

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Daily Report – 2019-09-29 through 2019-10-05



### Bangladesh

Varonica Rozario (aged 50, widow, mother of three including Luban Rozario, parochial high school employee, **stabbed to death** in her home in a reported land dispute)

Luban Rozario (daughter of Varonica Rozario, said the suspects in her mother's murder “told us that we could not live on this land”)

Fr Ujjol Rozario (**UPDATE**: said “People in Ulukhola live in fear. Murders take place to grab land. The authorities must capture the killers and bring them to justice”)

Nirmal Rozario (general secretary of the Bangladesh Christian Association, **UPDATE**: said “We have called on the police to investigate”)

Date: September 30, 2019

Location: Ulukhola village, Gazipur

Subash Rozario (aged 39, singer, TV personality, disappeared)

Nirmal Rozario (general secretary of the Bangladesh Christian Association, **UPDATE**: said of the disappearance of Subash Rozario “The police have been negligent in their search. We want his safe return”)

Date: September 24, 2019

Location: Chatmohor, near Pabna

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Widow-killed-in-Gazipur,-apparently-in-a-land-dispute-48164.html>



### China

Rev Cyril Jerome Law Jr (diocesan chancellor, issued a statement criticizing the government for projecting a Communist Party slide show onto a historical church ruin: "Although the façade is no longer church property, it remains a symbol of the Catholic Faith in Macau...As the façade of St Paul's represents the profound and long-standing Catholic heritage in Macau, the Diocese wishes to propose that, should there be other 'mapping shows' to be held in the future, their contents would do well to be related to the religious context of the said monument")

Date: October 2, 2019

Location: Macao

Source: [http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Diocese-of-Macao:-No-to-Party-slideshow-on-facade-of-St.-Pauls-church-of-\(Video\)-48171.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Diocese-of-Macao:-No-to-Party-slideshow-on-facade-of-St.-Pauls-church-of-(Video)-48171.html)



## Nigeria

Esther Ishaku Katung (wife of Rev Ishaku Katung, attacked in her home by Fulani Muslims, abducted, escaped, recaptured, **beaten to death**, after her death her abductors demanded a ransom, body found two days after the captors received a US\$700 ransom for her release)

Rev Ishaku Katung (husband of Esther Ishaku Katung. attacked in his home by Fulani Muslims, shot, escaped)

Rev Joseph Hayab (**UPDATE**: reported on the murder of Esther Ishaku Katung: “Information we got from some of the kidnapped victims who escaped from the herdsmen’s enclave shows that Esther Katung and two other victims had escaped from the herdsmen’s captivity, but she was recaptured by them...this infuriated the herdsmen, leading them to kill her. They broke her legs in order to prevent her from escaping and smashed her head too. This led to her death. After they had killed her, they were still demanding the ransom without telling her family that they had killed her. It was only after the ransom was paid that it was found by her family that she had been killed by her abductors”)

Date: September 14, 2019

Location: Bagoma village, Kaduna state

Rev Alhamdu Mangadus (**killed** on his farm by Fulani Muslims)

Rev Danladi Boyis Hassan (reported on the murder of Rev Alhamdu Mangadus)

Rev Joseph Hayab (**UPDATE**: reported on the murder of Rev Alhamdu Mangadus: “He was shot dead on his farm, and the attackers injured another fellow from Tanda. The corpse of the pastor was taken away by the Fulani herdsmen but was eventually recovered in the bush after a frantic search by our brethren in the area”)

Date: September 11, 2019

Location: Asso, Kaduna state

Source: <https://www.persecution.org/2019/09/28/suspected-fulani-militants-kill-pastors-wife-still-take-ransom/>

**Event: Police rescued over 300 children and young adults who had been held captive in an Islamic boarding school, most but not all were Muslim, many had been tortured and sexually abused**

Hasan Yusuf (young man, convert, freed from captivity, said “The people that brought me here told the people here that I became a Christian because I spent some years out of the country studying. They said my lifestyle has changed. I’ve become a Christian. I’ve left the Islamic way of life. That is all I understand about why I am here”)

