

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2016-12-25 through 2016-12-31



Chile

Bishop Hector Eduardo Vargas SDB (**UPDATE**: spoke on the 16 churches that had been destroyed by arson in Araucanía province "It is very serious but we must vigorously condemn this kind of facts that do not contribute to an overall solution to the problems in the area, nor of the Mapuche people, nor of the rest of civil society")

Date: December 22, 2016

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/61444->

[AMERICA CHILE Work for Araucania go ahead despite the arson attacks on churches#.WGXaE1MrKM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/61444-AMERICA_CHILE_Work_for_Araucania_go_ahead_despite_the_arson_attacks_on_churches#.WGXaE1MrKM8)



China

Tu Yan (detained for 'cult activity', released, arrested a month later on the same charge, between 4 and 12 fellow Christians arrested with her, some released)

Date: October 22, 2015

Location: Yunnan

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/12/christians-detained-for-cult-activities.html>

Zhang Kai (civil rights attorney; disappeared in [Wenzhou, Zhejiang province](#) on [August 25, 2015](#), apparently detained in response to his defense of churches during the cross removal campaign; reported as of [August 31, 2015](#) to have been sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment for 'endangering national security' and 'gathering a crowd to disturb public order', denied legal representation due to the national security charge, has been held in a 'black' jail outside of the normal judicial review, had said "I've made up my mind: the most they can do is jail me. But if I stay silent, I'll regret it my whole life"; appeared on Chinese television on [February 26, 2016](#) where he confessed "Such religion cases are sensitive, they can lift my fame quickly and bring some economic interest. Foreign countries also focus on the cases, it also improves my fame overseas"; reported on [March 23, 2016](#) to have been released from the 'black jail', has returned to his home; posted a statement on the internet on [August 30, 2016](#) "With a Christian faith and a free conscience, I am officially stating that the interview with a number of media...over the

trial of Zhou Shifeng was against my own will...My elderly parents were living in fear and worry during the six months of detention. [I was] powerless to resist the pressure imposed by a strong regime...I am willing to confess to God for weakness and fear in my heart and spirit and I ask the forgiveness of other family members of 709” [709 is the name of the group of dissidents and Christians, derived from the number detained in mid-2015], the statement was quickly removed, fled his parents’ home [in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia] before it was surrounded by police, on the run; **UPDATE** arrested)

Date: December 27, 2016

Location: Hohhot, Inner Mongolia

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2016/12/zhang-kai-back-in-police-custody.html>



Egypt

Event **UPDATE: Sts Peter and Paul church bombing**

Aida Mikhail (**killed**)

Amal Atta Bishara (aged 67, mother of Heba, **killed**)

Amany Saad Aziz (aged 32, wife of Wagdi Wageh, **killed**, had told her family the day before that she expected to die)

Attiyat Saeed Sarhan (**killed**)

Eman Youssef (aged 40, widow [husband killed in December 2012 by the Muslim Brotherhood], mother of Stephen, **killed**)

Ensaf Adel Kamel (aged 18, **killed**)

Jihan Alber (aged 55, **killed**)

Madeleine Tawfiq Hanna (aged 49, mother of Verena Emad Amin, **killed**)

Marcel Girgis (aged 60, **killed**)

Marina Fahim Helmy (aged 20, sister of Veronaa Fahim Helmy, **killed**)

Mohsena Ammonius (aged 35, **killed**)

Nabil Habib (aged 45, father of newborn son Fady and two girls, brother of Zarif Habib, church security guard, attempted to stop the bomber, **killed**)

Nadia Anwar Shehata (aged 60, **killed**)

Dr Nevin Adel Salama (aged 31, obstetrics and gynecology specialist, Coptic language expert, **killed**)

Nevin Nabil Youssef (aged 30, **killed**)

Rogina Raafat (aged 50, **killed**)

Sabah Wadih Yassa (aged 62, mother of Raymon Wadih, mother-in-law of Basma Sulaiman, grandmother of Thomas, Avon, and Giovanni, **killed**)

Samia Fawazy (aged 60, **killed**)

Samia Gamil (aged 36, **killed**)

Sohair Mahrous (aged 60, **killed**)

Verena Emad Amin (aged 18, daughter of Madeleine Tawfiq Hanna, **killed**)

Veronaa Fahim Helmy (aged 18, sister of Marina Fahim Helmy, **killed**)

Widad Wahba (**killed**)

Angel Marcus (aged 40, injured, hospitalized)

Odette Saleh (aged 63, injured, hospitalized)

Heba (daughter of Amal Atta Bishara, hospitalized in critical condition)

Thomas (aged 8, son of Raymon Wadih and Basma Sulaiman, hospitalized with shrapnel in his face and head)

Avon (aged 4, daughter of Raymon Wadih and Basma Sulaiman, has suffered from post traumatic stress)

Stephen (aged 6, son of Eman Youssef, survived uninjured, now orphaned)

Saber Milad (church security guard, survived)

Wagdi Wageh (widower of Amany Saad Aziz, said "I was attending the Mass with my wife as usual. Suddenly we heard a huge explosion, the lights went off and the ceiling on the women's side of the church collapsed. I rushed over to search for my wife. Rubble, dust and broken wood of the pews covered most of the bodies. I only recognized her by her clothing - her face was covered with blood and dust...The day before the bombing, my wife felt that she would soon die: she was acting as if to say goodbye. My sister phoned us and said she would like to come to visit, my wife replied, 'Wait for tomorrow and you will attend my funeral'. On Saturday evening, my wife also prepared a present, gave it to my mother and told her 'this is to remember me by'...Although I feel great pain, I'm sure that she is in a very good place in Heaven. She was always praying, reading in the Bible and going to church. Pray for us")

