

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2017-08-20 through 2017-08-26



Central African Republic

Fr Jean-Alain Zemi (said of Moroccan UN peacekeepers “You were warned, but you deliberately decided to abandon this town. This community is being sacrificed, and I will hold you responsible for all those dead and preparing to die”, over 30 were killed, bodies have been left in the street in front of his rectory)

Fr Desire Kpangou (wrote to the UN “If you don’t come soon to disarm these people, we will have to organize confessions and a final Mass and viaticum and prepare ourselves and the rest of the displaced people here for the worst”, added that the attackers appeared to be Sudanese)

Date reported: August 20, 2017

Location: Zemio

Source: <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/08/24/central-african-priest-expresses-outrage-at-the-un-after-massacre-at-his-village/>



China

Maria Fan Junying (beaten by agents of a land developer during a [July 26, 2017](#) dispute over church property, hospitalized with a cerebral hemorrhage, fell into a coma; **UPDATE: died**)

Date: July 30, 2017

Location: Tianjin

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/china-church-property-dispute-results-in-laywomans-death/80043>

Yu Hongxing (beaten unconscious by police-hired thugs at an outdoor worship service, doused with a bucket of mud, blood pressure measured at over 200)

Pastor Hao Zhiwei (said, “The gangsters held shovels in their hands, slapping the backs of those getting out of their cars with them. Some believers’ arms were slit open. The gangsters even tried to strangle some of the believers”)

Pastor Zhang (**UPDATE**: said “[The gangsters] had the government behind them, so they were not afraid of anything”)

Date: August 22, 2017

Location: Ezhou, Hubei province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/08/government-hired-gangsters-beat.html>



Egypt

Fr Boutros Aziz (prevented by police from celebrating the Divine Liturgy after allegations were made that the village church lacked a permit, police then used force to disperse worshippers from the street when they began to chant the Kyrie ["Lord have mercy"], several were arrested)

Bishop Makarios (**UPDATE**: denounced the police actions)

Date: August 20, 2017

Location: al Furn village, Abu-Qurqas, Minya province

Source: <https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2017/08/20/minya-al-furn-copts-banned-from-worship/> and <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1965&A=31931>

Amal Awad Abo Al-Khal (aged 40, stabbed multiple times after leaving her church, hospitalized)

Date reported: August 25, 2017

Location: Gawahir, Alexandria

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20170824130024.htm> and <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1968&A=31992>



India

Archbishop Soosa Paikam (decried the destruction of two crosses at a retreat center, said "[the government] has the responsibility of identifying the malignant forces behind the act")

Date: August 18, 2017

Location: Vithura, Thiruvananthapuram district, Kerala state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Pastor-beaten-in-Rajasthan,-crosses-destroyed-in-Kerala-41575.html>

Event: Christian leaders met with Chief Minister [Governor] Draupadi Murmu and petitioned her to not sign the new anti-conversion law

Cardinal Telesphore Toppo (**UPDATE**)

Bishop Vincent Barwa (**UPDATE:** said "These [Hindu] groups also claim all tribal people are Hindus, although tribal people have [originally had] an animist religion")

Date: August 22, 2017

Prabhakar Tirkey

Date: August 18, 2017

Location: Ranchi, Jharkhand state

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/last-ditch-effort-to-stop-indian-states-anti-conversion-law/80072>



Iran

Maryam Naghash-Zargaran aka Nasim (aged 39, released from prison on [August 1, 2017](#), 4 year sentence completed, during her release was accused before the prison court of abusing prison medical staff, family concerned another prosecution will be started against her; **UPDATE:** banned from leaving the country for six months, said "With the completion of my sentence, there's no reason for me to be banned from travelling abroad. It's against the law")

Date: August 23, 2017

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/coe/freed-prison-4-years-christian-woman-banned-leaving-iran/>



Kenya

Event: al-Shabaab militants beheaded three men and burned another to death

Stephen Hizano Ponda (**killed**)

Charo Karisa Ngoa (**killed**)

Naphtali Katana Kadenge (**killed**)

Joseph Gasena Ngoa (**killed**)

Pastor Henry Divayo (said "One of the men killed this morning in Maleli, Naphtali Katana Kadenge, was a son to a family staying in this camp and he was a student at Lamu high school. During the vacation, he decided to go back to Maleli village to fend off wild animals that feed on farm crops. He was advised to be cautious, but when al-Shabaab stormed their house, he was found and killed")

Fr Cyprian Taah (said "One of our catechists, Stephen Nyati, lost his son in the attack and we are saddened as a church community and we strongly condemn the act. His son had gone

back to the fields to check the progress of the farm when the militants pulled him out of the house and slaughtered him. We are asking the global community to remember us in prayer and if possible send us material help because the people in the camps need food, shelter, water, medicine, sanitary pads and soap")

Date: August 17, 2017

Location: Maleli village, Witu, Lamu county

Source: <http://www.persecution.org/2017/08/21/militants-kill-four-men-in-eastern-kenya-for-their-christian-faith/>



Nepal

Pastor Tanka Subedi (responded to Hindu accusations of bribed conversions: “Christians did some of the church reconstruction after the earthquake but they have done more for the general public, emergency relief to reconstruction”)