Date: September 27, 2019

Location: Kaduna state

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/us/news/christian-youth-among-boys-and-men-rescued-from-%E2%80%9Ctorture-chamber%E2%80%9D-islamic-boarding-school-in>  
and <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-nigeria-abuse-idUSKBN1WC0ZG>



## Pakistan

Laiba Shahzad (aged 15, daughter of Venus Angela, abducted as she arrived at school on [July 16, 2019](#), forced into an Islamic marriage; **UPDATE**: still held captive in a forced marriage)

Venus Angela (aged 38, mother of Laiba Shahzad, abandoned by her husband, beautician, reported her daughter's abduction to police on [July 16, 2019](#); **UPDATE**: presented with a Muslim marriage certificate of her daughter, later went with police to the mosque where the wedding took place, the imam cancelled the marriage certificate upon her display of her daughter's true birth certificate)

Date: July 22, 2019

Location: Sargodha

Source: <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/15-year-old-christian-girl-abducted-and-forced-into-muslim-marriage>

Maria Jalal (aged 15, daughter of Jalal Masih, abducted from her home in [Sheikhupura, Punjab](#) province at gunpoint by 5 Muslim men on [June 9, 2019](#), raped continuously until the next morning, family threatened with death if she reported the crime, returned to her home the following day, beaten by her family until she overcame her fear and reported the rape, later testified against her attackers in court and said "The men, punched and slapped me, they spat while abusing and laughing at me, forcing me to do whatever they wanted. I was told that I was a worthless Christian..."; **UPDATE**: moved to a safe house along with her family due to continuing threats)

Jalal Masih (father of Maria Jalal; **UPDATE**: moved to a safe house, said "We have been unable to continue with our lives since the incident. Every day we have received threats by phone or in person. Sometimes people push us in the streets and warn us to drop the case, other times they shout from far off - letters have been posted through our door warning us of the consequences of pursuing justice. However we trust in our Lord and seek justice not as revenge but to protect the many young Christian girls in our community")

Date reported: September 27, 2019

Source: <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/baca-fund-legal-team-and-safe-house-for-teenage-gang-rape-victim>



## Russia

Ivan Gavrilov (house church owner, attempt to overturn a demolition order against his house church denied on [June 21, 2018](#); attempt to overturn the demolition order again denied on [November 8, 2018](#), the demolition order was later rescinded after all land and building documentation was shown to be correct; **UPDATE**: filed suit against the local government's order to cease religious activities at the house church)

Date: [May 8, 2019](#)

Location: [Verkhnebakanskiy, outside Novorossiysk](#)

Presbyter Yevgeny Kokora (church service interrupted by police on [April 6, 2019](#); **UPDATE**: reported on the closure of a house church by the local government: “In Russia, at the behest of the state, most communities in the Evangelical churches gather in private households, since it is impossible to obtain official permission to build a house of worship”)

Pastor Vitaly Bak (filed suit against the local government's order to cease religious activities at his house church on [May 8, 2019](#); suit rejected without consideration on [June 5, 2019](#); **UPDATE**: house church closed by the local government)

Date: [July 7, 2019](#)

Location: [Verkhnebakanskiy, outside Novorossiysk](#)

Presbyter Yuri Korniyenko (church service interrupted by police on [April 6, 2019](#), later charged with illegal missionary activity; convicted, fined US\$154 on [June 13, 2019](#); **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

Date: [July 23, 2019](#)

Location: [Verkhnebakanskiy, outside Novorossiysk](#)

Source: [http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article\\_id=2505](http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2505)



## United Kingdom

Rev Philip de Grey-Warter (defamed in the media as an extremist for leading his congregation to another Anglican church after the Church of England approved second baptisms for transgendered persons in violation of the Nicene Creed)

