

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2019-04-21 through 2019-04-27



China

Xu Yonghai (imprisoned three times in past years for his faith; **UPDATE**: said the current crackdown against churches was the darkest he has even known)

Date reported: April 23, 2019

Location: Beijing

Source: <https://www.persecution.org/2019/04/23/beijing-house-churches-not-ceasing-worship-spite-challenges/>



Egypt

Event: A church was closed after an attack by a mob instigated by construction for expansion, religious school children were traumatized by the attack

Fr Basil (injured)

Fr Pachomius (injured)

Asaad Bakhit Rizk Allah (injured)

Date: April 12, 2019

Location: Khalaf Allah Jaber village, Sohag province

Source: <https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2019/04/20/egypt-coptic-christians-without-church-for-pascha-following-mob-attack/>



Germany

Event: A Muslim yelled 'Allahu akbar' [God is greater] in a church and threw rocks at the 500 congregants, started a stampede, 24 were injured, 4 hospitalized

Marko Vidovic (teacher, said "I heard someone call out loud. The church was full of visitors. People threw themselves anxiously on the floor, others ran and stumbled. Kids were screaming")

Jozo Dramac (said "Someone was screaming in Arabic ' Allah, Allah', I understood. I was there with my wife and son. People were panicking. I tried to keep calm but I'm still scared")

Marko Petrovic (said "The man ran past me, rammed my elbow into my side and shouted 'Allahu Akbar'. He threw something. A few visitors, strong men, were able to wrestle and hold him to the ground until police arrived")

Date: April 20, 2019

Location: Munich

Source: <https://politikstube.com/muenchen-dunkelhaeutiger-platz-in-oster-gottesdienst-und-schrie-allahu-akbar/> - with translation

and <https://www.tz.de/muenchen/stadt/muenchen-ort29098/muenchen-mann-loest-massenpanik-in-muenchner-kirche-aus-neue-dramatische-details-12207368.html> - with translation



India

Bale Murmu (aged 28, wife of Jaata Murmu, mother, beaten by a neighbor for witnessing Christ to his relatives)

Jaata Murmu (husband of Bale Murmu, father, attempted to rescue his wife from a beating by a neighbor, also beaten)

Pastor Girish Chander Marandi (attacked on [February 8, 2019](#) after he and other pastors confronted a neighbor over his attacks on Christians the previous day; **UPDATE:** described the attack by the same neighbor “Majhi with all his force pressed her breasts and pushed her to the floor. While he was kicking her in her stomach, his wife, Gouri Majhi, brought a wooden stick, and the couple beat her black and blue. Murmu suffered bruises all over her body and, her stomach and breasts were swollen. We provided her first aid that night, and the next day we went to the police station”)

Date: April 1, 2019

Location: Jharkhand state

Belu Ganjo (wife beaten by fellow villagers and threatened with drowning, beaten when he attempted to rescue her, 4 year old daughter forcibly thrown to the floor from upstretched arms but suffered only minor injuries, fled the village, returned after police intervened)

Pastor Manoj Munda (described the attack on the family of Belu Ganjo “The entire village surrounded her [Belu Ganjo's wife] and had decided to tie her with a rope and drown her in the well...The mob lifted up their 4-year-old daughter and forcefully threw her to the floor. By God’s grace, the child suffered only minor injuries. Ganjo ran for his life with his child and wife to another Christian’s house, but the angry mob followed them, so they

locked their houses, and in that night they fled away from the village...Even at the police station [the next day], they were shouting that Ganjo accepted a foreign faith and that they should not enter the village until they renounce Christianity. But police told them that the Christians can freely live out their faith, and nobody must stop them”)

Date: March 10, 2019

Location: Pandawa Tanda, Jharkhand state

Event: Two Christians were arrested on illegal conversion allegations, they had asked a Hindu niece who was literate to read the Bible to them since they could not read it, the two were released without charge at midnight

Christina Oraon

Sukro Munda

Date: March 30, 2019

Location: Ranchi, Jharkhand state

Event: Church prayer service for a newlywed couple was attacked by the husband's parents and neighbors

