

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2019-02-03 through 2019-02-09



Egypt

Ebtehaj Alsanosi Altejani Mostafa (aged 42, convert, wife of a pastor, fled [Sudan](#) in 2005 after five arrests for converting from Islam; **UPDATE**: abducted by 2 Sudanese, beaten, tortured, repeatedly raped, said “I will not go back to Islam – I hate Islam”, awoke on a street after her last beating)

Date: February 2017

Location: Cairo

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2019/01/kidnapping-torture-in-egypt-of-christian-woman-from-sudan-highlights-convert-pressures/>



North Korea

Hyun Sarah (aged 23, imprisoned, beaten, told her interrogators "My name is Hyun Sarah, it's the name that God and my church have given to me. I'm a child of God and I'm not scared to die. So if you want to kill me, go ahead and kill me", **disappeared**)

Date: 2004

Source: <http://mattersindia.com/2019/02/christians-in-north-korea-face-terrible-persecution-report-defectors/>



Russia

George Velikanov (aged 35, husband of Natalia, seminarian, church charity press secretary, **died** while rescuing a homeless man who had fallen in front of a train)

Natalia Velikanova (widow of George Velikanov)

Bishop Panteleimon (wrote "An extremely bright man has died, the first press secretary of the Orthodox service Mercy, George Velikanov. He died a righteous death, saving a

homeless man on the railway platform. George was a deep, bright, kind person, who was interested in questions of theology and was directly involved in works of charity and mercy. I know that George was going to become a priest")

Date: January 24, 2018

Location: Moscow

Source: <http://orthochristian.com/119110.html>
and <http://orthochristian.com/110188.html>



Syria

Pastor Zani (husband of Chinar, fled after the occupation of his city by the Turkish military and their allies, said "Everything in the church has been stolen. This is the terrorists' very nature of behavior. And they burned the church")

Chinar (wife of Pastor Zani, fled after the occupation of her city by the Turkish military and their allies, said "They were a group of people with weapons that entered our neighborhood and they were stealing. So, my cousin went out and asked them, 'what are you doing?' So, the men with weapons attacked my cousin's house and shot and killed his son")

Date: 2018

Location: Afrin, Aleppo district

Source: <http://www.aina.org/news/20190202125645.htm>

Fr Ibrahim Alsabagh OFM (aged 47; **UPDATE**: said of his home "It is a wounded city, with broken wings. Its economy is destroyed and must be rebuilt almost from scratch. There is a widespread feeling of sadness and bitterness. When we are asked how things are, we usually reply that the war has just begun, because now the wounds are beginning to emerge in all their depth...The deepest wounds concern the human being, the heart and the soul of many children raised during the war which show evident psychological fragility...As Christians we are always threatened with disappearing, in Syria as in the whole Middle East. The community lives suspended between heaven and earth, we are hung on the Cross, in suffering, in bitterness. Eight years ago we entered a tunnel that, even today, it does not seem to have an end...")

Date: February 2, 2019

Location: Aleppo

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Fr.-Ibrahim:-Syria,-a-football-at-the-feet-of-the-international-powers-46152.html>



United States - California

Robert Whitman (aged 67, husband of Mindy Whitman, retired pastor, **stabbed to death** by a young man he had been counselling)

Mindy Whitman (widow of Robert Whitman, stabbed in the face, survived)

Date: January 23, 2019

Location: Redding

Source: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/redding/obituary.aspx?n=robert-d-whitman&pid=191410350>

Today's Martyrs

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

or write to

2490 Black Rock Turnpike #455

Fairfield CT 06825-2400

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