

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Weekly Report – 2019-05-26 through 2019-06-01



### Burkina Faso

**Event: A church was attacked by armed men, four were killed and several wounded**

Bruno Yampa (retired catechist, **killed**)

Simon Ganame (**killed**)

Michel Ganame (**killed**)

Louis Ganame (**killed**)

Laurent Yampa (catechist, wounded)

Bishop Justin Kientega (reported on the attack)

Date: May 26, 2019

Location: Toulfe

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/four-killed-in-attack-on-parish-in-burkina-faso-79810>



### Central African Republic

Sr Ines Nieves Sancho FI (aged 77, Spanish citizen, **beheaded, possibly killed for an animist sacrifice**)

Date: May 20, 2010

Location: Nola village, near Berberati

Source: [Bishop Juan Jose Aguirre Munos MCCJ \(Spanish citizen; \*\*UPDATE\*\*: said "Throughout the Sahel the transfer of the Peuls \[aka Fulani\] with millions of cattle is destabilizing entire areas of Nigeria, Niger, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad and now the Central African Republic, due to the conflicts they stir up. The cause of this displacement is the desertification that forces the Peuls to go on searching for new pastures and water sources. Unfortunately the](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66074-<u>AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA Sister Ines another woman who gives her life for Jesus at the service of the poor says Pope Francis</u></a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

Peuls, who are well armed, leave a trail of blood during their journey that gets longer every day. They have created a corridor that descends from Chad and arrives in Central Africa in the area of N'Délé, in the north. From here they descend down towards Bangassou in the south-east through the missions of Zemio, Boqui and Obo. There are thousands of men, women and children with their herds heading to our area...if the flows were to continue at this rate, within a few years, Peuls could reach two million in the south-east of Central Africa. Local people are alarmed about their future...The warlords have called for the transformation of a part of the Obo mission area into a natural park in order to drive out farmers and allow the settlement of the Peuls with millions of cattle...This is a part of the war we are experiencing in Central Africa...We understand the drama of the Puels, victims of desertification, but no one has asked permission from the Central African populations who already live in very harsh conditions. Furthermore, the Peuls are Muslims and the local populations are Christian, accentuating the inter-religious tensions already present in Central Africa")

Date: May 23, 2019

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66079->

[AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICA The arrival of thousands of Peuls with millions of cattle destabilizes the south east says Mgr Aguirre](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66079-)



## China

Bishop Thaddeus Ma Daqin (ordained as bishop on July 7, 2012, then disappeared after stating in his first homily that he would resign from the state-sponsored church; **UPDATE**: still under house arrest, allowed to post prayers on the internet)

Date: May 24, 2019

Location: Shanghai

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Under-house-arrest,-the-bishop-of-Shanghai-posts-a-prayer-to-Our-Lady-of-Sheshan-47102.html>



## El Salvador

Fr Cecilio Perez Cruz (aged 35, **killed** possibly by the MS-13 criminal gang for refusing to pay extortion)

Date: May 18, 2019

Location: La Majada

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66056->

[AMERICA EL SALVADOR Today the funeral of the parish priest murdered in La Majada](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66056-)



## India

Pastor Nandu Tadokha (aged 58, husband, father of five daughters, **beaten** while walking home after preaching a sermon, hospitalized with severe internal injuries, **died several days later** after praying for and forgiving his murderers)

Date: April 24, 2019

Location: Maharashtra state

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/us/news/indias-barefoot-evangelist-dies-praying-for-extremists-who-killed-him>

**Event: Three Christian families had their homes looted and destroyed after they refused to renounce their faith and were ordered to leave the village, police refused to file an official report**

Sariyam Irma (father)

Urma Deta (father)

Padam Supa (father)

Date: May 23, 2019

Location: Bodiguda village, Sukma district, Chhattisgarh state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Attacks-on-Chhattisgarh-Christians-resume-post-elections-47125.html>

**Event: State authorities have targeted all 88 Christian charities which receive foreign funds for scrutiny**

Archbishop Felix Toppo SJ (**UPDATE:** said the inquiry "is undoubtedly an attack against the Church...[which] is not worried about the inquiry, even though it is an attempt at harassment. I am sure the charities have done everything by the book...[I am] confident that all the charges are unfounded...")

