

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Weekly Report – 2018-09-23 through 2018-09-29



### Argentina

Fr Juan Pablo Nunez (church door shot at, bullet fragments landed on the altar, the shooting came a month after he had complained about organized drug crime activities in his neighborhood)

Date: September 23, 2018

Location: Barrio Larrea, Rosario

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/64816-AMERICA\\_ARGENTINA\\_Shots\\_against\\_the\\_church\\_intimidating\\_message\\_of\\_the\\_narcos](http://www.fides.org/en/news/64816-AMERICA_ARGENTINA_Shots_against_the_church_intimidating_message_of_the_narcos)



### China

Wang Yanfeng (cited in a government notice ordering a church to close, the government agents left the notice after 400 congregants resisted their entry into the church)

Date: September 9, 2018

Location: Zhengzhou, Henan province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/09/christians-resist-as-officials-attempt.html>

Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-Kium SDB (aged 86; **UPDATE**: wrote that the recent agreement between the Vatican and the Chinese government concerning joint appointment of bishops is "A masterpiece of inventiveness in saying nothing with many words")

Date: September 22, 2018

Location: Hong Kong

Source: <https://oldyosef.hkdavc.com/?p=1071>

Ying Fuk-tsang (divinity school director; **UPDATE**: described new government restrictions on religious use of the internet "The measures, plus the recent suppression of house churches, reveal that authorities are completely obliterating the space for house churches to publish information since the internet is the main way in which house churches preach")

Date published: September 19, 2018

Location: Hong Kong

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/chinas-internet-rules-will-strangle-religion/83363>

Zhang Shiqun (arrested while attending an underground church)

Date: August 19, 2018

Location: Guizhou province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/09/authorities-raid-henan-church.html>

Pastor Li Guozhi aka Yang Hua (husband of Wang Hongwu, detained on [December 9, 2015](#) for 'illegally holding state secrets'; formally charged on [January 22, 2016](#) with 'obstructing justice' and 'gathering a crowd to disturb social order'; sentenced on [January 5, 2017](#) to two and a half years imprisonment; released on [June 19, 2018](#), sang worship songs as he left prison; **UPDATE**: has been under constant surveillance by police)

Date: September 27, 2018

Location: Guiyang, Guizhou province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2018/09/tortured-pastor-suffers-as-persecution.html>



## Colombia

Pastor Elfren Martnez Prez (aged 55, husband, father of five, **shot dead** by a paramilitary group outside his home)

Date: September 16, 2018

Location: Antioquia

Source: <https://www.csw.org.uk/2018/09/24/press/4079/article.htm>



## Egypt

**Event: Muslim rioters attacked and plundered the homes of Christians because one was used for prayer**

Adel Saeed Rizq (home attacked and plundered)

Reda Abdel-Sayed Rizq (home attacked and plundered)

Kamel Fawzy Shahata (home attacked and plundered)

Fawzy Shahata Boutros (home attacked and plundered)

Bishop Makarios (escaped a [September 30, 2013](#) assassination attempt in [el-Sario, Abou Qorqas, Minya province](#); **UPDATE**: visited with the families who experienced the attack on their homes, said it was terrible that their children “should be subjected to such horror simply because their families exercised their constitutional right of freedom of worship”)

Date: August 31, 2018

Location: Dimshau Hashim village, Minya province

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2018/09/coptic-christians-deprived-of-home-worship-hall-in-egypt/>



## **Iraq**

Tara Fares (aged 22, model, beauty pageant winner, social media personality, **shot dead**)

Date: September 27, 2018

Location: Bagdad

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20180928102843.htm>



## **Jamaica**

Pastor James Johnson (aged 29, **shot dead** while teaching a class at his church)

Date: September 20, 2018

Location: St Catherine

Source:

[http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/Young\\_St\\_Catherine\\_pastor\\_shot\\_dead\\_in\\_church?profile=1228](http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/Young_St_Catherine_pastor_shot_dead_in_church?profile=1228)



## **Myanmar**

Rev Lazaru (released a statement denouncing rebel acts of violence against Christians including arrests of pastors and forced conscription of male and female students into the rebel army)

