

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Weekly Report – 2018-02-11 through 2018-02-17



### Azerbaijan

Adalat Sariyev (aged 45, home raided by police during a worship service attended by 100 including 40 children, detained, schools of the children present were notified)

Date: January 28, 2018

Location: Nizami district, Gyanja

Source: [http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2350](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2350)



### Bangladesh

Fr Chanchal Hubert Pereira (held at gunpoint during a church robbery, beaten, said "To save my life I had to give them money, about US\$ 420, my mobile phone, and laptop computer")

Bejoy Costa (rectory cook, said "When I entered the Father's room, I found him in tears and tied up")

Bablu Peris (parish council member, said "[I am} worried about the security of the church and the parish priest. We will arrange for video surveillance cameras and a night guard as soon as possible")

Hemanto Corraya (Bangladesh Christian Association secretary general, said he wants "the police to arrest the robbers soon and ensure exemplary punishment")

Momota Costa (housewife, later said "The thieves not only hurt our parish priest, but also our Lord Jesus Christ")

Shipra Sero (wept and fasted after the robbery)

Date: February 8, 2018

Location: Tongi

Source: [http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Dhaka-church-ransacked,-priest-beaten-and-threatened-with-death-\(photos\)-43051.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Dhaka-church-ransacked,-priest-beaten-and-threatened-with-death-(photos)-43051.html)

and [http://www.asianews.it/news-en/More-than-200-Catholics-pray-and-march-in-silence-over-looted-Church-\(Video\)-43090.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/More-than-200-Catholics-pray-and-march-in-silence-over-looted-Church-(Video)-43090.html)



## Cameroon

Abdul (convert from Islam, father of seven, threatened with eviction and death for his conversion, said “I just told them, ‘If you want to behead me because of Jesus, you might as well start right away’”, released)

Date: October 2017

Source: <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/stories/familys-murder-attempts-embolden-cameroon-disciple-leaders-faith/>



## Canada

Bishop Ronald Peter Fabbro CSB (**UPDATE:** wrote to his parishes that the diocese will not accept summer job grants from the government due to the requirement that it profess support of abortion: “I believe that we need to take a stand against the position of the government of Canada and say that we will not be bullied into even the appearance of collusion on this issue. While others may take an alternative path, we can make a powerful statement by saying ‘no’ to the conditions as set down by the government...Ironically, expecting such an attestation to get a job grant is in violation of some of the rights that are actually found in the Charter, while some of the contentious positions espoused by the Government are not”)

Date: February 4, 2018

Location: London, Ontario

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/canadian-catholics-wont-be-bullied-into-supporting-abortion-bishop-says-92510>



## China

Jing Ruxia (arrested at the Myanmar border with China and charged with illegal border crossing)

Date: March 5, 2017

Location: Yunnan province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/02/us-pastor-subjected-to-chinas-unfair.html>



## Egypt

Eid Attia (fined US\$20,380 and given a suspended sentence for building an unlicensed church, the 19 Muslims who attacked the church and Christian homes and shops were fined US\$28 each)

Date reported: February 8, 2018

Location: Atfih

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=2084&A=33861>



## India

Pastor Jaggar Singh (husband, father, polio survivor, church destroyed by more than 300 RSS paramilitary members on [January 16, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: a meeting of village elders placed a bounty of US\$7,795 for his arrest, said "It has been a debilitating life I have suffered since the attack on our church. I have been forced to hide in unsafe places and have been close to being caught several times and if found due to the weakness in my leg I would not have been able to run away. My wife and I cry out to God every night and he has answered our prayers...I have a young daughter who has slept little since the attack she has recurring nightmares, this is the work of the evil one and we know only prayers can save us, so we will continue to pray and ask for you all to pray for us as well...I will not be broken because I know God is with me")

Date: February 4, 2018

Location: Sehal village, Jammu and Kashmir

Source: <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/indian-pastor-rescued-from-burning-church-describes-ongoing-fear-of-christians-in-jammu-kashmir>

### **Event: Five Christians were charged with forced conversion, three are still at large**

Pastor Maan Singh (aged 40, arrested)

Brahmanand (aged 30, arrested)

Date: December 30, 2017

Location: Amroha, Uttar Pradesh state

Source: <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/indian-pastors-arrested-for-forced-conversion-despite-converts-declaring-they-would-rather-die-than->



## Indonesia

Fr Karl-Edmund Prier SJ (aged 81, Dutch national, stabbed by a Muslim while presiding at Mass, hospitalized in stable condition)

