

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2019-11-10 through 2019-11-16



Cameroon

David Mokoni (retired pastor, **killed** in a Boko Haram attack on his church, a boy with a hearing impairment was also killed, one man was shot in the leg and hospitalized)

Date: November 6, 2019

Location: Moskota

Event: Militants killed six in a village attack

Rebecca (described one of the victims “He was a 15-year-old adolescent. He was so deeply asleep in his bed that he didn’t hear any of the noise around him. They thrust the blade of the axe so deeply into his skull, to the point we had to use a hammer to get it out of his head”)

Date: October 31, 2019

Location: Kotserehe

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/us/news/pioneer-pastor-among-eight-murdered-in-cameroon-in-wave-of-brutal-attacks-by-boko-haram>



Chile

Event: Bishops signed a letter decrying desecration of churches during civil unrest: "We are hurt by the mistreatment of people, constant looting and violence, wherever it comes from, it hurts when our churches and places of prayer are attacked without respect for God and for those who believe in Him. Churches and other places of worship are sacred"

Bishop Juan Ignacio Gonzalez Errazuriz

Auxiliary Bishop Luis Fernando Ramos Perez (**UPDATE**)

Archbishop Rene Osvaldo Rebolledo Salinas

Bishop Santiago Jaime Silva Retamales

Date: November 9, 2019

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/66933-AMERICA CHILE Looted and desecrated places of worship the Bishops ask to apply the law and rebuild the social fabric](http://www.fides.org/en/news/66933-AMERICA_CHILE_Looted_and_desecrated_places_of_worship_the_Bishops_ask_to_apply_the_law_and_rebuild_the_social_fabric)



China

Zhang Xiaomai (Christian bookstore owner, detained, nationwide customer base harassed by police)

Mr D (former customer of Zhang Xiaomai, contacted by the authorities by phone and asked about his past purchases of Christian books)

Date reported: November 9, 2019

Source: <https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/11/china-questions-christians-for-buying.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, attorney told by prosecutors that he would not be allowed to represent him because he had too many ties to him and his church)

Date: November 6, 2019

Location: Chengdu, Sichuan province

Source: <https://www.chinaaid.org/2019/11/pastors-lawyer-fired.html>

Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Ha Chi-Shing OFM (**UPDATE**: issued a statement on Facebook calling on police and demonstrators to act with restraint after a major riot at City University triggered by police caused at least 60 injuries)

Date: November 12, 2019

Location: Hong Kong

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Tear-gas,-bullets,-hydrants-against-stones-and-Molotovs:-scenes-of-war-at-the-Chinese-university-of-Hong-Kong-48527.html>

Bishop Vincent Guo Xijin (aged 61, underground bishop; beginning on November 9, 2019 has been under daily supervision and pressure by police to join the "independent" church; forced into an automobile by police in Luojiang, Fujian province on November 12, 2019 in an effort to bring him to a meeting of "independent" clergy, instead taken to the residence of the official bishop in Ningde and held in custody; **UPDATE**: 'escaped' from custody at the residence of the official bishop, returned home, expected to be arrested again)

Date: November 13, 2019

Location: Ningde, Fujian province

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mindong,-Msgr.-Guo-Xijin-hounded-by-police-to-submit-to-the-independent-Church-48528.html>



Egypt

Fr Andrawes Azmy (121 year old church destroyed in a suspicious fire, said “I immediately rushed to the church and found it on fire with heavy smoke filling the place. The old wooden building burned down very fast and the fire destroyed everything inside, even before the firefighters arrived...Our loss is great. We have lost a great historical building and we can’t rebuild anything like it”)

Date: October 13, 2019

Location: Helwan district, Cairo

Fr Samul Mohsen (church heavily damaged in a suspicious fire, said “a huge fire erupting in the chapel on the upper floor of the church and the services hall attached to it. The fire started from the wooden ceiling of the adjacent hall”, CCTV showed an object thrown on the roof just before the fire)

