

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2018-02-25 through 2018-03-03



Algeria

Pastor Louis Martinez (aged 60 plus, French citizen, refused re-entry to the country, wife later left as well)

Date: December 13, 2017

Location: Oran

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/03/algeria-two-churches-closed-others-threatened/>



Bangladesh

Sr M Madeleine MC (stabbed in the hand while returning from a bank)

Fr Sagor Louis Rozario OMI (reported on the stabbing of Sr M Madeleine “Together with another missionary she had gone to the bank to withdraw money necessary for the maintenance of the center. On the way back they were stopped by four unknown men, who approached them on board a motorcycle and a CNG [typical Bengali motor rickshaw with three wheels]. The criminals tried to steal the bag. Faced with the refusal of Sr M Madeleine, they unsheathed a knife and stabbed her in her left hand. The thieves abandoned her as she screamed in pain. Some passers-by rescued her and took her to the hospital. She lost a lot of blood and three stitches were needed“)

Boniface Khongla (secretary of the Justice and Peace Commission of the diocese of Sylhet, expressed “concern for the attack against a sister of Mother Teresa. In the diocese the missionaries manage two centers for the needy and forgotten people, for the most part Muslims and Hindus. The religious serve those who are neglected by society. Who will serve them in the future if they are persecuted?“)

Date: February 27, 2018

Location: Kularua, Moulovibazar

Source: <http://mattersindia.com/2018/02/missionary-nun-stabbed-by-thieves/>



China

Dr Li Baiguang (aged 49, human rights attorney, told on [May 31, 2013](#) that he has not passed the Beijing Justice Bureau's annual review, cannot renew his license to practice law, no reason given; abducted by 10 Communist Party agents in [Wenling, Zhejiang province](#) on [October 17, 2017](#), taken to a forest, beaten 'severely', threatened with death by dismemberment; **UPDATE: hospitalized with a stomachache, died hours later despite no previous health issues**, official cause of death was given as liver failure, death viewed as suspicious by other activists and Christians)

Date: [February 25, 2018](#)

Location: Nanjing, Jiangsu province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/02/renowned-christian-human-rights-lawyer.html>
and <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/02/reuters-death-of-chinese-rights-lawyer.html>

Yang Tianshui (former journalist, sentenced in [Zhejiang](#) to 12 years' imprisonment on [May 16, 2006](#); **UPDATE: died of an untreated brain cancer** during the previous week)

Date reported: [November 15, 2017](#)

Location: Shanghai

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/11/democracy-activists-death-follows.html>

Event: Christians spoke on the proposed constitutional change that would remove term limits on President Xi Jinping

Fr John (said "Xi does not arrange his successor and even Premier Li Keqiang is retained only to be a display. What is the impact on the church? Only worse! Xi is following Mao's leftist line, which is hostile to religions, especially 'Western' religions")

Paul (said "The influence will be great. If he [President Xi Jinping] wants to be a dictatorship, he will suppress those opposing him, including religion. That is exactly what Mao Zedong was doing. [The underground church under such a political atmosphere] can only be a slaughtered lamb")

Date reported: [February 27, 2018](#)

Location: northeast China

Ying Fuk-tsang (divinity school director, quoted the proposal as having "indirectly said that Xi Jinping's religious policy will continue, that the government's control will be more stringent")

Date reported: [February 27, 2018](#)

Location: Chinese University of Hong Kong

Fr David (open church member, said President Xi Jinping will become "a second Putin", added that the Chinese government has been deceiving the Vatican in their current negotiations)

Date reported: [February 27, 2018](#)

Location: Sichuan province

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/xi-jinping-dictatorship-worries-chinese-catholics/81653>

Zhang (described the demolition of an officially sanctioned church cross “The government agreed to my demand of making a smaller cross, but we can only place it on the church wall. We are not allowed to place a large cross on top of the building. Currently, the cross inside the church is still intact”)

Date: February 22, 2018

Location: Shangyao, Jiangxi province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/03/government-demolition-crew-destroys.html>



