

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2019-06-09 through 2019-06-15



China

Jiang Rong (wife of Pastor Wang Yi; detained on [December 10, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: released on bail)

Date: [June 11, 2019](#)

Location: [Chengdu, Sichuan province](#)

Source: <https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/06/wife-of-early-rain-covenant-church.html>

Event: Eighteen Christians were indicted on charges of using an "evil religious organization"

Cao Lili

Chen Meiling

Fan Tao

Gao Xinlian

Jiang Jinling

Jiang Xijun

Li Yifang

Lin Jie

Liu Weiguo

Lin Zaiwu

Ma Xiaojun

Shi Xianhe

Wang Xiaoqing

Wei Pengfei

Xu Yanli

Yang Hua

Yu Bingru

Zhang Min

Date reported: June 12, 2019

Location: Xinjiang region

Source: <https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/06/18-indicted-for-being-jehovahs-witnesses.html>

Bishop Stephen Li Side (aged 92, arrested in Tianjin in 1958; released on February 16, 1962; arrested in 1962, sent to a labor camp; released in 1980; imprisoned in 1989; released in 1991; exiled to the rural village Liang Zhuang Zi in 1992; **UPDATE: died of natural causes**, denied an official church funeral)

Date: June 8, 2019

Location: Liang Zhuang Zi

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/No-public-funeral-for-Msgr.-Stefano-Li-Side,-bishop-of-Tianjin-47237.html>

Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-Kium SDB (aged 87, **UPDATE: spoke in support of the young demonstrators who were opposed to the proposed 'extradition to China' law but called on them to not risk death at the hands of police out of despair)**

Date: June 13, 2019

Location: Hong Kong

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Card-Zen:-The-Hong-Kong-government-is-driving-young-people-to-despair,-to-the-point-of-letting-themselves-be-shot-47276.html>



Cuba

Event: A Christian couple were sentenced to prison for homeschooling their children to avoid atheistic indoctrination

Pastor Ramon Rigal (husband of Ayda, father of Ruth and Daniel, **UPDATE: sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment)**

Ayda Rigal (wife of Pastor Ramon Rigal, mother of Ruth and Daniel, **UPDATE: sentenced to one and a half years' imprisonment)**

Ruth Rigal (aged 13, sent to live with grandparents)

Daniel Rigal (aged 9, sent to live with grandparents)

Date: April 23, 2019

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/us/news/cuban-pastor-and-wife-jailed-for-home-schooling-their-children-because-of-their-faith>



India

Fr Stan Swamy SJ (aged 83, home raided by anti-terrorism police from Maharashtra state without a court order on [August 28, 2018](#), electronics and books seized, questioned and released; **UPDATE**: home raided again by Maharashtra state police, hard drive and wi-fi router seized, forced to give the passwords to his email and Facebook accounts which were then changed and blocked by the police)

Date: June 12, 2019

Location: Ranchi, Jharkhand state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/The-home-of-an-83-year-old-priest-in-Ranchi-searched-47273.html>



Iraq

Fr Paul Thabit Mekko (**UPDATE**: reported on the burning of 5,100 hectares [12,600 acres] of cropland in 236 fires in one month "Various groups affiliated with ISIL [the Islamic State] in Mosul, accidents or carelessness are behind the fires in the Nineveh Plain. What is certain is that fires touched both Christians and Muslims. Some people have posted on social media pictures of pieces of glass or lenses used to set fire as evidence that they were intentional. Perhaps it is an attempt to devastate the economy and stop the return of those who fled")

Date reported: June 10, 2019

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Thousands-of-hectares-of-crops-burn-in-Iraq.-For-Iraqi-priest,-this-is-bad-for-the-economy-47241.html>



Nigeria

Event: Several Nigerian Christians spoke at a presentation in Washington DC on Muslim attacks against their people

Napoleon Adamu (said "The Fulanis that come over to Agatu this time are not the traditional Fulani that we used to know. We know that when the Fulanis come, they usually come with their children and their wives. But the ones we have now that come, come in large numbers and fully armed. It is not just small arms. We know Fulani to always be carrying their long knife and stick. But this time, they carry AK-47s that the government of Nigeria cannot buy for their own army...[They] don't go back without killing people and burning houses. They choose to even burn houses because it is more difficult for people to come back and rebuild. Once they burn, their intention is to override the place and take over. That is their intention: taking over the land")

