

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2018-03-25 through 2018-03-31



Burundi

Archbishop Evariste Ngoyagoye (**UPDATE**: retired)

Bishop Gervais Banshimiyubusa (appointed to succeed Archbishop Evariste Ngoyagoye)

Date: March 24, 2018

Location: Bujumbura

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/63952->

[AFRICA BURUNDI Resignation of the Archbishop of Bujumbura and appointment of the new Archbishop](http://www.fides.org/en/news/63952-)



Central African Republic

Event: Approximately a dozen Christians were killed by anti-balanka militants

Fr Joseph Desire Angbabata (**killed**)

Passi Kouzouneye (school director, **killed along with his wife**)

Cardinal Dieudonne Nzapalainga (**UPDATE**: said "We strongly condemn these acts. The men of God have the task of announcing the path of peace and reconciliation")

Date: March 20, 2018

Location: Seko

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/63955->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA Unanimous condemnation for the killing of the parish priest of Seko](http://www.fides.org/en/news/63955-)



China

Zhou Jinxia (detained in [Beijing](#) on [March 15, 2018](#) for holding a sign calling on President Xi Jinping to convert to Christianity, escorted to her home; **UPDATE**: arrested)

Date: [March 16, 2018](#)

Location: [Dalian](#)

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/03/christian-woman-detained-after-trying.html>

Rev John Cao San Qiang (husband of Jamie Powell, father of two sons, minister to Myanmar Christians, arrested [at the Myanmar border with China](#) on [March 5, 2017](#) and charged with illegal border crossing; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment, fined US\$3,168)

Jing Ruxia (arrested [at the Myanmar border with China](#) on [March 5, 2017](#) and charged with illegal border crossing; **UPDATE**: sentenced to 1 year's imprisonment, fined US\$792)

Date: [March 23, 2018](#)

Location: [Pu'er, Yunnan province](#)

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/03/north-carolina-pastor-sentenced-to-7.html>

Zhang Kai (civil rights attorney; **UPDATE**: posted on social media "I would like to post a request, as I was summoned [three days ago] by the procuratorate in Ouhai, Wenzhou: Friends, please take care of my parents if I am detained again. The only reason why I would be arrested is that I helped churches secure their rights during the cross crackdown in Wenzhou. It is because of my ideals of law and my faith's compassion that I served the church as a defense lawyer for ten years and assisted several hundred churches. Remember me in your prayers, brothers and sisters! I have no clue whether I can endure violence and intimidation, but I will make an effort. Meanwhile, I have a word for the perpetrator: History has witnessed that none of those standing against God and the Church ended up well. I meant to focus on reading and writing at home and stay away from the mundane world. Nevertheless, you [government officials] have relentlessly harassed and hurt me so that I am sick of life, but I will never commit suicide. I am counting all evils you have done so far")

Date: [March 24, 2018](#)

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/03/christian-human-rights-lawyer-fears-re.html>

Fr Ding Zhanmin (underground priest, arrested in [January 2012](#) with four other priests; **UPDATE**: forcibly removed from his parish and sent to work on a farm in Xilin Gol after he refused financial enticements to join the official church)

Date: [March 19, 2018](#)

Location: [Beishaliang, Baotoukun district, Inner Mongolia](#)

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Inner-Mongolia,-an-underground-priest-expelled-from-his-parish:-forced-to-be-a-farmer-43454.html>

Bishop Vincent Guo Xijin (aged 59, underground bishop, detained in [Fuan](#) on [April 6, 2017](#) for 20 days to 'to study and learn'; released on [May 6, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: abducted by police after refusing to concelebrate Easter Mass with an excommunicated bishop)

Fr Xu Wenmin (underground diocesan chancellor; **UPDATE**: abducted by police)

Date: [March 26, 2018](#)

Location: [Mindong, Fujian province](#)

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mindong,-Msgr.-Guo-Xijin-kidnapped-by-the-police-before-Easter-43462.html>