Congo, Democratic Republic

Fr Jean Claude Tabu (described an attack on people protesting the continued postponement of elections in which four were killed “Security forces blocked the roads around the churches. They came in and threw tear gas canisters into churches. They used live ammunition”)

Date: February 25, 2018

Location: Kinshasa

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/four-dead-after-catholic-lay-committee-protests-in-congo-23717>



Germany

Fr Alain-Florent Gandoulou (Republic of the Congo national, **beaten and stabbed to death** with an umbrella while in his office)

Date: February 22, 2018

Location: Berlin

Source: <http://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/03/02/african-born-priest-murdered-in-berlin/>



India

Event: Two Christians were attacked on a bus while travelling to a prayer meeting, hospitalized

Rev Joseph

Baldev Singh

Shibu Thomas (founder of Persecution Relief, **UPDATE:** described the attack "no one intervened to help them while they begged for help. A traffic agent tried to calm spirits, but he was turned away by the angry mob")

Date: February 26, 2018

Location: West Champaran district, Bihar state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bihar,-Pentecostal-pastor-attacked-for-'forced-conversions'-43221.html>

Event: Six elderly members of Gideons International were stopped by Hindu radicals who proceeded to burn their Bibles, a criminal complaint for outraging religious feelings was later filed against them

Richard Nixon (described the events that led up to the attack “Eight of us were travelling in two different cars. Before distributing the Bibles, we prayed together, and we had first asked the school administration that we will place the Bibles there, that the students may take them, but we were told to distribute them by ourselves. It was such a joy! The children came to us few at a time with their friends and received the Bibles happily...There was a Lakshmi Narsimha Swamy temple in that area called Kollapur, and a man came out from the temple and asked us if we can give him some copies of New Testament, and we gave some 20 copies to him. Each of us was carrying handful of Bibles and were walking on the road adjacent to the temple”, at least 10 radicals then appeared "We didn't want to argue with them and just kept calm. But they started badgering us with questions: 'Who sent you here? Why are you distributing Bibles?' They soon slipped into filthy language. We told them that we will move on from here, and requested let there be no fight...They started abusing us in extreme vulgar language. One of them sneaked into the car and picked up the copies of Bibles and threw them out. They started kicking the Bibles. They started tearing the Bibles savagely. They got the cartons we had not even opened yet from the boot of the car, threw them down and started kicking and stamping the copies. We tried to stop them, saying, 'We will not distribute them here, but please don't tear the Bibles. It's the Holy Word of God,' but they paid no heed. They also started videotaping")

K J Anandham (retired police sub-inspector, said “The Hindus harassed us and even threatened to beat my wife. We are all retired employees and senior citizens, they did not have courtesy for age. Their language was uncivilized and brutal”)

Date: January 21, 2018

Location: Singotam village, Nagar Kurnool district, Telangana state

K J Anandham (retired police sub-inspector, diabetic [as is his wife], **UPDATE:** called to the police station along with his wife, held all day, said “Because of the complaint...the police joined hands with Hindu extremists and are after us...We were exhausted, without food and water. On the day of attack, we discussed the matter and decided to pray and forgive the assailants, and to not file any case against them”)

Navneet Chhabra, executive director of Gideons International in India, later said “There have been testimonies where people who have themselves burned the Bibles have invited Christ into their lives,” he added. “There are instances where people have picked up torn papers of Bible from garbage, and their lives were transformed. Whoever has done this

act of burning the Bibles, we will pray for them that the Lord wipe away the hatred from their hearts. We belong to the same country and share as much patriotism as they do, then why this animosity? We don't retaliate, we don't hold any animosity, and we forgive them. We love them")

Date: January 24, 2018

Location: Singotam village, Nagar Kurnool district, Telangana state

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2018/02/bible-burning-southern-india-shows-depth-hostility-toward-christians/>

Fr Xavier Thelekat (aged 52, **stabbed to death** by a former church employee)

Date: February 28, 2018

Location: Malayattoor, Kerala state

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/63834-ASIA_INDIA_Indian_priest_Rector_of_a_shrine_stabbed_to_death_in_Kerala

