

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Weekly Report – 2019-05-12 through 2019-05-18



### Australia

Israel Folau (aged 30, husband of Maria Tuta'ia, top-ranked professional rugby player, told by Rugby Australia on [April 11, 2019](#) that it would move to void his AU\$4m contract after he posted on Instagram Bible quotes that listed particular sins as risking damnation, including homosexuality; spoke at an Easter service on [April 21, 2019](#), broke down when he said "For what shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"; **UPDATE:** contract voided, said "I am deeply saddened by today's decision to terminate my employment and I am considering my options. As Australians, we are born with certain rights, including the right to freedom of religion and the right to freedom of expression. The Christian faith has always been a part of my life and I believe it is my duty as a Christian to share God's word. Upholding my religious beliefs should not prevent my ability to work or play for my club and country")

Date: [May 17, 2019](#)

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel\\_Folau](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Folau)  
and <https://www.news.com.au/sport/rugby/australia-reacts-to-official-israel-folau-sacking/news-story/28e7e7c01434ef63a388486de223ffee>



### Burkina Faso

Fr Simeon Yampa (aged 34, **killed** at Mass along with five others by jihadists, church burned)

Bishop Theophile Nare (wrote "Fr Simeon Yampa was a humble person, obedient and full of love, he loved his parishioners")

Date: [May 12, 2019](#)

Location: Dablo

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/66018-AFRICA\\_BURKINA\\_FASO\\_Today\\_the\\_funeral\\_of\\_Fr\\_Simeon\\_Yampa\\_and\\_five\\_faithful\\_killed\\_in\\_the\\_attack\\_during\\_Sunday\\_Mass](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66018-<u>AFRICA_BURKINA_FASO_Today_the_funeral_of_Fr_Simeon_Yampa_and_five_faithful_killed_in_the_attack_during_Sunday_Mass</u>)

Fr Fernando Fernandez SDB (Spanish citizen, **stabbed to death** by a former cook)

Fr Germain Plakoo-Mlapa SDB (Togolese citizen, stabbed, hospitalized, out of danger)

Date: May 17, 2019

Location: Bobo-Dioulasso

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66053->

[AFRICA BURKINA FASO A Spanish Salesian killed in Bobo Dioulasso](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66053-)



## Egypt

Fr Makad Saad (**shot dead** in front of his church reportedly by another priest over a declined loan)

Date: May 13, 2019

Location: Al-Wahda district, Shubra al-Khaymah city, Qaliubiya province

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66025->

[AFRICA EGYPT Coptic priest killed by a Christian guard](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66025-)



## India

Gornath Chalanseth (father of four, imprisoned for the **August 2008** murder of Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati; **UPDATE**: granted bail by the Supreme Court)

Anto Akkara (journalist; **UPDATE**: stated "This bail order is a landmark and huge victory in the fight for justice for Kandhamal's seven innocents. This bail order of the Supreme Court, led by the ADF legal team, will be the first step towards acquittal of the innocent Christians languishing in jail for a decade for a crime they never committed")

Bhaskar Sunamajhi (husband of Debaki, father of one; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

Bijay Kumar Sunseth (husband of Pabitra Sanseth, father of six; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

Budhadeb Nayak (husband of Nilandri, father of five; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

Durjo Sunamajhi (husband of Gumili, father of five; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

Munda Badmajhi (husband of Bandigudali, father of four; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

Sanatan Badmajhi (husband of Badusi, father of four; **UPDATE**: still in prison)

Date: May 13, 2019

Location: New Delhi

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66017->

[ASIA INDIA One of seven innocent Christians accused in Orissa released](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66017-)



## Nicaragua

Bishop Juan Abelardo Mata Guevara (shot at by pro-government paramilitaries at a police checkpoint in [Nindiri](#) while in his vehicle on [July 15, 2018](#), escaped injury; **UPDATE:** said "We have said several times: this regime does not have the political will to reach an agreement for the good of the country. For the regime, the people are only the small group that supports it. It has its own program: to remain in power at all costs and create a scenario that will allow it to continue acting in political life...[President Daniel Ortega] has no intention of seeking a peaceful solution to the socio-political crisis that the country has been experiencing for a year")

Date: [May 14, 2019](#)

Location: [Esteli](#)

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66024->

[AMERICA NICARAGUA Bishop Mata Guevara dialogue is blocked no political prisoners have been released there is no will to resolve the crisis](#)

Cardinal Leopoldo Jose Brenes Solorzano (aged 70, roughed up by pro-government paramilitaries in [Diriamba](#) on [July 9, 2018](#); **UPDATE:** condemned police violence committed in front of the cathedral against people protesting the death of a North American in prison)

Date: [May 18, 2019](#)

Location: [Managua](#)

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66052->

[AMERICA NICARAGUA Cardinal Brenes condemns the police violence committed in front of the Cathedral of Managua](#)



## Niger

Fr Nicaise Avlouke (injured in the hand and leg during an attack on his church)

Date: [May 13, 2019](#)

Location: [Dolbel](#)

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66023->

[AFRICA NIGER Catholic parish attacked parish priest wounded Sahel Christian communities increasingly at risk](#)



## Pakistan

Fr James Bahadur (100 year old cemetery vandalized, more than 30 tombs destroyed, stated "It is very sad to see that some people attacked our Christian cemetery, they broke crosses and damaged graves. It is an offense to our faith, our religious feelings are hurt, the guilty must be arrested...This action of vandalism has spread terror in the city and our people are afraid. It is an act carried out by fundamentalists to sow hatred among people of various faiths...")

Date: May 12, 2019

Location: Okara

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/66051-ASIA\\_PAKISTAN\\_Christian\\_cemetery\\_devastated\\_by\\_vandals\\_an\\_attempt\\_to\\_sow\\_terror](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66051-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Christian_cemetery_devastated_by_vandals_an_attempt_to_sow_terror)



### **United States - Colorado**

Kendrick Ray Castillo (aged 18, son of John Castillo, student, **shot dead** in his school while attempting to disarm another student, the armed student was motivated by anti-Christian sentiments)

Date: May 7, 2019

Location: Highlands Ranch

Source: <https://pjmedia.com/trending/meet-the-hero-from-the-robotics-team-who-died-rushing-the-colorado-stem-shooter/>

## **Today's Martyrs**

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

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