

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Weekly Report – 2017-06-18 through 2017-06-24



### Canada

Deanna Margel (Christian school official, ordered by the local government school board to not allow the use of 'offensive' Biblical passages in her school, said "We're talking about freedom of religion, but we're [also] talking about freedom of expression. We need every single word there to challenge us, to call us to greater understanding. It's just so important")

Date: June 15, 2017

Location: Camrose, Alberta

Source: <https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2017/june/canadian-district-bans-christian-school-from-teaching-offensive-parts-of-bible-nbsp>



### China

Bishop Peter Shao Zhumin (aged 54, detained on [May 18, 2017](#); seen disembarking at the local airport under police escort on [June 16, 2017](#), picked up his luggage, did not return home; **UPDATE:** the German Ambassador wrote "I welcome China's declared intention to achieve progress with regard to the Catholic Church. However, despite progress in this direction, we also see setbacks in guaranteeing religious freedom. One case of growing concern is the treatment of Bishop Shao Zhumin by the authorities. Since autumn last year he seems to have been forced to move to unknown locations no less than four times and now seems to have been confined to his home since his return. His full freedom of movement should be restored")

Date: June 21, 2017

Location: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mgr-Peter-Shao-Zhumin,-Wenzhou%E2%80%99s-bishop-not-recognised-by-the-government,-is-missing-again-41063.html>  
and <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/The-German-ambassador-asks-China-to-release-Msgr.-Shao-Zhumin-41079.html>

Wang Hong (wife of Pastor Chen Shixin [who has been detained since [April 12, 2017](#)], home searched by over 10 DSPS agents with a search warrant, computer and documents related to the church's land dispute seized)

Gu Quanxiao (; **UPDATE**: said that the DSPS agents wanted to seize religious books but decided to not do so because no RAB agents were present)

Date: [June 14, 2017](#)

Location: Huaibei, Anhui province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/06/authorities-ransack-home-of-arbitrarily.html>

Pastor Zhang Di (arrested on [May 2, 2017](#) on false charges of attacking a village representative and a police station during questioning; **UPDATE**: officially arrested)

Lu Yuexia (church vice director, arrested following a church demolition on [May 5, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: officially arrested)

Huang Xiangju (arrested following a church demolition on [May 5, 2017](#); officially arrested)

Zhao Wenjing (arrested following a church demolition on [May 5, 2017](#); officially arrested)

Guo Chungai (arrested following a church demolition on [May 5, 2017](#); officially arrested)

Date: [June 8, 2017](#)

Location: Shangqiu, Henan

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/06/5-christians-officially-arrested-after.html>

Lin Yongju (prohibited from travelling to Hong Kong for a church conference)

Pastor Zhang "Bike" Mingxuan (**UPDATE**: said “[The public security bureau - DSPS] limits preachers, preventing them from going abroad. I am almost 70, but they are still controlling me, preventing me from travelling abroad. The Mainland Chinese government controls Christians both to maintain stability and out of the fear the Christians will unite”)

Date reported: [June 23, 2017](#)

Location: Haozhou, Anhui

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/06/pastor-forbidden-from-traveling-abroad.html>



## Egypt

Mohsen Morkous (aged 60, dual U.S. citizen, Chicago area resident, religious pilgrim, **shot dead**, two sons and a grandson also shot and presumed dead)

Adel Habib (husband of Hanaa Youssef, father of Mina and Marco, construction worker, attacked by Islamists, **shot dead**)

Mina Habib (aged 10, son of Hanaa Youssef and Adel Habib, brother of Marco, witnessed his father's murder, said of seeing the pilgrim buses "We saw dead people, just dumped on the ground. They asked my father for identification then told him to recite the Muslim profession of faith. He refused, said he was Christian. They shot him and everyone else

with us in the car. They saw us in the back of the truck. They made us get down and a man wearing camouflage like the army pointed his gun at us, but another one in all black told him to let us go. Every time they shot someone they would yell God is great")

Marco Habib (aged 14, son of Hanaa Youssef and Adel Habib, brother of Mina, witnessed his father's murder, said "They had Egyptian accents like us and they were all masked except for two of them...They looked like us and did not have beards", now spends his time reading the Bible at a monastery)

Hanaa Youssef (widow of Adel Habib, mother of Mina and Marco)

Date: May 26, 2017

Location: near St Samuel Monastery, Minya province

Source: <http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN19B185?sp=true>  
and <https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2017/06/21/do-copts-have-a-future-in-egypt/>



## India

### Event: Cathedral vandalized, tabernacle broken

Archbishop Emeritus Thomas Menamparampil (**UPDATE**: said "The surrounding area is not inhabited by groups that could be called anti-Christian or anti-minority")

Sajan K George (**UPDATE**: said "I do not think we can call it a simple robbery. The frequency of anti-Christian hostility is increasing, causing communal tensions")

Allen Brooks (Assam Christian Forum spokesman, said "The incident has struck everyone. Christians in the state are under shock and are afraid")