Pastor Challamuthu Stephen (described an attack by 10 Hindu extremists on a church "They shouted slogans demanding us to stop running the church. They damaged the roof of the church and every object in their sight, and issued threats that if we continue gathering as a church, they will kill us. The Christians got frightened and scattered from there...The extremists warned us, 'This area is dominated by Hindus. How dare you run a church here! You can go to America or any foreign land and serve your Christ there!'. Police arrived and asked the Hindu activists to leave, but once the police were gone, they came back again and continued shouting at us")

Date: February 4, 2018

Location: Suleeswaranpatti, Pollachi Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu state

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/03/india-tamil-nadu-continues-lead-way-violent-attacks-christians/>

Fr Victor Mundargi (aged 38, arrested on charges of raping a 10-year-old girl, denied bail, the allegations came entirely from social media)

Sr Lalitha Minj (arrested for failing to report a rape, denied bail)

Dr Lilly John (arrested for failing to report a rape, granted bail)

Date: March 14, 2016

Location: Tappa village, Dewas district, Madhya Pradesh state

Sr Lalitha Minj (arrested on **March 14, 2016** for failing to report a rape; **UPDATE**: granted bail)

Date: May 2016

Fr Victor Mundargi (aged 40, arrested and jailed on **March 14, 2016** on charges of raping a 10-year-old girl, denied bail, the allegations came entirely from social media; **UPDATE**: acquitted for lack of evidence)

Date: February 28, 2018

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/indian-priest-jailed-for-rape-acquitted-after-two-years/81675>



Indonesia

Event: Two Christians were convicted of gambling despite the assurance that Islamic law would not be imposed on non-Muslims when it was passed

Dahlan Sili Tongga (aged 61, sentenced to eight lashes, sentence executed)

Tjia Nyuk Hwa (aged 45, sentenced to seven lashes, sentence executed)

Date: February 27, 2018

Location: Banda Aceh, Sumatra

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-couple-sentenced-to-flogging-for-gambling-in-Aceh-43223.html>



Iraq

Nadia Younis Butti (fled her home on [July 17, 2014](#) due to ISIL; **UPDATE:** returned to her home after the defeat of ISIL, said “It is still extremely dangerous in Mosul. I just spoke to a police officer who lost a colleague this week. He was shot at night. A lot of Mosul’s inhabitants collaborated with ISIL for three years, and some might have relatives or family members who were even part of ISIL. There are a lot of Sunnis who have supported ISIL...The city was liberated by the Iraqi army, which is supported by many Iranian Shiites. In Mosul, they are met with a lot of distrust: they aren’t seen as allies. For me, the city has not become safe since its recapture...I can’t believe my eyes when I see what ISIL has done to my church. I remember sitting here, in the midst of my friends when the Liturgy was served very well. I remember being on the square outside with all the parishioners and using the rooms for meetings: the women in the rooms on the left, the men on the right. Thinking about that time saddens me deeply...After the turn of the century, it was already getting worse for Christians in Mosul. In 2008 and 2009, Christians began to be threatened, abducted and killed for their faith. I received a letter once that said I had to pay, or I would pay with my life. A well-known priest was abducted and slaughtered. His body was found in pieces...When I just looked up, I suddenly felt intense happiness. I saw that the blue dome with Jesus’ image had survived the occupation of ISIL reasonably well. Not not much of its beauty has remained, but the image shows how beautiful this church was. The jihadists have only been able to destroy the edges of the picture. Seeing Jesus above me gave me great joy”)

Date: February 8, 2018

Location: Mosul

Source: <https://zenit.org/articles/mosul-iraq-i-cannot-believe-my-eyes-when-i-see-what-isis-has-done-to-my-church/>



Malaysia

Event: The Supreme Court dismissed an appeal by four Christian converts from Islam who had been denied the right to change their religion in the official document

Tiong Choo Ting (convert)

Jenny Peter (convert)

Salina Jau (convert)

Vanessa Elizabeth (convert)

Archbishop Simon Peter Poh (jostled by a crowd shouting “Allahu akbar” [“Allah is greater”] as he left the courthouse, surrounded and protected by other Muslims, later said “I am sure you heard the news... There were many good Muslims who were there to escort me safely out to the courthouse, including Sarawak’s Islamic Information Center chief executive officer Zabariah Matali, who is also a personal friend”)

