

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2019-09-22 through 2019-09-28



Brazil

Fr Kazimierz Andrzej 'Casimiro' Wojno (aged 71, Polish national, **killed** during a church robbery)

Date: September 21, 2019

Location: Brasilia

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/66666->

[AMERICA BRAZIL Parish priest of the Shrine of Our Lady of Health killed during a church robbery](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66666-AMERICA_BRAZIL_Parish_priest_of_the_Shrine_of_Our_Lady_of_Health_killed_during_a_church_robbery)



China

Mr Zhou (reported on government orders to churches requiring parishioners sing China's national anthem, pray for the nation, and raise the Chinese flag: "It is outrageous. Many churches in Hangzhou have been required to raise the national flag and sing the national anthem for a long while. Now, China is back to an absurd era, and some regions are even worse than the Cultural Revolution era")

Date: September 20, 2019

Location: Hangzhou

Source: <https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/09/churches-ordered-to-host-flag-raising.html>



India

Fr Benoy John (aged 42, arrested on [September 6, 2019](#) on forced conversion and illegal occupation of land charges; released on bail; **UPDATE**: later said of his time in jail "They wanted me to die in prison. They tried to kill me little by little. I implored them to tears to take me to the hospital, which was just two minutes away, but they refused me")

Date: September 16, 2019

Location: Rajatha, Godda district, Jharkhand state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Jharkhand,-priest-accused-of-forced-conversions:-They-wanted-me-to-die-in-prison-48055.html>

Event: Three Christians were lynched by Gau Rakshaks [cow vigilantes], one died

Kalantus Barla (mentally disabled, lynched, died)

Fagu Kachhap (lynched, hospitalized in critical condition)

Phillip Horo (lynched, hospitalized in critical condition)

John Dayal (**UPDATE:** said that Kalantus Barla was the “fourth tribal Christian lynched in Jharkhand by self-styled Gau Rakshaks about whom we know from the media. God alone knows the real numbers of Muslims, Christians, Dalits [untouchables] killed by these murderous gangs in the last two years. They may or may not have the patronage of senior political leaders of the BJP [Hindu party] in the state, but they surely revel in the state of impunity that exists in the state where Hindutva is a concern...although the Prime Minister, Mr Modi, once chastised the Gau Rakshaks in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh [states], the recurrent killings are evidence of the absolute lack of political will [to stop them]...What makes it worse is that the police seem reluctant, they are partners in the crime when they accompany the monsters and see the victim being beaten up, they are late on the scene, falter in taking the victim to hospital, errant in recording the names of the people involved, absolutely non-scientific in collecting evidence and recording the statements of the victim, if he is still alive, or of the witnesses. The court records in lynching cases speak for themselves...some major efforts at charting such crime nationally have been forced to close down, for instance Hate Crime Checker of the Hindustan Times and the similar venture of India Spend”)

Date: September 22, 2019

Location: Jaltanda Suari village, Khunti district, Jharkhand state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Three-tribal-Christians-lynched-in-Jharkhand-for-slaughtering-a-sacred-cow,-one-dies-48079.html>

Sr Concilia Baxia MC (arrested along with an orphanage staffer on human trafficking charges on July 5, 2018; **UPDATE:** released on bail, had never been formally charged)

Date: September 27, 2019

Location: Ranchi, Jharkhand state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Ranchi,-sister-of-Mother-Teresa-released-on-bail-48120.html>

Pastor Samuel (described an attack on the 4 year old daughter of another pastor by Hindu extremists “They told him to stop holding services, or warned him he would have dire consequences”, he then described a call the pastor's wife received from the kindergarten “They said, ‘you should take her to the doctor, she’s very unwell’. She wouldn’t stop crying, so her mother took her to the doctor. The Hindu extremists had planned and plotted some men into the school who raped the 4 year old. It shattered the lives of the pastor and his wife. They had no idea what to do, the school denied everything, and police wouldn’t listen. Eventually, one of our volunteers came into contact with them, and we’ve been ministering to them ever since. It’s difficult for them, but by God’s grace they were able to be ministered to in their time of difficulty. God is using it. The pastor

was telling me when I met him, he would have given up his ministry because of what happened with their child. But they were able to recover and understand that God can still use them to bring others to Christ”)

Date reported: September 11, 2019

Source: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/india-hindu-extremists-rape-4-y-o-daughter-of-pastor-who-refused-to-stop-sharing-gospel.html>

Pastor Ram Kumar (attacked by a Hindu mob on [September 15, 2019](#), beaten, arrested on forced conversion charges, later said “We were around 50 people worshipping in little hut, all of a sudden a mob of 20 Hindu radicals stormed into the hut while shouting at us using filthy and abusive language dragged me and Pastor Gokran out of the hut and started to beat us, and later the police arrived and took both of us to the police station and then sent us to the jail”; **UPDATE**: released on bail)

Pastor Gokran (attacked by a Hindu mob on [September 15, 2019](#), beaten, arrested on forced conversion charges; **UPDATE**: released on bail)

Date: September 20, 2019

Location: Anushkabad village, Lakhimpur Khere district, Uttar Pradesh state

Pastor Brijraj (reported “all the pastors in the district are on alert and the entire Christian community in a deep despair, because of the current trend of attacks on Churches particularly in our district”)

Date: September 25, 2019

Location: Lakhimpur Khere district, Uttar Pradesh state

Source: <https://www.persecution.org/2019/09/25/eight-imprisoned-false-charges-lakhimpur-khere/>



Pakistan

Samra Bibi (aged 14, daughter of Munir Masih, sister of Shahzad, abducted by 5 men, forced into an Islamic marriage)

Munir Masih (father of Samra Bibi, police refused to file a report on her abduction for 2 days, then falsely reported her age as 16 to make her eligible for marriage)

Date: September 16, 2019

Location: Rasulpura, near Faisalabad

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/A-14-year-old-Faisalabad-Christian-girl-is-kidnapped,-forced-to-convert-and-marry-48099.html>

Archbishop Sebastian Francis Shah OFM (**UPDATE**: said that up to 700 girls had been abducted in his province in one year)

Date reported: September 26, 2019

Location: Punjab province

Source: <https://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2019/09/26/christian-girls-are-being-kidnapped-and-forced-to-convert-pakistan-archbishop-warns/>



Russia

Fr Viktor Grigorenko (signed an appeal to the government asking for police and legal restraint against peaceful protestors)

Date: September 19, 2019

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Fr.-Viktor-Grigorenko:-mercy-and-conscience-towards-the-youth-of-Moscow-48054.html>



United States - Minnesota

RayVell Carter (aged 41, nephew of Rev William Land Sr, **shot dead** in front of his father and 8 year old daughter while leaving a church Bible study)

Rev William Land Sr (uncle of RayVell Carter)

Date: September 18, 2019

Location: St Paul

Source: <https://www.twincities.com/2019/09/22/st-paul-pastor-urges-no-retaliation-for-nephew-shot-after-bible-study/>

Today's Martyrs

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

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