

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2016-12-18 through 2016-12-24



Bangladesh

Nirmol Rozario (**UPDATE**: said that the government will be providing extra security for 62 churches across the country on Christmas)

Date: December 19, 2016

Location: Dhaka

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Police-deployed-to-protect-62-Dhaka-churches-39452.html>



China

Jiang Tianyong (human rights attorney, abducted by police on [November 22, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: reported to have been charged with illegally revealing state secrets)

Date: December 17, 2016

Location: Changsha, Hunan province

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Jiang-Tianyong,-a-Christian-lawyer,-arrested-by-police-on-charges-of-revealing-state-secrets-39433.html>



Egypt

Event **UPDATE: Bombing of Sts Peter and Paul Church which killed 27**

Attiya Mahrous (church worker, said “I found bodies, many of them women, lying on the pews. It was a horrible scene”)

Mariam Shenouda (said “I saw a headless woman being carried away. Everyone was in a state of shock. We were scooping up people’s flesh off the floor. There were children. What have they done to deserve this? I wish I had died with them instead of seeing these scenes”)

Emad Shoukry (said “As soon as the priest called us to prepare for prayer, the explosion happened. The explosion shook the place...The dust covered the hall and I was looking for the door, although I couldn’t see anything... I managed to leave in the middle of screams and there were a lot of people thrown on the ground”)

Date: December 11, 2016

Location: Cairo

Source: <http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2016/12/11/breaking-news-bomb-explodes-in-egypt-by-cairos-coptic-cathedral-at-least-25-dead/>

Hanaa (aged 21, newlywed of 40 days, sister of Mina Samuel, abducted while on her way to church, US\$15,563 ransom demanded)

Mina Samuel (electrician, brother of Hanaa)

Date: December 18, 2016

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1797&A=28889>

Magy Momen (aged 10, student, volleyball player, Scout, injured in the December 11, 2016 Sts Peter and Paul church bombing, hospitalized in critical condition with shrapnel in her brain, had not responded to treatment; **UPDATE: died**)

Date: December 20, 2016

Location: Cairo

Source: <http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2016/12/20/maggie-10-the-27th-martyr-of-church-attack/>



India

Fr Pradosh Chandra Nayak (sent a letter to police requesting protection for churches during Christmas, said "Every year during the Christmas holidays, as a precautionary measure we ask the police protection, to guarantee the peace of the Christian community, who could still end up in the crosshairs of Hindu fanatic groups. We hope that nothing unpleasant happens, and that Christians can celebrate Christmas in peace. We will pray for the coming of Christ who is the Prince of peace")

Date: December 22, 2016

Location: Raikia, Kandhamal district, Orissa state

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/61421-ASIA_INDIA_Christians_in_Orissa_seek_protection_for_Christmas#.WFvsfFMrKM8



Indonesia

Event: Four men alleged to be Protestants disrupted Mass in the Catholic cathedral

Kistoforus Mbora Kaka (chairman of the Kupang branch of the Union of Catholic University Students, spoke concerning church security "The police must be able to ensure that this Christmas everything is calm so we can mark the birth of the Savior with peaceful hearts")

Yuvens Tukung (said "People should remain calm and leave everything entirely to law enforcement agencies")

Petrus Selestinus (attorney, said "There are indisputable facts that tolerance, harmony and security in the province is under threat")

Date: December 18, 2016

Location: Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara province

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/tense-indonesian-christians-worry-about-christmas-security/77938>



Jordan

Fr Rifat Bader (**UPDATE**: commented on a terror attack that killed 10 and injured 27)

Date: December 18, 2016

Location: Karak

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Jordanian-priest:-Karak-attack-work-of-local-terrorists-to-undermine-the-country's-unity-39443.html>



Myanmar

Mai Mai (aid worker, said that soldiers used a church during a battle before destroying it "They used the church to get protection. They could have been based somewhere else, but they chose the church to mix themselves with civilians...It is painful to see the church that was bombed. I am hurt to see they destroyed the church. This church is something that we highly admire and respect. In fact, it is not a forgivable act, but God teaches us to forgive and not to take revenge. So only God will punish them...Local residents are still afraid of going home. Some went back to stay in the day time and returned to the China border in the night time, because they dare not to sleep over night in the town")

Date: December 3, 2016

Location: Mongkoe township, Shan state

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/12/burma-armed-forces-bomb-church-building-previously-seized-as-base-sources-say/>



Nepal

Event: Four Christians were convicted of witchcraft, false imprisonment, and violence for praying over a mentally ill woman, all sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment, the woman and her family denied the charges

Ruplal Pariyar (husband of Ganga Pariyar, arrested on [July 21, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: convicted)