Date: June 20, 2017

Location: Bongaigaon, Assam state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Bishop-Menamparampil,-vandalism-against-Catholic-cathedral-in-Assam-has-hurt-and-raised-concerns-among-Christians-41093.html>

Fr Z Devasagayaraj (**UPDATE**: criticized the BJP party for nominating Dalit [untouchable] leader Ram Nath Kovind for President because he maintained that Islam and Christianity as alien religions and should not be protected by law)

Samuel Jaykumar (National Council of Churches in India; **UPDATE**: said "We hope and expect that the president upholds the constitutional and secular values")

Date: June 23, 2017

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/controversy-over-indias-presidential-nominee/79581>

Akash Gundia (aged 15, son of Hartesh Singh Gundia, put in juvenile detention on [May 21, 2017](#), said "I told the police I am a Christian by birth, and we are going to attend the VBS [Vacation Bible School], but they did not listen to me and took us to the police station. Children as young as 6 also were in police custody, but when their parents came, the police handed them over to the parents. I was produced in court a day later, and from

there was sent to a juvenile detention home...I missed my home so much – I cried every day, and prayed and prayed”; **UPDATE:** released)

Hartesh Singh Gundia (father of Akash Gundia, said he attempted to recover custody of his son “But they refused to hand over my child to me. Later, I got to know from the police station that police had not intended to file the case, but that there was pressure from RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, a Hindu paramilitary group] and Bajrang Dal [Hindu youth] activists, because of whom my child spent 25 days in judicial custody”)

Date: June 20, 2017

Location: Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh state

Ameya Jaal (aged 45, vacation Bible school volunteer, arrested on May 21, 2017 on forced conversion charges; **UPDATE:** denied bail)

Alkesh Ganava (aged 27, vacation Bible school volunteer, arrested on May 21, 2017 on forced conversion charges; **UPDATE:** denied bail)

Pandu Singh Vasuniya (aged 31, vacation Bible school volunteer, arrested on May 21, 2017 on forced conversion charges; **UPDATE:** denied bail)

Nitin Mandod (aged 23, vacation Bible school volunteer, arrested on May 21, 2017 on forced conversion charges; **UPDATE:** denied bail)

Lalu Babore (aged 28, vacation Bible school volunteer, arrested on May 21, 2017 on forced conversion charges; **UPDATE:** denied bail)

Vijay Meda (aged 17, vacation Bible school volunteer, arrested on May 21, 2017 on forced conversion charges; **UPDATE:** denied bail)

Date: June 12, 2017

Location: Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh state

Sharmila Damore (vacation Bible school volunteer, arrested on May 21, 2017 on forced conversion charges; **UPDATE:** granted bail)

Savita Buria (vacation Bible school volunteer, arrested on May 21, 2017 on forced conversion charges; **UPDATE:** granted bail)

Date: May 27, 2017

Location: Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh state

Pastor Dhum Singh (said “My daughters also were among the children, they were going to the VBS camp” when they were detained)

Date: May 21, 2017

Location: Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh state

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2017/06/christians-taking-children-camp-india-charged-kidnapping-forced-conversion/>



## Lebanon

Bishop Joseph Absi (aged 71, dual Syrian citizen, elected Patriarch of the Greek Melkite Catholic Church)

Date: June 21, 2017

Location: Aley

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bishop-Joseph-Absi-is-the-new-patriarch-of-the-Greek-Melkite-Church-41083.html>  
and <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/06/22/syrian-bishop-elected-new-melkite-catholic-patriarch/>



## Myanmar

Assistant Pastor Dom Dawng Nawng Latt (aged 65, 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; as of [January 26, 2017](#) reportedly will be tried for 'illegal association'; **UPDATE**: health failing)

Date reported: June 20, 2017

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2017/06/pastor-jailed-burma-falls-ill/>



## Nigeria

Rev Samson Olasupo Ayokunle (reported on [April 3, 2017](#) to have been scheduled for interrogation by the DSS over a Christian Association of Nigeria media campaign alleged to incite violence; **UPDATE**: led a CAN delegation to the presidential villa to protest the elimination of the Christian Religious Knowledge curriculum in favor of either Islamic Studies or French [despite a shortage of French teachers], said “We are here to point your attention to a time-bomb, obnoxious, divisive and ungodly secondary school curriculum that the Federal Ministry of Education is introducing into our schools and of which we had earlier complained to the presidency. Then, if I am not mistaking, it was suspended but has again been re-introduced without any review at all...This curriculum is the brain-child of Nigerian Educational Research Council, an agency of the Federal Ministry of Education. To us in CAN, its introduction is an ill-wind that blows nobody any good for so many reasons. A state has started implementing it already and Christians that are more on the receiving side of it are already crying foul because of its potential dangers now”)

Date: June 16, 2017

Location: Abuja

Source: <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2017/06/16/can-protests-replacement-of-christian-education-in-secondary-schools-with-islamic-studies/>



## North Korea

Pastor Lim Hyeon-Soo (aged 62, Canadian citizen, disappeared after his [January 31, 2015](#) entry to the country; confessed on [July 31, 2015](#) in Pyongyang to attempting to overthrow the state; sentenced in [Pyongyang](#) on [December 16, 2015](#) to life imprisonment at hard labor; **UPDATE:** still imprisoned)

