

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2017-07-02 through 2017-07-08



Egypt

Marlin Medhat (aged 16, abducted)

Date: June 28, 2017

Location: Minya

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1931&A=31323>

Dr Albert Fekry (aged 67, **killed** in his clinic, throat slashed)

Date: July 2, 2017

Location: Tala, Monufia province

Girgis Bushra (aged 55, jeweler, **shot dead** in his home)

Date: July 2, 2017

Location: Heliopolis

Magdy Zekry Abdel Malak (aged 40, building contractor, **killed**, stabbed in the neck)

Date: May 24, 2017

Michael Nabil Bebawy (aged 32, canonical painter, **UPDATE: beheaded** after leaving a Divine Liturgy)

Date: June 24, 2017

Location: Minya, Minya province

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/07/four-copts-killed-aggressive-campaign-history-modern-egypt/>



Iran

Bahram Nasibov Alkan Oglu (aged 38, Azeri citizen, husband, father, detained in a **June 24, 2016** police raid on a **Tehran** engagement party; released on bail **on October 29, 2016**; left the country on **November 6, 2016**; **UPDATE: sentenced in absentia** to 10 years' imprisonment)

Eldar Gurbanov (aged 49, Azeri citizen, husband, father, detained in a [June 24, 2016](#) police raid on a [Tehran](#) engagement party; released on bail on [October 29, 2016](#); left the country on [November 6, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: sentenced *in absentia* to 10 years' imprisonment)

Naser Navar Gol-Tapeh (aged 45, convert, arrested in [Tehran](#) on [June 24, 2016](#); released on bail on [October 29, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment)

Yusif Farhadov Talt Oglu (aged 53, Azeri citizen, husband, father, detained in a [June 24, 2016](#) police raid on a [Tehran](#) engagement party; released on bail on [October 29, 2016](#); left the country on [November 6, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: sentenced *in absentia* to 10 years' imprisonment)

Date: [June 22, 2017](#)

Location: [Teheran](#)

Source: <http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3585>

Amin Afshar Naderi (aged 29, convert, detained by police after the [December 26, 2014](#) raid on the [Tehran](#) home of Pastor Victor Beth Tarmez; released from jail on bond on [February 10, 2015](#), banned from Christian activities until his trial begins; 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; still incarcerated in [Evin prison, Tehran](#) without trial as of [February 7, 2017](#), had threatened to begin a hunger strike; stopped his hunger strike on [February 14, 2017](#) after receiving promise of medical care and legal action; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment)

Hadi Askary (arrested without warrant by MOIS agents while fishing and picnicking with his wife in [Firuzkuh](#) on [August 26, 2016](#); still incarcerated in [Evin prison, Tehran](#) without trial as of [February 7, 2017](#), had threatened to begin a hunger strike; stopped his hunger strike on [February 14, 2017](#) after receiving promise of medical care and legal action; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment)

Kavian Fallah Mohammadi (convert, detained by police after the [December 26, 2014](#) raid on the home of Pastor Victor Beth Tarmez, released from jail on bond on approximately [February 17, 2015](#), banned from Christian activities until his trial begin; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment)

Pastor Victor Beth Tarmez (husband of Shamiram Isavi, father of Ram-eil, bodily searched during a [December 26, 2014](#) police raid on his [Tehran](#) home, arrested; released from jail on bond on [March 1, 2015](#), banned from Christian activities until his trial begins, suffered health problems while in prison; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment)

Ram-eil Beth Tamraz (son of Pastor Victor Beth Tarmez and Shamiram Isavi, bodily searched during the [December 26, 2014](#) police raid on his home in [Tehran](#); arrested without warrant by MOIS agents while fishing and picnicking with his wife in [Firuzkuh](#) on [August 26, 2016](#); released on [October 10, 2016](#) on a US\$35,000 bail; **UPDATE**: awaiting trial)