Date: February 27, 2018

Location: Putrajaya

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/02/malaysian-federal-court-refuses-four-people-right-affirm-christian-identity/>

and <http://malaysiandigest.com/frontpage/29-4-tile/725407-video-muslims-protecting-catholic-bishop-as-crowd-chants-allah-hu-akbar-a-heartwarming-reminder-of-malaysian-unity.html>



Nigeria

Joshua (aged 3, son of Rebecca Bitrus, brother of Zachariah, abducted by Boko Haram, **deliberately drowned** when his mother initially refused the invitation to Islam)

Date: August 2014

Zachariah (aged 7, son of Rebecca Bitrus, brother of Joshua and Christopher, abducted by Boko Haram in August 2014; **UPDATE**: rescued by the Nigerian military)

Christopher (aged 6 months, son of Rebecca Bitrus, brother of Zachariah, born in captivity on December 25, 2015; **UPDATE**: rescued by the Nigerian military)

Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme (**UPDATE**: counseled Rebecca Bitrus regarding her son Christopher, who was conceived in rape, to “accept and love” him and that he could grow up to be “an important person in life, a person who could help me [as bishop]”)

Date: 2016

Rebecca Bitrus (wife, mother of Zachariah and Joshua, abducted by Boko Haram in [August 2014](#), miscarried, pretended to convert to Islam to save Zachariah after Joshua was killed following her first refusals, said "I was never convinced about Islam. I kept my trust in the Lord and I was praying the rosary with my fingers. I am convinced that the prayer of the rosary saved me from captivity"; forced into an Islamic marriage, repeatedly raped, gave birth to Christopher on [December 25, 2015](#); rescued along with her two sons by the Nigerian military in [2016](#), reunited with her husband; **UPDATE**: met with Pope Francis, said "I am convinced about Jesus' teaching on forgiveness...even on the cross Jesus forgave those who inflicted pain to him")

Date: February 24, 2018

Location: Vatican City

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/former-boko-haram-captive-shares-harrowing-tale-of-faith-forgiveness-27861>

Event: Boko Haram abducted 110 female students from a secondary school

Fr Donald Zagore SMA (said "Terrorism is a diabolical phenomenon that aims at the destruction of humanity. This atrocious phenomenon shows how man, a creature in the image and likeness of God, has become transformed into the expression of Satan's face. It is tragic to see lives destroyed, especially young girls, kidnapped and forced to become sexual objects, but also kamikaze [suicide bombers] at the mercy of individuals who have violence and terror as the intrinsic logic of their lives. How long will these people without faith or law continue to destroy families and break the future of so many girls and boys on the continent?")

Date: February 19, 2018

Location: Dapchi, Yobe state

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/63818-AFRICA_NIGERIA_Boko_Haram_terrorism_Allah_does_not_send_anyone_to_kill_on_his_behalf

Event: Two Christian teen girls were abducted by Muslims and forced to convert, some Christians attempted to rescue them, the Muslims defeated the rescue and then attacked Christian homes and businesses, killing 12 and injuring 20

James Madaki (aged 50, described the incident "The case was reported to the police, and the girls were not rescued, so [after 2 weeks] some Christians decided to rescue the girls, but the Muslims in the town attacked them. The Muslims did not just attack the Christians that went to rescue the girls, but also went round town attacking Christians they sighted and burned houses belonging to Christians...As I talk to you, 12 Christians have been killed and 20 others injured and are being taken to hospitals in the city of Kaduna. The names of those killed are not readily available to me at the moment, but I can confirm to you that they are Christians killed in the Christian area of the town")

Omega Funom (texted "The crisis here occurred because two Christian underage girls were kidnapped and forced to become Muslims by some Muslims in this town. This is the practice by Muslims in Kaduna state. They abduct small Christian girls and force them to become Muslims, and when Christians reject this, they attack them to create the impression that there's a religious crisis...The Assembly of God Church was burnt down.