Date: [June 22, 2017](#)

Source: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/family-of-canadian-pastor-imprisoned-in-north-korea-very-concerned-in-wake-of-americans-death-189098/>



## Pakistan

Mehwish Shaukat (aged 8, victim of an attempted rape on [June 8, 2017](#) by a Muslim neighbor while her parents and older siblings were at work)

Shaukat Masih (aged about 46, father of Sharoon, Haroon, Mehwish, Samson, and Kajal, brick kiln bonded laborer; **UPDATE:** beaten by his employer after he refused to sign a compromise document which would allow his daughter's attacker to go free)

Haroon Shaukat (aged 13, brother of Mehwish Shaukat, brick kiln bonded laborer; **UPDATE:** beaten and tortured by his employer, forced to confess he had raped the 3 year old daughter of another kiln employee, arrested, family told he would be tried alongside the attacker of their daughter)

Date: [June 20, 2017](#)

Location: [Rao Khan Wala, Kasur](#)

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6516>

Juan Won-Seo (South Korean citizen, Urdu language school owner, expelled from the country for 'illegal preaching activities' after two of his Chinese Christian students [Lee Zingyang and Meng Lisi] were abducted by ISIL and killed before or during a government airstrike)

Date reported: [June 21, 2017](#)

Location: [Quetta](#)

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/06/pakistan-expels-south-korean-illegal-preaching-murder-chinese-missionaries/>



## Philippines

Jen-Jen (convert, student, forced to pray in a mosque to graduate from school)

Date reported: June 21, 2017

Source: <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/stories/forced-pray-muslim-prayer-jen-jens-persecution-story/>

Cardinal Orlando Quevedo OMI (**UPDATE**: condemned the desecration of a chapel by Islamic militants, said the act was "wicked")

Date: June 21, 2017

Location: Malagakit, Mindanao

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/islamic-state-desecrates-catholic-chapel-in-mindanao/79576>



## United Kingdom

Rev Gavin Ashenden (**UPDATE**: wrote following the resignation of Tim Farron as leader of the Liberal Democrat party "...Seeing ourselves primarily in terms of our sexual identity or erotic appetites seems to me a very poor and shallow reflection on our potential as human beings. Perhaps it's part of our consumerism? 'We are what we want' – and we want sex... it's a long way from Descartes' 'I think therefore I am'... There is another part of the narrative which doesn't make sense, if this is only about trying to make counter-cultural politicians accountable. There are 15 Muslim MPs and the Mayor of London is a Muslim. Islam is uncompromisingly against homosexuality. In fact ISIL goes so far as to post YouTube videos of homosexuals being executed by being thrown off tall buildings. Yet none of the Muslim MPs or the Mayor of London are being asked the questions that Tim Farron was hounded with... Tim Farron made a claim that should have shocked our society to the core. He said he could no longer lead a political party and be faithful to Christ... At this point I would have hoped that all open-minded, tolerant people would have protested on his behalf. I would have expected the Archbishop of Canterbury and all the bishops of the Church of England to have publicly backed his right to have a Christian conscience and maintain a public office... But there was silence. Except for Archbishop Welby. He went so far, in his defense of freedom of speech and Christian conscience, as to wonder if Farron's forced resignation "raised questions." Nazi Germany suppressed freedom of speech and specifically Christian beliefs. So did the Marxist Soviet Union. Whatever else we can discern about our society in its distaste for freedom of speech and conscience, we see it drawing steadily closer to the practice of the two most totalitarian states of modern times...")

Date: June 22, 2017

Source: <https://ashenden.org/2017/06/22/first-they-came-for-tim-farron-soon-theyll-come-for-you/>

Bishop Alan Hopes (called for the government to remove a cap on faith admissions to new schools: “All the cap achieved was to bar the Catholic Church from opening new schools. This is because it would result in Catholic schools turning away Catholic pupils on the grounds of their Catholicism, a feature which is prohibited by Canon Law”)

Date: June 23, 2017

Location: East Anglia

Source: <http://www.catholicerald.co.uk/news/2017/06/23/bishop-calls-on-government-to-keep-catholic-schools-promise/>



### United States - California

**Event:** Investigative journalists’ office raided on [April 5, 2016](#), video recordings seized; the journalists were indicted on [March 28, 2017](#) on 15 felony counts for having secretly recorded Planned Parenthood officials negotiating the illegal sale of tissue harvested from aborted children, despite the fact that the state never prosecuted animal rights groups and NBC for doing the same with other subjects [and in the NBC case a civil case resulted in their exoneration under the law]; **UPDATE: 14 counts were dismissed, prosecutorial refile allowed**

David Daleiden (aged 28; **UPDATE:** all counts dismissed)

Sandra Merritt (aged 64; **UPDATE:** 14 counts dismissed, one count on invasion of privacy allowed to stand)

Date: June 21, 2017

Location: San Francisco

Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/court-drops-charges-against-pro-life-investigators-who-exposed-planned-pare>

## Today’s Martyrs

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