

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2018-03-11 through 2018-03-17



Algeria

Event: Two brothers were arrested in [March 2015](#) for possession of 56 Bibles in their automobile; each was sentenced in [December 2017](#) to 2 years' imprisonment and fined about US\$450; **UPDATE: sentence reduced on appeal to 3 months' imprisonment, sentences were suspended, fines were increased to US\$873 each**

Nouredine Khalil

Belabbes Khalil

Date: [March 8, 2018](#)

Location: Tiaret

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/03/algeria-government-criticised-over-heavy-fines-for-transporting-bibles/>



China

Pastor Li Wanhua (detained for false illegal cult activity, released after a month)

Ruan Haoan (husband of Luo Caixia, father of one, church greeter, hotel chef, detained for false illegal cult activity, released after a month)

Date: [June 2017](#)

Location: [Jiangmen, Guangdong province](#)

Ruan Haoan (husband of Luo Caixia, father of two, church greeter, hotel chef, detained in [June 2017](#) for false illegal cult activity, released after a month; **UPDATE:** said “When I came out, I went to work at the original hotel. They would not hire me, saying I was a cultist. None of the big hotels wanted me either. After checking my ID, they said they knew I had been detained and was in a cult. Some hotels asked me to wait for a response at home, but I never got an answer. Now, I can only work in a small restaurant for minimum wage””, said he cannot support his family)

Date: [February 24, 2018](#)

Location: [Jiangmen, Guangdong province](#)

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/02/christian-chef-blocked-from-jobs.html>

Huang (one of four women administratively detained for 10 days after refusing to sign a document admitting they had gathered illegally for worship and incited others to do the same)

Date: March 12, 2018

Location: Urumqi, Xinjiang province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/03/church-members-interrogated-four.html>

Fr John (described the removal of three crosses from the cathedral as "brutal", added "Since the newly revised regulations on religious affairs were enforced, such incidents have happened nationwide")

Date: March 9, 2018

Location: Shangqiu, Henan province

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/catholic-church-in-china-has-crosses-removed/81778>



France

Fr Guy Pages (arrested for posting images of Islamic terror attacks and for writing on his web site that Islamic terror was punishment for Christian apostasy, web site shut down, released)

Date: February 19, 2018

Location:

Source: <http://shoebat.com/2016/02/24/islam-is-a-punishment-from-god-for-apostasy-catholic-priest-arrested-by-french-government-for-preaching-against-islam-tells-it-like-it-is-in-interview-with-polish-magazine/>

and <http://www.pch24.pl/islamizacja---kara-za-apostazje,40415,pch.html> - with translation



Greece

Metropolitan Barnabas Tyrus (aged 60, office attacked with a firebomb)

Date: March 6, 2018

Location: Neapolis district, Thessaloniki

Source: <http://theorthodoxchurch.info/blog/news/terrorist-attack-committed-at-metropolis-headquarters-in-thessaloniki/>



India

Event: Hindu radicals seized land belonging to a Christian hospital and blocked entrance to the emergency room

Fr Vineesh Mathew (said "Some 60 masked men armed with cycle chains and pickaxes came with bulldozers around 9 am and broke the front gate of the hospital and fenced off some 2,000 square feet of the hospital land")

Sr Elsy Jacob (roughed up along with other nuns, said that four nurses were beaten and that the electricity to the hospital was severed "We are operating some sections with the help of a generator", added that police did not protect the hospital)

Fr Anthony Pulickamandapam (hospital director, **UPDATE**: said "Our staff, including Catholic nuns, who attempted to resist the advance were manhandled and forced to flee for safety. They also destroyed the backup power generator and disconnected the water supply, putting the lives of nearly 200 patients – including 12 in the intensive care unit – in serious danger")

Bishop Sebastian Vadakel (appealed to police to protect the hospital, police did nothing)

Archbishop Leo Cornelio (**UPDATE** said "[the attack was part of] a systematic plan to bring disturbance and violence among a peace-loving community")

Date: March 12, 2018

Location: Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh state

Source: <http://mattersindia.com/2018/03/church-hospital-in-ujjain-attacked-nurses-beaten-up/> and <https://www.ucanews.com/news/catholic-mission-hospital-nuns-attacked-in-central-india/81776>

Event: Christian leaders criticized a secret government commission that had been created to re-write Indian history to make Hinduism the religion of the original inhabitants

A C Michael (Delhi Minorities Commission member, United Christian Forum, **UPDATE**: said "They have already issued an education policy which is silent on Christian contributions to education. Although Christian missionaries brought modern education to India, the document is silent on it")

Auxiliary Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas SFX (**UPDATE**: said "There is large-scale poverty in the country, coupled with marginalization and alienation of the farmers and village poor. Instead of trying to rewrite history, the government should first deal with the issues troubling the common masses")

Date: March 14, 2018

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/efforts-to-rewrite-indian-history-worry-christians-muslims/81794>

Event: A Christian family was beaten by ABVP members, police later filed a complaint against the family for filing a false police report

Pastor Kolhapuri Lachaiah Moses (aged 52, husband, father of three including Kolhapuri Prabhakar and Kolhapuri Immanuel, beaten by several Hindus, said “We thought the youths had come to quench their thirst at the hand-pump [outside the church gate]. The youths started shouting, ‘Where is the pastor idiot? Who gave you Christians the permission to set up a church here? You Shudras [low caste]! Idiots! How dare you do Christian activities here?’ ...I came out running and asked, “What happened, babu? Why are you shouting? I could smell the stink of alcohol. They were drunk”)

Kolhapuri Prabhakar (son of Pastor Kolhapuri Lachaiah Moses, said “But they became aggressive, and started hitting my elderly father. When I tried to stop them, they punched me too. My mother and sister also rushed to help us, only to be pushed away by the drunk men. They yelled, ‘We have been looking for you for the past six months, we got you today. We will not stop now.’”)