Egypt

Mariam Makram (aged 19, disappeared after calling her husband to say she would be home in a few minutes)

Date reported: March 23, 2018

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=2112&A=34326>

Magdy Farag Samir (aged 49, teacher, arrested for administering a multiple choice exam concerning Muhammad)

Date: March 14, 2018

Location: Beni Suef province

Source: <http://www.persecution.org/2018/03/23/christian-teacher-arrested-multiple-choice-question-muhammad/>

Sami Farid (said of an attempt to license an unlicensed church "...news spread among the people of the village very quickly. Many Muslim villagers gathered in front of the 'house church' and threw stones at it. They also pelted the Copt homes next to the church. They shouted 'Allahu akbar' [Allah is greatest], and chanted slogans against the church. Then they blocked access to the street leading to the church...The committee members arrived at the village at midday to inspect the church, but they ran into a volatile crowd. The committee members called for the police to protect them. The police arrived at 3pm but didn't do anything, not arresting a single one of the extremists who attacked us...It is clear that [the law] does not apply to extremists who attack Christians")

Date: March 21, 2018

Location: El Toud, Qena province

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/03/egyptian-mob-celebrates-blocking-application-for-new-church/>



Ethiopia

Temesgen Mitiku Mezemir (aged 24, charged with 'causing outrage to religious peace and feeling' in [Arba Minch](#) on [January 23, 2018](#) after a debate with other Christians over a replica of the Ark of the Covenant, attacked and beaten along with fellow parishioners outside the courthouse; convicted on [February 2, 2018](#), sentenced to 7 months' imprisonment; **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

Date: March 19, 2018

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/03/ethiopian-christian-loses-appeal-prison-sentence/>



France

Lt Col Arnaud Beltrame (aged 44, police officer, shot by an ISIL sympathizer after he had offered to be exchanged for another hostage, hospitalized, married his fiancée on his deathbed, **died**)

Date: March 23, 2018

Location: Trebes

Source: <http://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/03/26/pope-praises-french-policeman-who-gave-his-life-to-save-hostage/>



India

Cardinal Oswald Gracias (**UPDATE:** met with Prime Minister Narendra Damodardas Modi, spoke of "sporadic attacks on institutions and personnel of religious minorities in different parts of the country. These acts of violence are against the law and damage the Country")

Date: March 20, 2018

Location: New Delhi

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/63925-ASIA_INDIA_Cardinal_Gracias_to_Prime_Minister_Modi_Attacks_on_minorities_damage_India

Events: Hindu radicals and police attacked five churches

Persia Jacob (aged 38, wife of Pastor Ravi Jacob, mother of two girls aged 10 and 14, stripped of her sari, Bible seized, kicked in the face until unconscious, said "I will die, but I can't do without the Bible...It was all too much – it caused lot of weakness. I couldn't even stand or look at anyone even. My voice was gone; I soon fainted...The attackers on that day were forcefully taking away the Bibles to burn them. I was shocked. I didn't know what to do. I held my Bible tight close to my heart. My Lord speaks to me from His Word...And, there is not a day I can go on without reading and knowing what He wants to tell me. Like a child, I was being stubborn at the same time I was also pleading", said of her daughters "They are not going to school. They have never seen anything like this attack before")

Pastor Ravi Jacob (aged 41, husband of Persia Jacob, beaten, chased over a kilometer to another village, threatened with death, said of his wife "She was kicked in the face with shoes. I

tried hard but couldn't protect her. She fell unconscious. She was lying there unconscious without her sari")

Mariyammal (attempted to file a police report, was refused)