Risha Toppo (convert, newlywed and secret husband of Roshani Kachhap, church attacked by his parents during a prayer service, dragged to the police station along with his wife and her parents, banished from the community, said “...my parents and a mob of extremists from our village came to the church and took my wife and me to the police station. My mother accused my wife and her family of forcefully converting me...I left everything behind and followed Christ. Today we are surviving with the help of a basic salary I receive from working in a private clinic and my wife’s payments from tutoring some school students. We are working very hard but are happy that we are leading a Christian life”)

Roshani Kachhap (newlywed and secret wife of Risha Toppo, church attacked by her husband's parents during a prayer service, dragged to the police station along with her husband and her parents, accused with her parents of forcibly converting her husband despite his conversion occurring 4 years earlier and his continued residence with his parents)

Date: March 5, 2019

Location: Ranchi, Jharkhand state

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2019/04/food-deprivation-beatings-and-jail-as-christians-suffer-in-jharkhand-india/>

Event: Forty Christians were beaten and driven from their village into the forest, seven homes were ransacked

Mohan Vadeka

Mistu Vadeka

Jilla Vadeka

Date: April 14, 2019

Location: Patamanda village, Odisha state

Source: <https://www.persecution.org/2019/04/23/40-christians-violently-kicked-village-india/>



Kenya

Charles Ndingi Mudasir (convert from Islam, beaten by his father in 2014; taken to the airport in 2015 by his uncle and brother for a trip to Qatar, his crying brother confessed he was to be beheaded on arrival, escaped; met his father in a coffee shop in 2017, father poisoned his coffee, hospitalized; **UPDATE**: abducted from a cyber cafe by men hired by his father, held for 7 days without food and with little water, threatened with death, released)

Date: March 2019

Location: Mombasa

Source: <https://www.persecution.org/2019/04/22/greatest-enemy-christian-faith-father-part-1/> and <https://www.persecution.org/2019/04/23/greatest-enemy-christian-faith-father-part-2/>



Netherlands

Chen Yan (Chinese citizen, asylum applicant, detained in an immigration facility after documenting Chinese persecutions, at risk of deportation to China)

Date: April 2, 2019

Source: <https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/04/imprisoned-petitioner-pens-letter.html>



Nigeria

Event: Fulani Muslims attacked a church during a baby dedication, killing 17 including the baby's mother

Safaratu John Kabiru Ali (aged 21, wife of John Kabiru Ali, mother, **killed**)

Afiniki Kako (aged 10, **killed**)

Ali Nkene (aged 80, **killed**)

Amos Julius (aged 60, **killed**)

Ayuba Bulus (aged 11, **killed**)

Gode Kako (aged 13, **killed**)

Haruna Bawa (aged 22, **killed**)

Justina Barrau (aged 60, **killed**)

Kadon Sule (aged 20, **killed**)

Mary Amos (aged 40, **killed**)

Matthew Emmanuel (aged 28, **killed**)

Samame Andaha (aged 28, musician, **killed**)

Sarakuna Haruna (aged 21, **killed**)

Simon Anfani (aged 37, **killed**)

Sunday Adebayo John (aged 21, **killed**)

Tafiya Baya (aged 17, **killed**)

Talatu Mada (aged 40, **killed**)

John Kabiru Ali (aged 32, widower of Safaratu John Kabiru Ali, father, injured, hospitalized in critical condition)

Alkali Raba (aged 43, injured)

Ayuba Maikano (aged 80, injured)

Biyaya Engila (aged 60, injured)

Gode Tijani (aged 30, injured)

Juliana Clement (aged 47, injured)

Maikasuwa Engila (aged 30, injured)

Nicholas Danzaria (aged 26, injured)

Samuel Meshi (Akwanga Local Government Council chairman, said of the Fulani Muslims
“They just started shooting sporadically on a community that was just having a feast of dedication of a child after a church service earlier in the day on Sunday, 14 April, at a Baptist church in the area. The killings occurred in the evening of that day. Unfortunately, these persons were killed in cold blood for just no reason”)

Pastor Samson Gamu Yare (**UPDATE**: called the attack "barbaric")

Date: April 14, 2019

Location: Konshu-Numa village, Akwanga county, Nasarawa state

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2019/04/muslim-fulani-herdsmen-massacre-christians-after-baby-dedication-in-nigeria/>



