

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2019-07-28 through 2019-08-03



Argentina

Ernesto Cavazza (aged 80, **shot dead** in a robbery attempt while opening his church for Mass)

Date: June 30, 2019

Location: Villa Sarmiento

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66294->

[AMERICA ARGENTINA Criminals kill layman as he opens the church](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66294-AMERICA_ARGENTINA_Criminals_kill_layman_as_he_opens_the_church)



Cameroon

Archbishop Cornelius Fontem Esua (abducted by secessionists on the road [near Belo-Njikwe village on June 25, 2019](#); **UPDATE**: released, said "Suddenly a group of secessionists on motorbikes came screaming and started to threaten. They wanted to brutalize my driver. I told them not to touch him and that if they wanted to take it out on someone, they would have to take it out on me. I spent the whole night reciting the Rosary. I told him [the rebel 'general' by phone] that they cannot achieve their goals by practicing evil, because evil can only lead to evil. And God will not be able to hear their prayers if they continue to do evil, because we must not do to others what we do not want to be done to us")

Date: June 26, 2019

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66320->

[AFRICA CAMEROON I spent the whole night reciting the rosary says the Archbishop of Bamenda kidnapped by separatists](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66320-AFRICA_CAMEROON_I_spent_the_whole_night_reciting_the_rosary_says_the_Archbishop_of_Bamenda_kidnapped_by_separatists)



Canada

John-Henry Westen (LifeSiteNews web site Editor-in-Chief, reported that after a week of operation Apple News had deleted his news organization presumably for its positions favoring traditional Christian morality, said he would appeal)

Date: July 31, 2019

Source: <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/breaking-apple-news-bans-lifesite-without-warning-shows-intolerance>



China

Rev John Cao San Qiang (husband of Jamie Powell, father of Amos and Ben, U.S. resident, minister to Myanmar Christians, arrested [at the Myanmar border with China](#) on [March 5, 2017](#) and charged with illegal border crossing; sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment on [March 23, 2018](#), fined US\$3,168; **UPDATE**: sentence upheld on appeal)

Date: July 25, 2019

Location: Pu'er, Yunnan province

Source: <https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/07/the-court-sustains-previous-sentence-of.html>

Pastor Wang Yi (husband of Jiang Rong, son of Chen Yaxue, detained on [December 10, 2018](#), charged with 'inciting subversion of state power'; **UPDATE**: still jailed, reported to have been charged with 'illegal business activities')

Jiang Rong (wife of Pastor Wang Yi; detained on [December 10, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: reported to have been released on bail after six months of 'residential surveillance' in an unofficial jail)

Date reported: July 24, 2019

Location: Chengdu, Sichuan province

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2019/07/china-adds-charge-against-pastor-coerces-christians-to-accuse-him-falsely-sources-say/>



Congo, Democratic Republic

Fr Paul Mbon (abducted on [June 29, 2019](#); **UPDATE**: [decomposing body found with wounds, buried](#))

Date: July 4, 2019

Location: Ouesso

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/66312-AFRICA CONGO The body of a priest kidnapped at the end of June has been found](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66312-<u>AFRICA CONGO The body of a priest kidnapped at the end of June has been found</u>)

Fr Pierre Akilimali (abducted in [Bunyuka, North-Kivu province](#) on [July 17, 2017](#) by persons unknown; **UPDATE**: still missing)

Fr Charles Kipasa (abducted in [Bunyuka, North-Kivu province](#) on [July 17, 2017](#) by persons unknown; **UPDATE**: still missing)

Date: July 16, 2019

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66387->

[AFRICA DR CONGO The diocese of Butembo Beni remembers the two priests kidnapped two years ago of whom there is no news](#)



Cuba

Event: Two Christian leaders were prevented from leaving the country to attend a religious freedom event in Washington DC

Rev Moises de Prada Esquivel

Rev Alida Leon Baez

Date: July 14, 2019

Location: Havana

Rev Dariel Llanes (passport not renewed)