Kolhapuri Immanuel (aged 20, son of Pastor Kolhapuri Lachaiah Moses, beaten, foot fractured)

Date reported: March 14, 2018

Location: Ramachandrapuram village, Karimngar district, Telangana state

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2018/03/pastors-family-assaulted-southern-india/>



Indonesia

Event: Christian leaders called for increased security prior to Holy Week

Fr Felix Astono Atmojo (said "We call on each parish and mission station to stay alert ahead of the observance of Holy Week and Easter. This is very important. We don't want the [February 11, 2018] church attack to reoccur")

Date: March 13, 2018

Location: Palembang, Sumatra

Fr Franciscus Xaverius Sukendar Wignyosumarta (said "Security in churches must be tightened and cooperation with police and security personnel must be improved")

Date: March 13, 2018

Location: Semarang

Archbishop Anicetus Bongsu Sinaga OFM Cap (said that recent attacks have made Christians more vigilant, and that his cathedral has formed a 12 member security team)

Date: March 13, 2018

Location: Medan, Sumatra

Maria Theresia Erlien (parishioner, said "Being vigilant is important despite security personnel usually being deployed [for Holy Week]")

Date: March 13, 2018

Location: Matraman, East Jakarta

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/indonesian-catholics-on-alert-for-holy-week/81789>



Iraq

Samer Jajjo (aged 27, husband, father of two, paint shop employee, **stabbed to death** in front of his home)

Date: February 25, 2018

Location: Naeeriya district, Bagdad

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Archbishop-of-Kirkuk-remembers-Mgr-Rahho%E2%80%99s-martyrdom,-an-example-of-faith-for-Iraqi-Christians-43240.html>

Event: A Christian family was stabbed to death in a targeted robbery

Dr Hisham Shafiq al-Maskuni (aged 61, husband of Shaza Malik, **stabbed to death**)

Shaza Malik (wife of Dr Hisham Shafiq al-Maskuni, daughter of Khairiya Dawood, **stabbed to death**)

Khairiya Dawood (mother of Shaza Malik, **stabbed to death**)

Fr Biyos Qasha (said "We are seen as a lamb to be killed at any time")

Rayan al-Kldani (**UPDATE**: said "This crime has only one message. Frightening our people and forcing them to leave the country")

Date: March 8, 2018

Location: al-Mashtal neighborhood, Bagdad

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Chaldean-patriarchate-mourns-latest-victims-of-anti-Christian-violence-in-Baghdad-43330.html>

and <http://www.aina.org/news/20180310110029.htm>

and <http://www.aina.org/news/20180311125028.htm>



Nigeria

Rev Andrew Okebe (spoke after a Muslim attack in which nine were killed "As a pastor, I join other pastors to take our turns every night as part of the community vigilante. We can only take turns to sleep at night, but the issue here is, just as they came, how do we defend our village with sticks and torchlights? We can only raise alarms so people can run. But how far can you run from the bullet of an AK 47 in the dark?")

Date: March 8, 2018

Location: Nzharuvo village, Plateau state

Source: <http://www.globalchristiannews.org/article/death-toll-from-fulani-herdsmen-continues-to-rise-in-central-nigeria/>



Pakistan

Aneeqa Maria Akhtar (attorney, **UPDATE**: took part in a hunger strike over the arrest of Patras Masih and the police brutality directed at his cousin Sajid Masih which ended when he jumped from a fourth floor window to escape, said of Sajid "Almost every bone in his body is broken...Some hospital workers are even praying for the death of chuhra [low caste]...The shameless and merciless FIA officials took a forced statement after he survived although he kept insisting to see his lawyer. He was not even shown the copy of that statement...Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal, who ordered the inquiry against the FIA officials, has no time to meet us. This is a matter of grave concern. The poor families cannot fight powerful federal agencies...Ever since the tragedy occurred, we are all raising voice but the high authorities are not listening. Our demands are countered with fake assurance of ongoing investigation. In this country, a dead dog and a dead Christian are seen as equals")

Date: March 14, 2018

Location: Lahore

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Lawyer-for-'blasphemous'-Christians-warns-of-investigation-irregularities-in-Lahore-43355.html>



United States - Florida

Donna Dunbar (banned from leading a Bible Study in a common area by her condominium association, the association also posted a sign on the common area organ stating "ANY AND ALL CHRISTIAN MUSIC IS BANNED!")

Date: February 6, 2018

Location: Port Charlotte

Source: <https://www.charismanews.com/opinion/american-dispatch/69998-condo-bans-senior-citizen-s-bible-study-christian-music>

Today's Martyrs

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

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