

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Weekly Report – 2016-11-27 through 2016-12-03



### Burkina Faso

Dr Ken Elliot (aged 82, husband of Jocelyn Elliot, Australian citizen, missionary, abducted by al-Qaeda linked militants in [Ouagadougou](#) on [January 15, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: still in captivity, has been declared a citizen of Burkina Faso)

Date: [November 23, 2016](#)

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/25/kidnapped-australian-surgeon-ken-elliott-declared-burkina-faso-citizen>



### China

Peng Ming (aged 58, convert, U.S. resident, abducted on [May 28, 2004](#) by Chinese agents on the [Myanmar-Thai border](#), sent to China; sentenced to life imprisonment on [October 12, 2005](#) for "forming and leading a terrorist organization", has been tortured; as of [May 7, 2013](#) has developed severe heart disease and other illnesses, health is declining, is not allowed visits by family or attorneys; **UPDATE**: collapsed and **died in prison**)

Date: [November 29, 2016](#)

Location: [Xianning, Hubei](#)

Source: <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/dies-11302016124702.html>



### Egypt

**Event: Muslims attack Christians in a village after false rumors spread of a new church opening, 10 businesses destroyed**

Dr Ihab Tamer (guesthouse burned)

Ishaq Hanna (house and shop looted)

Date: [November 25, 2016](#)

Location: al-Naghameesh village, Sohag province

Source: <http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2016/11/26/sohag-copts-attacked-on-rumor-of-opening-church/>

Fr Luke Labib (son killed at his pharmacy)

Date reported: November 30, 2016

Location: Nozha

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1784&A=28640>



## France

Cardinal Andre Vingt-Trois (criticized a proposed law that would criminalize pro-life internet sites as an "obsession" that surpasses government action against pro-terrorism web sites and that the objective would seem to be the "promotion of abortion as a normal outcome of pregnancy")

Archbishop Georges Pontier (wrote to President Hollande "This bill calls into question the foundations of our freedoms and especially the freedom of expression...Above all, it would constitute, despite what its promoters say, a serious precedent for limiting freedom of expression on the Internet. A limitation all the more serious as it affects questions of freedom of conscience. This seems to me to be a very serious attack on the principles of democracy...")

Dates: November 22 & 25, 2016

Locations: Marseilles and Paris

Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/pro-death-storm-looms-over-france-as-gvmt-gears-up-to-criminalize-pro-life>



## Germany

Fr Andreas Knapp (aged 58, described widespread intimidation of Christians by Muslim refugees, including abduction of girls for use in sex slavery)

Date: November 29, 2016

Location: Leipzig

Source: [http://www.deutschlandradiokultur.de/fluechtlinge-in-leipzig-muslime-mobben-christen.1278.de.html?dram:article\\_id=372480](http://www.deutschlandradiokultur.de/fluechtlinge-in-leipzig-muslime-mobben-christen.1278.de.html?dram:article_id=372480) - with translation



## India

**Event: Churches have fallen under financial pressure after November 8, 2016 when the government demonetized large denomination banknotes and capped daily and weekly ATM withdrawals in an anti-corruption campaign**

Fr Jose Thottakkara (said that his parish weekly collection dropped by 40%, is now US\$44)

Date reported: November 28, 2016

Location: Kochi, Kerala state

Johnny Thekkakara (church trustee, said that people are hoarding currency "The lack of small denomination notes was the major reason for the drop in the collection")

Date reported: November 28, 2016

Location: Changanacherry, Kerala state

Fr Valeriano Vaz (said that state tax collectors have begun to investigate clergy who have exchanged money to help parishioners "For you and me this may be a Good Samaritan act but officials may raise queries")

Date reported: November 28, 2016

Location: Goa state

Fr Cipriano D'Silva (said "A small time hotelier came to us and requested change to pay his staff. We obliged him. We help those in need in whatever way possible...On average, we get 70,000 rupees on Sunday but after the withdrawal we collected only 48,000 [US\$700]")

Date reported: November 28, 2016

Location: Calangute, Goa state

Fr Thomas Panackal (said that his parish had collected 1,500 rupees a week [US\$22] but that had been reduced by a third)

Date reported: November 28, 2016

Location: Bhopal

Fr Savarimuthu Shankar (**UPDATE**: said of his diocese "So far no parish has reported any remarkable difference")

Date reported: November 28, 2016

Location: Delhi

Bishop Anthony Chirayath (**UPDATE**: said "scrapping high denomination notes in the country does not have any serious impact on the running of the diocese and its institutions. Our diocese is in a rural area and people lead very ordinary lives with little money. Our Sunday collection was not affected as nobody would ever offer the scrapped high denomination notes")

Date reported: November 28, 2016

Location: Sagar, Madhya Pradesh state

Fr Rocky Shah (said that the Sunday following the demonetization was Mission Sunday "People offered high denomination notes which they normally do not do")

Date reported: November 28, 2016

Location: Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh state

Fr Shaiju Chacko (said "Our collections are a bare minimum and we hardly get any high value currency. Therefore, the move has not affected the church here at all")

Date reported: November 28, 2016

Location: Jammu and Kashmir state

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/church-coffers-low-as-indian-cash-crunch-continues/77725>