Date: March 11, 2018

Location: Sikandar Chavadi, Tamil Nadu state

Pastor Jerome Jagatheesan (said of the Hindu radicals "They yelled at me, calling pottai, pottai [pervert]. The words they used were highly humiliating. I was told that I give my wife to adultery. She was standing there right next to me; I know how much it hurt her. She can't take a word against me, and I'm sure by now my in-laws who live in Andhra Pradesh state also had watched the video. That was not the end of it. They stripped two female members of the church, ages 51 and 40, and a young 23-year-old woman was punched in her chest. Her mobile was thrown away", police refused to register a case)

Date: March 11, 2018

Location: Koodul Pudur, Tamil Nadu state

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2018/03/ferocity-hindu-extremist-attacks-stuns-christians-tamil-nadu-india/>

Pastor Ramesh (aged 30, dragged from a government office and beaten by Hindu radicals "They [Hindu radicals] dragged me out of the revenue office...Around seven people led by Mr Narsihmulu forcibly took me to a deserted place nearby the revenue office and beat me blue and black. It looked [like] the attack was pre-planned as they used wooden sticks and iron wires to attack me and I sustained bruises all of over my body, especially on my back...[The radicals illegally] transferred the land that was bought to construct the church to Mr Narsihmulu, and he paid 50% less than the value of the land...it was like a life and death situation for us as a family. My wife and kids are so scarred and depressed over the developments. My youngest daughter is three months old and the eldest is five years. For a moment I did not know what to do, so I fled from the village...literally hiding for life")

Date: February 20, 2018

Location: Telangana state

Pastor Ravi Babu (said "A mob of 15 Hindu radicals followed me, when I was returning from [a nearby] village, after visiting [a] few Christian families [in] that village. Sensing possible trouble by the mob, I took a different route to escape the mob's attempt to attack me. Later, the same group went and assaulted [another Christian family]")

Date: March 14, 2018

Location: Telangana state

Source: <http://www.persecution.org/2018/03/22/exponential-increase-attacks-christians-telangana-india/>

Chadarajupalli Subbaravamma (aged mid-60's, convert, wife of Jayaramaiah, mother of Subba Rao, **beaten to death** by a sculptor from a Hindu temple, police acted to protect the killer by stating he was mentally ill)

Jayaramaiah (aged 70, widower of Chadarajupalli Subbaravamma)

Subba Rao (son of Chadarajupalli Subbaravamma, said "By the time we all went to the terrace, she was lying with her blouse by her side and the Bible thrown away, and her head bled

profusely. She died on the spot. The neighbors saw him [the young man] beat her to death. She was knelt in prayer and fell with her face down. The blows were so heavy that her head is broken apart. Nobody should wish such painful death to their bitter enemies even...There was no chance for the killer to escape. He went and locked himself inside the bathroom. We don't know to whom he made calls, but soon police arrived and pulled him out of the bathroom. We were howling in pain that 'mother is dead; he killed her, he killed her'. But the police told us, 'That fellow is mad'. I am not educated; my family survives only on [the produce from] our one-acre agriculture field. They asked me to 'shut up', and 'don't make a scene'. The police took the killer with them. The police had themselves written a complaint and took the signatures of my wife and assured us that the body will be taken for post-mortem, and we can perform the last rites after it. They told me if we inform any Christian leaders, they will take up protests and will not let us perform the last rites for at least ten days. They told me, 'That fellow is mental, and there can't be any complaint against him'")

Pastor Mohan Rao (said "Subbaravamma came to Christ ten years ago, took baptism and continued in faith until her death. On any Sunday, she would be the first one to make it to the church. She was a strong believer...The church is shocked to hear the news and none of us is in accord with the police statements. They are cooking up a different version that she was mistaken for a young woman wearing the same colored sari. It is not true")

Date: March 21, 2018

Location: Bollapalli village, Prakasham district, Andhra Pradesh state

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/03/elderly-christian-woman-murdered-in-india-family-say-she-was-targeted-police-say-killer-mad/>