Date reported: August 26, 2017

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6599>



Pakistan

Sameera (aged 16, abducted on [July 31, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: recovered by police, had been raped and forced into an Islamic marriage)

Date: August 22, 2017

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/news/Newsdesk-24-August-2017#pakistan>



Philippines

Bishop Pablo Virgilio David (said that the government's anti-drug campaign had turned a north Manila suburb into "killing fields" where students and people begging to be spared are killed, also spoke of vigilante groups "They roam our streets, especially in the informal settler communities, every night. And I don't know why they are invisible")

Date: August 23, 2017

Location: Caloocan

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/bishop-rails-against-killing-fields-as-govt-scrambles-to-calm-outcry/80086>



Russia

Ebenezer Tuah (Ghanaian citizen, detained on [July 31, 2016](#) for performing baptisms in a sanatorium, fined US\$748 on [August 1, 2016](#); appeal denied on [November 9, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: second appeal denied)

Date: [December 22, 2016](#)

Location: [Tver](#)

Pastor Aleksei Teleus (fined US\$8 for allowing children to use a playground within earshot of his church during services)

Date: [August 5, 2016](#)

Location: [Noyabrsk, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Region](#)

Donald J Ossevaarde (U.S. citizen, husband of Ruth, convicted on [August 14, 2016](#) on illegal missionary charges after hosting prayer meetings and Bible study in his home, fined US\$700; appeal denied [September 30, 2016](#); second appeal denied on [November 15, 2016](#); Supreme Court appeal denied on [January 20, 2017](#); Constitutional Court appeal denied on [February 28, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: appeal filed at the European Court of Human Rights)

Date: [March 30, 2017](#)

Aleksandr Yakimov (charged on [August 5, 2016](#) with illegal missionary activity for speaking at a village festival in [Mari-Turek](#) about his church, which lacks legal status; **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

Date: [October 7, 2016](#)

Location: [Sernur](#)

Archbishop Sergei Zhuravlyov (detained on [August 27, 2016](#) during a homily at a Messianic Jewish community; **UPDATE**: fined US\$8)

Date: [September 5, 2017](#)

Location: [St Petersburg](#)

Pastor Irina Tishchenko (detained on [August 23, 2016](#) for a religious meeting in a private home; fined on [September 14, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

Date: [November 14, 2016](#)

Location: [Kemerovo](#)

Ivan Denisov (fined US\$8 for organizing a religious event for young people without their parents' written consent where negative views of the Orthodox Church were expressed)

Date: [October 4, 2016](#)

Location: [Arkhangelsk](#)

S P Kozin (acquitted)

Date: October 11, 2016

Location: Kaliningrad

Pastor Andrei Matyuzhov (charged on [September 27, 2016](#) with illegal missionary activity; fined US\$63 on [October 17, 2016](#); verdict overturned on appeal on [November 30, 2016](#);
UPDATE: case closed at retrial due to statute of limitations but guilt upheld)

Date: January 10, 2017

Location: Kemerovo

William Curtis Norton Jr (U.S. citizen, charged with preaching without a work permit, case effectively dismissed)

Date: October 26, 2016

Location: Ulyanovsk

Pastor Ivan Kumbrasyev (fined US\$8 for carrying out religious rites and ceremonies in a sanatorium without permission)

Date: October 27, 2016

Location: Tver

I V Parmon (acquitted of having promoted religious literature)

Date: November 9, 2016

Location: Kaliningrad

Ts Kus (foreign citizen, acquitted of having promoted religious literature)

Date: November 11, 2016

Location: Kaliningrad

S A Furman (acquitted)

Date: October 11, 2016

Location: Kaliningrad

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2306



South Africa

Cardinal Wilfrid Napier (tweeted “Has anyone also noticed how determined BBC is to undermine traditional & Catholic morality. Hardly a day passes without promoting abortion, homosexuality, etc. Usual tactic is to identify a particular country, then isolate it as abnormal for outlawing x y or z.”)

Date: August 22, 2017

Location: Durban

Source: <http://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/08/23/cardinal-napier-bbc-is-determined-to-undermine-christian-values/>



Spain

Julian Cadman (aged 7, Australian citizen, **killed** in a terror attack)

Date: August 17, 2017

Location: Barcelona

Source: <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/08/21/barcelona-terrorists-plotted-bomb-attack-on-sagrada-familia/>



Sudan

Rev Yahya Abdelrahim Nalu (husband, father of a one year old boy; **UPDATE**: evicted from his home by police, now living on the street)

Rev Sidik Abdalla Anglo (husband, father of two aged 8 and 10; **UPDATE**: evicted from his home by police, now living on the street)

Date: August 15, 2017

Location: Omdurman

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2017/08/police-sudan-evict-two-pastors-homes/>



Vatican City

Colonel Cristoph Graf (Swiss Guards commander, said after terror plots against Barcelona churches were discovered “perhaps it is only a question of time before an attack like that happens in Rome. But we are ready also for this”)

Date reported: August 22, 2017

Source: <https://www.cath.ch/newsf/gardes-suisses-crets-a-repondre-a-menace-terroriste/> - with translation

Today's Martyrs

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

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