Rev Alain Toledano Valiente (husband of Marilin Alayo Correa; church and home in [Santiago de Cuba](#) were demolished by state security on [February 5, 2016](#); **UPDATE**: prevented from leaving the country)

Date reported: July 16, 2019

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2019/07/officials-in-cuba-forbid-church-leaders-to-attend-religious-freedom-event/>



Eritrea

Fr Mussie Zerai (spoke after the government closed 29 Catholic hospitals and clinics "The Catholic Church in Eritrea has always collaborated and cooperated with the institutions. With regards to healthcare, the quality of the service offered by our facilities was considered by the government itself as an excellence of the Country. Indeed, we do not understand on what basis the government has made this decision, our hospitals treated two hundred thousand people a year, about 6% of the entire Eritrean population...Already last year, another eight hospitals had been closed without apparently plausible reasons. This represents yet another violation of freedom of choice, as well as damage to the poorest population that cannot afford to pay medical expenses for treatment...The authorities recognize only four religions: Orthodox Christianity, the Roman Catholic Church, the evangelical-Lutheran Church and Sunni Islam. Any other activity carried out outside our places of worship is subject to strict control by the security forces. Furthermore, since 2001 the government has also prevented us from printing all our newspapers...In Asmara, about a month ago, more than 140 people belonging to the

Pentecostal Christian Churches were arrested by the police while they were gathered in prayer...The restrictions and violations of fundamental rights and the limited opportunities for work and education push thousands of Eritreans every year to try to escape from the Country...Many prisoners have disappeared. Their families do not know exactly where they are and, in many cases, they have no news. The United Nations estimates that at least 10,000 people are involved")

Date: July 13, 2019

Location: Asmara

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66325->

[AFRICA ERITREA Father Zerai The international community must not be silent in the face of the tragedy of the Eritrean people](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66325-)



India

Sajan K George (Global Council of Indian Christians president, **UPDATE:** responded to accusations by state legislator Vasudev Devnani that Christians run a 'conversion factory': "No conversion activity has taken place. Whatever has to do with the small Christian community is viewed with suspicion. Pentecostals are also poor: how can they convert someone by offering money, when they themselves do not have money? It is important to point out that the infamous anti-conversion law exists in Rajasthan, an instrument of harassment and intimidation against innocent Pentecostal Christians. Moreover, India is a secular democratic country with constitutional guarantees. Why then do Christians suffer discrimination and are arrested only for practicing their faith? The government census shows a decline in the Christian population, so the existence of a 'conversion factory' is a regrettable and outrageously false accusation")

Date: July 25, 2019

Location: Rajasthan state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Rajasthan-politician-accuses-Christians-of-running-a-conversion-factory-47629.html>

Rev Raju Prasad (attacked by Bajrang Dal members for saying prayers over a sick elderly woman, the woman and her daughter denied they had been converted)

Date: July 28, 2019

Location: Kashiram Colony, Kanpur district, Uttar Pradesh state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Accusations-of-conversions-trigger-new-anti-Christian-violence-in-Uttar-Pradesh-47640.html>

Dr John Dayal (**UPDATE:** commented on released statistics that show the highest rate of unemployment is among Christian men "Prime Minister Narendra Modi was against giving the rights and status of 'recognized caste' to Christian Dalits and excluded the community from scholarship...[In the collective imagination, the Christian community in India remains] the owner of rich plantations in Kerala or is identified with the nurses and

working women in the cities of Goa and Mumbai. No one remembers and recognizes the Dalits, tribals, miners")

Date: July 2, 2019

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66286->

[ASIA INDIA Unemployment rate among Christian men is the highest in the nation](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66286-)

Event: Church leaders in the country's Northeast accused the Federal government of undermining missionaries

Allen Brooks (UPDATE: said “Not a single word about the significant contributions of Christian missionaries in providing and making quality education accessible to maximum number of people has been mentioned in the entire voluminous draft New Education Policy [NEP] 2019...If implemented, the NEP-2019 will ensure that no one from the lower ranks will ever be able to go beyond their assigned level”)

Date: July 26, 2019

Location: Assam

Source: <http://mattersindia.com/2019/08/design-to-undermine-role-of-missionaries-ne-church-leaders/>