Bishop Gavin Ashenden (**UPDATE**: reported on the defamation of Rev Philip de Grey-Warter: "I'd like to talk about the Cornish newspaper and the new Josef Goebbels onslaught on orthodox Christianity, because it's one of the things that has really shaken me considerably. The story so far is a rather sweet and encouraging one in a very beautiful fishing village in Cornwall...there is a really very good vicar called Philip de Grey-Warter. He's built up a very enthusiastic Anglican congregation in the ancient parish

church there. But, he decided he could no longer remain in the Church of England, and so with his congregation's support - it contains two very notable and impressive characters, Dan and Susie Leafe, among his congregation. Together they have withdrawn from the Church of England and they are going to start a new independent Anglican congregation. They have chosen to join AMiE [Anglican Mission in England]...The next thing that happened was they were interviewed by a local reporter...this was an internet publication and not hugely influential. But what was chilling was the political sophistication with which Mr de Grey-Warter has been damned. So this reporter, it's a small community, and he's gone to Philip and said 'I put it to you that you are an extremist organization, you're right-wing and homophobic and extreme. What have you got to say?' And the vicar clearly a bit taken aback by this, gives all the right answers, and says 'Actually we're leaving because of the way the bishops have dedicated the baptismal liturgy to a trans identity and I'd have done this if they had used the baptismal liturgy for anything, like the prosperity gospel, it's not about trans issues or gay issues'. And rather than listening to him or paying attention, the reporter then goes to the local community and has people say 'Yeah well, they belong to GAFCON [the Global Anglican Future Conference], you know, GAFCON thinks that being homosexual is a sickness you can be cured from'. And then he asked someone in the local community 'What do you think of these extremists amongst you?', she says 'Extremists?! We don't want extremists here! We are a quiet peaceful tolerant village!' And so this poor congregation have in a very sophisticated way been set up, brutally...Actually of course, this is what they are going to do to all of us, all of us are going to be associated with this Nazi extreme homophobic movement called GAFCON that is going to 'divide' communities. I remember thinking that in Marxism 1.0 in the Soviet Union Christians were deemed mad for not believing in the Soviet state. They were then sent to psychiatric institutions because politically speaking they were mad, and I thought that was a terrible thing to do, but at least if you spoke rationally even though the state had defined you as being mad other people would notice you were not mad and they would know this was a political stratagem. The horror of this is that because we have got this particular kind of thought crime it doesn't matter what you say in response to being told you are an extremist homophobic right-wing member of an organization, because nobody will believe what you say, and we are very badly stitched up. We need to try and find imaginative ways of undercutting the narrative. I lie in bed at night [laughter] thinking of ways in which clever one-liners with one can somehow displace this whole worldview from which this sophisticated condemnation is based...But I think for us, we can't get off this hook by dismissing this as a particular piece of local [journalistic] malpractice. We're faced with a really serious issue of how we undermine the categories with which people are going to imprison us and dismiss us...The task that this article presents us with is an enormously challenging one, where together our job ought to be to find ways that are intelligent, critical, spiritually wholesome, prophetic, and accurate in order to help Christians undermine the very pernicious assault that we are being surrounded by. We are being tricked by the propaganda...there are a number of people who think it is not propaganda...There are another group of people in the church who say 'Something is very badly wrong and we are not completely convinced that going along with the present zeitgeist is the right way to go', and then there are people who know it's really very badly broken and are looking to resist. One of our jobs is to give

people the intellectual and spiritual and psychological equipment to make that resistance as sharp as it could be")

Date reported: September 30, 2019

Location: Fowey, Cornwall, England

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bp63Tfrq3gU&feature=youtu.be&t=764>

and <https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2019/9-august/news/uk/priest-quits-for-gafcon-plant>

Seyi Omooba (daughter of Pastor Ade Omooba, actress, threatened with termination from a theater production on [March 15, 2019](#) after the discovery of a four year old Facebook post that defended traditional Christian morality, ordered to make no public statements; **UPDATE:** fired from the theater production after a public statement falsely attributed to her was published on the internet, blacklisted, told she would be rehired when she '[came] to her senses on this matter' and 'got away from the ideologies of your entire upbringing', said "...the theatre and the agency gave me the choice of either losing my career or renouncing my faith. I could not do this, not even to save the career that I love", later filed suit to recover her positions)