Indonesia

Basuki Tjahaja Purnama aka Ahok (former Governor, sentenced in Jakarta on May 9, 2017 to 2 years' imprisonment on blasphemy charges despite the court ruling there was no evidence of guilt and the prosecutorial recommendation of a suspended sentence; appealed his conviction on February 2, 2018; **UPDATE**: appeal denied by the Supreme Court)

Yudo Prihanto (attorney, said "According to what I have surmised, the verdict is not merely a legal decision, but has also been strongly influenced by politics")

Date: March 26, 2018

Location: Jakarta

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/The-Supreme-Court-rejects-Ahok's-appeal-against-his-blasphemy-conviction-43460.html>



Iraq

Event: Christians recounted the 2015-2017 ISIL occupation

Rita Ayyoub (aged 30, said of her first captor [who had also bought a 14 year old Yezidi girl "He raped the both of us over and over again", later sold twice more: "I was beaten and tortured by [the jihadi's wife] every day. She would not give up until I was bleeding, from my head, for example. They made me read the Quran and threatened to kill me if I did not convert to Islam", rescued by Syrian military in November 2018)

Fr Emanuel Adel Kelo (**UPDATE:** described how Christians during the July 2015 ISIL takeover refused to meet with ISIL militants "There was specific concern that the intention was to keep women there so that they could be taken freely by the ISIL fighters", the Christians were later expelled)

Patriarch Ignatius Ephrem Joseph III (**UPDATE:** estimated that ISIL killed more than 500 Christians during their occupation)

Archbishop Amel Shamon Nona (**UPDATE:** wrote a letter describing ISIL atrocities including the murder of four siblings aged 4, 6, 8, and 15)

Date reported: March 20, 2018

Location: Nineveh plain

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20180320170452.htm>



Myanmar

Event: Two Christians were found dead six weeks after they were reported missing, had be shot dead in an apparent execution

U Hpaugan Yaw (aged 60, **shot dead**)

Ko Nhkum Naw San (aged 30, **shot dead**)

Date: March 8, 2018

Location: Kachin state

Source: <http://www.globalchristiannews.org/article/kachin-christian-refugees-murdered-in-execution-style-killing/>

and <https://barnabasfund.org/us/news/kachin-christian-refugees-murdered-in-execution-style-killing>



Nigeria

Leah Nathan Sharibu (aged 15, student, abducted by Boko Haram)

Date: February 19, 2018

Location: Dapchi

Source: <http://www.persecution.org/2018/03/22/one-dapchi-schoolgirls-released-christian/>

Rev Jeremiah Gado (**UPDATE:** said “We call on the federal government and all its agencies to ensure the immediate release of Leah Sherubu, who is a member of ECWA [Evangelical Church Winning All], without any conditions. We condemn in strong terms any attempt to forcefully convert anyone from one religion to another. As a church we continue to pray for her release and the release of all abducted Nigerians”)

Date: March 23, 2018

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2018/03/kidnapped-girls-church-calls-buhari-win-release-boko-haram-nigeria/>



Pakistan

Event: A church was attacked by at least 15 local Muslims, at least seven Christians were injured

Pastor Haleem Feroze Masih (said “Some of our church elders were trying to install a flex signboard in connection with the upcoming Easter festival on the wall in front of the church but they were stopped by Sharif’s sons. Sharif is a local tough who has previously grabbed a piece of the Christian cemetery in our colony and built a cattle shed on the graves. He is also running a gambling den and is known to patronize criminals. The elders tried to reason with the youths, but it seems that the Muslims intentionally wanted to pick a fight with us. One of our church elders told the Muslims that they had desecrated biblical verses inscribed on the flex sign, to which they responded that, ‘We are bigger than your Jesus’. Some of them whipped out their weapons and opened fire on the church members, who ran to save themselves. I immediately telephoned the police and headed out to try and defuse the situation. However, I was also beaten up, my service robe torn and my mobile phone smashed to the ground. I think we were fortunate that none of us suffered a fatal bullet injury during the clash. They also pelted stones at the police, but the policemen managed to arrest Sharif, his sons and another unidentified man from the spot while the others fled along with the weapons”)