Shamiram Isavi (wife of Pastor Victor Beth Tarmez, mother of Ram-eil, bodily searched during the [December 26, 2014](#) police raid on her home in [Tehran](#); **UPDATE**: awaiting trial)

Date: [July 4, 2017](#)

Location: [Teheran](#)

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/07/lengthy-sentences-for-iranian-pastor-and-two-converts/>



Mali

Event UPDATE: Al Qaeda released a video showing several abducted Christians

Beatrice Stockly (social worker, missionary, Swiss citizen, abducted in [Abaradjou, Timbuktu](#) on [January 8, 2016](#))

Sr Gloria Cecilia Narvaez Argoti (Colombian citizen, abducted in [Koutiala](#) on [February 7, 2017](#))

Dr Kenneth Elliot (aged 83, husband of Jocelyn Elliot, Australian citizen, missionary, abducted in [Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso](#) on [January 15, 2016](#))

Date: July 1, 2017

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/62560->

[AMERICA COLOMBIA Even Sister Gloria Cecilia in the video released by Al Qaeda with those kidnapped in Mali#.WVpNIITyuM8](#)



Mexico

Fr Luis Lopez Villa (aged 71, bound and **stabbed to death** in his rectory)

Date: July 5, 2017

Location: de Los Reyes, Mexico state

Source: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/mexican-priest-found-bound-stabbed-to-death-in-his-room-44449/>

and <http://www.fides.org/en/news/62589->

[AMERICA MEXICO Another priest brutally killed in his parish#.WV-RJoTyuM8](#)



Nigeria

Event: Church leaders ask secondary school students to boycott new mandatory Arabic classes

Bishop David Oyedepo (claimed the new classes were an attempt to convert students to Islam)

Pastor Enoch Adeboye (said the government could not force students to study the language)

Pastor William Folorunso Kumuyi (**UPDATE**: said the government could not force students to study the language)

Rev Felix Omobude (said "We are aware of orchestrated plans to subtly use this policy as a means of forceful religious indoctrination and we maintain our stand against it")

Date: July 3, 2017

Source: <https://www.premier.org.uk/News/World/Nigerian-Christian-leaders-urge-students-to-boycott-Arabic-classes>

Pastor Ibrahim Maisaje (farm invaded by a Fulani herdsman with cattle, said "When I got to the spot to see things for myself, I could see the considerable damage done to the crops. Instantly I went to confront the owner, a Fulani man of about 20 years old. As he saw me, his face changed and he became stubborn. I did all I could to hear from him about the damage done to my crops by his cattle, but he refused to accept any wrongdoing. I went to take his machete as proof of what he had done, only to find him raising his machete to cut me. Thank God, I was able to protect my head with my left hand, but I suffered a very deep cut, which left blood gushing out of my hand", managed to overpower the herdsman, hospitalized, the herdsman was later arrested and agreed to compensate him for his damages)

Date: June 26, 2017

Location: Panwasa Mada village, Nasarawa state

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/07/church-leader-seriously-injured-in-fulani-attack-in-nigerias-nasarawa-state/>



United States - West Virginia

Pastor Rich Penkoski (automobile vandalized, received rape and death threats, homosexual pornography, and mailed feces after stating he opposed use of the rainbow flag emoji on his Facebook account, has had to change his telephone number)

Date reported: July 6, 2017

Source: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/pastor-receives-feces-mail-car-keyed-opposing-facebooks-rainbow-flag-emoji-191104/>



Vietnam

Event UPDATE: More details on the police assault on a monastery

Fr Anthony Nguyen Van Duc OSB (**UPDATE**: wrote "Officials from the Thuy Bang commune of Huong Thuy Town witnessed the mob uproot the iron cross that the monks had recently erected on June 26 [2017]")

Fr Anthony Vo Van Giao OSB (beaten on the head by police with a wooden stick when he tried to prevent demolition of a cross)

Date: June 28, 2017

Location: Thien An, Thua Thien Hue province

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/benedictines-assaulted-for-protecting-monastery-in-vietnam/79669>

Today's Martyrs

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

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