

# Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

## Weekly Report – 2021-03-07 through 2021-03-13



### Algeria

Pastor Rachid Seighir (bookstore ordered closed on [November 10, 2017](#), livelihood lost; notified on [December 27, 2017](#) that his church did not comply with the law on registration of non-Muslim places of worship; church closed on [February 19, 2018](#); church conditionally reopened on [July 6, 2018](#); ordered to close his church, received the order two months late on [January 11, 2020](#), appealed; **UPDATE**: convicted *in absentia* of 'shaking the faith of Muslims' by operating his long-closed bookstore, sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment and fined US\$3,745, sentence document was slipped under the door of his church, has appealed)

Nouh Hamimi (bookstore salesman, same account)

Date reported: [March 4, 2021](#)

Location: [Oran](#)

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2021/03/two-christians-sentenced-to-prison-and-heavy-fine-in-algeria/>



### Bangladesh

Sathiram Tripura (church building site demolished, said “Members of the community set aside the money for 15 years to build the brick church. Not being able to finish the construction is very sad”)

Date: [February 25, 2021](#)

Location: [Ali Kadam, Bandarban district](#)

Rev Lovlu S Levy (church vandalized by damaging the church sign, cutting trees, forcing the entrance, and stealing 30 chairs and two carpets worth US\$165, said “Residents in this area are fundamentalists. When I first went to the police they did not want to file the report of what happened, they also told me not to inform journalists of the attack...Muslims are angry because we have received Christ, which is why they attack us. Now we live in fear, ten new believers have fled the village for their safety”)

Date: [February 10, 2021](#)

Location: Aditmari, Lalmonirhat district

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Two-Protestant-churches-targeted,-attacked-and-ransacked-52497.html>



## Burkina Faso

Fr Rodrigue Sanon (disappeared on January 19, 2021; **UPDATE: body found**)

Date: January 21, 2021

Location: while traveling the road from Soubakaniedougou to Banfora

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/69447->

[AFRICA BURKINA FASO Catholic priest missing Bishop asks for prayer for his release](http://www.fides.org/en/news/69447-)

and <http://www.fides.org/en/news/69451->

[AFRICA BURKINA FASO The body of the missing priest has been found victim of bandits or terrorists](http://www.fides.org/en/news/69451-)



## China

Bishop Joseph Zong Huaide (aged 100, forbidden to practice ministry in 1961; arrested in 1965, sentenced to forced labor in 1966; released in February 1980; ordained bishop on August 9, 1987; **UPDATE: died of natural causes**)

Date: January 5, 2021

Location: Sanyuan, Shaanxi province

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/69648->

[ASIA CHINA Bishop Joseph Zong Huaide died at the age of 100 he devoted himself to prayer and charitable works](http://www.fides.org/en/news/69648-)

Wang Xiaofei (wife of Pastor Yang Xibo, reported that government officials ransacked more than a dozen Christian homes on June 11, 2020 that had been used for prayer meetings, personal property destroyed; **UPDATE: issued an administrative punishment notice for alleged violations of six religious affairs regulations**)

Pastor Yang Xibo (husband of Wang Xiaofei, locked out of his church by the landlord under government pressure on May 15, 2018, led children in prayer outside the building; government agents told him on May 11, 2019 of their plan to shut his church; congregants at the May 12, 2019 service were identified using facial recognition cameras that had been installed at the church entrance and were later interrogated by their employers or residential committees; wife interviewed by government agents on May 14, 2019, told them she supported her husband; interviewed along with his wife by government agents on May 18, 2019, issued a corrective order that was later posted on

the church gate; church raided by officials on [May 19, 2019](#), ordered closed, fined US\$3,622, said “We will appeal, the government will convene a hearing, and we will persevere in walking according to legal procedures”; choir members blocked by police from entering the church for practice on [May 23, 2019](#); posted a video of police blocking entrance to his closed church on [June 30, 2019](#); nine parishioners arrested on [May 3, 2020](#) for having met for prayers in a private home; **UPDATE**: posted on Facebook "While out preaching on February 24, religious affairs bureau staff arrived at my home and interrogated my wife. Today, she received a punishment notice [from CCP authorities], but a certificate of merit [in the eyes of God]. Officials targeted my wife because I was not at home. I received a similar notice in 2019...Thank the Lord — my wife and I are a good match")

Date: [February 24, 2021](#)

Location: [Xiamen, Fujian province](#)

Source: <https://www.chinaaid.org/2021/03/siming-district-religious-affairs.html>

Zha Changping (church elder, church raided and declared illegal by officials on [January 10, 2019](#), books seized, expressed fears the church will be shut down; **UPDATE**: church raided by police, seized and taken to a police station along with his wife and three other Christians, interrogated into the afternoon; all released)

Date: [March 7, 2021](#)

Location: [Chengdu, Sichuan province](#)

