

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Weekly Report – 2017-02-05 through 2017-02-11



### Egypt

Demiana Amir (aged 14, wounded in the [December 11, 2016](#) suicide bombing in Sts Peter and Paul church in [Cairo](#), hospitalized; **UPDATE: died from her injuries**)

Date reported: February 5, 2017

Source: <http://www.copticsolidarity.org/2017/02/05/demiana-14-becomes-29th-victim-of-attack-on-st-peters-church-in-cairo/>

Salwa Nazmy (disappeared along with her 3 children)

Date: January 29, 2017

Location: Nobaria

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1830&A=29518>

Fadi (aged 15, son of Hanaa, convicted of sexual assault, sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment, appeal filed)

Hanaa (mother of Fadi, said “The judge convicted my son to 15 years because he is a Christian. If he was a Muslim boy, the judge would acquit him when he saw the forensic report, because the forensic report absolved my son, but the judge wasn’t convinced of it because my son is Christian, so he believed the speech of [the Muslim boy’s] father instead of the forensic report...I want to know what my son did to be sentenced to 15 years. What is the crime he committed? Where are our rights? Our rights are lost in this country. The forensic report said that my son did nothing, so why is the court verdict 15 years? It’s because we are Christians.”)

Dr Naguib Gabriel (attorney; **UPDATE:** said of Fadi's trial “The two medical examiners who examined the Muslim child are Muslims and absolved Fadi from this false allegation...What did Fadi do to get such a harsh verdict? If Fadi was a murderer, the sentence wouldn’t be this long. He is a child and didn’t commit any crime...The judge’s verdict wasn’t related to law, but faith. He said he was not convinced about the forensic report and believed the allegation of the father of the Muslim child”)

Date: January 28, 2017

Location: Cairo

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/01/4906705/>



## Germany

Pastor Wilfried Roemischer (presided at a funeral service that was disrupted by a long-time Muslim immigrant, asked the disruptor to stop and that they would converse after the funeral ceremony, asked the funeral home representative to call the police after the disruptor did not completely cease)

Date: February 1, 2017

Location: Schnaittach, Bavaria

Source: <http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/763970/Allah-shouting-Muslim-disturbs-funeral-ceremony-in-church>



## Indonesia

Bona Sigalingging (GKI Yasmin Church spokesman; **UPDATE**: said that his church has accepted a proposal that would allow the building to be re-opened after 9 years in exchange for the building of a mosque next door on church land, said "We are glad and support the initiative")

Edward (aged 23, church member, said "We support the Bogor mayor's plan so this case should be resolved soon")

Rev Sony Dandel (said in a homily that the fight for equal rights should continue, said "We hope the problem for our church and also of other churches with similar problems will end soon")

Date: February 5, 2017

Location: Bogor, West Java

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/indonesian-protestants-reach-church-compromise/78313>



## Iran

Amin Afshar Naderi (aged 28, convert, arrested without warrant by MOIS agents while fishing and picnicking with his wife in [Firuzkuh](#) on [August 26, 2016](#), beaten when he asked to see the arrest warrant; **UPDATE**: still incarcerated without trial, has threatened to begin a hunger strike)

Hadi Askary (arrested without warrant by MOIS agents while fishing and picnicking with his wife in [Firuzkuh](#) on [August 26, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: still incarcerated without trial, has threatened to begin a hunger

Date: February 7, 2017  
Location: Evin prison, Tehran  
Source: <http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3336>



## Kazakhstan

Asaf Gadzhiaga ogly Guliyev (aged 43, husband, Azeri citizen, arrested for sharing his religious beliefs with KNB secret police informants)

Teymur Sultan ogly Akhmedov (aged 60, husband, father of three sons, arrested for sharing his religious beliefs with KNB secret police informants, held in pre-trial detention, denied cancer treatment)

Date: January 18, 2017  
Location: Astana  
Source: [http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2252](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2252)



