

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2019-09-19 through 2019-05-25



China

Huang (church elder, forced by police to stop a worship service)

Date: May 12, 2019

Location: Xiangtan, Hunan province

Source: <https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/05/15-churches-harassed-across-china.html>

Pastor Yang Xibo (government agents told him on [May 11, 2019](#) of their plan to shut his church; congregants at the [May 12, 2019](#) service were identified using facial recognition cameras that had been installed at the church entrance and were later interrogated by their employers or residential committees; wife interviewed by government agents on [May 14, 2019](#), told them she supported her husband; interviewed along with his wife by government agents on [May 18, 2019](#), issued a corrective order that was later posted on the church gate; church raided by officials on [May 19, 2019](#), ordered closed, fined US\$3,622, said “We will appeal, the government will convene a hearing, and we will persevere in walking according to legal procedures”; **UPDATE**: choir members blocked by police from entering the church for practice)

Date: May 23, 2019

Location: Xiamen, Fujian province

Source: <https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/05/historic-churches-face-banning.html>
and <https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/05/authorities-harass-banned-church.html>

Zhang Yongcheng (ordered by local authorities to demolish a church that is said was an illegal use of the land, told him if he did not then they would demolish it)

Date: April 25, 2019

Location: Tanghe county, Henan province

Source: <https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/05/authorities-order-demolition-of-henan.html>



Netherlands

Chen Yan (Chinese citizen, asylum applicant, detained in an immigration facility on or before [April 2, 2019](#) after documenting Chinese persecutions, at risk of deportation to China;

released on [May 6, 2019](#); **UPDATE**: reported that her husband and brother had been interrogated in China over her 'illegal actions' and that her son was in hiding there)

Date: [May 9, 2019](#)

Source: <https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/05/husband-brother-of-human-rights.html>



Pakistan

Event: Two Christian families were beaten and driven from their homes by a mob after mosque loudspeakers broadcast "These Esai [Christians] have committed a blasphemy by saying bad words against Islam. All the lovers of Islam must gather together and force these demonic creatures out of this village", saved from the mob by some Muslim women and a Muslim attorney

Naveed Masih (aged 25, mason, son of Shukantila and Farzand Masih, punched in the eye by a Muslim after he had asked the man to stop shouting profanities into his phone while standing in front of the Christian home, told 'You filthy chura have dared to even speak to me a Muslim and have defiled me, just wait and see what I will do to you', filed a police report, later beaten by the mob)

Shukantila Masih (aged 60, wife of Farzand Masih, mother of Naveed, Hameed, and Tanveer, and three unidentified daughters, said "This was a horrifying moment for my whole family and other Christians. We felt totally helpless. In our panic we started to get ourselves ready to flee our homes and get far away from the village, however, we were all too slow. In no time we start to hear Muslims gather outside our home - even the children. The violent mob surrounded our home and all of them had weapons including guns - which were being shot in the air, sticks, axes, poles and farming tools. Even the small children had weapons, we feared for our lives. The mob began shouting outside our home they asking for our family to exit our home and receive divine retribution for our sin. It did not seem very divine - we just saw raging evil violent people ready to kill us")

Farzand Masih (aged 63, mason, husband of Shukantila, father of Naveed, Hameed, and Tanveer, and three unidentified daughters, beaten)

Hameed Masih (aged 23, mason, son of Shukantila and Farzand Masih, beaten)

Tanveer (aged 16, mason, son of Shukantila and Farzand Masih, beaten)

Sultan Masih (aged 30, beaten)

Gulfam Masih (aged 25, beaten)

Date: [May 15, 2019](#)

Location: [Chak no 68 EB Dogra wale Tehsil Arif Wala Pakpattan. near Lahore](#)

Source: <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/telephone-call-anger-leads-to-blasphemy-charges-for-innocent-christian>



Sri Lanka

Pastor Anton Kyanq (reported that as many as 60 Pakistani Christian and 100 Pakistani Ahmaddiya Muslim asylum seekers were illegally evicted from their homes and fled to the police station for refuge during anti-Muslim rioting following the April 21, 2019 Easter church bombings, began collecting food and other essentials for them)

Date: May 20, 2019

Location: Negombo

Source: <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/beleagured-pak-christian-asylum-seekers-in-sri-lanka-still-forced-to-live-on-police-station-gronds-f>



Turkey

Arthur (aged 13, son of Alia, tricked into converting to Islam on television)

Alia (mother of Arthur, said "Arthur is a naive 13-year-old boy. A Syrian friend of his told him: 'Come, we'll talk on live TV. They will give us toys, and we will eat with the stars'. And my son went with him. He's a child, he made a mistake, but he did not convert... We are Armenians and Christians. If I had known [what would happen], I would have been with my son")

Garo Paylan (aged 47, Member of Parliament; **UPDATE**: championed Alia's legal suit against the producers of the television show)

Date: May 11, 2019

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/us/news/christian-mum-stunned-after-teen-son-tricked-into-becoming-muslim-on-live-turkish-tv>



United Kingdom

Event: Several public figures of many religious backgrounds signed an open letter stating that a definition of 'Islamophobia' adopted by the Labour Party and the Mayor of London threatened civil liberties, the letter stated "...We are concerned that allegations of Islamophobia will be, indeed already are being, used to effectively shield Islamic beliefs and even extremists from criticism, and that formalizing this definition will result in it being employed effectively as something of a backdoor blasphemy law..."

Pastor Ade Omooba (**UPDATE**: signatory)

Baroness Caroline Cox (signatory)

Lord David Alton (**UPDATE**: signatory)

Bishop Gavin Ashenden (**UPDATE**: signatory)

Bishop Emeritus Michael Nazir Ali (**UPDATE**: signatory)

Tim Dieppe (Christian Concerns; **UPDATE**: signatory)

Wilson Chowdhry (British Pakistani Christian Association; **UPDATE**: signatory)

Date: May 15, 2019

Source: <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/multi-faith-delegates-call-for-review-of-ill-conceived-islamophobia-definition>

Today's Martyrs

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

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