Iftikhar Bhatti (said “Hanging on the front of the church was a Christmas banner. Some of our church members went to replace it with an Easter banner, but they were stopped by Muhammad Sharif, a Muslim living in the area. Then the pastor went along to help attach the banner to the wall, but Sharif and his sons tore it down and trampled on it. The church service had ended by then and as church members started leaving they also got caught up in the clash...Why would Muhammad Sharif stop us from putting a banner on a Christian building? We resisted and then a fight broke out”)

Bishop Abraham Daniel (said “The police have assured us of providing security to the area’s Christians and of proceeding against the accused Muslims in accordance with the law”)

Date: March 18, 2018

Location: Burewala

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2018/03/christians-wounded-muslim-attack-church-service-pakistan/>
and <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/03/pakistan-easter-banner-torn-down-christian-infighting-blamed/>

Anjum Naz Sandhu (school director, arrested in **May 2015** after two men he had accused of extortion produced an audio recording in which he allegedly committed blasphemy; convicted in **June 2016**, sentenced to death; **UPDATE**: charges dismissed on appeal for lack of evidence)

Date: March 13, 2018

Location: Gujranwala

Source: <https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/christian-embroiled-in-a-fabricated-blasphemy-case-acquitted-by-the-court/>
and <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/03/pakistan-christian-escapes-death-for-clearly-fabricated-blasphemy/>

Event: Christians protested a 25 year old land dispute in which a Muslim accepted payment for a parcel but then refused to transfer title when he discovered a church would be built

Amanat Masih (district council member)

Niamat Masih (district council member)

Date: March 22, 2018

Location: Mardan

Source: <https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/chief-justice-of-peshawar-high-court-urged-to-take-notice-of-grabbing-of-churchs-land/>

Event: Christian leaders condemned the acquittal of 20 perpetrators of the November 4, 2014 lynching of Shahzad and Shama Masih

Tahir Naveed Chaudhry (attorney, **UPDATE**: said "Unfortunately, government prosecutors often fail to do their job which results in the acquittal of culprits")

Hyacinth Peter (**UPDATE**: said "None of those arrested in mob attacks on religious minorities have been punished in the history of the country. Courts are pressurized by fanatics who use both their finances and influences to free their goons. They openly abuse judges")

Date: March 26, 2018

Location: Lahore

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/court-sets-free-20-in-pakistani-christian-couple-lynching-case/81898>

Event: Three Christian men were attacked by two hospital security staff and by three Muslim doctors wielding surgical instruments and a pane of glass, the attack was triggered after the Christians had complained of inadequate medical care for a pregnant family member and were called insolent

Kiran Saleem (aged 30, wife of Kashif Shafeeq, denied medical care for her late term pregnancy until family members protested)

Kashif Shafeeq (husband of Kiran Saleem, attacked, treated for injuries)

Sunil Saleem (aged 28, husband of Asiya, father of four, brother of Kiran Saleem, attacked, **died from his injuries**)

Asiya (widow of Sunil Saleem, mother of four)

Anil Saleem (aged 27, brother of Kiran Saleem, attacked, treated for injuries, described the attack as "harrowing")

Saleem Johnson (aged 60, father of Kiran Saleem)

Mehwish (aged 26, sister of Kiran, Anil and Sunil Saleem, said "I am deeply disturbed by what has happened to our family, we were expecting the birth of a new child into our growing family, but have now lost our eldest brother...The men who murdered our brother are meant to be doctors - people who save lives - how could this happen? Medical instruments were used to kill Sunil I saw the wounds myself and now I will be emotionally scarred for life. At this moment in time I just want to cry forever...I pray to God that he cares for my brother Sunil and seek his help now in obtaining justice")