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns; **UPDATE:** later said "What happened to Seyi Omooba was cruel and has damaged the career of a highly talented young artist for a Facebook post she had made four years earlier. This is another in a string of cases involving Christians being hounded out of their careers because they love Jesus...This story sends a chilling message to Christians, not only in the theatre industry but across our society, that if you express and hold mainstream Biblical views, you will be punished and will lose your career if you do not immediately renounce your beliefs. This cannot go unchallenged and we are determined to fight for justice in this case")

Date: March 24, 2019

Location: London

Source: <https://christianconcern.com/news/actress-hounded-out-of-career-for-biblical-facebook-post/>

Dr David Mackereth (aged 56, reported on [July 8, 2018](#) to have been fired from the National Health Service for claiming that gender has a biological basis; reported on [July 12, 2019](#) to have attended a court hearing, told that his Christian beliefs were not legitimate because other Christians did not hold them; **UPDATE:** the Employment Tribunal issued a ruling that upheld his dismissal and stated that his Christian beliefs regarding gender are not 'worthy of respect in a democratic society', said "I am not alone in being deeply concerned by this outcome. Staff in the NHS, even those who do not share my Christian convictions, are also disturbed as they see their own freedom of thought and speech being undermined by the judges' ruling. No doctor, or researcher, or philosopher, can demonstrate or prove that a person can change sex. Without intellectual and moral integrity, medicine cannot function and my 30 years as a doctor are now considered irrelevant compared to the risk that someone else might be offended. I believe that I have to appeal in order to fight for the freedom of Christians – and any other NHS member of staff – to speak the truth. If they cannot, then freedom of speech has died in this country, with serious ramifications for the practice of medicine in the UK")

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns; **UPDATE:** said “This is an astonishing judgment and one that if upheld will have seismic consequences not just for the NHS and for Christians, but anyone in the work place who is prepared to believe and say that we are created male and female. It is deeply disturbing that this is the first time in the history of English law that a judge has ruled that free citizens must engage in compelled speech. Here Judge Perry has ruled that Christianity is not protected by the Equality Act or the ECHR [European Convention on Human Rights], unless it is a version of Christianity which recognizes transgenderism and rejects a belief in Genesis 1:27. The teaching of Genesis 1:27 is repeated throughout the Bible, including by Jesus Christ himself. It is fundamental to establishing the dignity of every human person but is, in a bizarre ironic twist, being branded as incompatible with that dignity. No protection is given to beliefs ‘incompatible with human dignity’ and ‘not worthy of respect in a democratic society’. In the past this definition has only applied to the most extreme beliefs, such as those of Holocaust deniers, neo-Nazis, and similar. It is quite shocking for the judge to put the belief in the Bible in the same category now. This is one of the most concerning rulings we have ever seen at the Christian Legal Centre and we are determined to continue to fight for justice in this case”)

Date: October 2, 2019

Location: London

Source: <https://christianconcern.com/news/doctors-biblical-belief-ruled-incompatible-with-human-dignity/>



### United States - Iowa

Rev Al Henderson (aged 64, **found unresponsive outside his church with injuries consistent with an assault**, hospitalized, **died**)

Date: October 2, 2019

Location: Fort Dodge

Source: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/crime/iowa-pastor-who-helped-public-safety-agencies-dies-after-being-attacked-at-his-church/ar-AAIfqzx?ocid=spartanntp>

### United States - Texas

Judge Tammy Kemp (subject of a judicial complaint filed by the Freedom From Religion Foundation, the complaint was in retaliation for her gift of her personal Bible to a former policewoman she had just sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for the murder of youth pastor Bothan Shem Jean)

Date: October 2, 2019

Location: Dallas

Source:

[https://twitter.com/BlakeFox4News/status/1179835378666106882?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1179835378666106882&ref\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theamericanconservative.com%2Fdreher%2F](https://twitter.com/BlakeFox4News/status/1179835378666106882?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1179835378666106882&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theamericanconservative.com%2Fdreher%2F)

## **Today's Martyrs**

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

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