Gangadhar Munda (spoke out against a village decree that defined Christians as 'polluted' and ordered their ostracism: “We told the village heads that we don’t approve their decision, and that it is a fundamental right, and that we are free to practice Christianity. We said we belong to this village as rightfully as other Sarna villagers. We did not commit any crime to be humiliated and ostracized publicly like this. How can they pass rules convenient only to them? It angered them that we raised a voice against them. They said, ‘These Christians should be cleansed at the pandal [a raised platform for seating idols].’ But some of the village heads said that we should not be forced, and that if any Christian wants to return to Sarna faith, they should come to the pandal on their own. Nobody among our 12 families accepted this offer. We stood strong in faith and decided that no matter what happens, we will not give up our faith”)

Balveer Munda (home attacked by a Sarna mob, heavily damaged, clothes, chickens, and food grain stolen)

Anima Munda (expectant mother, fled the village after receiving threats)

Date: June 12, 2019

Location: Mahuatoli village, Gumla district, Jharkhand state

Pastor Boyen Munda (said “Threats have always been there in this area in Gumla District, but it had never escalated to this point that the Sarna extremists vowed to take lives. They are not in a right state of mind now. The Hindu extremist forces have joined hands with them and have been inciting them against the believers...They never had an open service or loudspeakers – it has always been a private family prayer at each individual’s house. Even that few minutes of private prayer is being seen as crime”)

Jogiya Munda (convert since 2002, home attacked by the Sarna mob, forced with his widowed mother out of the house and to bow to an idol, fled the village)

Date: June 14, 2019

Location: Mahuatoli village, Gumla district, Jharkhand state

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2019/07/christians-forced-to-reconvert-banished-from-village-in-india/>

Sangeeta Devi (house church attacked by Hindu extremists who demanded US\$22, said “I told them that I cannot offer any money, and they started threatening that they will not allow us to use the toilets...Even if they kill me, it is fine, but I cannot offer a single rupee for their puja. Even if our family has to starve, it is fine, we will die serving the Lord”)

Date: first week of June 2019

Location: Bharatpur area, Jamui district, Bihar state

Pastor Shelton Viswanathan (aged 46, attacked by 8 Hindu extremists while riding his motor scooter, said “I slowed down my scooter, moved it to the other end of the road and pulled away, but they pushed me with such great force that I fell on the road. They were eight men on four motorcycles. One of them clasped me from behind my neck and started beating me”, later said “The doctors said that my hand and foot have been fractured. I’m trying to limp about, but there is a pain in my injured knee, and I can’t stand straight without support...If I force the police to register cases against the assailants, the Bajrang Dal’s top leaders will not spare me. The police officials asked me to be wary as the Hindu militant activists roam freely with guns, and through their videos, I can be easily identified by other RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh paramilitary]-affiliated groups also”)

Devesh Lal (Bihar Christian Leaders Fellowship coordinator; **UPDATE:** said “The Hindutva extremists are walking into churches and are disrupting prayer services – on a weekly basis, we hear of threats and attacks on home churches and pastors. Christian persecution is widely spread across Bihar, and it appears to be a much planned, systematic opposition created to target activities. We also see police supporting the perpetrators instead of taking action against them, and the victims do not come forward fearing this bias”)

Date: June 23, 2019

Location: Sheohar district, Bihar state

Anand Kumar Das (aged 26, Christian neighbors beaten when they refused to donate to a Hindu festival, later said “No Christian comes forward to lodge a police complaint against them. The police have been biased, but if we unite in huge numbers and approach the higher authorities, they can’t ignore us...We work very hard in town, as our agriculture fields have been snatched away from us. They warned us not to conduct Christian prayers in the village, and that our water supply would stop if we are found assembling as a church in Beheri Basti...There is no peace here. By God’s grace and supply of means, we solve a problem, and no sooner another problem comes up. I don’t even remember the last time I sat in an auto-rickshaw in my village, as we have been banned from using autos and public transport for commute”)

