

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2019-09-01 through 2019-09-07



Algeria

Pastor Brahim Bourouba (told by police on [August 10, 2019](#) that his church would be closed but that they would delay the order to give him time to appeal; attorney told police when they came to close the church on [August 26, 2019](#) that the order was not valid, police left; police tried to close the church on [August 28, 2019](#) after forcing the building owner to sign a closure order, the attempt failed when Christians from other churches blocked the attempt, **UPDATE**: police attempted to close the church but relented when the owner could not be found)

Date: [September 2, 2019](#)

Location: [Ighzer Amokrane, Akbou district, Bejaia province](#)

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2019/09/after-christians-in-algeria-prevented-church-closure-authorities-seal-it-shut/>



Cyprus

Metropolitan Neophytos Masouras (aged 57, reported on [August 23, 2019](#) to have had a police investigation opened after criticizing homosexuality, said “I expressed the position of the Church and the position of the saints” - it was his quoting the saints that were the core of the complaint; **UPDATE**: case sent by police to prosecutors with a finding of no criminal offense)

Bishop Christophoros Tsiakas (aged 55, said “The Metropolitan of Morphou said some truths. He said that people who are enslaved to carnality will not inherit the Kingdom of God. The enemies of the Church began to fight [Met. Neophytos], and many Christians joined them”)

Date: [September 4, 2019](#)

Location: [Morphou](#)

Source: <http://orthochristian.com/123591.html>



India

Sajan K George (Global Council of Indian Christians president, **UPDATE**: criticized a state government for adding new provisions to its anti-conversion laws, including a provision that targets mixed marriages)

Date: September 3, 2019

Location: Himachal Pradesh state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Sajan-K-George,-Himachal-Pradeshs-new-anti-conversion-law-is-anti-Christian-47903.html>

Rev Allen Salins (invited speaker at a religious conference that was shut down by police after local Bajrang Dal Hindu radicals interrupted it, said "We were all shocked. We had organized the event to pray and sing. There was no threat to public order. The New Life Fellowship Association paid the school to hold the meeting")

Date: September 1, 2019

Location: Worli Naka, Mumbai

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mumbai,-Hindu-radicals-block-a-Pentecostal-gathering.-Pastor-denounced-for-forced-conversions-47909.html>

Event: A showing of the film *He Will Come Again* at the home of a Christian was interrupted by 250 upper caste Hindu radicals

Anandi (homeowner, sheltered the 5 film event organizers in her home from the mob, refused to turn them over in exchange for her own life)

Immanuel Tirkey (former attorney, film event organizer, said "The batch of Hindu villagers abused them [the village Christians] in filthy language, scattered the congregation and besieged the [Anandi] house. It was midnight, and soon a mob of 250 angry, upper-caste Hindus showed up with lathis [heavy sticks bound with iron] and steel rods...They were shouting at the family that they are supporting in converting Hindus to a foreign faith, and that we must be killed – 'Release them to us. We will see their end,' they kept shouting...We told them [the police, after they arrived] that we came here only to spend some time in prayer and fellowship and not to get anybody [i.e., the Hindu attackers] arrested and not to put anybody in trouble. When the police threatened the mob that they will be taken into custody for issuing death threats and vandalizing the vehicles, they fled away...Police told us to leave the vehicles there, as the Rajputs [upper-caste Hindus] had already clicked photographs and circulated them to the neighboring Hindu villagers, and we can be easily identified anywhere on our way back to Patna. The Christian villagers rode their bicycles for nearly five miles to drop us at Aandar")

Arjun Das (aged 45, father of three, film event organizer, said "Several times [in 2004] I was slapped and pushed off for distributing gospel tracts in Siwan villages. This time, over 250 people were shouting, pelting stones and striking our vehicles. I felt very weak. We were locked inside and there was no other way to escape. I could sense that terror, and my daughters were worried and kept on ringing my phone. But at that moment I felt stronger when I remembered the Cross. Can't I face this little thing for the Lord?...We

did not go door-to-door inviting people – word passed on, and 100 gathered. They were touched watching this movie. We will go there again to meet the believers. This opposition is nothing before His power”)

Date: August 23, 2019

Location: Kodaila area, Jamalpur village, Siwan district, Bihar state

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2019/09/hindu-extremists-demand-death-of-one-of-organizers-of-christian-film-in-india/>



Indonesia

Archbishop Ignatus Suharyo Hardjoatmodjo (aged 69, **UPDATE**: elevated to the College of Cardinals)

Date: September 1, 2019

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mgr-Suharyos-appointment-as-cardinal-causes-joy-and-pride-in-Indonesia-47894.html>



Lithuania

Archbishop Sigitas Tamkevicius SJ (aged 85, **UPDATE**: elevated to the College of Cardinals)

Date: September 1, 2019

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Tamkevicius,-the-Cardinal-of-Soviet-dissent-47888.html>



Mexico

Pastor Alfrery LÍctor Cruz Canseco (husband of Rosita, **shot** in his automobile after leaving a worship service, **died** en route to the hospital)