Pakistan

Bishop Samson Shukardin OFM (**UPDATE**: complained of the scheduling of college exams for Easter weekend "The Department of Education of the province of Sindh has the duty to take into account the dates of religious festivals and to set up the schedule of

examinations. It is not difficult to know. We ask for the postponement of the exams foreseen during the Easter Triduum")

Pastor Adeel Patras Chaudhry (vice president of "Jesus Life TV", **UPDATE**: said "Holy Week is a challenging and busy time for the Church, not only for Priests, but also for every Christian. It is the heart of the whole year. The faithful participate with great devotion to the religious celebrations. We request the higher authorities of the Government of the Sindh to reschedule exams")

Date reported: April 16, 2019

Location: Hyderabad, Sindh province

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/65903->

[ASIA_PAKISTAN Christians ask for the postponement of college exams scheduled for the Easter Triduum](http://www.fides.org/en/news/65903-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Christians_ask_for_the_postponement_of_college_exams_scheduled_for_the_Easter_Triduum)



Sri Lanka

Event: Nine explosive devices targeted three churches and three hotels, among other locations, killing 253 and wounding at least 500

Cardinal Albert Malcolm Ranjith Patabendige Don (aged 71, **UPDATE**: condemned the bombings as "bestial and inhuman", called on doctors to cancel their holidays and for citizens to donate blood)

Date: April 21, 2019

Locations: Colombo, Kochchikade, Negombo, and Batticaloa

Fr Joy Mariyaratnam (saw a fireball at the time of the explosion, later said "I was thinking, 'how could such a thing happen in a place of worship?'. We are still in shock")

Ravi Fernando (husband of Delicia Fernando, father of a son and two daughters, **killed**)

Delicia Fernando (aged 52, widow of Ravi, mother of a son and two daughters, was sitting in the front of the church at the time of the explosion, found Ravi crushed under debris from the roof)

Date: April 21, 2019

Location: Kochchikade, Colombo

Ft Edmond Tillekeratne (said "The whole roof was shattered and there was flesh all over the walls and even outside the church")

Ranjitha Fernando (searched for missing relatives in the bombed rubble, said "It is the responsibility of the government to find the perpetrators and give the due punishment. Are we going back to the dark ages again?")

Eranda Weththasinghe (several friends killed, later said "I don't have words to express my pain. Tomorrow is going to be the mass funeral service, we only want prayers. We lost so many people...The smell of flesh is all around me. We are a peace-loving community in

this small city, we had never hurt anyone, but we don't know from where this amount of hate is coming. This city has become a grave with blood and bodies lying around...Since the past three years, we don't know why, but we see an extremist's mindset developing among the Muslims. I know many good Muslims, but there are also a lot who hate us, and they have never been so before. It is in these three years that we see a difference")

Fr Lour Fernando (said "At this moment I have no idea what to say. We have to remain strong and keep going to church and keep praying. We can't stop")

Fr Sanjeewa Appuhamy (said "After the mass we were listening to the parish council's thanksgiving speech. All of a sudden we heard a big noise and then a bang. Unfortunately we lost many parishioners in a second")

Nimal Perera (said "We were waiting to join the procession for the Risen Christ which is held after Mass and winds through the parish and the village. But all of a sudden we heard a big noise coming from one side of the church and we thought it was a special firecracker, since usually in the Christian holidays various types of firecrackers are used. But then I saw my son-in-law running back and forth screaming "Oh my God, it's a bomb. I don't know how many managed to save themselves. We attended the vigil of the eve because my niece had asked us. Otherwise we too would have gone to morning Mass...Oh God, assist us and give us the strength to endure the deep sorrow of our parishioners")

Kumara Cherrill Karunaratna (middle-aged man, later said "No member of my family has died. We have no faith in this government or in the Supreme Court or in parliamentarians. We have only our God, to whom we ask for everything when we come to church. Now even this possibility has faded because of the horrible act. Who are the killers who kill innocent Catholics and hit the churches? Every morning, before bringing my three children to school, I come to this church and pray for a minute. Then I accompany them to class. Some people I met, now they are gone. The pain is too big to bear. I lay these flowers for all the dead, to [show] them our love. How can we watch over our children when similar things happen?")