Date: June 9, 2019

Location: Beheri Basti village, Jamui district, Bihar state

Dinesh Das (beaten by police along with his wife, falsely charged with a crime)

Date reported: July 30, 2019

Location: Jamui, Bihar state

Antu Das (accused by Hindu extremists of being a Muslim [and thus threatened with violence])

Date reported: July 30, 2019

Location: Bihar state

Krishna Kumar Suman (said "The village council summons one family at a time to a public meeting where they force us to drink the water and food offered to the goddess. If we resist, they would beat us up. They don't care if it's a woman or minor or child...The villagers have been warned from socializing with us, and if they ever speak to us, the village council would impose a penalty. It is very difficult to survive there. They stopped the supply of water and electricity to our agriculture fields and have made life terrible for us. My elderly parents, who were highly respected once, endure humiliation daily for not giving up our faith...Youth members of the families have moved to different cities for work. Now they are troubling our elderly parents and women by digging holes in front of our homes. These holes would cause water clogging in rain, making it difficult for senior citizens to walk on a path full of puddles")

Date reported: July 30, 2019

Location: Maheshpur village, Bhagalpur district, Bihar state

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2019/07/reporting-persecution-to-police-a-vanishing-option-for-christians-in-india/>



Iran

Sevada Aghasar (aged 30, arrested on August 21, 2013; released from prison on March 2, 2014, never charged; reported on May 1, 2015 to have been sentenced to five years' imprisonment for "action against national security through collusion and gathering", the gathering in question was when he met with Ebrahim Firouzi to say goodbye before the beginning of Firouzi's original prison term; began serving his prison term on July 4, 2017; UPDATE: conditionally released from prison)

Date: July 20, 2019

Source: <http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=4207>



Mexico

Margeli Lang Antonio (catechist instructor, **shot dead** while teaching in chapel)

Bishop Jaime Calderon Calderon (later said "Yesterday at the end of catechists' training course in the church of the Immaculate Conception, of San Marcos Evangelista parish, two young men entered and started shooting, one of the bullets injured Margeli Lang Antonio, who died almost immediately. We are close to her family. As a diocesan family we cannot get

used to these facts of violence that demonstrate a social and moral degradation of the human community")

Date: June 15, 2019

Location: Acacoyagua, Chiapas state

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66221->

[AMERICA MEXICO Shooting in Church catechist killed the Bishops reaffirm their commitment to building peace](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66221-AMERICA_MEXICO_Shooting_in_Church_catechist_killed_the_Bishops_reaffirm_their_commitment_to_building_peace)



Myanmar

Pastor U Aung Thin (forced to sign a document announcing his conversion to Buddhism, another man also forced to sign)

Date: May 24, 2019

Location: Ann Township, Rakhine state

U San Tin Aung (forced to sign a document announcing his conversion to Buddhism)

Date: May 25, 2019

Location: Padi Kyin village, Rakhine state

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2019/06/three-christians-forced-to-convert-to-buddhism-in-rakhine-state-burma/>



Nicaragua

Bishop Rolando Jose Alvarez Lagos (**UPDATE**: attacked by an armed group, escaped)

Date: July 18, 2019

Location: Terrabona

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66397->

[AMERICA NICARAGUA Mgr Rolando Alvarez walking together praying for Nicaragua and seeking the truth](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66397-AMERICA_NICARAGUA_Mgr_Rolando_Alvarez_walking_together_praying_for_Nicaragua_and_seeking_the_truth)



Nigeria

Fr Isaac Agubi (abducted on June 16, 2019 on the Auchu-Igarra road; **UPDATE**: rescued by police)

Date: June 19, 2019

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66225->

[AFRICA NIGERIA Kidnapped priest released over 150 violent deaths in a week](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66225-)

Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah (**UPDATE**: said "The blanket and continued hate speeches against the Fulani herdsmen as being currently done on the social media, constitute a threat to the unity and peace of Nigeria", added that the country was on a precipice)

Date: July 31, 2019

Location: Abuja

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66440->

[AFRICA NIGERIA Stop inciting hatred against the Fulani that could lead to a civil war and genocide warns Mgr Kukah](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66440-)