Auxiliary Bishop Telesphore Bilung (delivered a memo to Governor Draupadi Murmu which noted that the government has engaged in selective scrutiny "in total there are around 500 associations in Jharkhand that receive foreign funding, but the government ordered an inquiry only into the 88 Christian ones to see if they 'use money inappropriately for forced conversions'")

Date: May 24, 2019

Location: Ranchi, Jharkhand state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Jharkhand-turns-the-screws-on-Christian-NGOs.-For-Bishop-of-Ranchi,-it-is-an-attack-against-the-Church-47161.html>

Rev Roopsen (arrested on a charge of 'social peace disorder', released on bail, police threatened him with further consequences if he continued preaching)

Date: May 30, 2019

Location: Raibareli, Uttar Pradesh state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Modi-sworn-in-for-second-term.-Persecution-of-minorities-continues-47158.html>



## Mexico

Archbishop Rogelio Cabrera Lopez (spoke after 21 religious pilgrims were killed in a bus accident “I join the grief and the prayers for the faithful of the parish of San Pedro and San Pablo de Tuxtla Gutierrez in Chiapas who suffered the accident on their return from the pilgrimage to Tepeyac. Blessings for all”)

Date: May 21, 2019

Location: Maltrata, Veracruz state

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/mexican-bishops-mourn-pilgrims-killed-in-traffic-accident-99040>

**Event: Church leaders condemned a criminal attack on a church prior to a fiesta de quince años Mass in which two young men were killed**

Bishop Eduardo Patino Leal (UPDATE)

Fr Jorge Montero

Date: May 19, 2019

Location: Fortín de las Flores, Cordoba, Veracruz state

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/66064-AMERICA\\_MEXICO Shooting in front of the church Bishops call for respect for the sacredness of life and fundamental values](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66064-AMERICA_MEXICO_Shooting_in_front_of_the_church_Bishops_call_for_respect_for_the_sacredness_of_life_and_fundamental_values)

Bishop Ramon Castro Castro (said "Organized crime is becoming a real cancer throughout the State...Three people were killed outside our Seminary...Most of these murders occurred due to non-payment [of extortion]")

Date: May 23, 2019

Location: Morelos state

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/66078-AMERICA\\_MEXICO Bishop Castro violence in the State of Morelos undermines the future of young people](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66078-AMERICA_MEXICO_Bishop_Castro_violence_in_the_State_of_Morelos_undermines_the_future_of_young_people)



## Mozambique

Fr Landry Ibil Ikwel SSCC (aged 34, Congolese citizen, director of an institute for the blind, **stabbed**, hospitalized, **died**)

Date: May 19, 2019

Location: Beira

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66069-AFRICA MOZAMBIQUE Congolese priest who ran the institute for the blind was killed in Beira>



## 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](#); reported on [May 9, 2019](#) that her husband and brother had been interrogated in China over her 'illegal actions' and that her son was in hiding there; **UPDATE**: granted asylum)

Date reported: May 28, 2019

Source: <https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/05/netherlands-grants-human-rights.html>



## Pakistan

Javed "Stephen" Masih (aged 33 or 36, husband of Ghazal, father of Junaid, disappeared on [May 16, 2019](#), employer had threatened him with death over a loan; **UPDATE**: **body found, had been burned and beaten to death**)

Ghazal (aged 26 or 35, widow of Javed "Stephen" Masih, mother of Junaid, said "My heart is broken I have lost my husband and protector. As a couple we have struggled to support our disabled son - we have done all we could to make his life one that was joyful. The men who murdered my husband killed a loving father and have placed my son and I in an extremely difficult position. Stephen toiled for us, he took beatings and abuse for us and his reward for his hard work is an early death - this world is both cruel and unfair. I know God will protect us and trust in Him but my heartaches for Stephen who suffered so much in his short life. I pray to God daily asking that he gives Stephen his just reward and a place in heaven for his faithfulness - one day we will be reunited")

Junaid (aged 6 or 8, son of Ghazal and Javed "Stephen" Masih, disabled)

Date: May 17, 2019

Location: Faisalabad

Source: <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/christian-man-found-killed-after-former-employer-warned-fo-death-for-non-payment-of-loan> and <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-labourer-killed-by-employer-in-Faisalabad-because-he-wanted-to-change-jobs-47082.html>

Aleeza Ashraf (aged 3, daughter of Ashraf Masih and Shamim Bibi, injured with shrapnel in her abdomen and left foot at age 18 months during the [December 17, 2017 Quetta, Balochistan](#) church attack; as of [January 7, 2018](#) had developed multiple gangrene infections, left foot amputated, transferred to a hospital in [Karachi](#), in danger of death; as of [January 13, 2018](#) had received several surgeries to remove infected tissue including a colostomy, condition stable; **UPDATE:** requires a new prosthetic leg)

Date: May 28, 2019

Source: <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/now-three-years-old-the-youngest-survivor-of-the-2017-quetta-bomb-attack-needs-our-help-to-gain-a-ne>

Pastor Aziz (home invaded by a mob of 35 men, beaten along with his wife and college age daughter, rescued by a passing police patrol, unable to return home)

Date: May 27, 2019

Location: Baluchistan

Source: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/pakistani-pastor-attacked-muslim-mob-family-home-seized-report.html>



## Sri Lanka

**Event UPDATE: Nine explosive devices targeted three churches and three hotels, among other locations, killing 257 and wounding at least 500**

Mary Selvamathy (aged 56, said "I had moved away a few rows to see the statue of Saint Anthony. I was right in front of the saint when there was an explosion. I turned around but couldn't see them [my husband and children]. I ran in their direction, but they were on the ground, with wounds and blood everywhere. Someone helped me take them to the hospital, but they didn't make it. I am alone now. I have no hope anymore. Why should we live? Why should we continue our life without our family, torn from us by the error and contempt of others?")