Date: March 26, 2018

Location: Lahore

Source: <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/hippocratic-oath-breaking-doctors-kill-christian-man-in-disgraceful-pakistani-hospital>

and <https://www.christiansinpakistan.com/hospitals-security-guards-brutally-beat-christian-to-death/>

and <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6817>

Event: Christians celebrated Palm Sunday after returning to their homes following accusations of blasphemy against Patras Masih

Pastor Safnia Bashir (said "We were not sure about holding a public rally. Just a month ago, most of the villagers had fled the village for fear of mob attack. Finally we decided to steer the worshippers only in the Christian neighborhood...Observe a fast and pray for an end to this lawlessness and terrorism. Pray for the rulers, even if you do not like them. We are only safe when our country is safe")

Hameed Masih (had fled his home, said "When we came back here two weeks later, we found our apartment had been trashed. All of our utensils and clothes were strewn over the floor. They had smashed our TV set and cupboards. The washing machine was wrecked. They even damaged my neighbor's motorbike...We definitely got a boost from being able to profess our faith openly in the streets after being haunted and living in terror. It was a big deal")

Khalid Shehzad (activist, said "The pastor should have contacted the police and asked for reinforcements. Christian villagers could easily be targeted again. The authorities will blame the organizer of the rally if it provokes more attacks")

Bishop Emmanuel (**UPDATE**: has not been able to return to the village)

Date: March 25, 2018

Location: Dhair village, Shahdara town, Lahore, Punjab province

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/defiant-palm-sunday-procession-held-in-pakistani-village/81890>



Sweden

Aideen Strandsson (convert, refugee from Iran; **UPDATE**: still facing deportation to Iran, denied employment by the government, martial arts certificate seized by the government, has been offered asylum in Hungary)

Date: March 14, 2018

Source: <https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2018/march/update-sweden-tries-to-starve-out-christian-asylum-seeker>

Event: Church school leaders objected to a proposal by a political party to shut down all religious schools

Paddy Maguire (principal, said that the government wants to target Muslim schools “but they are too cowardly to say so”)

Daniel Sziranyi (board member)

Kristina Hellner (diocesan communications officer, said “The absolute majority of the religious schools in Sweden show excellent results but a small number of them - and these are Islamic schools - have had different kinds of problems. Instead of doing something about these specific schools, certain politicians would like to solve it by closing all religious schools”)

Date reported: March 20, 2018

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/catholics-decry-swedish-political-partys-plan-to-close-all-religious-schools-58561>



Syria

Event: The Turkish military continued operations against the Kurds

Valentine Hanan (said "Afrin was untouched by the war going on all around us. We were a safe place in the middle of our war-torn nation...I am very grieved about what is going on today. Six years ago when I started the church ministry in Afrin, I didn't know of any other Christian. Many of those who come to church are from Muslim background and they became Christians. Many people were coming to the church because they were really interested in knowing more about Christ. Those who attended said they felt peaceful and hopeful when they heard the gospel message.. Many of the other Christian families are still in Afrin and surrounding villages and are now trying to get out...Now

they [Christians] are afraid that they could be persecuted for their faith. Many are terrified for their lives because of ISIL and other Islamic groups are moving around the town")

Date: March 21, 2018

Location: Afrin

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20180321121017.htm>

Charmaine Hedding (described the plight of Christian converts from Islam "[Christians] should pray for their safety. They should pray for these families to stay together because in these chronically desperate situations where masses of people are fleeing families can get lost and little ones can get hurt so we need to pray for these families that they can stay together and find a safe place outside of the bombing and outside of the war that's happening in the takeover of Afrin...We know from statements from what they have made that they want to get rid of the people in this area and bring in other people from Syria that have got nothing to do with this area and don't have any connection to this part of the country so it's a population displacement and moving in other groups")

