is trying to harass Assyrians. The lands that are the subject of the lawsuits have no economic value. But Assyrians often visit there because the monastery is sacred to them. The Turkish state attacks this sacred site to abuse Assyrians and indirectly convey this message: 'You will either live as I want you to live or you will leave these lands.' The state does so because Assyrians have been taking steps to return to their ancestral lands in Turkey since the 2000s...In 2013, President Erdogan, who was prime minister at the time, promised in televised comments that he would return the lands that were unjustly seized from the monastery. Ever since, 12 parcels of land have been given back to the monastery but 18 are still in the hands of those who have seized them")

Date reported: November 16, 2016

Source: <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/9326/turkey-syriac-monastery>

Today's Martyrs

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

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