

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Weekly Report – 2016-12-04 through 2016-12-10



### Belarus

Fr Klemens Werth SJ (Russian citizen, denied government permission to practice his ministry)

Bishop Oleg Butkevich (request to allow Fr Klemens Werth to minister in the country denied, no reason given)

Date: November 23, 2016

Location: Vitebsk

Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz (**UPDATE**: issued a letter that was read from every church in the diocese concerning the refusal of the government to allow Fr Roman Schulz, Fr Lech Bochenek and Fr Jerzy Kotowski to remain in the country, the government reversed itself latter that day)

Date: July 13, 2016

Location: Minsk

Fr Roman Schulz OP (Polish citizen; **UPDATE**: allowed to remain in the country for another year)

Date: July 13, 2016

Location: Mogilev

Fr Lech Bochenek (Polish citizen, allowed to remain in the country for another year)

Date: July 13, 2016

Location: Ivanets

Fr Jerzy Kotowski (Polish citizen, allowed to remain in the country for another year)

Date: July 13, 2016

Location: Kolodishchi

Source: [http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2237](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2237)



### China

Ma Huichao (on trial for 'gathering a crowd to disturb public order' for a church meeting, trial currently in adjournment, attorney prohibited from entering a plea of innocent)

Date reported: November 30, 2016

Location: Ili Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture, Xinjiang province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/11/lawyer-barred-from-pleading-innocent.html>

Lin Haixin (detained along with his wife, church operated drug treatment centers shut down)

Date: November 27, 2016

Location: Zhaoqing, Guangdong province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/12/christian-mental-health-advocates-held.html>



### **Congo, Democratic Republic**

Sr Clara Agano Kahambu (aged 40, school headmaster, teacher of psychology, pedagogy and catechesis, **killed** by a man while counseling a student)

Date: November 29, 2016

Location: Bukavu, South Kivu

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/61299->

[AFRICA DR CONGO Sister Clara killed she dedicated her life to improving the conditions of girls#.WETuK8KQw5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/61299-)

and <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/nun-killed-in-democratic-republic-of-congo-48843/>



### **Egypt**

Naglaa Ibrahim (attorney, minister, arrested and sexually harassed by police after complaining about police torture of suspects)

Date reported: December 5, 2016

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1788&A=28717>

Mina Makram (pharmacist, son of Fr Luke Labib, **killed** in a robbery)

Date originally reported: November 30, 2016

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1788&A=28718>

Marina Adel (student, abducted, allegedly has been moved to Syria, ransom of US\$5,000 demanded)

Date: November 27, 2016

Location: Sohag

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1790&A=28757>



## Germany

Maria Ladenburger (aged 19, medical student, daughter of Frederika and EU official and attorney Dr Clemens Ladenburger, refugee aid volunteer, sexually assaulted and **murdered** by an underage Afghan refugee)

Frederika and Dr Clemens Ladenburger (parents of Maria, later wrote an eulogy for their daughter "Maria was for 19 years a singular ray of sunshine for our family, and that she will remain. We thank God for this gift, that he made you with us. We are sure that she is safe with him", asked in memoriam for donations to support refugees)

Date: October 16, 2016

Location: Freiburg

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murder\\_of\\_Maria\\_Ladenburger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murder_of_Maria_Ladenburger)  
and <http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/739723/Fears-migrant-who-murdered-EU-officials-daughter-killed-again>



## Indonesia

Pastor Stephen Tong Eng Tjong (Christmas event in a rented hall stopped by Islamic radicals)

Date: December 6, 2016

Location: Bandung, West Java province

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/West-Java:-Islamic-radicals-disrupt-a-Christian-Christmas-celebration-39343.html>

Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama aka Ahok (reported on **October 12, 2016** to have been accused of blasphemy in Jakarta 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 in Jakarta by 150,000 Muslims with banners reading "Arrest Asok for insulting Islam" and "Kill Asok"; named as a suspect in a police blasphemy investigation on **November 16, 2016** 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; **UPDATE**: will be put on trial for blasphemy on December 13, 2016)

Date: December 7, 2016

Location: Jakarta

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/61331-ASIA\\_INDONESIA\\_The\\_governor\\_of\\_Jakarta\\_on\\_trial\\_for\\_blasphemy\\_on\\_13\\_December#.WEgtvsKQw5s](http://www.fides.org/en/news/61331-ASIA_INDONESIA_The_governor_of_Jakarta_on_trial_for_blasphemy_on_13_December#.WEgtvsKQw5s)



## Iran

Maryam Naghash-Zargaran aka Nasim (aged 38; **UPDATE**: returned to prison after a 5 day medical leave was extended due to her plea for conditional release, sentenced to 45 days' additional imprisonment due to the court extension on her leave)