Date: March 23, 2018

Location: Afrin

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20180323155017.htm>



Turkey

Pastor Andrew Brunson (U.S. citizen, husband of Norine Brunson, detained as a 'national security risk' 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; as of [August 25, 2017](#) four new charges have been added by prosecutors including 'gathering state secrets for espionage, attempting to overthrow the Turkish parliament and government, and to change the constitutional order'; confirmed to be a hostage at a [September 28, 2017](#) press conference by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the President explicitly called for the U.S. government to exchange him for Sufi cleric and U.S. resident Fethullah Gulen; **UPDATE:** prosecutors said they would seek life imprisonment)

Date: March 13, 2018

Location: Izmir

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/03/turkey-calls-life-imprisonment-us-pastor-andrew-brunson/>



Turkmenistan

Arslan Begenchov (aged 18, arrested on [January 2, 2018](#) for refusing military service; sentenced to one year's imprisonment on [January 17, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

Date: February 13, 2018

Location: Lebap

Kerven Kakabayev (aged 21, sentenced to prison in [December 2015](#) for refusing military service; **UPDATE**: sentenced to one year's imprisonment for refusing military service)

Date: January 29, 2018

Location: Dashoguz

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2363



Uganda

Gobera Bashir (aged 27, convert, doused with hot cooking oil by relatives after leaving church, suffered 40% burns, hospitalized, released but still required intensive medical care)

Date: March 10, 2018

Location: Kakoli village, Naboa sub-county, Budaka district

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2018/03/muslim-relatives-new-christian-eastern-uganda-attack-hot-oil/>



United Kingdom

Pastor David Lynn (Canadian citizen, arrested on [March 20, 2018](#) for street preaching after a homosexual made accusations that he had called her 'perverse' and 'sinful'; **UPDATE**: released without charge, video recordings showed the accusations were false)

Date: March 21, 2018

Location: Barking

Source: <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/christian-preacher-arrested-in-barking-for-hate-speech-has-charges-dropped>

Rev Keith Osmund-Smith (fired as a police chaplain after he released police information regarding police failure to apprehend members of a Muslim rape gang)

Date reported: November 1, 2016

Location: Telford, West Mercia

Source: <https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/emergency-services/2016/11/01/west-mercias-police-chaplain-suspended-after-comments-on-child-sex-exploitation/>



United States - Alabama

Alison Harris (aged 66, arrested on [May 26, 2017](#) for disorderly conduct outside an abortion clinic; **UPDATE**: acquitted)

Date: [March 26, 2018](#)

Location: Huntsville

Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/victory-alabama-sidewalk-counselors-vindicated-in-court>

United States - Georgia

Pastor Daunte Long (church vandalized with satanic graffiti, said to the vandals “I want to invite you to become a part of this community, because I believe that you need help, and that we can help and build a stronger community together”)

Date reported: [March 21, 2018](#)

Location: McDonough

United States - North Carolina

William Yeoman (church trustee, church vandalized, said “Why? Did God do anything to you? Did we do anything to you?”)

Date reported: [March 21, 2018](#)

Location: Belville

Pastor Wilburn Lefler (church vandalized with graffiti stating “[expletive] Jesus” and “[expletive] Billy Graham + diabolic delusive ‘divinity’”, said “We’ll be praying about it, praying for them. Pray that the community would ... show people that there’s still a lot of godly people in this town that love the Lord and serve the Lord”)

Date reported: [March 21, 2018](#)

Location: Flat Rock

United States - Texas

Pastor Mark Follett (church vandalized with graffiti stating “[expletive] Christians” and “phoneys”, said “When I was a kid, I would’ve never thought that things like this would happen, but they are”)

Date reported: [March 21, 2018](#)

Location: Jasper

Source: <http://christiannews.net/2018/03/21/string-of-vandalism-cases-reported-at-churches-nationwide/>



Uzbekistan

Lyudmila Keadze (home raided by police, children's Bibles seized, later returned)

Date: [January 22, 2018](#)

Location: [Navoi](#)

Nikolay Pivtsev (home raided by police without warrant in his absence, wife and children locked by police in their bathroom, Bible and computer seized)