Rev Mark Jack (abducted, **killed**)

Date: January 26, 2019

Location: Garin Dogo, Taraba state

Rev Shawulu Ishaya (shot in his home, hospitalized)

Date: March 20, 2019

Location: Lau county, Taraba state

Joseph David (aged 30, texted "I know that 11 persons were killed and their corpses were taken to mortuaries in some hospitals in the town of Jalingo...The attacks were carried out by Muslim Fulanis riding Bajaj motorcycles. They burned houses and shot us as we fled")

Date: June 16, 2019

Location: outside Jalingo, Taraba state

Fr Sunday Muke (reported "For the past two years, there have been records of kidnappings and serial killings. Religious leaders, especially Christian leaders, have become targets of these herdsmen")

Pastor Ishaku Amah (reported "The sad reality is that once the herdsmen attack an area, they take over farms of Christians and turn them into grazing fields")

Date: June 21, 2019

Location: near Jalingo, Taraba state

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2019/06/fulani-herdsmen-in-nigeria-continue-campaign-for-territory-for-their-cattle-and-islam/>

Istifanus Arewa (aged 21, **shot dead** by Fulani gunmen while saving his mother, sister-in-law, and nephew, killed a Fulani gunman by using him as a human shield)

Jerome (aged 7, alias, nephew of Istifanus Arewa, shot, said "My uncle pulled me down and asked my mother and grandmother to also lie down on the ground in order to avoid the bullets that were being shot at us. As we lay there on the ground, one of the herdsmen came to where we were and pointed his gun at my uncle. When the Fulani man was about to shoot my uncle, my uncle jumped up and grabbed him, and they began to wrestle each other. My mother and grandmother ran away while I stood there crying and calling for help. But as this was going on, another Fulani man shot me, and the bullet hit me on the upper side of my right shoulder. I fell down and crawled under a thick shrub", another

Fulani shot at his uncle: “The shooting brought the two of them down, and after sensing that he killed both my uncle and the other Fulani, the Fulani man left. I ran back to the village and saw an open door to a room in another house, where I entered and hid. I was in there until my parents and other people found me in that room the following morning”)

Moses Ayuba (aged 29, son of Ayuba Para, shot in the hand and waist, hospitalized)

Ayuba Para (aged 65, father of Moses Ayuba, said “Unfortunately, on this night, the policemen were not around, and so my son ran into the herdsmen who were invading the village, and they shot him. And when I heard him crying, I ran out to the spot only for the herdsmen to shoot at me. I narrowly escaped being killed as I ran into the bush behind my house”)

Date: May 3, 2019

Location: Gwanje village, Nasarawa state

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2019/06/7-year-old-in-nigeria-how-herdsmen-shot-me-and-killed-my-uncle/>

Di Zere (aged 63, **killed** by Fulani Muslims while sleeping in his home, 10-year old daughter shot but survived)

Ezekiel Audu (aged 25, **killed** by Fulani Muslims while riding his motorcycle)

Date: July 7, 2019

Location: Kperie village, Kwall district, Bassa county, Plateau state

Margaret Wakili (aged 27, mother of two, expectant mother, **killed** by Fulani Muslims)

Date: July 15, 2019

Location: Ancha village, Plateau state

Thomas Wollo (aged 46, father of Ngwe Thomas Wollo, **killed** by Fulani Muslims while returning home from church)

Ngwe Thomas Wollo (aged 7, son of Thomas Wollo, **killed**)

Date: July 14, 2019

Location: Tafigana village, Plateau state

Fr Ikechukwu Ilo (shot by Fulani Muslims, hospitalized, said “As we drove towards the village, the Fulani killer herdsmen, who spoke both in English and Fulani languages, opened fire, trying to force us to stop. Seeing that we were not ready to cave into their intimidation, they started raining bullets on our vehicle at close range, and in the process, shot me at my ankle and shoulder while the other victim was shot in her leg and waist”)

Chika Egbo (shot by Fulani Muslims, hospitalized)