Muslims were armed with AK-47 guns as they attacked Christians. This is a Jihad by the Muslims”)

Rev John Hayap (Christian Association of Nigeria, said “There have been such forceful conversion of teenage Christian girls by Muslim leaders in northern Nigeria, and the Nigerian government has not been able to put an end to this. I feel very sad about such violence on Christians, but what more can we do than to pray and ask for God’s intervention. We’ll continue to preach peace and tolerance in our churches no matter the level of provocation from our Muslim neighbors”)

Date: February 26, 2018

Location: Kasuwan Magani, Kaduna state

Event: A church service was disrupted by unknown gunmen for 30 minutes in the capital

Rabo Danboyi (security officer, shot in the leg, hospitalized)

Stephen Markus (aged 35, described the attack “Rabo Danboyi, the security officer manning the entrance into our church, was shot and injured on the leg by the gunmen, and he’s currently being treated at the Federal Medical Centre here in Abuja. When we heard gunshots and bullets hitting church walls, we all ran out in different directions. Some said the attackers were Boko Haram terrorists who attacked us but were resisted by our church’s security guards”)

Date: February 25, 2018

Location: Durumi, near Garki, Abuja Federal Capital Territory

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2018/02/kidnapping-christian-girls-kaduna-nigeria-leads-casualties-area-christians-say/>

Event: Fulani Muslims killed 20 Christians

Rev Haruna Enoch (**killed**)

Sam Zadock (political party spokesman, **killed with machete blows**)

Margaret Inusa Habu (texted a description of the murder of Sam Zadock)

Tada Miwa (texted that her brother was missing but then returned home)

Date: February 27, 2018

Location: Gwamba village, Adamawa state

Bishop Stephen Dami Mamza (aged 49, Christian Association of Nigeria [CAN]; **UPDATE:** said in a press conference “It is on record that less than one week ago, no fewer than 20 innocent Christian farmers were killed in separate attacks in and around Tambo. Luru village in particular saw its worst days when herdsmen wielding sophisticated firearms stormed the area, killing 15 people. Within the period under review, not less than 10 churches were burnt down, and in some instances, worshippers were killed...the secretary to the Adamawa state government has propounded a new firearms narrative which seeks to justify the use of firearms by Fulani in the country. This is dangerous and reprehensible, as the law of the country does not allow any civilian the possession of illegal firearms, whether herdsmen or farmers. CAN wishes to state in unequivocal terms that violent elements are easily emboldened and fueled to terror killings by such reckless and unguarded utterances...On the basis of these, we stand to believe that the ongoing

carnage is an attempt to discourage Christianity and to silence Christians from free religious practice. We make bold to reject this attempt and ask the government to stop the unfortunate development. Extremism seems to have taken persecution to a new dimension, with armed herdsmen burning down churches, especially the recent attacks two days ago in Sagal community in Maiha, where four of our churches were burnt to ashes and properties destroyed”)

Date: January 10, 2018

Location: Yola, Adamawa state

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2018/03/pastor-christians-slain-herdsmen-revenge-attacks-northeast-nigeria/>



Pakistan

Patras Masih (aged 17, son of Inderyas Masih, cousin of Sajid Masih, cell phone lost then used to post blasphemous content to his Facebook account, went into hiding on [February 19, 2018](#), a mob of more than 3,000 gathers to demand his lynching and the burning of Christian homes if he was not arrested, 800 Christian families fled their homes and received word they had been looted, surrendered to police to save his family and neighbors; **UPDATE:** interrogated in the presence of his cousin at the Federal Investigation Agency office)

Sajid Masih (aged 24, cousin of Patras Masih, arrested by the Federal Investigation Agency under suspicion that he had blasphemous content on his cell phone, no such content found, hospitalized in critical condition after falling from a fourth floor window at the FIA office, said in a video recording "I asked why they were beating me, what have I done that was wrong. They started roundly beating me again and told me they were hitting me because I was the 'cousin of that boy' [Patras Masih]. They told us to insult each other by using the word 'Laanti' [men under a curse], my frightened young cousin complied under great duress. They asked me to remove my cousin's trousers and have oral sex with him. I refused outright. I explained that I can't have oral sex with him because he is my brother, but my pleas made them angry. They then started shouting loudly at both of us. I saw a window in the room and quickly jumped out of it. After this they [FIA officers] downstairs asked why I had jumped from the window, at the time I was semi-conscious. But I could hear everything", was later charged with the crime of attempted suicide)

