

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

**Weekly Report – 2019-06-30 through 2019-07-06**



## China

Bishop Vincent Guo Xijin (aged 60, underground bishop; **UPDATE**: ordered by police to not attend a ceremony of the profession of vows by religious sisters, wrote a letter to his priests explaining the details of the incident)

Date: June 27, 2019

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bishop-Guo-Xijin-of-Mindong:-I-am-a-man-and-not-a-monkey-who-favors-all-the-wishes-of-others-47409.html>



## France

Cathy Ruse (U.S. citizen, wife of Austin Ruse, mother of two daughters aged 10 and 14, spit upon by a marcher at a Pride parade while holding her 10 year old after the marcher saw the crucifix on a chain around her neck)

Austin Ruse (U.S. citizen, husband of Cathy Ruse, mother of two daughters aged 10 and 14, **UPDATE**: wrote of the attack on his wife "We gathered our shaken little family and proceeded to our apartment in a minor state of shock. That night we went to Mass at the Church of Saint-Etienne-du-Mont. It was the vigil for the next day, and the second reading included this: 'For freedom, Christ set us free, so, stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery. For you were called for freedom, brothers and sisters. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, rather, serve one another through love'...What we know about those who participate in 'pride' parades is they are not free, they are enslaved. Only Christ, who is always spit on, can make them free. What a blessing to be spit upon for him")

Date: June 29, 2019

Location: Paris

Source: <https://www.crisismagazine.com/2019/they-spit-on-my-wife-last-saturday-in-paris>



## India

Fr James (criticized Hindu radicals who planted a trident [a symbol of Hindu supremacy] in front of a cross on a hill after alleging it was illegal use of public land, said "[the cross and stations] was installed in 1954, when the land of Panchalimedu belonged to two families of high social origin: Kallivayalil and Karimbanal. Later, when the government approved the Land Reform Act in 1963, the land was requisitioned by the state, but the crosses remained where they were. In the last 65 years the parishioners have always climbed the hill in the prayer of the Cross")

Date: June 15, 2019

Location: Panchalimedu, Idukki district, Kerala state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Kerala,-Hindu-radicals-plant-a-trident-in-front-of-the-Cross-47370.html>

Ramesh Minj (aged 37, husband of Anita Minj, beaten by a mob of 120 Hindus for slaughtering a bollock, arrested, **died in jail**)

Anita Minj (widow of Ramesh Minj)

Date: August 2017

Location: Tingaru village, Palamu district, Jharkhand state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Catholic-man-lynched-by-cow-vigilantes-in-Jharkhand-47400.html>



## Pakistan

Dr Nayer Fardows (Christian college principal, retired brigadier general, threatened with death along with his family for resisting the takeover of his college by the provincial government)

Date reported: June 28, 2019

Location: Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkwa

Source: <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/attempt-by-provincial-government-to-usurp-christian-school-meets-protest>

Zafar Bhatti (aged 49, husband of Nawab Bibi, unemployed due to health reasons, illiterate, arrested on blasphemy charges on **July 23, 2012** for allegedly sending 3 blasphemous text messages to extremist Islamic cleric Molvi Abrar Ahmed; convicted on **May 3, 2017**, sentenced to life imprisonment; **UPDATE**: seventh appeal hearing adjourned, next hearing scheduled for September 12, 2019)

Date: June 19, 2019

Location: Rawalpindi

Source: <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/forlorn-pastor-has-had-his-blasphemy-appeal-postponed-for-seventh-time>



## Sudan

"Jemma" (university student, Bible study leader, arrested for 'acting against Sudan', imprisoned)

Date reported: June 28, 2019

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/us/appeals/innocent-sudanese-christian-women-and-children-in-jail-%E2%80%93-please-bring-them-hope-and-aid>



## United Kingdom

Felix Ngole (aged 41, reported on [February 29, 2016](#) to have been expelled from graduate school at Sheffield University after he posted a defense of traditional Christian morality on Facebook; dismissal from graduate school upheld in court on [October 27, 2017](#), the court ruled that the dismissal was extreme but the law gave him no protection; **UPDATE:** the Court of Appeals overturned the previous court decision and stated the grounds for expulsion were wrongful, said “This is great news, not only for me and my family, but for everyone who cares about freedom of speech, especially for those working in or studying for caring professions. As Christians we are called to care for and serve others, and publicly and privately we must be free to express our beliefs, especially when asked, without fear of losing our livelihoods...I have suffered tremendously as a result of how I was treated by the University of Sheffield and I feel that four years of my life have been taken away from me. Despite all this, I feel overwhelming joy that what I have lost will be so much gain to Christians today and in the future as a result of this important ruling for freedom”)

Date reported: July 3, 2019

Source: <https://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/freedom/felix-ngole-wins-appeal-in-victory-for-christian-freedoms>  
and <https://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/freedom/a-victory-for-christians-everywhere>

## Today's Martyrs

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

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