Date: September 27, 2018

Location: near Mongpauk, Shan state

Fr Mariano Soe Naing (said "The Sisters were interrogated by the authorities for the first time on 9 September at their building. Once it was determined that the women religious were working only in the field of education, the officials let them go, in fact, they complimented their work...The young people [helping the sisters] were taken to the police station [on September 16]. The agents treated them well, did not harm them and after a few hours released them. On the 23rd, together with their personal belongings,

they again took them to the barracks, where they spent the night. The following day, despite the opposition of local villagers, the youth and the nuns were ordered to leave Mong Mau and return to Lashio. The authorities know who the Catholics are and what they do...Their behavior is wrong. First, they invite us and then they throw us out without any explanations”)

Date: September 24, 2018

Location: Mong Mau

Cardinal Charles Maung Bo SDB (aged 69, **UPDATE**: met with the nuns who were expelled from Mong Mau and heard their stories)

Date: September 26, 2018

Location: Lashio

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Pro-China-rebels-shut-down-Baptist-churches,-arrest-Baptist-pastors-and-expel-Catholic-nuns-45072.html>



## Nigeria

Fr Louis Odudu (abducted, date unknown; escaped from captivity on [September 15, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: **complained of pains, hospitalized, died**)

Fr Benedict Ukutegbe (said that Fr Louis Odudu’s death was likely related to his abduction, from which he escaped only 4 days earlier: “He was pronounced dead at a private hospital in Warri, hours after he reportedly complained of pains and demanded to be taken to a hospital”)

Date: September 19, 2018

Location: Warri

Source: <http://dailypost.ng/2018/09/21/catholic-priest-dies-four-days-escaping-kidnappers/>

Rev Gerison Ezekiel Killa (aged 43, husband, father of six, **drowned** along with at several others in a river while attempting to escape a Fulani Muslim attack that claimed at least 27 lives)

Bishop Stephen Dami Mamza (aged 49, Christian Association of Nigeria [CAN]; **UPDATE**: said “[Innocent Christians were being] killed by these so-called herdsmen on a daily basis, without security forces responding appropriately to stop them from hurting Christians...incessant attacks on Christians has led to hunger and starvation, adding that if these Christians are not aided many will die of starvation”)

Solomon Faider (said the conflict has “gone on for three or four years now, without the government or anybody else finding a solution. There seems to be collusion between the military and the killer herdsmen group. Where the suspected killer herdsmen are reported to be attacking from is called Abbare. This place is just a 30 minutes’ drive from Numan, and the military have been informed of the impending attack four hours before it happened”)

Sodom Tayedi (state House Assembly member, said “There are soldiers camped in Abbare, yet these attackers will always mobilize from that Abbare. There is never a time they’ll attack and I don’t call security forces as member representing the constituency...I just called the Brigade Commander again and he assured me that troops are on their way to the area. We had intelligence report of the attack and reported to the paramount ruler [local chief], who always passes the same information to the security forces, but they will always come and destroy our community”)

Date: September 13-16, 2018

Locations: Gon, Bolki, Ndumusu, Yotti and Yanga villages, Numan local government area, Adamawa state

Rahab Solomon (later said “My husband and I went to Numan to my pick up our children around 2pm. At about 3pm, while we were on our way back home, we heard that our village was under attack and that three persons were killed. We couldn’t go back home because we were told that our house was burnt. So we came to stay in this camp...The next day we called my husband’s brother and he told us that the Fulani chased our people and killed so many of them. Those who tried to run through the river were shot and many who tried to escape through the river, but could not swim, died as well, those who could swim were able to survive. We heard that over 25 bodies were recovered from the river. The exact number of people who died in the attack is yet to be known as the place is still under attack...We were told that the Fulani militants burnt down all our houses, and some women and children who hid in the farms were abducted by the Fulani. We no longer have a place to call home. Right now we are helpless”)