Wilson Chowdhry (Chairman of the British Pakistani Christian Association, **UPDATE:** wrote "This news has shattered what little confidence I had in Pakistan's security forces...The sadistic actions of the FIA officers are in breach of the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment which Pakistan has ratified as a nation...They also breach sexual harassment laws and are an alarming testament to the sexual deviation that we have long said exists within the Muslim population of Pakistan, due to sexual repression in Islam and the brutal uninspected madrassa training centers across Pakistan where sexual assault is commonplace...The

audacity of the FIA to place suicide charges on a man simply trying to escape torture...is a risible act")

Michelle Chaudhry (President of the Cecil & Irish Chaudhry Foundation, **UPDATE:** said “We are outraged, shocked and horrified by the alleged behavior of the FIA Cybercrime Wing officials. We demand that this incident be investigated at the earliest and firm action be taken against the officials involved. These acts of brutality cannot be overlooked...A fair trial is every citizen’s right regardless of faith, cast or gender; this kind of extreme hostility and inhuman behavior during investigation is unacceptable and uncalled for and has to end. We demand that the Government look into this on priority and fulfill its responsibility to protect the life and dignity of every single Pakistani”)

Date: February 23, 2018

Location: Lahore

Source: <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/christian-man-told-to-strip-and-give-oral-sex-to-his-cousin-accused-of-blasphemy-leaps-from-fourth>

and [http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-jumps-from-fourth-floor-during-the-interrogation-in-Lahore.-Activists-ask-for-a-fair-trial-\(Video\)-43203.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-jumps-from-fourth-floor-during-the-interrogation-in-Lahore.-Activists-ask-for-a-fair-trial-(Video)-43203.html)

and <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christians-fast-to-save-young-man-wounded-during-an-interrogation-43213.html>

and <https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/blasphemy-accused-critically-injured-after-allegedly-attempting-to-escape/>

Event: Six Christians was accused of blasphemy after they allegedly prevented a Muslim from spray painting an Islamic proclamation on a wall

Fayaz Masih

Riaz Masih

Imtiaz Masih

Sarfraz Masih

Saqib Masih

Mrs Riaz

Pervez Hayat (activist, said “It was actually an issue over kite flying which was purposely turned into a religious dispute. Earlier, Christian and Muslim children got into a fight over catching a kite in the street which later involved the elders of the two communities. To teach the Christians a lesson, the Muslims of the area damaged Bible verses which were painted on the outside wall of the Khushkhabri Church. Muslims wanted to paint a name of an Islamic political party over the verses, but the Christians reacted to it and the issue turned into a religious dispute”)

Date: February 23, 2018

Location: Illahi Abad neighborhood, Faisalabad

Source: <https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/tension-arisen-in-faisalabads-neighborhood-after-blasphemy-law-invoked-against-six-christians/>

Sajid Masih (aged 24, cousin of Patras Masih, arrested by the Federal Investigation Agency under suspicion that he had blasphemous content on his cell phone, no such content

found, hospitalized in critical condition on [February 23, 2018](#) after jumping from a fourth floor window at the FIA office to escape a coerced sexual assault on his cousin, was later charged with the crime of attempted suicide; **UPDATE:** has received inadequate medical treatment)

Khalid Shehzad (activist, **UPDATE:** said that Sajid Masih and Patras Masih belonged to a social media group which “had 16 members but only Christians of the group are being interrogated”)

Safaniya Masih (said that land disputes were likely behind the blasphemy accusation against Patras Masih, also reported on an attempt by Muslims to tear down a cross that belonged to his church “We were not here but those who were left resisted and did not allow it to be brought down. A few girls were coming back when some boys shouted that sooner or later the houses of Christians would be set on fire. But we are hopeful that God will be with us and keep us safe in this troubled time”)