Fr Armia Iskandar (electrical engineer, church heavily damaged in a suspicious fire, said “When we built the church, we designed the electrical circuits in the best possible way and we make sure to switch everything off when we are not around. Also, the electricity distribution panel is equipped with devices to protect against overcurrent and high voltage rise”)

Fr Ephraim Youssef (church heavily damaged in a suspicious fire, said “Terrorists change their operations, from bombings to burning. They target the wooden churches that burn quickly”)

Date: October 16, 2019

Location: Mansoura

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2019/11/egypt-series-of-fires-in-their-churches-not-a-coincidence-say-copts/>



India

Rev Basant Kumar Paul (husband and father, attacked by 8 or 9 RSS paramilitary members in his home during a prayer meeting, hospitalized, elderly mother beaten, son hospitalized with a broken leg, wife hospitalized in critical condition with a coma, personal property stolen)

Rev Patsy David (reported on the attack on Rev Basant Kumar Paul: “fanatics came to the house church, and started abusing and beating everyone...[he was able to reach] the police station and file a complaint, and then fainted. After that the police took him to hospital, where he was admitted”)

Shibu Thomas (Persecution Relief; **UPDATE**: reported on the attack on Rev Basant Kumar Paul: “Fanatics are taking full advantage of it [the 2017 anti-conversion law] and are beating and assaulting innocent people. False complaints [about forced conversions] are being filed against Catholic nuns, priests, pastors and [Protestant] believers. They strike and lynch Muslims at will. Ghar Wapsi ['homecomings' - forced conversion to Hinduism] have become regular features. The Chief Minister [state governor] and others are mum about it. They should speak, loud and clear. Tribals are being harassed and forced into reconversion [editor: this is a slight misstatement, since tribals generally were never Hindus]”)

Date: November 12, 2019

Location: Parihara village, Garhwa district, Jharkhand state

Source: [http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hindu-radicals-attack-Christian-pastors-family-in-Jharkhand,-leaving-his-wife-in-a-coma-\(photos\)-48549.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hindu-radicals-attack-Christian-pastors-family-in-Jharkhand,-leaving-his-wife-in-a-coma-(photos)-48549.html)

Minakshi Singh (reported: "Atrocities against Christians are on the rise. In 2014, about 150 episodes of violence against the community were reported. In 2016, the count rose to 200 and in 2017 it went up to 270 accidents. In 2018, there were 292 episodes of violence against Christians. In 2019 [until September] 247 cases were reported, 60 of which in the state of Uttar Pradesh. In the past year, 40 churches have been closed due to violence. In Chhattisgarh, communities and other Christian groups even face a social boycott. We ask the government to end the harassment towards pastors, priests and violence against the Christian community")

A C Michael (United Christian Forum; **UPDATE**: said "Religious minorities, like Christians and Muslims, are targeted by nationalist Hindu groups. For this reason urgent measures are needed against the groups responsible for this violence", also spoke against so-called 'Freedom of Religion Acts' in seven Indian states: "These laws should be immediately withdrawn to ensure total religious freedom")

Bishop Emeritus Karam Masih (said: "Our rights should be protected. We are peace loving people. The government should do everything to keep peace. The government should support constitutional values")

Date: November 12, 2019

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/66934-ASIA_INDIA_Violence_increases_Indian_Christians_claim_their_constitutional_rights



Iran

Ismail Maghrebi-Nejad (aged 65, convert of 40 years, widower of Mahvash Mahmoudian, arrested on [January 23, 2019](#), charged with 'propaganda against the state and insulting the sacred Iranian establishment'; accused by a judge on [October 22, 2019](#) of apostasy, bail increased to US\$9,000; **UPDATE**: appeared in court, defense attorney approved)

Mahvash Mahmoudian (convert, wife of Ismail Maghrebi-Nejad, **died of natural causes** in 2013, denied a Christian burial)

Date: November 2, 2019

Location: Shiraz

Source: <https://www.meconcern.org/2019/11/11/iran-hearing-for-ismaeil-maghrebinejad/>
and <http://mohabatnews.com/?p=35840>