Date: August 28, 2019

Location: Tlalixtac de Cabrera, Oaxaca state

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2019/08/killings-kidnapping-target-christian-leaders-in-mexico/>



Nigeria

Leah Nathan Sharibu (aged 16, student, abducted by Boko Haram on [February 19, 2018](#); subject of a [October 16, 2018](#) Boko Haram announcement that she would be a "slave for life" due to her refusal to convert to Islam; **UPDATE**: reported by the government to still be alive)

Date: [August 31, 2019](#)

Jude Bako (reported on a Fulani Muslim attack “Five of our people have been killed, and two others are still missing as we do not know where the herdsmen took them to. The Fulani herdsmen attacked our village while we were still working on our farms. Our people who were in the village at the time were forced to flee for their lives, too”)

Musa Gabriel (later said “I escaped being killed by the herdsmen when they attacked us at about 4 p.m. Four of our people were killed during the attack, and the fifth person died from gunshot wounds yesterday morning, Friday”)

Daniel (aged 35, injured during the attack, later **died**)

Date: [August 29, 2019](#)

Location: [Kiri, Kaura county, Kaduna state](#)

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2019/09/nigeria-says-leah-sharibu-is-alive-herdsmen-attacks-continue/>

Rev Elisha Noma (aged 60, abducted by Fulani Muslims along with his son Emmanuel from their home in [Makiri, Kaduna state](#) on [August 14, 2019](#), son released; **UPDATE**: released after payment of a ransom of US\$8,181, had been tortured so that his family could hear his cries over his cell phone)

Deacon James Kantiyok (said of the release of Rev Elisha Noma “We can’t hold back our joy for his freedom, despite all he went through. Let’s all pray for his total recovery as he is currently receiving medical treatment. We thank you all for praying with the family and the church”)

Rev Joseph Hayab (said "he [Rev Elisha Noma] was released after a ransom was paid following a series of negotiations with the bandits on the ransom. We thank God for his mercies. We pray for God’s intervention in the calamity that seems to have befallen us as a nation”)

Date: [August 31, 2019](#)

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2019/09/kidnapped-baptist-pastor-in-nigeria-freed-after-17-days-of-torture/>



Pakistan

Event: A Christian man and his brother were killed in his home after he stopped a Muslim child from removing stickers from his automobile

Javed Masih (son of Riaz Masih, brother of Suleman and Naveed Masih, father of Adeel, beaten by the father and uncle of the child he stopped from vandalizing his automobile, later **stabbed to death**)

Suleman Masih (son of Riaz Masih, brother of Javed and Naveed Masih, **stabbed** when he tried to save his brother Javed, hospitalized, **died**)

Adeel (son of Javed Masih, grandson of Riaz Masih, stabbed, survived)

Riaz Masih (father of Rehana, Naveed, Javed and Suleman Masih, said “I went to meet Amjad and Naveed’s father, Abdul Majid, and requested him to solve this issue [regarding the vandalism of the automobile stickers by Abdul's grandchild]. First of all, Majid accepted the apology, but later he came with his sons and stabbed both my boys repeatedly”)

Naveed Masih (filed a police report after the murder of his brothers)

Rehana (daughter of Riaz Masih, sister of Naveed, Javed and Suleman Masih, later said her family has been under pressure to drop the charges against her brothers' murderers)

Date: August 21, 2019

Location: Butt Chowk area, Lahore

Source: <https://acnuk.org/news/pakistan-two-brothers-stabbed-to-death/>



Ukraine

Bishop Pimen (assaulted by members of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine while visiting his parents' home, said “This is already the fifth month that the church I went to as a child belongs to the supporters of the OCU. It is forbidden for me and other believers who are attached to the church in their souls to go inside. So I decided to approach their ‘priest,’ who now lives in the village, and ask to go inside. He kindly agreed and took me to the church, but the activists who live nearby saw it and came and started kicking me to get me to leave and insulting me. My subdeacon partially got it on camera. I had no intention of creating a conflict; I simply went to the church. I believe I have the right. I tried to talk, to demonstrate it, but all in vain: I had to leave the church, no matter how it rent my soul. While leaving, I saw from the car some guys on bikes from the neighboring village who had probably come to kick out the ‘Moscow priest.’ I recalled the words of the Gospel: Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do”)

Date: September 1, 2019

Location: Kopytov village

Source: <http://orthochristian.com/123551.html>



United States - Colorado

Mark Haas (archdiocesan spokesman, responded to a lawsuit that sought to compel a Christian hospital to administer euthanasia: “asking a Christian hospital to play any role in violating the dignity of human life is asking the Christian hospital to compromise its values and core mission. This is not the hospital forcing its beliefs upon others, but rather having outside views forced upon it”)

Date reported: September 6, 2019

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/suit-challenges-religious-liberty-of-catholic-hospitals-over-assisted-suicide-95442>

Today's Martyrs

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

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