Date: September 13, 2018

Location: Bolki village, Numan local government area, Adamawa state

Jidauna Igiya (village leader, said "...we were home with our families, we did not know that the Fulani were coming to attack us. Although we heard rumors earlier that there was a planned attack by the Fulani on Pasham and Lau villages, so we did not think they will attack us since we did not receive such messages, but at about 4pm, we heard gunshot sounds. Everybody in the village sought cover and began to run for safety, as the Fulani were shooting and burning houses...The Fulani burnt all our houses. No house is standing right now and we cannot go back to our villages. The Fulani also moved from our village to Ndumusu, from Ndumusu to Yanga, from Yanga to Bolki, and continued their attack, killing more people and burning more houses. They took away our cattle and looted our foodstuff and property and burnt the remaining things they could not take away. Twenty-six people were killed in our village, Gon, while two others were wounded...During the attack, we tried to call security forces but none came to our rescue. We managed to put our families, children, women and old people through the bush and that is how we were able to be saved. Right now we are all scattered. Some of us are still in the bush, taking shelter around Gon north, while some of our families are in Numan and others in other villages...Most people who tried to escape through the river during the attack lost their lives as the Fulani chased them because they could not swim. It is not easy for us right now to find food to eat. We have to go to nearby villages to get food for our survival”)

Date: September 16, 2018

Location: Gon village, Numan local government area, Adamawa state

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/09/20-nigerian-christians-drown-in-river-attempting-to-escape-fulani-attackers/>



## Pakistan

Faraz Ahmed Badar (aged 26, son of Bibi and Badar Masih, hospital manager, reported on [September 7, 2018](#) to have been attacked in [Gujranwala](#) with acid over his entire body, hospitalized; **UPDATE: died**)

Badar Masih (aged 48, father of Faraz Ahmed Badar, said "There was a lot of jealousy at his place of employment, we live in a dog eat dog culture where often Christians become the victims because of their vulnerable status. My son was regularly abused by Muslims who could not stand the fact that a Christian man was in a position senior to them. Our country is bigoted and many most Muslims believe all Christians should be sweepers not managers, they call us 'Chura' a name that means untouchable cleaner...This is not the first time that Faraz was attacked. Only a few months previously Faraz was attacked by another group of unidentified men wearing masks telling that as a Christian he was not fit to lick their boots, they even shoved their boots in Faraz's mouth. They threatened him with death unless he left his employment telling him that his ritual impurity meant he was contaminating the health of 'pure Muslims'")

Bibi (aged 45, mother of Faraz Ahmed Badar, said "I cannot believe my innocent son was killed. He done nothing wrong barring adhering to the Christian faith. He was a committed volunteer of our church and he was nearing the age of marriage which was very exciting for our family - he did not get a chance to live a full life")

Date: [September 15, 2018](#)

Location: [Lahore](#)

Source [warning - graphic]: <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/christian-hospital-manager-dies-after-motorcycle-acid-attack>

Aasiya Noreen aka Asia Bibi (aged 53, wife of Ashiq Masih, mother of five including Isham, daughter of Soran Masih, convicted of blasphemy in [2009](#) and sentenced to death; **UPDATE: still incarcerated, has begun to show symptoms of possible dementia such as memory loss and confusion, has not received medical treatment**)

Date: [September 24, 2018](#)

Location: [Multan prison, Punjab province](#)

Source: <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/pakistani-christians-raise-awareness-of-asia-bibis-plaint-by-running>



## Ukraine

**Event: A Ukrainian nationalist group was reported as having added the names of Orthodox prelates of the Moscow patriarchate to their web site as enemies of the state, some who have been listed in the past have been killed**

Metropolitan Onuphry Berezovsky (**UPDATE**)

Metropolitan Pavel Lebed (**UPDATE**)

Metropolitan Vladimir Moroz (**UPDATE**)

Date reported: September 26, 2018

Source: <http://orthochristian.com/116027.html>



### **United States - Alabama**

Daniel French (husband of Valerie French, anti-abortion protestor, cited in a criminal complaint on [May 18, 2018](#) that he had damaged an umbrella that was property of an abortion clinic, the damage actually occurred when a clinic volunteer hit him over the head with the umbrella; **UPDATE**: charges dismissed after he produced a video in court that showed him being beaten with the umbrella by the clinic volunteer)

Date: September 20, 2018

Location: Montgomery

Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/judge-declares-pro-life-advocate-not-guilty-of-absurd-charge-in-montgomery>

## **Today's Martyrs**

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

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