Iraq

Patriarch Louis Raphael I Sako (**UPDATE**: called for three days of fasting and prayer "for an end to the chaos and violence that are bloodying the country")

Date: November 11, 2019

Source: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2019-11/iraq-cardinal-sako-appeal-prayer-fasting-peace.html>
and http://www.fides.org/en/news/66928-ASIA_IRAQ_Chaldean_Patriarchate_three_days_of_fasting_to_call_for_peace_to_return_in_Iraq



Ireland

Fr Jimmy McPartland (reported on an attack on a monastery in which people invaded the chapel, swore at the elderly nuns at prayer, and proceeded to vandalize it)

Date: November 11, 2019

Location: Malahide

Source: <https://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2019/11/14/daytime-vandalization-of-irish-carmelite-monastery-shocks-locals/>



Nigeria

Monday Kura (aged 87, **stabbed to death** with machetes by Fulani Muslims as he slept)

Emmanuel Agom (aged 48, **shot dead** by Fulani Muslims as he slept)

Gabriel Yakubu (reported via texting on the murder of Monday Kura and Emmanuel Agom:
"The Fulani herdsmen cut Monday Kura, 87 years, with a machete until he died, while

Emmanuel, 48 years, was shot dead with a gun. Sir, we need your prayers as my village is on fire and we are not getting any protection from the government”)

Date: November 14, 2019

Location: Agom village, Kaduna state

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2019/11/muslim-fulani-herdsmen-kill-two-christians-in-kaduna-state-nigeria/>

Cardinal John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan (aged 75, **UPDATE**: resignation due to reaching retirement age accepted)

Date: November 9, 2019

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Onaiyekan



Pakistan

Amir Masih (sanitation worker, accused of blasphemy and Quran desecration after he found pages from the Quran in the trash he was collecting and took them to a Muslim owned shop for verification, abducted and taken to a mosque where the loudspeakers called for his punishment and the burning of Christian homes, rescued by police who then calmed the situation)

Date reported: November 12, 2019

Location: Yousafabad

Source: <https://barnabasfund.org/us/news/police-intervene-to-help-pakistani-christian-attacked-by-muslim-mob-after-%E2%80%9Cb Blasphemy%E2%80%9D-charge>

Gonila Gill (aged 38, wife of Husnain Jamil, mother, family persecuted because her Muslim husband did not require her to convert to Islam, resigned from her journalism job, recently said "People are vile when they talk rubbish about my faith. However, I will not lose hope and remain steadfast in my religion...[I] received from God the gift of an honest husband, respectful of me and our son who we chose to baptize as a Christian. I am very grateful to him because he helps me and takes care of me, although he is also forced to endure the cruelty of people. He supports my son and I in our Christian life. He often comes to Mass with us and participates in prayers. I am lucky to be surrounded by people who love me, by friends who support me. I feel a sense of insecurity in living in this society, and I am very worried about my son's future")

Date reported: November 15, 2019

Location: Lahore

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Lahore,-a-Christian-journalist,-persecuted-at-work,-resigns-48553.html>



Philippines

Rev Dr Olav Fykse Tveit (World Council of Churches general secretary, expressed alarm and grave concern over the listing of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, along with 17 other civil society organizations, as being fronts for the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army: "In the context of current Philippine politics, such 'red-tagging' in effect gives a green light to harassment and deadly attacks by security forces and militias against those listed")

Date: November 9, 2019

Location: Norway

Source: <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/wcc-gravely-concerned-about-red-tagging-of-council-of-churches-in-the-philippines>



Syria

Event: Three clergy were shot by the Islamic State [ISIL]

Fr Abraham Petoyan aka Fr Hanna Bidu (father of Fr Hovsep Hanna Petoyan, **shot dead**)

Fr Hovsep Hanna Petoyan (aged 46, husband, father of three, son of Fr Abraham Petoyan, **shot, hospitalized, died**)

Deacon Fati Sano (shot, hospitalized)