Date: July 17, 2019

Location: on the Numeh-Nenwe Highway, Nkanu East county, Enugu state

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2019/07/pregnant-mother-among-five-christians-slain-in-north-central-nigeria/>



Pakistan

Nabeel Masih (aged 19, arrested on blasphemy charges in [Dina Nath village, Kasur district, Punjab province](#) on [September 18, 2016](#) after accused of posting a photo of the Kabaa in Mecca on his Facebook page near a photo of a pig, family fled their home; denied bail in [Kasur](#) on [February 7, 2017](#); sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on [May 17, 2018](#); **UPDATE**: still imprisoned, searching for an attorney to file an appeal)

Date: July 21, 2019

Source: <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/christian-man-convicted-of-blasphemy-as-a-teenager>

Benish Imran (aged 14, daughter of Imran Masih, abducted on [July 2, 2019](#) and forced into an Islamic marriage; **UPDATE**: appeared in court and told the judge she was 19 and had willingly converted, the judge did not order her return to her family despite a birth certificate that proved the illegality of the marriage)

Date: July 19, 2019

Location: Lahore

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Christian-girls-continue-to-be-abducted.-The-latest-case-involves-a-14-year-old-in-Lahore-converted-under-threat-47615.html>

Fr Indrias Rehmat (appointed bishop)

Date: June 29, 2019

Location: Faisalabad

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/66279-ASIA_PAKISTAN_Appointment_of_the_Bishop_of_Faisalabad



Philippines

Event: Sedition and other charges were brought against Christian leaders, the vice president, and 35 opposition leaders

Fr Albert Alejo SJ (**UPDATE**: charged)

Br Armin Luistro (charged)

Fr Flavie Villanueva SVD (**UPDATE**: charged)

Bishop Honesto Ongtioco (charged)

Bishop Pablo Virgilio David (**UPDATE**: charged)

Fr Robert Reyes (**UPDATE**: charged, said "It's a pathetic attempt to distract people from the serious issue of the shift to totalitarianism...a wake-up call for the undecided and the indifferent")

Archbishop Socrates Villegas (**UPDATE**: charged)

Bishop Teodoro Bacani Jr (**UPDATE**: charged)

Fr Jerome Secillano (**UPDATE**: said "The move is obviously meant to scare the hell out of these churchmen and eventually silence them")

Bishop Romulo Valles (wrote that the charges were "beyond belief" added the clergymen's "sincerity, decency, respectfulness and love for our country and our people are beyond doubt")

Date: July 19, 2019

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Sedition-charges-against-four-bishops-and-three-priests-are-beyond-belief-47589.html>
and <https://www.ucanews.com/news/sedition-charges-against-philippine-bishops-priests/85674>

Bishop Geraldo Alminaza (**UPDATE**: announced that church bells would ring every day at 8 AM until the murders of farmers and human rights activists stops)

Date: July 26, 2019

Location: Negros Oriental province

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Church-bells-toll-against-extrajudicial-killings-in-Negros-Occidental-47614.html>



Poland

Fr Aleksander Ziejewski (aged 68, beaten by robbers in his church sacristy along with two others)

Date: July 28, 2019

Location: Szczecin

Source: <https://catholicerald.co.uk/news/2019/07/30/polish-priest-attacked-in-sacristy-during-apparent-robbery/>



Russia

Fr Ioann Guaita (sheltered 100 protesting youths in his church after they fled an attack by OMON riot police)

Date: July 27, 2019

Location: Moscow

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Moscow,-Church-of-Saints-Cosmas-and-Damian,-a-refuge-for-opposition-protesters-47624.html>



Syria

Archbishop Antoine Audo SJ (**UPDATE**: marked the sixth anniversary of the disappearance of Fr Paolo Dall'Oglio)

Date: July 29, 2019

Location: Aleppo

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Six-years-after-Fr-DallOglios-disappearance,-Syrian-Christians-ask-for-prayers-and-the-truth-47631.html>



Uganda

Br Norbert Emmanuel Mugarura (aged 46, **killed** by a university student)

