

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2017-05-21 through 2017-05-27



China

Event: A meeting of leaders of several house churches was raided on [March 5, 2016](#) by 200 police, five were taken into custody, **UPDATE: all five were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment, all filed appeals**

Chen Yajie (**UPDATE:** sentenced to 4 years' imprisonment)

Liu Yan (**UPDATE:** sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment)

Wang Lulu (**UPDATE:** sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment)

Yang Zhaocun (**UPDATE:** sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment)

Zheng Lan (home raided; **UPDATE:** sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment)

Date: [April 18, 2017](#)

Location: [Changji, Xinjiang](#)

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/05/christians-argue-sentences-illegal-file.html>

Pastor Chen Shixin (arrested and charged with 'damaging forestry resources')

Gu (described the arrest of Pastor Chen Shixin “The people from Duji District forcibly occupied 3,000 mus [494 acres] of land [in Lieshan District] for more than 20 years. They ought to have returned the land by now, but they nevertheless do not want to comply with the law. Those people want to build a temple here, so they are trying hard to find our faults. We contracted 20 mus [3 acres] of land on a hill, and we cleaned up the weeds and wild vegetation from previous cultivation. They then accused us of damaging more than 3,000 trees, which we've never laid our hands on”)

Date: [April 12, 2017](#)

Location: [Lieshan District, Huaibei, Anhui province](#)

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/05/anhui-authorities-deceive-pastor-into.html>



Egypt

Fr Makari Yunan (accused of contempt of Islam after he responded to an Islamic scholar who called Christianity corrupt by saying Islam was spread by the sword, may be indicted)

Date: May 23, 2017

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1904&A=30848>
and <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1904&A=30829>

Event: Islamist attacked vehicles containing Christian pilgrims and construction workers

Marvy Hany Mourice (aged 4, **shot dead**)

Mourisca Mina Samouel (aged 2, **shot dead**)

Atef Mounir (aged 62, construction worker, uncle of David Gamal, **shot dead**)

David Gamal (nephew of Atef Mounir, identified his uncle's body)

Fr Rafik Greich (**UPDATE**: said "Different sources give contradictory figures for the number of casualties. Some reports say 23, others 25, the latest rumors say 26 dead - 36 according to others. What is certain is that there are also many children among the victims...The terrorists attacked at least three vehicles")

Bishop Makarios (**UPDATE**: said "The terrorists got in the bus and began shooting. The injuries are straight shots in the head, body and the neck...Everyone is trying to identify the dead and wounded. There is no time for anger yet")

Magdy Malek (parliamentarian, said "By the time they killed half of the people, the terrorists saw cars coming in the distance and we think that that is what saved the rest. They did not have time to kill them all. They just shot at them randomly and then fled")

Fr William Sidhom SJ (said "Our interior minister pays homage to the bodies of the victims instead of protecting living citizens from the attacks")

Ossama Tharwat (said "There is no real intention to fight terrorism. As long as it goes on, there will be religious edicts coming from Salafi's radical sheikhs, political parties of a religious matrix, and a religious discourse that foments violence against Christians, and we will witness more and more tragedy every day")

Ayman Ezzat (rickshaw driver, attended the funeral of the seven members of the Farouk family, said "Our lives have turned into hell. I'm a Copt and I curse myself everyday for bringing [President Sisi] to power. He failed us. He sold us")

Imad Khalil (**UPDATE**: said the pilgrimage was "the only fun opportunity for these children and young people who do not have anything")

Michael Fares (journalist said "They killed them before the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan perhaps because it is 'haram' [prohibited] to do so during the fast. But is it lawful to kill on an ordinary day?")

Ishaq Ibrahim (Coptic activist; **UPDATE**: said "This proves that applying the state of emergency doesn't provide safety, and Coptic Christians are still heavily targeted...Security around monasteries and churches is tight, so attackers are thinking of other ways to hit the same target far from secure places")

Naguib Sawiris (media owner; **UPDATE**: said "Forgive me, Lord, but I cannot turn the other cheek and I cannot love my enemies")

Date: May 26, 2017

Location: Anba Samuel Monastery, Minya province

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Terrorists-kill-dozens-in-an-attack-targeting-Christians-40855.html>

and <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Egypt-mourns-more-Christian-victims.-Caught-between-anger-and-prayer,-citizens-cry-out-for-security-40858.html>

and <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/26/world/middleeast/egypt-coptic-christian-attack.html?ref=oembed>

and <https://www.wsj.com/articles/gunmen-in-egypt-attack-bus-carrying-coptic-christians-1495796748>

and <http://morningstarnews.org/2017/05/islamic-extremists-egypt-slaughter-coptic-christians-pilgrimage-monastery/>