## Iraq

**Event: Christians have begun to return to their homes after the expulsion of ISIL**

Wisam Rafou Poli (husband of Zeena, father, teacher, said "It's worse than we expected")

Zeena (wife of Wisam Rafou Poli, said "I cried when we entered the house", daughter cried over her destroyed doll)

Saad Behnam Batous (home filled with chemical fumes, had been a bomb factory)

Kheder Abada (buried life savings of US\$10,000 ruined by rain)

Abu Maryam (home looted, described his feelings as "rage")

Dhia Roufa (fled his home in [Mosul](#) in [2006](#) after militants threatened to abduct his daughter;  
**UPDATE:** said "I am 64 years old. If I were young I could start again, but at this age what can I do? We [Christians] have no future in Iraq")

Date reported: November 29, 2016

Location: Qaraqosh

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20161129085621.htm>



## Mexico

Cardinal Jose Francisco Robles Ortega (**UPDATE:** announced that churches will no longer collect and read the names of the disappeared at Mass "The people, because of fear, do not want their names to appear")

Date: November 28, 2016

Location: Jalisco state

Source: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/mexican-archdiocese-closes-missing-persons-registry-37595/>



## Nigeria

**Event: Muslim herdsmen attack four villages around Gidan Waya town, Jema'a local government area, Kaduna state and kill at least 12 Christians**

Ayuba Gwafan (village head, **killed**)

Date: November 23, 2016

Location: Pasakori village

James Adamu (**killed**)

Date: November 23, 2016

Location: Hayin Gaza village

Gayus (**killed**)

Date: November 23, 2016

Location: Sakiyo village

Daniel Akai (district head, **killed**)

La'azarus Yakubu (**killed**)

Joel Tanko (**killed**)

Fine Gambo (**killed**)

Jolly Dego (**killed**)

Joshua Aku (described the attack “The house of Mr Daniel Akai was burned by the herdsmen, as was St Paul’s Catholic Church, and the offices of the ECWA Gidan Waya District Church Council [DCC] were also destroyed...Most residents of Gidan Waya believe the herdsmen were brought to the area in a military helicopter and were ferried away soon after perpetuating the atrocities on the Christian communities”)

Grace Daniel (**UPDATE**: said “We in Kafanchan town can even see fire burning houses on the outskirts of Gidan Waya. Please pray along with us. These armed Fulani herdsmen are out to destroy us completely”)

Date: November 25, 2016

Location: Mile One village

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/11/ethnic-religious-cleansing-cited-as-herdsmen-kill-more-christians-in-nigeria/>



## Philippines

Cardinal Orlando Quevedo OMI (denounced the bombing of a church during Mass in which three were injured “at the end of our 5:30 a.m. 1st Sunday of Advent mass is pure terrorism, made worse because of the sacredness of the place, the sacredness of the day, and the sacredness of the event that had just taken place”)

Loren Erazo (injured, hospitalized)

John Reynan Escanilan (injured, hospitalized)

Date: November 27, 2016

Location: Esperanza, Sultan Kudarat province , Mindanao

Source: <http://www.mindanews.com/top-stories/2016/11/2-hurt-in-blast-fronting-church-gate-in-esperanza-sultan-kudarat-pure-terrorism-says-cardinal-quevedo/>  
and <http://www.ucanews.com/news/philippine-cardinal-condemns-bomb-attack-on-church/77738>



## Syria

Fr Ibrahim Alsabagh OFM (aged 44; **UPDATE:** said "We hear the news about the governmental offensive but they are distant voices. What we experience every day are bombs, missiles, explosions in both sectors of the city...We are all waiting to see what will happen in the coming days. Families, west and east, are exhausted; they only want peace in the face of an increasingly difficult life. So we decided to intensify prayers for peace during Advent...A secondary school has just been evacuated in the western sector and last night a missile hit another school. Fortunately, the building was empty and there were no casualties...the movement of people on the streets is minimal. Uncertainty and suffering prevail...Every first Sunday of the month, starting on 4 December, we shall conduct a procession with songs and prayers for peace [as will] every Franciscan home and parish in the world...We continue to pray for peace and also for those who drop bombs on our houses, and churches")

Date: November 28, 2016

Location: Aleppo

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Fr-Ibrahim:-Aleppo-is-powerless-and-fearful,-prayers-for-peace-during-Advent-39261.html>



## Turkmenistan

Fr Grigory Bochurev (Russian citizen, visa not renewed, forced to leave the country)

Date: June 2016

Location: Ashgabad

Source: [http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2234](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2234)



### **United States - California**

Fr James Linton (husband, father of Grace aged 4, Augustine aged 3, and newborn Zoe, arrested for obstructing a business after offering to pray with clients of an abortion clinic)

Date: October 2016

Location: San Bernardino

Source: <http://www.charismanews.com/politics/press-releases/61549-can-you-be-arrested-for-praying-just-because-of-where-you-do-it>

### **Today's Martyrs**

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

*or write to*

**2490 Black Rock Turnpike #455**

**Fairfield CT 06825-2400**

Permission is granted to copy, disseminate and forward this document without charge or fee, provided no changes are made and full attribution is made to Today's Martyrs