Date reported: [February 26, 2018](#)

Location: Lahore

Shunila Ruth (wife of Clarence Rufin, member of the Punjab provincial parliament, **UPDATE:** spoke in parliament regarding the Federal Investigation Agency beating and attempted sexual assault of Sajid Masih, said “It shouldn’t be that FIA investigate their personnel who tortured and used these inhumane investigation techniques”)

Date: [February 27, 2018](#)

Location: Lahore

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/02/pakistan-blasphemy-suspect-says-he-jumped-from-fourth-floor-to-escape-forced-sex-act/>



Russia

Patriarch Kirill aka Vladimir Mikhailovich Gundyayev (threatened with death by ISIL along with President Vladimir Putin)

Date: [February 26, 2018](#)

Source: <http://orthochristian.com/111035.html>



Taiwan

Sr Beatrice Leung Kit-fun (research professor, opposed a Vatican agreement with the Chinese government after it published the new restrictions on religion "That shows the country runs counter to religious freedom. Any agreement signed under such circumstances is contrary to what really happens in China. Signing an agreement is give and take, but now

only the Vatican is giving...I have talked to Hong Kong leftists who said that China's politics are like a wordless book, but the Holy See usually knows about China through files, which in many cases are translated into Chinese from Italian and lose their original meaning...Europeans regard the communist moderates, holding cups to talk about politics, allowing multi-party politics, and even members of a communist party having religious beliefs, but it is totally different in China, which is a one-party dictatorship. That's why Bishop Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo recently said that China can best reflect Catholic social doctrine, which shows a failure to understand China")

Date reported: February 27, 2018

Location: Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, Sanmin district, Kaohsiung

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/taipei-archbishop-pours-cold-water-on-vatican-china-deal/81613>



Tajikistan

Daniil Islamov (aged 18, conscientious objector, forcibly conscripted in April 2017 despite serious health issues; sentenced in Qurghonteppa, Khatlon region on October 13, 2017 to six months' imprisonment; Supreme Court in Dushanbe sent his case back to court on November 28, 2017 due to 'mistakes in the decision' but did not cite those mistakes; **UPDATE:** still in prison)

Date: February 27, 2018

Location: unknown, possibly Yavan Prison

Pastor Bakhrom Kholmatov (arrested in Khujand on April 10, 2017 by the NSC secret police on charges of 'extremism'; reported on July 14, 2017 to have been sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment for 'singing extremist songs in church and so inciting religious hatred', friends and family threatened with arrest if they disclose details of the trial; **UPDATE:** still in prison)

Date: February 27, 2018

Location: Yavan Prison

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2357



United Kingdom

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns, **UPDATE:** wrote regarding the case of Pastor Paul Song "...A common thread in such cases is the way in which the authorities, when exposed for their wrong doing, distort the facts [which often become 'established facts' on which unfair judgments are founded]...the Muslim Chaplain to Brixton Prison, had stated categorically to Pastor Song that he wanted to

“wipe out the Christian domination” at Brixton. But for our exposure of what is going on, Christian witness within the prison may well have been wiped out...We have also spoken to numerous other Christian groups who have volunteered in Brixton for over a decade, leading Alpha courses, Christian drama courses, prayer groups and other vital ministries, only to have since been told that they can no longer continue at the prison. Some of them wish to remain anonymous out of fear, though they all tell the same story. Their courses ran smoothly until Imam Mohammed Ahmed took over as Senior Chaplain in 2015. From then on, one by one, their ministries were shut down. Different reasons were given. Some were told that there was no longer a demand for their course, despite them regularly being oversubscribed. For others, procedural minutiae prevented them from continuing. For others, Imam Mohammed Ahmed made it so clear they were no longer welcome that they felt intimidated and left...There is nothing at all to show at any point that the Imam has not simply made this up. In an atmosphere which prisoners have described as having a ‘militant Muslim’ feel, where we have signed statements showing that forced conversions are also happening by radicalized Muslim gangs, we should not be surprised that a radical Imam would attempt to have Pastor Song removed from Brixton...")

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Today's Martyrs

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