Lydia (aged 15, hair forcibly cut while in school by a woman wearing a niqab)

Date reported: May 25, 2017

Location: Dar el-Salaam, Cairo

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1907&A=30881>



Germany

Rimon Youssef (aged 29, **died from his injuries** suffered in the [April 9, 2017](#) church bombing in Tanta, Egypt)

Date: May 19, 2017

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1907&A=30896>



India

Archbishop Thumma Bala (**UPDATE**: reported on the desecration of a church by a mob of 100 Hindus only 8 days after it had been consecrated, said his diocese would conduct "reparation service after the police have completed the investigation", the church had been named Our Lady of Fatima and consecrated on the centennial of the reputed apparitions in Portugal)

Date: May 21, 2017

Location: Keesara village, Godamakunta, near Hyderabad, Telangana state

Source: [http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hyderabad,-Our-Lady-of-Fatima-Church-destroyed-\(Photos-and-Video\)-40803.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hyderabad,-Our-Lady-of-Fatima-Church-destroyed-(Photos-and-Video)-40803.html)

Event: Six clergy were arrested on May 10, 2017 on inciting religious hatred charges, 250 others at the meeting were not charged; UPDATE: released on bail of US\$310 each

Rev Chandan (arrested; **UPDATE**: released)

Rev Mangaleswar Prasad (arrested, said “When we gathered for the prayer, right-wing Hindu activists objected but we ignored them. There was no provocation, as alleged, from our side and we were there only to offer peaceful prayers. Police took us into custody, ignoring our pleas. The FIR [first information report] was filed without any evidence”; **UPDATE**: released, said “It is true that we were harassed but God turned it to our advantage and, despite hurdles, we bore witness to Christ among the inmates. It seems that before we reached the jail the message was spread among the prisoners that Christians converting Hindus were coming. For the first three days, the inmates treated us with contempt but later came to listen to us about Jesus Christ...by our cool and composed attitude, even after the abuses”)

Rev Ram Hari (arrested; **UPDATE**: released)

Rev Nand Lall (home raided on [May 10, 2017](#), arrested; **UPDATE**: released)

Rev Ranjeet Prasad (arrested; **UPDATE**: released)

Rev Bala Lakhandar (arrested; **UPDATE**: released, said “Hindu activists and the police abused us at the police station and their supporters did the same in the jail...We had trouble in the jail, some even pulled our hair, took away our bed roll, verbally abused us for being Christian, and forced us to sleep on the floor. But at the same time, God gave us opportunity to speak about Jesus to them...I believe it was a God-given gift”)

Sanjay Kumar Masih (arranged bail for the six clergy, said “The situation in Uttar Pradesh is very alarming for Christians”)

Date: [May 20, 2017](#)

Location: [Salempur village, Mau district, Uttar Pradesh state](#)

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-clergymen-arrested-in-Uttar-Pradesh,-time-in-prison-was-a-%E2%80%98God-given-gift%E2%80%99-40812.html>

Pastor John Muller (husband, expectant father, said “They said, ‘Don’t stay here – get out of this area, or we will see your end’. Recently, some villagers belonging to Vanniyar, a caste-based Hindu sect, came to Christ. The same caste group opposes conversions in the village because they treat Christianity as a religion of lower castes. They don’t want anyone from Vanniyar to convert to Christianity”)

Date: [May 2, 2017](#)

Location: [Attipattu village, Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu state](#)

Pastor John Muller (husband, expectant father; **UPDATE**: church and home destroyed in an arson attack, said “We lost everything. My wife is 26 weeks pregnant. We are expecting our first child. We are homeless. A kind believer is letting us rest in his house during nights for now”)

Date: [May 5, 2017](#)

Location: [Attipattu village, Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu state](#)

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2017/05/church-building-pastors-home-burned-tamil-nadu-state-india-sources-say/>



Iraq

Event: Christian clergy have been coordinating the rebuilding of Christian homes destroyed by ISIL

Fr Salar Boudagh (aged 35, said “We have begun rebuilding work in Telleskof and Bakofa, because the damage to the houses is not too serious, unlike in Badnaya, where 80% of the houses have been destroyed...Before the arrival of ISIL there were 1,450 families living in Telleskof, 110 in Bakofa, 950 in Badnaya, over 700 in Telkef and 875 in Karamless. For these families the first precondition for returning to their villages is security. Our area, the eastern part of the Niniveh plains, is patrolled by a Christian security force, the Zeravani, who can give us a 100% guarantee of security. They are an official militia who are paid a salary by Kurdistan...[The second condition is the financial resources. The almost 13,000 houses that now need rebuilding, following the ravages of ISIL, have been divided according to the] coefficient of damage...It costs 7000 dollars to refurbish a home that has been lightly damaged. To repair a house that has been burned out costs 25,000 , to rebuild a house that has been totally destroyed costs 65,000 dollars”)

