

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

**Weekly Report – 2020-05-31 through 2020-06-06**



## China

Dalu (alias, convert, former radio personality, fled the country after receiving death threats in part for his conversion, granted asylum in Italy)

Date: September 2019

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Dal%C3%B9,-persecuted-for-remembering-Tiananmen-massacre,-welcome-in-Italy-50242.html>



## Cyprus

Metropolitan Athanasios Nikolaou (reported on [June 28, 2017](#) to have been sued for US\$2 million by two families after two adult sons, one aged 28, became monks; **UPDATE**: suit dismissed)

Date reported: May 11, 2020

Location: Machairas Monastery, Lazanias village

Source: <https://orthochristian.com/130995.html>

and <https://www.romfea.gr/ekklisia-kyprou/36986-athoos-o-lemesou-athanasios-gia-upothesi-prosilutismou> - with translation



## Egypt

Ranya Abd al-Masih (aged 39, wife, mother of three, secondary school English teacher, disappeared, later reappeared in a video tearfully claiming to have converted to Islam and rejecting her family, statement appeared coerced and possibly under the influence of drugs, whereabouts unknown)

Date: April 22, 2020

Location: north of Cairo

Source: <https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2020/05/05/egypt-missing-christian-woman-reappears-as-pious-muslim-in-video/>

Justina Magdy Attia (aged 15, disappeared)

Date: April 28, 2020

Location: Bayad El Arab village, Beni Suef province

Source: <https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2020/05/17/%d8%a3%d8%b3%d9%82%d9%81-%d8%a8%d9%86%d9%8a-%d8%b3%d9%88%d9%8a%d9%81-%d9%86%d8%ad%d9%86-%d8%ad%d8%b1%d9%8a%d8%b5%d9%88%d9%86-%d8%b9%d9%84%d9%89-%d8%b9%d9%88%d8%af%d8%a9-%d9%8a%d9%88%d8%b3%d8%aa/> - with translation

Catherine Ramzi (housewife, throat slit in an attempted beheading while returning home with groceries)

Date: January 12, 2020

Christina Maher (aged 15, disappeared)

Date reported: May 22, 2020

Location: Alexandria

Raymonda Girigs (wife, disappeared)

Date reported: May 22, 2020

Amani Isaac Hakim (disappeared)

Date reported: May 22, 2020

Location: Alexandria

Hanan Edward (sister of Shenouda Edward, disappeared)

Shenouda Edward (brother of Hanan Edward, filed a police report on his sister's disappearance, police did nothing)

Date reported: May 22, 2020

Source: <https://www.copticsolidarity.org/2020/05/22/coptic-solidarity-condemns-increased-persecution-of-coptic-christians-and-journalists-in-egypt/>



## India

Pastor Dinesh Kumar (husband of Mamta, beaten by Hindu radicals after a prayer meeting, hospitalized, in a coma)

Mamta (wife of Pastor Dinesh Kumar, said after he was beaten “I was screaming out loud when I saw my husband. My mind went blank and I had no words. I thought something fatal took place looking at him with no movement. I remembered he used to tell me, ‘I am in the ministry and committed to taking the Gospel to the people. I know the cost and some time it may be my life’”)

Date: May 26, 2020

Location: Mau district, Uttar Pradesh state

Source: <http://mattersindia.com/2020/06/pastor-hospitalized-after-attack-by-radicals/>



## Montenegro

Fr Nikola Radovic (home surrounded by young people, threatened, wife and children frightened, people left after he began to video record the confrontation, later offered to pay the fine for the principal offender)

Date: May 21, 2020

Location: Stari Bar

Source: <https://orthochristian.com/131400.html>



## Nigeria

Rev Emmanuel Saba Bileya (husband of Juliana Bileya, father of eight aged 1 to 19, doctoral student, **shot dead** on his farm, had sent his children away as the local violence escalated)

Juliana Bileya (wife of Rev Emmanuel Saba Bileya, mother of eight aged 1 to 19, expectant mother, **shot dead** on her farm)

Date reported: June 4, 2020

Location: Mararraba, Donga county, Taraba state

Source: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/nigerian-pastor-and-calvin-seminary-grad-gunned-down-with-his-wife-on-their-farm.html>

and <https://www.facebook.com/123852348215168/posts/625988084668256/>



## Russia

Metropolitan Daniel (aged 42, investigated by police after his opening of an apologetics center to counter cults resulted in criminal cult charges filed by a neo-pagan member of an antisemitic cult)

Date reported: May 27, 2020

Location: Belozersky district, Kurgan region

Source: <https://orthochristian.com/131427.html>

Valery Ivanovich (stabbed along with another parishioner during a church service)

Date: February 16, 2020

Location: Pokrovsky, northeast Moscow

Source: <https://orthochristian.com/128133.html>



## Thailand

Rasoolan Bibi (aged 63, mother of Amreen Latif, grandmother, Pakistani refugee, arrested on [December 19, 2019](#) on a visa violation, diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and hypertension; **UPDATE**: released on bail, had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, receiving medical attention)

Amreen Latif (daughter of Rasoolan Bibi)