Ganga Pariyar (wife of Ruplal Pariyar, arrested on [July 21, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: convicted)

Lali Pun (arrested on [July 21, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: convicted)

Bimkali Budha (arrested on [July 21, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: convicted)

Rupa Thapa (arrested on [July 21, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: acquitted)

Rev Mukunda Sharma (organized an appeal)

Date: [December 22, 2016](#)

Location: Salyan

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/12/4789977/>



Nigeria

Fr Jude Onyebadi (abducted, ransom demanded)

Fr Sylvester Onmoke (said "the recent spate of kidnappings of priests and religious as an assault on the Church")

Date: [December 16, 2016](#)

Location: Issele-Azagba, Delta region

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/61415->

[AFRICA NIGERIA Another priest kidnapped in the Delta region#.WFqmZIMrKM8](#)



Pakistan

Event: Church pastors reassured of police protection during Christmas

Pastor Aftab Nazir

Pastor Ashfaq Masih

Fr Bashir

Pastor Emric Joseph
Pastor Ishaq Khan Pasha
Kamal Chughtai
Pastor Khursheed Bashir
Pastor Nazir John Gill
Pastor Peter Riaz
Pastor Safeer Qadir
Pastor Shakeel
Pastor Shamaun
Pastor Professor Tahir Javed
Pastor Tahir Naushad
Pastor Waqar Manzoor
Pastor Zahoor

Date: December 22, 2016

Location: Faisalabad

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/faisalabad-christmas-gaiety-to-be-souped-up-by-fool-proof-security-at-churches/>



Turkey

Andrey Karlov (Russian ambassador, husband of Marina Karlova, father of Gennady, **shot dead** by an elite police officer with ties to ISIL while speaking at an art exhibition)

Date: December 19, 2016

Location: Ankara

Source: <http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/patriarch-kirill-prays-for-andrey-karlovs-repose/>



United Kingdom

Chris Oakey (principal of Luton Pentecostal Church Christian Academy, said that students were questioned behind closed doors by Ofsted inspectors about 'British values' and their beliefs about human sexuality, one student described the questioning as "patronizing" and "entrapment")

Date: December 16-18, 2016

Location: Luton

Wesley Richards (chairman of the management board at The King's House School, said "We were criticized for our safeguarding, whilst [Ofsted] inspectors are allowed to interview our children behind closed doors, without a teacher present and without parental consent. We were unable to verify what questions were asked or the manner in which they were put to the children. Our teachers are required to leave doors ajar or blinds up if they happen to be the only adult present - something Ofsted does not practice...Ofsted is operating without accountability and undermines the 'British values' it promotes, by failing to show respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, in this case, Christian", added that the inspector said to teachers "Do you teach about other religions or do you pretend they don't exist?" and was overheard on the phone to say "I think I can nail this one on progress in reading and writing alone")

Date: December 16-18, 2016

Location: Windsor

Source: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/education/ofsted-has-gone-too-far-say-christian-schools>



Vietnam

Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh (aged 50, husband of Tran Thi Hong, on [July 31, 2012](#) an appellate court in [Gia Lai](#) upheld his sentence of 11 years for "undermining unity"; showed signs of having been beaten by inmates during an [October 15, 2013](#) visit by his wife, said repeatedly that his life was in danger; has suffered from high blood pressure and sinusitis, on [August 17, 2016](#) was allowed a visit 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"; reported on [October 12, 2016](#) to have been fed food and water contaminated with ground glass, lead, insecticide, and dead flies along with three other Christians; **UPDATE**: transferred to another prison, family not notified)

Tran Thi Hong (wife of Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh, taken from her home by police on [April 14, 2016](#) after she refused to answer questions concerning her [March 30, 2016](#) conversation with U.S. diplomats, beaten at the police station in [Pleiku, Gia Lai province](#), returned and dumped unconscious in the road in front of her home; 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**: arrived at Phuoc Co jail, Vung Tau, after waiting 3 hours in the rain was told her husband had been moved to another prison, said "I arrived at Xuan Loc Prison the following day, and prison officials told me 'Chinh was not allowed to call his family or inform them that he had been relocated because he refused to accept his crimes. I told them that my husband did not do anything wrong and that they treated him in an inhumane way", later spoke with him by phone "He is kept in a cell that is away from others, and given food through a small window two times a day. Prison

officers have taken away all his belongings including a copy of the Bible. They also didn't allow him to get food, medicine and clothes from me")

Dates: December 12-13, 2016

Location: Xuan Loc Prison, Dong Nai province

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/ailing-lutheran-pastor-left-to-languish-in-vietnam-jail/77921>

Today's Martyrs

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

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