Source: <https://www.chinaaid.org/2021/03/police-raid-chengdu-fountain-of-life.html>



## **Columbia**

Archbishop Orlando Roa Barbosa (cathedral vandalized by feminists, stated the Church “will carry on with a prophetic voice, denouncing everything that, with the appearance of law, really goes against the integrity, nature and dignity of women”)

Date: [March 8, 2021](#)

Location: [Ibague, Tolima department](#)

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/colombian-bishop-responds-to-cathedral-vandalism>



## **Haiti**

Sr Dachoune Severe CST (abducted by armed men on [January 8, 2021](#); **UPDATE**: released)

Date: [January 10, 2021](#)

Location: [Port-au-Prince](#)

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/69365-AMERICA\\_HAITI\\_Appeal\\_of\\_the\\_Bishop\\_of\\_Anse\\_a\\_Veau\\_Miragoane\\_to\\_pray\\_after\\_the\\_kidnapping\\_of\\_a\\_nun](http://www.fides.org/en/news/69365-AMERICA_HAITI_Appeal_of_the_Bishop_of_Anse_a_Veau_Miragoane_to_pray_after_the_kidnapping_of_a_nun)  
and [http://www.fides.org/en/news/69369-AMERICA\\_HAITI\\_The\\_nun\\_kidnapped\\_on\\_January\\_8\\_released\\_by\\_kidnappers\\_dozens\\_of\\_acts\\_of\\_violence\\_occur\\_every\\_day](http://www.fides.org/en/news/69369-AMERICA_HAITI_The_nun_kidnapped_on_January_8_released_by_kidnappers_dozens_of_acts_of_violence_occur_every_day)



## India

Sajan K George (Global Council of Indian Christians president, **UPDATE**: condemned the passage of another state anti-conversion law which mandated a 2 to 5 year minimum sentence for 'forced conversion of a minor, a woman, or a member of a lower caste or tribal group;', said "of the 23 cases [of alleged forced conversion since January 9, 2021], at least half of them concern Christians. "All of them are fabricated cases of conversion. Vigilante groups attack, intimidate, even disrupt family gatherings under the guise of conversion activities")

Date reported: March 9, 2021

Location: Madhya Pradesh state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Madhya-Pradesh-also-passes-new-anti-conversion-law-52555.html>

Fr Stan Lourduswamy SJ (aged 83, home raided by anti-terrorism police from Maharashtra state without a court order on **August 28, 2018**, electronics and books seized, questioned and released; home raided again by Maharashtra state police on **June 12, 2019**, hard drive and wi-fi router seized, forced to give the passwords to his email and Facebook accounts which were then changed and blocked by the police; arrested on **October 8, 2020** on sedition charges; **UPDATE**: still in jail)

Date: January 8, 2021

Location: Ranchi, Jharkhand state

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/69355-ASIA\\_INDIA\\_Call\\_to\\_the\\_UN\\_for\\_the\\_release\\_of\\_the\\_Jesuit\\_accused\\_of\\_sedition](http://www.fides.org/en/news/69355-ASIA_INDIA_Call_to_the_UN_for_the_release_of_the_Jesuit_accused_of_sedition)



## Israel

Fr Ibrahim Shomali (condemned the fourth arson attack on a monastery in a month by 'Price Tag' Orthodox Jews, said "...the target is always the church itself...We want to live in peace. The cameras captured the faces, and the authorities have a duty to act. Such hatred is increasing, and we as a Church are doing everything to live together, respecting others, praying that God will change the minds of fanatics...")

Date: March 1, 2021

Location: Jerusalem

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/For-Fr-Shomali,-the-'hate-virus'-is-behind-church-attacks-in-Jerusalem-52484.html>

Bishop Atallah Hanna (denounced the destruction by arson of a Christmas tree)

Date reported: January 1, 2021

Location: Jerusalem

Source: <https://www.coptsunited.com/Details.php?I=2825&A=43592>



## Kenya

Cardinal John Njue (**UPDATE**: resignation due to age accepted)

Date reported: January 4, 2021

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/69328-AFRICA\\_KENYA\\_Resignation\\_of\\_the\\_Archbishop\\_of\\_Nairobi](http://www.fides.org/en/news/69328-AFRICA_KENYA_Resignation_of_the_Archbishop_of_Nairobi)



## Mali

Sr Gloria Cecilia Narvaez Argoti (Colombian citizen, abducted in [Koutiala](#) on [February 7, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: still missing)

Date: February 6, 2021

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/69553-AFRICA\\_MALI\\_The\\_missionary\\_kidnapped\\_4\\_years\\_ago\\_We\\_ask\\_the\\_kidnappers\\_to\\_release\\_Sister\\_Gloria\\_as\\_soon\\_as\\_possible](http://www.fides.org/en/news/69553-AFRICA_MALI_The_missionary_kidnapped_4_years_ago_We_ask_the_kidnappers_to_release_Sister_Gloria_as_soon_as_possible)