Date: May 18, 2017

Fr Georges Jahola (**UPDATE:** said “After the liberation of the town, between 11 November and 3 December 2016, we spent 15 working days photographing 6,000 houses in Baghdeda. We divided them up and mapped them sector by sector, assessing the degree of damage in each case. There are houses that have been very badly damaged or even destroyed, which need completely rebuilding, houses that have been burned or struck by missiles, which can still be rebuilt. And then there are houses that have been only partially damaged and can be repaired without much difficulty. We began work with a team of 20 volunteer engineers. Today I have 40 of them helping me and almost 2000 able-bodied workers ready to start work. We are optimistic about it. The reconnection of the electricity supply is slowly being extended throughout the town”)

Date: May 18, 2017

Location: Baghdeda

Source: <http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1495068102.html>



Kenya

Dalama Otieno (quarry worker, **shot dead** by al-Shabaab militants, a second unidentified worker was also killed)

Date: May 12, 2017

Location: El Wak, North East province

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2017/05/christian-killed-islamic-extremist-attack-northeastern-kenya/>



Mali

Sr Gloria Cecilia Narvaez Argoti (Colombian citizen, abducted in [Koutiala](#) on [February 7, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: no new word of her condition or whereabouts)

Bishop Jean Baptiste Tiama (said of Sr Gloria "We continue to pray and trust in the Master of our lives. We must not give up praying")

Date: [May 20, 2017](#)

Location: [Sikasso](#)

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/62321-AFRICA MALI Sister Glory kidnapped one hundred days ago no news yet#.WSR A0evyuM8>



Mexico

Fr Jose Miguel Angel Machorro Alcala (aged 55, stabbed three times in the neck and torso while finishing Mass on [May 15, 2017](#) at the [Mexico City](#) cathedral altar, hospitalized in serious condition; **UPDATE**: has suffered a stroke, paralyzed on his right side, neurological condition is deteriorating)

Date: [May 19, 2017](#)

Location: [Mexico City](#)

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/62309-AMERICA MEXICO The priest attacked in the Cathedral is still in serious condition#.WSRCPOvyuM8>



Pakistan

Mukhtar Masih (aged 69, father of Shaima Masih and Anjum Mukhtar, grandfather of Romilla, Nehmeia, and Shaima, arrested in [Lambanwali village near Gujranwala](#) on blasphemy charges on [January 28, 2017](#) after a note was found at a mosque, beaten; **UPDATE**: released on bail)

Date: [May 16, 2017](#)

Location: Gujranwala

Source: <http://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/69-year-old-mukhtar-masih-given-bail-from-blasphemy-charges>

Shakeela Bibi (daughter of Manna Masih, told by a court that she must convert to Islam after her husband converted, has refused to convert and has filed for divorce)

Manna Masih (father of Shakeela Bibi)

Javed Sahotra (husband of Mary Ashma Javed; **UPDATE**: attorney for Shakeela Bibi)

Date reported: May 22, 2017

Location: Pakpattan

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6463>



United States - Missouri

Montell Bruce (father, church greeter, shot in the head while attempting to stop a gunman who had entered his church, not seriously injured)

Pastor D'Eric Fields (issued a statement thanking Montell Bruce for his actions)

Date: May 21, 2017

Location: Kansas City

Source: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/greeter-shot-in-head-after-gunman-opens-fire-in-church-184556/>



Uzbekistan

Yelena Potorochina (home raided by police during a discussion of Christianity among five women, books and electronics seized)

Tatyana Bezhenova (Russian citizen, passport seized by police at the home of Yelena Potorochina)

Date: March 24, 2017

Location: Yakkasaray district, Tashkent

Yelena Potorochina (home raided by police during a March 24, 2017 discussion of Christianity among five women, books and electronics seized; **UPDATE**: fined US\$2,056, filed an appeal)

Date: April 3, 2017

Location: Tashkent

Tatyana Bezhenova (Russian citizen, passport seized by police at the home of Yelena Potorochina on [March 24, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: deported)

Date: April 4, 2017

Location: Tashkent

Yelena Potorochina (home raided by police during a [March 24, 2017](#) discussion of Christianity among five women, books and electronics seized; fined US\$2,056 on [April 3, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: fine reduced on appeal to US\$205)

Date: April 17, 2017

Location: Tashkent

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2280

Today's Martyrs

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

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