

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2017-01-22 through 2017-01-28



Bolivia

Helena Kmiec (Polish citizen, missionary, **stabbed to death** in an attempted robbery)

Date: January 25, 2017

Location: Cochabamba

Source:

http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2017/01/26/polish_missionary_murdered_in_bolivia_/1288412



China

Ding (church elder, locked in an office during a police raid on his church in which church property was destroyed and looted)

Date: January 27, 2017

Location: Henan province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/01/on-eve-of-lunar-new-year-masked.html>

Bishop Thaddeus Ma Daqin (**UPDATE**: has rejoined the Patriotic Association, which has addressed him as "Father" Ma Daqin)

Date: January 20, 2017

Location: Shanghai

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Msgr.-Ma-Daqin-reinstated-in-Patriotic-Association,-but-as-a-priest%E2%80%9D.-Disillusionment-of-Catholics-39768.html>



Egypt

Moussa al-Deeb Saeed (shot during a land dispute, hospitalized)

Zaghloul Awad (shot during a land dispute, hospitalized)

Date reported: January 24, 2017

Location: Naj Jneidi village, Nusairat, Sohag province

Source: <http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2017/01/24/copts-in-sohag-attacked-to-seize-their-land/>

Ishak Ibrahim Fayeze Younan (aged 37, husband, father of two aged 10 and 12, brother of Magdy Younan, soft drink manufacturer, **found dead, throat had been cut**, police ruled robbery the motive although money and valuables were not taken)

Magdy Younan (brother of Ishak Ibrahim Fayeze Younan, found his brother's body)

Date: January 16, 2017

Location: Cairo

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/01/4878158/>



Greece

Metropolitan Seraphim Mentzenopoulos (told the Minister of Education in writing that the schools under his jurisdiction would not comply with the ministry's latest orders regarding sex education)

Date: January 24, 2017

Location: Piraeus

Source: <http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/100443.htm>



India

Kusuma Anjeneya Swamy (aged 47, husband of Sujatha, father of two daughters, engineering professor, verbally attacked by three Hindus for handing out Bibles, dragged to a police station, released without charge, collapsed with a cerebral hemorrhage, hospitalized in a coma)

Date: January 21, 2017

Location: Hyderabad, Telangana state

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2017/01/christian-india-suffers-brain-hemorrhage-hypertension-confrontation-sources-say/>
and <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/01/4877077/>

Pastor Rameshwar Mishra (aged 41, husband, jailed by police on [September 14, 2016](#) when he refused to cancel an upcoming revival event; **UPDATE**: attacked at the revival by 15-20 Hindu extremists, police joined in the beating, eardrum ruptured, arrested, threatened with further beatings until he prayed to Hindu deities, refused, released 5 days later with serious internal injuries, never charged, left the area the following month when police threatened to arrest anyone caught praying with him)

Date: September 18, 2016

Location: Sitaram Purwa, Sitapur district

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2017/01/pastor-india-hiding-police-hindu-extremists-assault/>



Iraq

Georgette Hanna (aged 60, discovered by Iraqi soldiers, had been hidden from ISIL by a Muslim family for two and a half years)

Date reported: January 25, 2017

Location: Telkeif

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/61589->

[ASIA IRAQ Muslim family in Telkeif secretly hosts a Christian woman in the years of the jihadist regime#.WIqw2VMrKM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/61589-ASIA_IRAQ_Muslim_family_in_Telkeif_secretly_hosts_a_Christian_woman_in_the_years_of_the_jihadist_regime#.WIqw2VMrKM8)



Myanmar

Assistant Pastor Dom Dawng Nawng (aged 65, 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](#); **UPDATE**: to be tried for 'illegal association')

La Jaw Gam Hseng (aged 35, 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](#); **UPDATE**: to be tried for 'illegal association')

Date reported: January 26, 2017

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Two-Kachin-Christians-arrested-by-Myanmar-military-set-to-go-to-trial-39765.html>



Nigeria

Rev Yakubu Musa (described the demolition of two churches “They just came in unexpectedly and they demolished everything. Nobody was allowed to remove any valuables in the church buildings and other nearby properties...It was a terrible experience, with so many Christians who witnessed the demolition crying. I felt so bitter because we were in a situation where you have been cheated and you cannot talk...I was very angry because there were two mosques in that same place, but none of these mosques were demolished. There is also another building belonging to a Muslim person, which was marked for

demolition, but they only concentrated on the church buildings because we are not many and we don't have anyone in the government to speak for us", six more churches have been slated for demolition)

Date: January 11, 2017

Location: Dutse, Jigawa state

General Ishaku Ahmed Dikko, Retired (described an attempted church demolition that was stopped by media reports "It is pure religious persecution, the compound is owned by us and has been there for over 99 years. The decision is a continuation of the marginalization and persecution of Christians in the north")

Date: January 2015

Location: Matazu, Katsina state

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/01/4874256/>



Pakistan

Bishop Earnest Jacob (condemned the terror bombing of a market in which 20 were killed and over 40 injured, the intended targets were Shia Muslims, said "The government claims to hold off terrorism, but incidents like these happen every month...pray for the wounded")