## Mali

Fr Edmond Dembele (spokesman for the Episcopal Conference of Mali; **UPDATE**: reported on the abduction of an unnamed nun from Colombia, said "The area where the religious woman was kidnapped is a quiet area and that is what is surprising. That area of the Country has not yet been touched by the insecurity that affects other areas")

Date: February 7, 2017  
Location: Koutiala  
Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/61691-AFRICA\\_MALI\\_A\\_Colombian\\_nun\\_kidnapped#.WJtFkW8rKM8](http://www.fides.org/en/news/61691-AFRICA_MALI_A_Colombian_nun_kidnapped#.WJtFkW8rKM8)



## Pakistan

Sana John Shahid (aged 13 when abducted on [November 9, 2015](#) while on her way to school in [Haji Pura, Sialkot, Punjab province](#), forcibly converted to Islam and forcibly married to her abductor, family filed a police report but the police have taken no action, family has received death threats; **UPDATE**: still missing)

Prof Anjum James Paul (**UPDATE**: wrote to the National Commission on Human Rights to demand the return of Sana John Shahid to her family)

Date: February 4, 2017

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6298>



## Philippines

Archbishop Socrates Villegas (**UPDATE:** the pastoral letter *For I Find No Pleasure in the Death of Anyone Who Dies*, which protested the 7,000 extrajudicial killings of persons involved in the illegal drug trade since mid-2016, was read in all Catholic churches in the country, had signed the letter on behalf of the bishop's conference "We in the Church will continue to speak against evil even as we acknowledge and repent of our own shortcomings. We will do this even if it will bring persecution upon us because we are all brothers and sisters responsible for each other. We will help drug addicts so that they may be healed and start a new life...Let us not allow fear to reign and keep us silent. Let us put into practice not only our native inner strength but the strength that comes from our Christian faith")

Date signed: January 30, 2017

Date read: February 5, 2017

Source: <http://www.cbcnews.com/cbcnews/?p=91162>



## Thailand

**Event: A Pakistani refugee family who fled their home in December 2013 has been approved for immigration to the U.S. but their resettlement is now on hold for 120 days, are afraid they might be incarcerated for overstaying their visa**

Cyril Kamran (husband of Samina, father of two aged 17 and 9, said "...the health condition of me and my wife is not good, my left hip joint is artificial and from last one year I feel severe pain. In my last medical examination at Bangkok Christian Hospital arranged by IOM, they identify that the joint is loose and that I need surgery again but the surgery needs time so that's why they advise me that we will refer your case to U.S. for surgery. Due to that pain I am unable to lay on the even on a comfortable bed so how can I spend one week on the floor of IDC...My daughter is 17 years old and we are unable to take risk to send her to IDC because in past, we heard so many sexual harassment cases in IDC")

Samina (has suffered from Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia, steroid use has affected her heart and immune system, has been afraid of incarceration)

Date: February 4, 2017

Location: Bangkok

Source: <http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/trump-policy-and-thai-avarice-leaves-approved-pakistani-asylum-seeker-family-in-limbo>



## Venezuela

Auxiliary Bishop Jesus Gonzalez de Zarate (aged 56, pleaded with pro-government demonstrators who invaded a church during Mass, shut the doors to prevent parishioners from leaving, and subjected them to an anti-Catholic rant)

Archbishop Diego Rafael Padron Sanchez (**UPDATE**: later said in a radio broadcast “These are not isolated occurrences but rather, one gets the impression that these are premeditated events meant to intimidate the Catholic Church...[The Church has become a target because it] has taken a very clear position before the government, noting its difficulties, problems, and the crisis the nation is currently in”)

Date: January 23, 2017

Location: Caracas

Source: <http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2017/02/02/venezuela-chavistas-shut-mass-force-catholics-listen-socialist-rant/>

and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diego\\_Padr%C3%B3n](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diego_Padr%C3%B3n)

and [https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jes%C3%BA\\_s\\_Gonz%C3%A1lez\\_de\\_Z%C3%A1rate](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jes%C3%BA_s_Gonz%C3%A1lez_de_Z%C3%A1rate) - with translation

## Today's Martyrs

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

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