Date: July 3, 2019

Location: Kampala

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/66338-AFRICA_UGANDA_Catholic_priest_killed

Asuman Kaire (aged 20, convert from Islam, beaten by his stepfather and 7 other Muslims after he left church on **April 7, 2019**, left leg broken, hand injured, left unconscious, hospitalized, had been unable to finish secondary school due to threats; **UPDATE**: church he had taken refuge in attacked by Muslims threatening his life, escaped to another area)

Date: June 15, 2019

Location: Lelya-A village, Kabweri county, Kibuku district

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2019/07/unable-to-finish-school-for-becoming-christian-young-man-in-uganda-faces-bleak-future/>

Sharifa Kasozi Nakamate (aged 49, convert, widow, received threats by text after her husband was buried in a Christian ceremony, said “I realized my life was now in danger, so I sought refuge at the church...I never expected such thing to happen to me. I have lost everything that I did in developing the homestead for more than 30 years of our married life, only to lose everything just like that because of following Jesus...Two days ago a Muslim from my home village came and bought items from me. I am afraid that she will go back and spread news of my new place of residence. This new place is not safe for me”)

Date: July 11, 2019

Location: Kirinda, Wakiso district

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2019/07/christian-widow-driven-from-home-in-central-uganda/>



United Kingdom

Oluwole Ilesanmi (aged 64, street preacher, retired dentist, arrested by police on [February 23, 2019](#) after a Muslim complaint, told by police "No one wants to hear that", taken over 5 miles away, 'de-arrested', and left in an isolated location; **UPDATE**: awarded US\$2,786 for wrongful arrest, said "When I came to the UK it was a free Christian country, but now preachers like me are being arrested for speaking the truth. Christians and freedom of speech must be protected, especially by the government and police. I hope this recognition of fault can lead to more Christians being protected and the police gaining greater insight into what it means to lawfully proclaim the Word of God on our streets")

Date: [July 26, 2019](#)

Location: London

Source: <https://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/freedom-of-speech/met-police-pays-damages-nigerian-street-preacher-wrongful-arrest>
and <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7293257/Police-arrest-preacher-64-grab-Bible-promoting-Christianity.html>

Event: Two schoolchildren were yelled at by their head teacher in a LGBT presentation after showing signs of resisting the materials, told they were "a disappointment to the school", both were interrogated in separate rooms where they were asked if they wanted to kill LGBT people, forced to write "confessions" and to sit in isolation for five hours, suspended from the school for 5 days, police and social services were called, one child's church was reported to the government anti-terrorism unit

Farrell Spence (aged 10, suspended)

Kaysey Francis-Austin (aged 10, daughter of Karen, described in a recent school report as "a delight to have in class", suspended, reported that after the suspension was lifted other children said the head teacher told them not to speak to her and that she was a danger to other children)

Karen (mother of Kaysey Francis-Austin, said she will move her daughter to a new school, added "The school is failing to recognize our Christian beliefs and is persecuting us for wanting to maintain our Bible beliefs")

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns, **UPDATE**: later said "My hope is this case will get people and particularly church leaders to see the gravity of the situation we face. What kind of society are we living in when a headteacher - whose job it is to look after and teach young children - is reporting their alleged words to social services, the government's counter-terrorism body and the police? Ten-year-old children are being treated like terrorists...The actions of the headteacher are so serious and put Christian families under extreme pressure. Her actions do not show proportionality, they show zeal in eradicating any dissent to the LGBT agenda in the school...How can anyone think that Heavers Farm is a safe place to leave innocent children?...When bullies know that right is not on their side, they resort to coercion and intimidation. That is exactly what is being played out in Heavers Farm Primary School...This story reflects the

growing unease and anger from parents across the country and we ask for urgent prayer as we continue to support these brave children and parents”)

Date: June 2019

Location: South Norwood

Source: <https://www.christianconcern.com/our-issues/education/10-year-old-takes-a-stand-against-lgbt-agenda>
and https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7220729/Parents-furious-Christian-pupils-aged-10-excluded-school-alleged-homophobic-remarks.html?fbclid=IwAR15UjTbwXLB1pOi_D0NVJzbtIS-CKCINwA6wLyg7FvQ3U9hXUUeJ3nHBN0