Date: [January 24, 2018](#)

Location: [Navoi](#)

Nikolay Pivtsev (**UPDATE**: Eight year old son removed from school by police and questioned without his parents' knowledge, told he would be punished if he went to church, returned to school)

Date: [January 26, 2018](#)

Location: [Navoi](#)

Event: Three Christians were each fined US\$1,033 for illegal missionary activity

Artur Alpayev (husband of Irina Alpayev, **UPDATE**)

Ilya Bachurin

Nikolay Serin (husband of Larissa Serin, **UPDATE**)

Date: [February 19, 2018](#)

Location: [Navoi](#)

Event: Two Christians received written police warnings to stop their religious activities

Artur Alpayev (husband of Irina Alpayev, **UPDATE**)

Nikolay Serin (husband of Larissa Serin, **UPDATE**)

Date: [February 20, 2018](#)

Location: [Navoi](#)

Aleksandr Khokhlov (husband of Gulnara Kokhlova, **UPDATE**: home raided by police for a passport check, notebook and memory chip seized)

Alina Chernikova (daughter of Gulnara Kokhlova, step-daughter of Aleksandr Khokhlov, taken along with her mother by police to the local mahalla committee, released)

Date: [January 22, 2018](#)

Location: [Bektemir district, Tashkent region](#)

Alina Chernikova (daughter of Gulnara Kokhlova, step-daughter of Aleksandr Khokhlov;
UPDATE: notified that she had been convicted on February 7, 2018 on illegal possession of religious materials charges, fined US\$413, appeal made impossible by the illegal delay in notification of her trial)

Date: [March 12, 2018](#)

Location: [Bektemir district, Tashkent region](#)

Stanislav Kim (home raided by anti-terrorism police during a [November 14, 2017](#) worship service, worshippers were arrested and questioned for two hours at the police station, Christian books seized; **UPDATE:** fined US\$1,797)

Oybek Rahimov (husband of Gulnara Rahimov, detained on [November 14, 2017](#) at the home of Stanislav Kim, admitted under questioning that he read Christian books, home then raided by police, Bibles, songbooks, CDs, and laptop seized; **UPDATE:** fined US\$1,618)

Date: [December 21, 2017](#)

Location: [Urgench, Khorezm region](#)

Stanislav Kim (fined US\$1,797 on [December 21, 2017](#); **UPDATE:** appeal denied)

Oybek Rahimov (fined US\$1,618 on [December 21, 2017](#); **UPDATE:** appeal denied)

Date: [January 26, 2018](#)

Location: [Urgench, Khorezm region](#)

Stanislav Kim (**UPDATE:** home raided by police during a worship service)

Oybek Rahimov (**UPDATE:** present during the police raid, Bible seized)

Date: [February 11, 2018](#)

Location: [Urgench, Khorezm region](#)

Stanislav Kim (home raided by police during a [February 11, 2018](#) worship service; **UPDATE:** ordered to the police station, told after arrival he and two women would be taken to court for their attendance at the February 11 worship service, released after the women did not appear)

Date: [March 13, 2018](#)

Location: [Urgench, Khorezm region](#)

Yelena Nazarova (wife of Ahmadjon Nazarov, fined US\$44,333 in [Urgench](#) on [September 4, 2017](#), Bible and literature ordered to be destroyed; **UPDATE:** the Supreme Court reduced the fine to US\$11,083 and ordered her Bible be returned)

Nilufar Isakova (fined US\$44,333 in [Urgench](#) on [September 4, 2017](#); **UPDATE:** the Supreme Court reduced the fine to US\$11,083)

Madina Yokubova (fined US\$44,333 in [Urgench](#) on [September 4, 2017](#); **UPDATE:** the Supreme Court reduced the fine to US\$11,083)

Date: [February 9, 2018](#)

Location: [Tashkent](#)

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2361

Today's Martyrs

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

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