Permadi (stabbed in the back, said "He was wielding a sword, and he hit me", hospitalized in stable condition)

Fr Endra Wijayanto (issued a statement condemning the attack)

Archbishop Robertus Rubyatmoko (said the victims "feel protected by God")

Juventus Prima Yoris Kago (Catholic Student Association chairman, said "Let us show the example of being a good religious person who is trying to love everyone. We show that we reject destructive acts in any name")

Date: February 11, 2018

Location: Selman district, near Yogyakarta, Central Java

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/63732->

[ASIA INDONESIA Attack on a church is extremism threatening Christians](http://www.fides.org/en/news/63732-ASIA_INDONESIA_Attack_on_a_church_is_extremism_threatening_Christians)  
and [with video] <https://www.ucanews.com/news/elderly-dutch-priest-among-four-injured-in-sword-attack/81516>



## Iran

**Event:** Five Christians were arrested while celebrating Christmas on [December 24, 2013](#) in [east Tehran](#); **UPDATE:** [all are still missing](#)

Ahmad Bazyar

Amir-Hossein Ne'matollahi

Faegheh Nasrollahi

Mr Hosseini

Mastaneh Rastegari

Date: February 5, 2018

Source: <http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3890>

Naser Navar Gol-Tapeh (aged 47, convert, arrested on [June 24, 2016](#); sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on [June 22, 2017](#); **UPDATE:** [transferred to Evin Prison](#))

Date: January 20, 2018

Location: Tehran

Source: <http://www.persecution.org/2018/02/13/christian-convert-transferred-iranian-prison-known-torture-factory/>

Ali Amini aka Philip (recent convert, husband, father of two aged 3 and 1, arrested at his workplace, held without charge)

Date: December 10, 2017

Location: Tabriz, East Azerbaijan province

Source: <http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3901>

and <http://www.persecution.org/2018/02/15/iranian-imprisoned-shortly-conversion-status-remains-unclear/>



## Lebanon

Bishop Georges Abou Jaoude (thanked a judge who sentenced two Muslim youth to memorize passages of the Quran concerning Mary the mother of Jesus after they had been convicted of desecrating a statue of her)

Date reported: February 12, 2018

Location: Akkar district

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Teenagers-who-desecrated-a-statue-of-Our-Lady-required-to-learn-the-Qur%CA%BE%C4%81n-as-punishment-43082.html>



## Pakistan

Saba (daughter of Rukhsana Kausar, hearing and speech disabled, tortured and raped by 4 Muslim men who broke into her home)

Rukhsana Kausar (widow, mother of Saba and 3 other daughters and 3 sons, hospital sanitation worker, approached at her hospital by 3 of her daughter's rapists after they were released on bail if she refused to drop charges)

Date reported: February 12, 2018

Location: Gujrat

Source: <https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/pakistani-christian-disable-girl-became-victim-of-gang-rape/>

Elisha (aged 12, daughter of Iqbal Masih, abducted and forced into an Islamic marriage in November 2017; **UPDATE**: returned to her family by the High Court)

Iqbal Masih (father of Elisha, said after her November 2017 abduction “In order to stop us from going to seek legal assistance in this matter, Ismail’s family got my wife and I locked up in the local police station for a day after filing false charges, which is why since November I am now living with my relatives and leading life in hiding”; **UPDATE**: said “after Elisha was handed over to us by the court, Ismail’s family is threatening dire consequences if the case is not withdrawn and Elisha not returned”)

Date: February 8, 2018

Location: Islamabad

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/02/pakistani-christian-says-12-year-old-daughter-was-abducted-forced-to-convert-to-islam-and-marry/>



## Sudan

Rev Yahya Abdelrahim Nalu (Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church, husband, father of a two year old boy; evicted from his [Omdurman](#) home by police on [August 15, 2017](#);  
**UPDATE:** protested the demolition of a church by police “These crazy actions will not stop us from praying and praising God! God is Almighty”)

Date: [February 11, 2018](#)

Location: North Khartoum

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2018/02/authorities-sudan-demolish-church-building-khartoum/>



## Turkey

Pastor Andrew Brunson (U.S. citizen, husband of Norine Brunson, detained as a 'national security risk' in [Izmir](#) on [October 7, 2016](#), denied access to U.S. diplomats, attorneys, and fellow parishioners; ordered held on [December 9, 2016](#) on 'terrorism' allegations from a 'secret informant', attorney denied access to the allegations; **UPDATE:** wrote from jail to his wife "I am very discouraged. Please have prayer for me. I love you — can't handle the thought of growing old in this place, without you")