Date: January 21, 2017

Location: Parachinar

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Pakistan,-Taliban-hit-a-Shiite-market-in-revenge-against-Assad.-The-condemnation-of-the-Church-39726.html>

Rehmat Masih (aged 68, father of Sajida, grandfather, home destroyed by arson)

Sajida (daughter of Rehmat Masih, sexually assaulted on **October 16, 2016**, police refused to register a case; **UPDATE**: home destroyed by arson)

Date: January 23, 2017

Location: Bahadur Pura, Kasur

Source: <http://www.christiansinpakistan.com/kasur-vandals-torch-house-of-a-christian-over-property-dispute/>

Saiba Masih (aged 3, daughter of Shafqat Masih and Catherine Bibi, sister of Altaf and Daud, raped, hospitalized, underwent surgery, reportedly will not be able to conceive)

Catherine Bibi (mother of Altaf, Daud, and Saiba Masih, sanitation worker, under pressure by Muslim leaders to not pursue prosecution of her daughter's rapist)

Date: December 17, 2016

Location: Chishtian, Bahawalnagar district

Source [with photo]: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6277>

Dr Nazir S Bhatti (**UPDATE**: protested in writing the television show "Baji Irshad" which has attacked Christianity)

Date: January 27, 2017

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6287>



Serbia

Patriarch Irinej aka Miroslav Gavriloic (aged 85, **UPDATE**: called upon Catholic Christians in Croatia to stop the desecration of Orthodox churches and attacks on Orthodox Christians, and decried a pro-Ustashi sign at the Jasenovac concentration camp memorial, called for historical enmities to be overcome)

Date reported: January 23, 2017

Source: <http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/100391.htm>



South Sudan

Lino (catechist, **killed with five others** in a chapel by an armed gang)

Fr Jesus Aranda CMMJ (reported on the murder of Lino and companions)

Date January 22, 2017

Location: Lomin

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/61591->

[AFRICA SOUTH SUDAN A catechist of Kajo Keji parish killed#.WIqu2VMrKM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/61591-)



United Kingdom

Fr Kevin Dow (pelted with eggs and anti-Catholic abuse along with other parishioners after Mass by a youth gang, said "It's dreadfully sad that in today's Scotland we still have young people who seem to be brought up or encouraged from elsewhere to be anti-Catholic and to do so in an open, intimidating and violent way")

Date: January 17, 2017

Location: Rosyth, Scotland

Source: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/eggs-and-anti-catholicism-hurled-at-churchgoers-in-scotland-83764/>

Fr Gavin Ashenden (forced to resign as a Queen's Chaplain after criticizing the Church of Scotland for allowing the reading of a Quran chapter on the birth of Jesus in Glasgow cathedral during Christmas because the chapter explicitly denied the divinity of Jesus,

wrote on his blog "After a conversation instigated by officials at Buckingham Palace, I decided the most honorable course of action was to resign. I have held the position for the last nine years. But over the last few years people who objected to my defending the Christian faith in public wrote to both Lambeth Palace and Buckingham Palace to try to get the association ended. When I was confronted with these attempts to silence or defenestrate me, my reaction was to ask 'in what way is a priest defending the faith on behalf of a monarch who was Defender of the Faith, incongruous or improper?'...Because I think it a higher and more compelling duty to speak out on behalf of the faith, than to retain a public honor which precludes me doing so at this time, I resigned my post")

Date: January 22, 2017

Source: <http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/757321/Queen-chaplain-Rev-Gavin-Ashenden-Glasgow-cathedral-Koran-Jesus-Muslim-worship>



United States - District of Columbia

Kerrigan Skelly (street preacher, spat upon by a participant of the Women's March on Washington)

Michael Corral (street preacher, pushed against a wall by several participants of the Women's March on Washington, speaker wire cut)

Joseph Neigh (described the attack on Kerrigan Skelly "I don't remember exactly what she said but she spat in his face...There have been a lot of people who have done dirty dancing around us, flicked us off, cursed at us but we are not going return evil for evil. We say, 'God bless you.' We are not out here casting stones, we are throwing life preservers")

Date: January 21, 2017

Source: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-street-evangelists-met-with-anger-spat-on-at-womens-march-on-washington-173302/>



Vietnam

Fr Anton Le Ngoc Thanh CSSR (head of the Association to Protect Freedom of Religion;

UPDATE: issued a report on religious persecution of all faiths "We recorded 59 violations of religious freedom by the government in 2016, an increase of nine from 2015...The instances of religious persecution got increasingly worse")

January 23, 2017

Bishop Peter Nguyen Van Kham (said "Negative issues still remain in the relationship between the government and religions", added that the new law regulating religions "fails to properly care about the people's need for religious activities")

Date: December 19, 2016

Location: Ho Chi Minh City

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/religious-believers-in-vietnam-experience-increasing-repression/78138>

John Nguyen Van Oai (aged 32, husband, **UPDATE**: arrested on fabricated charges of violating probation)

Date: January 19, 2017

Location: Nghe An

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/As-Hanoi%E2%80%99s-crackdown-continues,-Christian-activist-Nguyen-Van-Oai-arrested-again-39760.html>

Today's Martyrs

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

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