Metropolitan Boutros Marayati (**UPDATE**: said "In the city of Qamishli many Christian refugees also fled from Deir ez-Zor, when that city was devastated by war. He [Fr Hovsep Hanna Petoyan] also carried out his pastoral work among them, and for a long time he also followed the projects implemented with the help of international groups to rebuild the church and the houses of the Christians in Deir ez Zor, destroyed by the war. For this reason he went to Deir ez Zor every two weeks to check the progress of the work. He had already carried out six trips to that city so dear to the memory of the Armenians, where there is the shrine of the martyrs of the genocide, also devastated during the conflict...For us they are martyrs. And what happened to them is a confirmation that the war is not over here, as we had hoped")

Date: November 11, 2019

Location: Deir el-Zor province

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/66941-ASIA_SYRIA_Armenian_priest_and_his_father_killed_in_Deir_ez_Zor_Archbishop_Marayat_for_us_they_are_martyrs_And_the_war_is_not_over
and <https://www.persecution.org/2019/11/11/two-syrian-armenian-priests-gunned-one-wounded/>
and <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/ISIS-is-targeting-Syrias-Christians.-Vicar-of-Aleppo:-We-are-under-siege-48523.html>



Turkey

Hans-Jurgen Louven (aged 58, husband of Renate, father of Hanna Jurgen, German citizen, faith based tour operator, expelled from the country and prohibited from re-entry, at least 23 other foreign Christians have been expelled)

Hanna Jurgen (aged 21, daughter of Renate and Hans-Jurgen Louven, Austrian and German citizen, college student, said “I do have hope Dad can come back home. But it will probably take some time. Our neighbors couldn’t understand why he had to leave. They said he is the most honest and beautiful person they know. They were really ashamed of their country doing this injustice to us”)

Date: September 12, 2019

Location: Mugla

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2019/09/turkey-serves-deportation-order-after-germans-20-years-of-tourism-work/>



United States - California

Event: A Federal civil trial jury found Christian investigative journalists guilty of multiple crimes while they exposed Planned Parenthood's illegal sale of unborn baby parts, including the harvesting of organs prior to death, fined them over \$2 million in compensatory and punitive damages

David Daleiden (**UPDATE:** fined \$125,000 in punitive damages)

Sandra Merritt (**UPDATE:** fined \$25,000 in punitive damages)

Albin Rhomberg (board member, fined \$70,000 in punitive damages)

Troy Newman (board member, fined \$50,000 in punitive damages)

Date: November 15, 2019

Location: San Francisco

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/court-rules-daleidens-undercover-videos-caused-substantial-harm-to-planned-parenthood-82553>

and <https://www.christianpost.com/news/jury-daleiden-pro-life-group-owe-planned-parenthood-870k-in-damages-for-undercover-videos.html>

and <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/breaking-jury-rules-against-daleiden-pro-lifers-who-exposed-planned-parenthoods-sale-of-baby-body-parts>

United States - Michigan

Fr Don LaCuesta (sued for stating Christian beliefs about suicide at the funeral of a suicide victim)

Date: November 14, 2019

Source: <https://christianpost.com/news/mom-files-lawsuit-against-priest-for-suggesting-son-who-died-by-suicide-might-not-go-to-heaven.html>
and <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/woman-sues-priest-for-offering-catholic-teaching-about-suicide-at-sons-funeral>



Vietnam

Nguyen Nang Tinh (aged 43, husband of Nguyen Thi Tinh, father of one, music teacher, active in church charity groups and Christian media, arrested in Nghe An on May 29, 2019, had for years visited and materially supported many families of Catholic and Protestant prisoners, held in isolation; indicted on September 17, 2019; trial postponed after prosecutors refused before October 17, 2019 to allow his defense attorneys access to evidence; **UPDATE**: convicted, sentenced to 11 years' imprisonment, denied that he was the owner of the Facebook page that was the evidence against him)

Date: November 15, 2019

Location: Nghe An province

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Catholic-music-teacher-sentenced-to-11-years-for-anti-state-propaganda-48562.html>

Today's Martyrs

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

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