Date: April 29, 2020

Location: Bangkok

Source: <https://www.britishpakistanichristians.org/blog/63-year-old-grandmother-with-parkinsons-disease-is-freed-from-brutal-bangkok-idc-after-50-000-bail-f>



## Turkey

Garo Paylan (aged 48, Member of Parliament; **UPDATE**: spoke in Parliament on the continuing desecration of a church and cemetery abandoned during the Pontic Greek genocide: "The church has withstood the test of time, but in recent years the frescoes that adorn the walls of the church have been literally destroyed. The tombs around the church have been looted by treasure hunters")

Date reported: May 26, 2020

Location: Pontus, Argyroupoli area

Source: <https://www.romfea.gr/diafora/37265-ierosuloi-leilatisan-ellinorthodoji-ekklisia-ston-ponto> - with translation



## Ukraine

Anatoly Pavlovich Borisenko (church security volunteer, beaten on church grounds by a drunken National Guardsman on [October 22, 2015](#), hospitalized in a coma; **UPDATE**: **died**, had never regained consciousness)

Date: May 14, 2020

Location: Sumy

Source: <https://orthochristian.com/131180.html>

Archimandrite Vladimir Yakimenko (aged 46, broke his leg while helping firemen put out a fire at his monastery, fire was an act of arson)

Date: April 24, 2020

Location: Odessa

Source: <https://orthochristian.com/130525.html>

Fr Stephan Balan (**UPDATE**: condemned desecration of his cathedral with graffiti)

Date: May 9, 2020

Location: Ternopil

Source: <https://orthochristian.com/130980.html>



### **United Kingdom**

Rev George Hargreaves (aged 62, prevailed in a religious discrimination complaint for his views on traditional Christian morality)

Date reported: June 2, 2020

Location: London

Source: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8380599/Christian-pastor-wrote-Sinittas-Macho-wins-religious-discrimination-case.html>



### **United States - Arkansas**

Rev Robert L James (church set on fire, roof destroyed)

Date: May 31, 2020

Location: Little Rock

Source: <https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2020/may/31/2-little-rock-fires-under-investigation/>

and <https://www.joinmychurch.com/churches/Lewis-Street-Church-Of-Christ-Little-Rock-Arkansas-United-States/223987>

### **United States - California**

Fr Elias Sleinan (cathedral vandalized with graffiti)

Date reported: June 1, 2020

Location: Los Angeles

Source: <https://www.the961.com/lebanese-church-los-angeles-vandalized/>

### **United States - Colorado**

Archbishop Samuel Joseph Aquila (aged 69, **UPDATE**: cathedral repeatedly vandalized over several nights)

Date reported: June 1, 2020

Location: Denver

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/cathedrals-in-6-states-damaged-by-violent-protests-91111>  
and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman\\_Catholic\\_Archdiocese\\_of\\_Denver](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Archdiocese_of_Denver)

### **United States - District of Columbia**

Rev Rob Fisher (church vandalized and damaged by fire)

Date: May 31, 2020

Source: <https://stjohns-dc.org/blog/2020/05/heavy-but-hopeful-hearts/>  
and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St.\\_John%27s\\_Episcopal\\_Church,\\_Lafayette\\_Square](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._John%27s_Episcopal_Church,_Lafayette_Square)

### **United States - Illinois**

Sr Tracey Matthia Dugas FSP (bookstore vandalized)

Date: May 31, 2020

Location: Chicago

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/nuns-praying-for-looters-after-attack-on-catholic-bookstore-89415>

### **United States - Kentucky**

Archbishop Joseph E Kurtz (issued a statement deploring vandalism of the cathedral residence)

Date: May 29, 2020

Location: Louisville

Source: <https://cathstan.org/news/us-world/louisville-cathedral-damaged-as-protests-over-floyd-death-turn-violent>

### **United States - New York**

Cardinal Timothy Dolan (**UPDATE**: cathedral vandalized with graffiti)

Date: May 30, 2020

Location: New York City, Manhattan

Source: <https://www.fox5ny.com/news/police-release-photos-of-suspects-responsible-for-st-patricks-cathedral-graffiti>

### **United States - Texas**

Fr Jonathan Austin (chapel vandalized, windows broken)

Date: May 31, 2020

Location: Dallas

Source: <https://www.fox4news.com/news/cleanup-underway-for-dallas-businesses-vandalized-after-friday-nights-george-floyd-protest>

### **United States - Virginia**

Rector Charlie Dupree (church vandalized on the previous two nights)

Date: May 30, 2020

Location: Richmond

Source: [https://www.richmond.com/news/local/downtown-richmond-houses-of-worship-vandalized-during-weekend-destruction-some-will-keep-graffiti-as-a/article\\_022115b9-cd5f-578d-bb4d-af44a27ac9ee.html](https://www.richmond.com/news/local/downtown-richmond-houses-of-worship-vandalized-during-weekend-destruction-some-will-keep-graffiti-as-a/article_022115b9-cd5f-578d-bb4d-af44a27ac9ee.html)

Rev Dr James L Nesmith Jr (church vandalized, windows broken)

Date: May 31, 2020

Location: Richmond

Source: <https://christianchronicle.org/virginia-churchs-windows-broken-by-protesters/>

## **Today's Martyrs**

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

*or write to*

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