Fr Mikhail Anton (said of Dr Nevin Adel Salama "Nevin worked as an Obstetrics and Gynecology doctor in Sheikh Zayed hospital in Cairo. She was single and was an active servant of the church, she taught the Coptic language and was loved by all the church members. She was kind and humble and had a strong relationship with God. She lived like an angel on the earth, loved all people and a smile was never absent from her face. She was always talking about martyrs and she hoped to be like them. Those who were martyred in this incident moved from the Mass on the earth to the Mass on heaven to complete their prayer with Jesus Christ")

Date: December 11, 2015

Location: Cairo

Angel Marcus (aged 40, injured in the [December 11, 2016 church bombing](#), hospitalized;
UPDATE: died)

Date: December 13, 2016

Location: Cairo

Odette Saleh (aged 63, injured in the [December 11, 2016 church bombing](#), hospitalized;
UPDATE: died)

Date: December 16, 2016

Location: Cairo

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/12/4790725/>

Amir Mourice (pharmacist, abducted, ransom demanded, released)

Dates reported: December 26 and 28, 2016

Location: Assiut

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1803&A=28990>
and <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1805&A=29026>

Egypt

Fr Benjamin (church subjected to a bomb hoax)

Date reported: December 30, 2016

Location: Hurghada

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1806&A=29060>



India

Rev Solomon Rongpi (described attacks on two churches in which the attackers threw stones and posted signs reading “No one is allowed to worship and celebrate Christmas without prior permission”, the attacks came after militants from mostly Christian tribes attacked a police station and killed 3 policemen following their loss of tax exempt status)

Archbishop Emeritus Thomas Menampampil (**UPDATE: called on people “for a well thought-out solution [to the tribal conflict]. Meanwhile, pray for Manipur”**)

Date: December 17, 2016

Location: Imphal, Manipur state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Curfew-imposed-in-Manipur-after-two-church-attacks-and-threats-against-Christians-to-stop-Christmas-celebrations-39472.html>



Iraq

Rayan al-Kildani (described an attack on two liquor stores, said 8 Christians and one Yazidi were killed)

Joseph Warda (human rights activist, said "What a bloody gift they gave us for Christmas")

Maria Polos (retired schoolteacher, said "We fear getting killed like those in the alcohol shops. We feel we're aliens in this country")

Date: December 23, 2016

Location: Bagdad

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20161225150242.htm>



Kazakhstan

Event: Three elderly Christians were detained on October 14, 2016 for praying with residents of a hospice, each fined US\$225 on November 14, 2016

Lyudmila Kerbele (appeal denied, fine upheld)

Date: December 7, 2016

Nadezhda Krasilnikova (appealed, case sent back to the lower court)

Date: December 5, 2016

Lidiya Kosatova (appealed, case sent back to the lower court)

Date: December 6, 2016

Location: Oskemen, East Kazakhstan region

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2240



Myanmar

Assistant Pastor Dom Dawng Nawng (cousin of La Jaw Gam Hseng, disappeared on December 24, 2016, had told media of the December 3, 2016 bombing of the church in Mongkoe township, last seen near a military base)

La Jaw Gam Hseng (cousin of Dom Dawng Nawng, church youth leader, disappeared on December 24, 2016, had told media of the December 3, 2016 bombing of the church in Mongkoe township, last seen near a military base)

Date: December 24, 2016

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/12/clergymen-missing-helping-reporters-cover-bombing-church-building-burma/>

and <http://www.ucanews.com/news/concern-mounts-for-two-missing-baptists-in-shan-state/78053>



Russia

Sergei Korepin (detained on [October 7, 2016](#) for handing out New Testaments on a train, charged with illegal missionary activity; **UPDATE**: charges dropped)

Safarbi Keshokov (detained on [October 7, 2016](#) for handing out New Testaments on a train, charged with illegal missionary activity; **UPDATE**: charges dropped)

Date: [December 7, 2016](#)

Location: Moscow

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2242



Uganda

Pastor Erod Okaali (church attacked by 19 masked Muslims, beaten along with 15 parishioners, 5 seriously injured with broken bones)

Yasiini Mugoya (convert, beaten)

Date: [December 25, 2016](#)

Location: Obokora village, Pallisa district

Peninah Fatuma Asiire (convert, single mother of three, home destroyed after she refused to revert to Islam)

Date: [December 24, 2016](#)

Location: Kitoikawononi village, Butebo county, Pallisa district

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2016/12/christians-flee-single-mother-homeless-christmas-attacks-eastern-uganda/>



Yemen

Fr Tom Uzhunnalil SDB (aged 57, Indian citizen, abducted when armed men attacked a nursing home in [Aden](#) on [March 4, 2016](#), killing 16 employees and residents including 4 nuns; **UPDATE**: appeared in a video and appealed for help in his release, reported his health was in decline)

Date: [December 26, 2016](#)

Source: [http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Fr.-Tom,-kidnapped-in-Yemen,-is-alive-and-asks-Pope-for-help:-I-have-been-forgotten,-I-need-care-\(VIDEO\)-39501.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Fr.-Tom,-kidnapped-in-Yemen,-is-alive-and-asks-Pope-for-help:-I-have-been-forgotten,-I-need-care-(VIDEO)-39501.html)

Today's Martyrs

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

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