Gloria (aged 17, lost consciousness after the blast. later said "When I opened my eyes, I saw my sister crawling towards me and my father bleeding. I can no longer remember that moment...the saddest moment when we lost our dear father. I begged for someone to help us bring our father to the hospital, but nobody heard our cry. There were men filming and taking pictures of the scene [instead of helping]. It's very sad")

Date: April 21, 201

Location: Kochchikade

Source: [http://www.asianews.it/news-en/A-month-after-the-massacres,-Sri-Lanka-commemorates-the-victims-\(Video\)-47079.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/A-month-after-the-massacres,-Sri-Lanka-commemorates-the-victims-(Video)-47079.html)



## United Kingdom

Rev John Parker (aged 49, Oxford biology graduate, Church of England school governor, objected after the school held a training class by the transgender pressure group Mermaids in which the school staff and governors were told “You are all now honorary mermaids, whether you want to be or not”, resigned from the Board of Governors when his objections over the 'transitioning' of a child were ignored, resigned from the Church of England after his bishop refused to support him, said “The Governors were simply told by the head teacher that a child born male now wished to be regarded as female, that parents were not to be informed by the school ahead of the transition, and that a controversial organization [Mermaids] was being brought in to provide awareness and training to staff...Throughout the training session there was an implicit threat to us that if we did not implement, enforce and fully affirm Mermaids ideology and affirm LGBTQI+ children, it would result in children committing suicide, self-harming, and police and Ofsted [the government education agency] would enforce the policy...Given the Christian ethos of the school, and the fact that a certain percentage of parents have sent their children to a CofE School because they sought for their children a Christian education in line with their own beliefs, the issue needed to be handled with those sensitivities in mind, and it has not been”)

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns; **UPDATE:** wrote "...a real threat is posed to schools from organizations such as Mermaids. They implement a new ideological tyranny - and any disagreement is at best silenced and at worst, punished. The number of children confused about their sex and gender and seeking treatment is escalating and it is our children that are suffering and are bewildered. In imposing this ideology, we are not being kind to our children but cruel. It is time for this to stop...The Church of England has one million children in its care. This is a serious God-given duty which the church is failing at. It has invited the new state ideology into the classroom and it has lost confidence in its own message of what it means to be human. The Church needs to act before it is too late")

Date reported: May 26, 2019

Location: Fordham village, Essex

Source: <https://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/education/vicar-resigns-after-being-silenced-over-trans-ideology-concerns-at-church-prima>



## United States

Betty Rendon (wife of Carlos Hincapie, mother of Paula Hincapie, Colombian citizen, seminary student, fled Colombia's civil war in 2004 after receiving threats from guerrillas, applied for asylum; arrested on May 8, 2019 after her asylum request was rejected due to lack of corroborating documentation [which guerrilla activity prevented]; **UPDATE:** deported along with her husband)

Date: May 28, 2019

Source: <https://www.charismanews.com/us/76598-student-pastor-deported-after-seeking-asylum-in-us>



## Venezuela

### Event: Church leaders reported on the continuing economic crisis

Bishop Jose Luis Azuaje Ayala OCD (**UPDATE:** said "We Bishops are often accused by the government of being opponents. What is certain is that if being on the side of the poor means being in opposition, then yes: we are in opposition")

Janeth Marquez (Caritas director, said "we have almost 4 million Venezuelans who have left the country with a huge social cost: broken families, children and elderly left alone. Caritas Venezuela is doing everything possible, but we have limited means. We call for the urgent opening of a channel for humanitarian aid. This crisis is destroying the lives of all Venezuelans. The majority of children born in the last five years are growing up in a condition of chronic malnutrition")

Date: May 24, 2019

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/66085-AMERICA\\_COLOMBIA\\_Urgent\\_appeal\\_for\\_Venezuelan\\_migrants\\_the\\_crisis\\_is\\_out\\_of\\_control\\_the\\_flow\\_is\\_growing\\_and\\_is\\_worrying](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66085-AMERICA_COLOMBIA_Urgent_appeal_for_Venezuelan_migrants_the_crisis_is_out_of_control_the_flow_is_growing_and_is_worrying)

## Today's Martyrs

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

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