

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2019-08-18 through 2019-08-24



Australia

Cardinal George Pell (aged 78, charged with multiple child sex abuse crimes in [June 2017](#), the police had opened a case against him a year before a complainant was found, most charges were then dismissed for "fundamental defects in evidence"; reported on [December 11, 2018](#) to have been convicted on five counts despite the trial having been held in secret, a previously unreported trial had ended in mistrial after 10 jurors voted to acquit, trial witnesses anonymously reported extensive prosecutorial misconduct; verdict announced on [February 27, 2019](#) after prosecutors decided to drop the remaining charges, taken into custody; sentenced to 6 years' imprisonment on [March 13, 2019](#); **UPDATE:** appeal denied on a 2-1 vote, the dissenting judge wrote that his guilt had not been proved beyond a reasonable doubt)

Date: August 21, 2019

Location: Melbourne, Victoria state

Source: <https://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2019/08/21/pell-loses-appeal/>



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 in [Pu'er, Yunnan province](#) on [March 23, 2018](#), fined US\$3,168; sentence upheld on appeal on [July 25, 2019](#); **UPDATE:** moved to Kunming Prison)

Date: August 19, 2019

Location: Kunming, Yunnan province

Source: <https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/08/north-carolina-pastor-moved-to-prison.html>

Li Yingqiang (church elder, husband of Zhang Xinyue, detained on [December 11, 2018](#); reported on [December 21, 2018](#) to have been charged with 'stirring up trouble'; **UPDATE:** released on bail)

Date: August 18, 2019

Location: Chengdu, Sichuan province

Source: <https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/08/early-rain-covenant-church-elder-freed.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, has been denied access to his attorney)

Deacon Tan Defu (husband of Xiao Hongliu; **UPDATE**: still jailed, received an additional charge of 'illegal business operation', fired the attorneys hired by his family and 'hired' state supplied attorneys - a fellow parishioner stated that the attorney change might have happened as a result of torture)

Date: August 15, 2019

Location: Chengdu, Sichuan province

Source: <https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/08/early-rain-covenant-church-pastor-and.html>



India

Bishop Antony Pappusamy (objected to a judge's citing alleged cases of forced conversion during a hearing on a Christian school teacher accused of sexual harassment: "[the hearing] is not in any way connected with the question of religious conversion. Therefore, the said observation on religious conversion was unwarranted")

Date: August 16, 2019

Location: Madras aka Chennai, Tamil Nadu state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Bishop-rejects-as-false-and-gratuitous-warning-by-High-Court-of-harassment-risk-in-Christian-schools-47785.html>



Thailand

Adnan Masih (aged 36, husband of Sumaira, father of Yeshhuwa and Eric, Pakistani refugee, fled Pakistan in **2015**; detained in **Phuket** on **July 3, 2018** while on the way to work; **UPDATE**: still in detention)

Sumaira (aged 33, wife of Adnan Masih, mother of Yeshhuwa and Eric, Pakistani refugee)

Yeshhuwa (aged 10, son of Sumaira and Adnan Masih, Pakistani refugee)

Eric (aged 5, son of Sumaira and Adnan Masih, Pakistani refugee)

John Charles (aged 40, husband of Spana Charles, father of Ashir, Abiya, and Ethan, Pakistani refugee, fled Pakistan in **2014** after accused of blasphemy for having protested the blasphemy laws; detained in **October 2018**; **UPDATE**: still detained, has suffered from an untreated thyroid condition and back pain)

Spana Charles (aged 38, wife of John Charles, mother of Ashir, Abiya, and Ethan, Pakistani refugee, fled Pakistan in 2014 after her husband was accused of blasphemy for having protested the blasphemy laws)

Ashir (aged 10, child of Spana and John Charles, unable to attend school)

Abiya (aged 7, child of Spana and John Charles, unable to attend school)

Ethan (aged 4, child of Spana and John Charles, unable to attend school)

Barkat Masih (aged 60, husband of Parveen Barkat, diabetic, Pakistani refugee, fled Pakistan after being forced to sell his home under threat of a blasphemy accusation, detained in 2018; **UPDATE**: still detained, health condition unknown)

Parveen Barkat (aged 60, wife of Barkat Masih, Pakistani refugee, fled Pakistan after being forced to sell her home under threat of a blasphemy accusation)

Date reported: August 16, 2019

Location: Bangkok

Source: <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/baca-continue-to-support-families-of-pak-christian-asylum-detainees-in-bangkok>

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

Permission is granted to copy, disseminate and forward this document without charge or fee, provided no changes are made and full attribution is made to Today's Martyrs