## Niger

Fr Pierluigi Maccalli SMA (Italian national, abducted on [September 18, 2018](#) by jihadists; released on [October 9, 2020](#); **UPDATE**: mission invaded by five armed men on motorcycles who failed to gain entry to his bedroom, a mattress and blankets were stolen)

Fr Mauro Armanino SMA (missionary, **UPDATE**: reported on the attack on Fr Pierluigi Maccalli's mission, also said "The impunity that appears to protect the actions of these armed men and the apparent incompetence of the security forces have helped Christians to relive their daily lives in an atmosphere of fear. For some time now the men of the

village of Bomoanga and probably also the inhabitants of the other villages, who are in a similar situation, have not slept in the village at night. They hide in the surrounding woods and then return home in the morning, to live with their wives, children and the rest of the family. The immediate consequence of the incident consists in the fact that the common prayers in the church, which they were hesitantly taken up again, are now suspended again")

Date reported: January 12, 2021

Location: Bomoanga

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/69378>



## Nigeria

Fr John Gbakaan (abducted along with his brother and **killed with a machete**)

Date: January 15, 2021

Location: on the road from Lambata to Lapai, near Tufa village, Niger state

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/69419-AFRICA\\_NIGERIA\\_A\\_Catholic\\_priest\\_brutally\\_killed](http://www.fides.org/en/news/69419-AFRICA_NIGERIA_A_Catholic_priest_brutally_killed)

Pastor Bulus Yikura (abducted on [December 24, 2021](#) in Pemi village, near Chibok, Borno state, in an ISWAP attack that killed 11; spoke in a [January 31, 2021](#) video in which he called for his release but added “However, if this is the end of my life, then praise be to God”; spoke from captivity in a video on [February 24, 2021](#), stated he would be killed on March 3rd if his abductors' demands were not met; **UPDATE**: released after Christians paid a ransom, said "I thank God, I thank God")

Date: March 3, 2021

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2021/03/pastor-threatened-with-execution-in-nigeria-reportedly-freed/>

and <https://morningstarnews.org/2021/03/church-confirms-release-of-pastor-threatened-with-execution/>



## Pakistan

Mashal Masih (aged 17, daughter of Rafique Masih, abducted from her home)

Rafique Masih (attempted to file a police report after his daughter was abducted but was refused)

Date: January 5, 2021

Location: Rawalpindi

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/69489->

[ASIA PAKISTAN The drama of Christian families who see the kidnapping and c](#)

[onversion of their daughters to Islam in the face of the impunity regarding this crime](#)

Cardinal Joseph Coutts (**UPDATE**: resignation due to age accepted)

Date reported: February 12, 2021

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/69581->

[ASIA\\_PAKISTAN Resignation and appointment of metropolitan archbishop of Karachi](#)

Shakaina Masih (aged 13, daughter of Samina and Johnson Masih, domestic worker, disappeared on **February 19, 2021**, police refused to file a missing person report for two days;

**UPDATE**: reported to have been forcibly married and forcibly converted to Islam, police claimed it was voluntary despite the legal prohibition of underage marriage)

Johnson Masih (husband of Samina Masih, father of Shakaina Masih, janitor, said of the police visit to his home “He said that Shakaina was now a married Muslim woman and did not want to return to her family...It’s been over 20 days that our daughter is in the custody of unknown abductors, yet we haven’t been able to see her. We were just handed a photocopy of the Nikahnama [Islamic marriage certificate] and told to approach the court if we wanted to meet her. They also refused to act when we showed them her official birth record, according to which she’s just 13 and five months...Shakaina is just a kid.

She was kidnapped and taken to Okara, where they forcibly converted her and conducted the fake marriage to give it a religious cover...All hell has broken loose on us. My family’s shattered, and each passing day adds to our misery. Is there no law or justice for poor Christians like us?”)

Date reported: March 12, 2021

Location: Lahore

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2021/03/another-christian-girl-in-pakistan-kidnapped-forcibly-converted/>



## Philippines

Fr Rene Bayang Regalado (**shot dead**)

Date: January 24, 2021

Location: Patpat village, Malaybalay, Bukidnon province, Mindanao

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/69465->

[ASIA PHILIPPINES Catholic priest killed in Mindanao](#)



## Uganda

Mariam Mbambu (secret convert from Islam, said “When my husband interrogated me about being a Christian, I refused to answer him. Soon a Christian neighbor told me that my husband was out to kill me, hence I should escape with my children. That particular day in the evening hours, I escaped with my five children. I am thankful that the church received us”)

Date: February 14, 2021

Location: Musasa village, Kasese district

Rev Nelson Walina (three female relatives aged 19, 17, and 16 were raped by men sent by the husband of Mariam Mbambu in revenge for her conversion, church also scouted for a future planned attack)