Alheri Magaji (daughter of the current Adara tribe chief, said "It was when the chief [Raphael Galadima] died [abducted on [October 19, 2018](#), body found a week later] that the elders

in our land realized that the [Muslim] governor [said that] Adara Christians are now under a Muslim Hausa-Fulani emirate. It is so ridiculous that it was already signed into law and nobody knew about it. For a governor to make that kind of law in the first place without the people of the land knowing about it is illegal and unjust...When they realized that nobody was going to listen to them, they took the matter to court. A week after the civil case started in court, my dad and eight other elders were arrested and thrown into prison for no reason...I spoke to a woman whose limbs were cut off. She had four kids and was nine months pregnant. Fulani herdsmen came to a [Kajuru](#) town in [February \[2019\]](#), about 400 of them with AK-47s. They came at around 6:30 a.m. They spoke Adara. They came in with war songs. They were singing songs that translate into ‘the owners of the land have come. It’s time for settlers to leave’. We have 2-month-old babies, 6-month-old babies, babies in the bellies turned from their mother’s womb and slaughtered like animals, like chickens”, said that a state commission was created in [April 2019](#) to abolish indigeneship “We are wondering as Adarra people aren’t we citizens of Kaduna state? If you are taking away my chieftdom and there is no Adara anymore, are you saying that I am no longer even an indigene of Kaduna state? A Fulani man can come and register as a citizen of Kaduna state and get all the benefits of a citizen while I am a true indigene of the state and I get no allocations and I am not recognized at all?”, also spoke against a state law passed on [June 8, 2019](#) requiring licensing of preachers "It is so unbelievable sometimes that if I wasn’t living it, I wouldn’t believe it. A government official is supposed to tell a preacher how to preach and what to say. The license is to be renewed every year. That tells you that if you don’t do what the government says, in a year, you lose your license, even in churches. It is only what the government allows you to say that you are allowed to say to the congregation...The government takes over and does whatever it wants to do. It's a plan that if it is not [halted] right now, it's going to be terrible for the world at large. There is a genocide going on. Every morning we wake up to different stories...As I stand here right now, I have been warned not to say a word because I might be killed. If you speak about it, you could be killed, thrown in prison or harassed by the police. What have I got to lose if I don’t talk? My family is killed every day. My dad was locked up for over 100 days. My tribe is now [legally] extinct. If I keep quiet, to what gain will that be? The people who die every day are human beings too. If I have an opportunity to let the world know what is happening in my hometown, I will do anything to be able to save even one life")

Mercy Maisamari (said that girls are abducted on a daily basis “They kidnap you, they do whatever, they beat you up, they abuse you. Some will ask you, ‘Where is your Jesus? Call your Jesus to come and save you’”)

Richard Ikiebe (director for the Centre for Leadership in Journalism at Pan-Atlantic University, said “It is a deliberate confusion of narrative that has been very successfully used on an international platform. They will tell you that these skirmishes are just farmers and herders. I can tell you it is all of that. It is religious. Please believe it. What is happening in Nigeria is religion”)

Stephen Enada (director of the International Committee on Nigeria, said “Benue state was decimated and it is still being decimated and there is government inaction”)

Date reported: [June 14, 2019](#)

Source: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/nigerian-genocide-unborn-babies-slaughtered-like-chickens-entire-tribes-left-homeless.html>



Pakistan

Event UPDATE: The provincial High Court has agreed to hear the case of a Christian couple under sentence of death for blasphemy

Shafaqat Emmanuel (aged 40, husband of Shagufta Bibi, father of two, handicapped, arrested on [July 27, 2013](#) for allegedly sending a blasphemous text message; confessed sending the blasphemous text message after being tortured and told by the police that his wife would be tortured; moved to the jail hospital with multiple bed sores which are reportedly more than 3 inches deep, will require surgery if he survives; found guilty at trial on [April 4, 2014](#), sentenced to death)

Shagufta Kauser (aged 40, wife of Shafaqat Emmanuel, mother of two, school worker, arrested on [July 27, 2013](#) for allegedly sending a blasphemous text message; forced along with her children to watch the torture of her husband by the police; found guilty at trial on [April 4, 2014](#), sentenced to death)

Date reported: June 14, 2019

Location: Lahore

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Court-sets-hearing-date-for-Christian-couple-sentenced-to-death-on-blasphemy-charges-five-years-ago-47283.html>

Today's Martyrs

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

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