Date: [February 12, 2018](#)

Source: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/us-pastor-andrew-brunson-writes-heartbreaking-message-to-wife-from-turkish-prison-217416/>

Archbishop Karekin Bekdjian (elected Armenian Locum Tenens [temporary Patriarch] of Istanbul on [March 15, 2017](#), election annulled by the government within the hour;  
**UPDATE:** announced his resignation as Locum Tenens, wrote the government's intent is to "sabotage the 85th Patriarchal Election and is the product of a long and planned campaign")

Date: [February 13, 2018](#)

Location: Istanbul

Source: [http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2352](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2352)



## United Kingdom

Svetlana Powell (teacher, dismissed from her position on [July 27, 2016](#) after being questioned on her views on homosexuality, reported as a 'radicalization threat' to a government anti-terrorism agency; **UPDATE**: case dismissed by the Employment Tribunal on the grounds that she had interjected her personal religious views into the classroom, stated that the school's retention of a militant atheist teacher who interjected his views into the classroom had no bearing on her case)

Date: [February 2, 2018](#)

Location: Bristol

Source: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/employment/christian-teacher-dismissed-and-referred-to-counter-terrorism-watchdog-after-s>

Daniel (aged 31, alias, convert, Iranian citizen, said “If I went back, the authorities would arrest me. They would put me in jail and I would be killed, I would be hanged. They will kill me, me and my family. I am not afraid because I will be meeting Jesus but I am afraid about my family”)

Date: [February 6, 2018](#)

Location: Cardiff, Wales

Source: <http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3894>



### United States - New York

Ed Mechmann (Archdiocese of New York spokesman, responded to Governor Andrew Cuomo's executive order requiring all holders of state contracts to support LGBTQ rights "... earlier this week, the Governor veered frighteningly into the territory of the suppression of free thought and speech, and intolerance for religious freedom...By citing this completely irrelevant federal proposal, the press release inadvertently made clear that the Governor's new order is rooted in animosity towards religious freedom...The idea that 'LGBTQ rights' might be 'vulnerable' [whatever that means] because of a decision relating to health insurance coverage of contraceptives is something that only an ideologue could believe...This is classic Orwellian doublethink - simultaneously believing in two utterly contradictory things. You cannot at the same time quash religious liberty and freedom of thought and still claim to be protecting the rights of everyone. This order is premised on the assumption that freedom is a zero-sum game with winners and losers - and the Governor has chosen which side he wants to win...To really capture the import of the Governor's new policy, just consider his own words: **“I can tell you that any school that refuses to protect transgender students will not receive a penny of state money and then they are out of business.”** No subtlety to that threat. The only schools he could be talking about are religious ones, and everyone knows that means Catholic, Christian and Orthodox Jewish schools. The message is clear - conform or be destroyed...”)

Date: [February 7, 2018](#)

Source: <https://archny.org/news/big-brother-in-albany>

## United States - Michigan

### Event: Iraqi Christians continued to face deportation

Mukhlis Murad (aged 59, father of Summer, grandfather)

Jony Jarjiss (aged 58, father, grandfather, home foreclosed upon during his detention)

Nadir Jawad (aged 44)

Date reported: February 8, 2018

Location: Detroit

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20180208180234.htm>

## United States - Texas

Frank Castillo (aged 61, **stabbed to death** by a fellow parishioner during a prayer meeting)

Pastor Janson Abraham (stabbed, hospitalized along with 2 other parishioners, said "I would say, you know, we don't know what made him do this but we can extend forgiveness, we can extend love. And his mother is a part of our church. So we are going to help her in the process")

Date: February 7, 2018

Location: Corpus Christi

Source: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/pastor-forgives-congregant-who-stabbed-him-killed-1-member-at-prayer-meeting-217149/>



## Vietnam

Vang Atu (aged 28, convert, father of two, said "...me and other believers in my village were having a prayer gathering at my house. Later that day, the local authorities knew about it and prohibited us from worshipping together. The first time they went to my house they didn't say anything. But an hour later, they came and told us to stop the worship or else they will destroy my house...My brother took a club, it was about one and a half meters long, and used it to hit me on my arms. I raised my arm to block it. Blood dripped all over me. Now, my arm is fractured. My arm's bone cracked and then the other people started destroying my house...If I continue to live there, something will happen to me. With what they said, I decided I must move to Central Vietnam")

Date: April 17, 2016

Source: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/vietnamese-christian-brutally-beaten-banished-from-village-vows-to-return-share-gospel-with-oppressors-217435/>

## Today's Martyrs

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

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