Date: December 6, 2016

Location: Tehran

Source: <http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3255>



## Iraq

Esam (father of three, said: "My wife's brother was crucified by Daesh [ISIL]. He was crucified and tortured in front of his wife and children, who were forced to watch. They told him that if he loved Jesus that much, he would die like Jesus...A Swedish organization helped his wife and the children, they are now in Sweden. His wife has cancer")

Marijam (alias, brother crucified after being told "We will crucify you like your dog, Jesus Christ")

Date reported: December 3, 2016

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20161203150349.htm>

Archbishop Nicodemus Daoud Sharaf (**UPDATE**: denied a visa to visit the United Kingdom to speak about Christian persecution)

Archbishop Timothy Mousa Shamani (denied a visa to visit the United Kingdom to speak about Christian persecution)

Date reported: December 4, 2016

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20161204160348.htm>



## Myanmar

Bishop Philip Lasap Za Hawng (expressed dismay over the military airstrike that destroyed a church "We are yet to know detailed facts but I will write a letter to the authorities, the military commander and chief minister of Shan State once I know everything...We need all the armed groups to participate in peace talks", all parishioners had already fled across

the nearby border into China, sixty churches have been destroyed by the military in the region since 2011)

Date: December 3, 2016

Location: Mongkoe township, Shan state

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/catholic-church-building-destroyed-as-fighting-intensifies-in-shan-state/77811>



## Nepal

**Event:** Seven Christians were arrested on [June 9, 2016](#) for illegal conversions; **UPDATE: acquitted, charges dropped**

Balkrishna Rai

Banita Dangol

Bhim Bahadur Tamang

Bimal Shahi (school principal)

Kiran Dahal

Philip Tamang

Prakash Pradhan (school principal)

Pastor Shakti Pakhrin (arrested on [June 14, 2016](#))

Date reported: December 6, 2016

Location: Charikot, Dolakha district

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/12/crack-down-on-christians-in-nepal-hits-snag-as-eight-are-acquitted/>  
and <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/07/4559343/>



## Philippines

Fr Jerome Secillano (said "The church, for practical purposes, will be more than willing to suspend any liturgical activity if there are threats to the safety of churchgoers" following an attempted bomb attack)

Date: November 29, 2016

Location: Manila

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/manila-church-services-may-be-suspended-due-to-bomb-threats/77748>

Bishop Martin Jumoad (**UPDATE**: reported on an upsurge in the recruitment of child soldiers by local terror groups such as Abu Sayyaf)

Date: December 8, 2016

Location: Mindanao

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/philippine-bishop-warns-of-upsurge-in-child-soldiers/77828>



## Syria

Archbishop Selwanos Boutros Alnemeh (**UPDATE**: denied a visa to visit the United Kingdom to speak about Christian persecution)

Date reported: December 4, 2016

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20161204160348.htm>



## United Kingdom

Victoria Allen (aged 51, teacher, threatened with discipline after she replied to a student who asked for her personal views on same sex marriage, received an apology after she threatened legal action)

Date reported: November 28, 2016

Location: St Austell, Cornwall

Source: <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cornwall-38130074>



## United States

**Event: Cable television personalities were attacked in writing for attending a church that does not support same sex marriage**

Chip Gaines (husband of Joanna Gaines)

Joanna Gaines (wife of Chip Gaines)

Date: November 30, 2016

Source: <http://www.dailywire.com/news/11212/thoughtfascists-buzzfeed-cosmo-attack-gaines-ben-shapiro>

## United States - California

Corbishop Athanasios Toma (said of the Bible verses painted on an Assyrian church "When I read the verse [2 Kings 19:35 – 'That night the angel of the Lord went forth and struck down one hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. Early the next morning, there they were, dead, all those corpses!'], I realized it's really not just graffiti. It's aimed toward a specific nation. It's hatred toward a nation. The meaning of that verse struck me hard. That's someone who knew what they were talking about")

Date: November 25, 2016

Location: San Fernando

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20161203012229.htm>



## Uzbekistan

Shokir Rakhmatullayev (jailed for 5 days, fined 15% of one month's salary after police seized religious items in his home)

Dmitri Inyushev (jailed for 5 days, fined 15% of one month's salary after police seized religious items in his home)

Date: November 9, 2016

Location: Termez, Jarkurgan district, Surkhandarya region

Dmitri Butov (husband of Svetlana Butov, home raided on July 28, 2016, Bibles seized; fined US\$860 on September 8, 2016; **UPDATE**: appeal upheld, case sent back to the prosecutor, assets still frozen)

Svetlana Butov (wife of Dmitri Butov, home raided on July 28, 2016, Bibles seized; fined US\$645 on September 8, 2016; **UPDATE**: appeal upheld, case sent back to the prosecutor, assets still frozen)

Date: November 29, 2016

Location: Zarafshan, Navoi region

Source: [http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2235](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2235)

## Today's Martyrs

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

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