Date: February 16, 2021

Location: Musasa village, Kasese district

Rev Nelson Walina (**UPDATE**: received a threatening text message from the husband of Mariam Mbambu demanding her return within two weeks, said “I have been receiving messages alleging that my Christian activities of converting Muslims to Christ will be met with severe punishment...I do not know what they are planning to do. We need prayers. I have reported the threats to the police who recently arrested Masereka [the husband]. One thing that is clear to us as a church is that we are not going to reveal the whereabouts of our hiding sister, because we know that they are out to kill her and the children”)

Date: March 10, 2021

Location: Musasa village, Kasese district

Source: <https://morningstarnews.org/2021/03/pastors-relatives-raped-after-imams-wife-turns-to-christ/>



## United Kingdom

Richard Page (aged 74, Justice of the Peace in [Kent](#), disciplined on [January 16, 2015](#) after he admitted that his Christian faith influenced his adoption rulings; reported on [March 10, 2016](#) to have been removed from his position as a National Health Service financial director one month before retirement after giving a January 2015 interview in which he said that there was not enough evidence to show that adoption by same sex couples was in a child's interest, the interview was for a documentary on Christians being forced out of public life; case against his former employer dismissed by the Employment Tribunal on or before [October 24, 2017](#), said “I am very disappointed by this outcome but I am determined to appeal. This case is much bigger than me now. It is about how ordinary folk, just like me, are becoming increasingly fearful to speak out against the homosexual agenda. They bully, intimidate and force you out of your job. It is time for this to stop”; appeal denied by the Employment Appeal Tribunal on [June 19, 2019](#); **UPDATE**: appeal denied by the Court of Appeals, will appeal to the Supreme Court)



Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns, **UPDATE:** stated "This is the first time the Court of Appeal has endorsed the perverse distinction between unlawful discrimination for Christian beliefs and lawfully dismissing someone for offending an LGBT audience by expressing those beliefs...This is simply an artificial way to exclude Christian beliefs from the protection of the law. Nobody would get away with applying a similar distinction to any other protected characteristic. You would not get away with dismissing a homosexual for coming out as a homosexual, and then saying: 'we duly respect your sexual orientation as long as you keep it to yourself'", and stated "The perversity of the ruling is best demonstrated if you consider the converse. Imagine if Richard had 'come out' on Piers Morgan's show and said that he didn't think that Christians could ever make good parents if they disagreed with same sex 'marriage'. Would he have been sacked from the NHS? I think not")

Date: February 26, 2021

Source: [https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christian-who-said-children-do-best-when-raised-by-a-mother-and-a-father-loses-court-of-appeal-challenge-against-double-sacking?fbclid=IwAR0Hb0BoyNeYYxGcMSvYYPJ8uPeZR9SR\\_0-pA\\_vLLg4p-G1CSybXd-IDRno%23](https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/christian-who-said-children-do-best-when-raised-by-a-mother-and-a-father-loses-court-of-appeal-challenge-against-double-sacking?fbclid=IwAR0Hb0BoyNeYYxGcMSvYYPJ8uPeZR9SR_0-pA_vLLg4p-G1CSybXd-IDRno%23)

and <https://christianconcern.com/comment/whats-so-offensive-about-a-man-like-richard-page/>



### United States - Florida

Very Rev George A M Conger (husband, father, Facebook ad for his feed of his morning and evening prayer services cancelled, possibly for a quote from the Bible or the Book of Common Prayer)

Date reported: March 12, 2021

Location: Lecanto

Source: [https://youtu.be/b\\_BYC1E2Me4?t=1643](https://youtu.be/b_BYC1E2Me4?t=1643)



### Venezuela

Br Luigi Manganiello FSC (aged 49, **died from injuries sustained in an attempted robbery** on school grounds)

Date: January 6, 2021

Location: Barquisimeto

Source: [http://www.fides.org/en/news/69351-AMERICA\\_VENEZUELA\\_Lasallian\\_religious\\_killed\\_during\\_an\\_attempted\\_theft](http://www.fides.org/en/news/69351-AMERICA_VENEZUELA_Lasallian_religious_killed_during_an_attempted_theft)



## **Vietnam**

Bishop Joseph Dinh Duc Dao (**UPDATE**: resignation due to age accepted)

Date reported: January 18, 2021

Source: <http://www.fides.org/en/news/69418->

[ASIA\\_VIETNAM\\_Resignation\\_and\\_appointment\\_of\\_bishop\\_of\\_Xuan\\_Loc\\_Viet\\_Nam](http://www.fides.org/en/news/69418-ASIA_VIETNAM_Resignation_and_appointment_of_bishop_of_Xuan_Loc_Viet_Nam)

## **Today's Martyrs**

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

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