Ms Thivanka (uncle and aunt were at Mass, aunt's lifeless body found, uncle missing, not found at any hospital)

Date: April 21, 2019

Location: Katuwapitiya village, Negombo

Ramesh (questioned the suicide bomber, pushed him outside the church, **killed**)

V Jackson (aged 13, son of Arasaratnam Verl, only child, **killed**)

Arasaratnam Verl (aged 41, father of V Jackson, son killed, said "My elder sister was killed too. My two younger sisters and my brother-in-law are critical")

Rev Kumaran (church pastor, confronted the suicide bomber because he was a stranger with a bag, said "I asked him who he was and his name. He said he was a Muslim and wanted to visit the church", was then pulled away from the bomber by other clergy to begin the service, later said "Twenty-eight people were killed, among them 12 children. Two are critical")

Caroline Mahendran (Sunday school teacher, said "Today was an Easter Sunday school at the church and we asked the children how many of you willing to die for Christ? Everyone

raised their hands. Minutes later, they came down to the main service and the blast happened. Half of the children died on the spot”)

Rev Kanapathipillai Deivendiran (said “I was a few minutes late or you will not be speaking to me now. I didn’t know that there had been a blast a few minutes before that, I just walked into the premises. As I entered, I was shaken by the sight — walls had collapsed completely, there were bodies all over the floor”)

Date: April 21, 2019

Location: Batticaloa

Source: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/sri-lanka-blames-local-islamist-extremist-group-for-easter-bombings-that-killed-290/ar-BBWa1GU?ocid=spartandhp>
and <https://www.ucanews.com/news/cardinal-condemns-sri-lanka-bombings-as-death-toll-reaches-290/85010>
and <https://morningstarnews.org/2019/04/unprecedented-suicide-bombing-attacks-shock-christians-in-sri-lanka/>
and <https://www.christianpost.com/news/minutes-after-sunday-school-class-said-they-would-die-for-christ-half-killed-in-sri-lankan-bomb-blast.html>
and <https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2019/04/21/easter-bomb-attacks-on-sri-lanka-churches-hotels-kill-at-least-207/>
and <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/As-the-number-of-dead-and-wounded-rises,-the-authorities-declare-a-curfew-46824.html>
and <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/At-least-150-people-die-in-various-blasts-in-Sri-Lanka-on-Easter-Sunday.-The-Church-calls-for-prayers-46821.html>
and <https://www.persecution.org/2019/04/23/isis-claims-responsibility-easter-bombings-sri-lanka/>
and [http://www.asianews.it/news-en/-Sri-Lanka-in-mourning:-the-faithful-mourn-their-dead-\(Photo\)-46831.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/-Sri-Lanka-in-mourning:-the-faithful-mourn-their-dead-(Photo)-46831.html)



United States - Washington state

Abbot Tryphon (aged 72, blogger, attacked while pumping gasoline, said “When the man saw the [monastic clothing and pectoral] cross, he went insane. He got this insane look and that’s when he punched me”, before he was struck the man asked "How's Trump?" and he replied he had no idea, later wrote "I should be filled with rage against a brute who could perpetrate such an unwarranted attack against me...Instead, I find myself filled with compassion and love for the poor tortured soul who was driven to commit such a heinous act. That a young man would sucker punch an obviously old man, and a stranger to him, is truly hard for me to comprehend. Even more, I am praying for my attacker...What inner torment could cause him to lash out at someone who has done him no harm? He is his own victim even more than I am his victim. I know I have forgiven him, but can he forgive himself?...I have been left with a certain amount of hearing loss, with a ringing in my left ear and reduced hearing in my right ear, along with an echoing sound. As a lover of classical music, I pray this will not be permanent. I'm also suffering from headaches,

and general body pain. So, in your charity, please keep this old monk in your holy prayers...I am grateful that I was blessed to share in Christ's suffering and abuse, during these final days of the Great Lenten Journey...I want him caught, not only that he not injure another person, but that I can have a chance to visit him in jail, and let him know that I forgive him, and that God loves him")

Fr Martin (witnessed the attack on Abbot Tryphon)

Date: April 16, 2019

Location: Burién

Source: <http://orthochristian.com/120672.html>
and <http://orthochristian.com/120703.html>

Today's Martyrs

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

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