Bishop Angaelos (UK resident, Egyptian national, **UPDATE:** said "When we advocate, it must be about them [the martyrs] and their suffering, not us. We must not patronize the communities there. Let us not export our own visions of who they must be, but honor who they are. We need to listen to them. Labelling martyrs as victims dishonors what they are doing. They don't see themselves as victims, but witnesses. We should recognize their vulnerability, but vulnerability is different to victimhood...We are all completely fed by the media. It is important for the media to be responsible in how they report persecution")

Date: July 4, 2019

Location: Westminster

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/66337-AFRICA_EGYPT_Coptic_Archbishop_Angaelos_martyrs_are_not_victims_but_witnesses](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66337-<u>AFRICA_EGYPT_Coptic_Archbishop_Angaelos_martyrs_are_not_victims_but_witnesses</u>)



United States - Tennessee

Pastor James Mitchell (church spray painted with Satanic and anti-Semitic slurs, said "God forgives us, so we forgive them")

Date: July 18, 2019

Location: Hohenwald

Source: <https://www.foxnews.com/us/tennessee-church-vandalized-with-racial-slurs-graphic-images>



Venezuela

Bishop Jose Luis Azuaje Ayala (**UPDATE:** denounced government mismanagement of the economy, and complicity in violence and the flight of 11% of the population from the country)

Date: July 7, 2019

Location: Caracas

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66345->

[AMERICA VENEZUELA The Church will continue to remain on the side of the people mainly alongside those who suffer the most](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66345-AMERICA_VENEZUELA_The_Church_will_continue_to_remain_on_the_side_of_the_people_mainly_alongside_those_who_suffer_the_most)

Event: The bishops of the country published a pastoral exhortation stating "There are reasonable grounds to believe that serious violations of economic and social rights have been committed...for over a decade, Venezuela has adopted and implemented a series of laws, policies and practices that have limited democratic space...the State has systematically denied the rights of victims of violations of human rights to truth, justice and reparation...The immense majority of the inhabitants of the country reject this situation because it is in open contradiction with the traditional civil, cultural and religious values that have characterized our people...Venezuelans continue to bet on a pluralist and peaceful civil coexistence in justice, freedom and solidarity, as established by the constitution...political regimes, ideologies, organizations or institutions must be at the service of fundamental principles. This requires a decisive promotion and defense of human rights and a permanent denunciation of abuses and violations of these rights, from the moment that all abuses of this dignity are abuses for God himself...The ethical and spiritual renewal of the country is everyone's task...in the face of the reality of an illegitimate and failed government, Venezuela cries out for a change of direction, a return to the constitution...This change requires the exit of those who exercise power illegitimately and elections, as soon as possible, of a new President of the Republic"

Archbishop Jesus Gonzalez De Zarate (aged 58, **UPDATE:** presented the pastoral exhortation)

Bishop Jorge Anibal Quintero (presented the pastoral exhortation)

Bishop Jose Manuel Romero (presented the pastoral exhortation)

Date: July 11, 2019

Location: Caracas

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66352->

[AMERICA VENEZUELA The Bishops Venezuela cries out for a change of direction a return to the constitution](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66352-AMERICA_VENEZUELA_The_Bishops_Venezuela_cries_out_for_a_change_of_direction_a_return_to_the_constitution)



Vietnam

Anne Nguyen Dang Minh Man (aged 34, convert, arrested in [August 2011](#) for photographing an anti-government demonstration; sentenced in [Nghe An](#) on [January 9, 2012](#) to 8 years' imprisonment followed by 5 years' house arrest; **UPDATE:** to be released from prison on August 2, 2019 and begin house arrest)

Date: July 31, 2019

Location: Nghe An

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/After-eight-years-of-strict-prison,-Catholic-activist-to-purge-five-more-years-under-house-arrest-47648.html>

Today's Martyrs

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

or write to

**2490 Black Rock Turnpike #455
Fairfield CT 06825-2400**

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