

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Weekly Report – 2021-03-21 through 2021-03-27



### Canada

Robert Hoogland (arrested and jailed on a charge of family violence after he refused to refer to his 14 year old daughter with male pronouns and for defying a court ban on publicly describing her gender transition, including the identity of her doctors [which were publicly acknowledged in earlier court documents] and the fact that one doctor had advised his patients to claim suicidal feelings to secure medical and legal institutional support for their transitions, had earlier said “I had a perfectly healthy child a year ago, and that perfectly healthy child has been altered and destroyed for absolutely no good reason...What kind of father would I be if, let’s say in 5, 10 years my daughter is detransitioning, and she turns to me and says...‘Why did none of you do anything to stop this? I was a child. None of you stuck your neck out for me back then. You just let me do it because I was a...immature kid, thinking this was something great.’ When my daughter asks me that question, I’ll say...‘I did everything that I possibly could.’...Whatever happens to me pales in comparison to what’s already happened to my daughter”, said just prior to his arrest "pray - anybody can pray...Educate people. Tell people what’s going on...talk to your neighbor and say, ‘Hey, this is what’s going on in the world’...To even do a simple thing like that...that’s commendable, that’s courage to me. To even do a simple thing like that”)

Date: March 19, 2021

Location: Vancouver, British Columbia

Source: <https://thefederalist.com/2021/03/26/canadian-father-jailed-for-talking-about-court-ordered-transgendering-of-his-teenage-daughter/>

and <https://thefederalist.com/2020/02/21/heartbroken-dad-of-trans-teen-breaks-gag-to-beg-for-end-of-state-sponsored-child-abuse/>



### China

Rev John Cao San Qiang (husband of Jamie Powell, father of Amos and Ben, U.S. resident, minister to Myanmar Christians, arrested [at the Myanmar border with China on March 5, 2017](#) and charged with illegal border crossing; sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment in [Pu'er, Yunnan province on March 23, 2018](#), fined US\$3,168; sentence upheld on appeal

on [July 25, 2019](#); prison officials on [February 23, 2021](#) refused to allow his attorney to give him a Bible; prison officials on [February 25, 2021](#) allowed his attorney to read Bible verses and pray with him over a prison video chat; **UPDATE**: eighty-four year old mother denied a visit by prison officials who used the pandemic as an excuse)

Date: [March 5, 2021](#)

Location: [Kunming Prison, Yunnan province](#)

Yang Hui (attorney, read Bible verses to Rev John Cao San Qiang over a prison video chat after he was unable to deliver the Bible, prayed with him, wrote "In this spiritual war, serving the sentence peacefully proves to be the best way to win. Eventually, the crown of righteousness will be retained for Pastor Cao. Our heavenly Father will take care of Pastor Cao as well as his mother. No need to worry. We try our best to do whatever we can do, and entrust everything else to God")

Date: [February 25, 2021](#)

Location: [Kunming Prison, Yunnan province](#)

Source: <https://www.chinaaid.org/2021/03/prison-rejects-request-pastor-john-caos.html>

Elder Zhang Chunlei (husband of Yang Aiqin, detained, later told he would be detained for 14 days)

Brother Chen Jianguo (detained)

Sister Li Jinzhi (detained)

Sister Li Lin (detained)

Elder Li Yingqiang (**UPDATE**: wrote "At 5:00 p.m. today, I joined Pastor Huang Xiaoning from Guangzhou Bible Reformed Church to pray for Elder Zhang Chunlei, Brother Chen Jianguo, Sister Li Jinzhi, and Sister Li Lin from Guiyang Renai Reformed Church. They lost their freedom on Tuesday, more than 48 hours ago. We do not yet know in what name [charges], nor for how long these Brothers and Sisters will face the [Chinese Communist Party's] bondage...Recently, I agreed with Elder Chunlei, Pastor Xiaoning, and several other pastors as well as other believers in Christ that if any of us ever lost our freedom, we would find a way to pray with those outside our prisons at 5:00 pm. Then, Brothers and Sisters still free can have a "rain or shine" prayer meeting with those of us in bondage at that time")

Pastor Huang Xiaoning (**UPDATE**: later joined in prayer for the detained)

Date: [March 16, 2021](#)

Location: [Guiyang, Guizhou province](#)

Source: <https://www.chinaaid.org/2021/03/elder-li-yingqiang-of-ercc-appeals-for.html>

Yang Aiqin (wife of Elder Zhang Chunlei, home searched by police, computer, cell phone, and other valuables seized)

Brother Chen Jianguo (detained on [March 16, 2021](#); **UPDATE**: home searched by police, computer and other electronics seized)

Huang Qingxi (home searched by police, computer and documents seized)

Zhou Xun (cancer sufferer, home searched by police, computer seized)

Date: March 18, 2021

Location: Guiyang, Guizhou province

Source: <https://www.chinaaid.org/2021/03/police-detain-elder-zhang-chunlei-14.html>

Brother Chen Jianguo (detained on [March 16, 2021](#); **UPDATE**: released, wrote "I wish that we as Christians could have a place like prison for retreat or used as school. My three-day retreat held in a city became a more authentic 'retreat,' isolating from the world")

Date: March 20, 2021

Location: Guiyang, Guizhou province

Source: <https://www.chinaaid.org/2021/03/chen-jianguo-regarding-his.html>

Pastor Li Juncai (arrested along with three other parishioners while protesting the government's [February 20, 2019](#) removal of a cross from the roof of their church; convicted on various charges of disrupting public service and financial crimes on [December 31, 2020](#), sentenced to 5 and a half years' imprisonment and fined 50,000 yuan [US\$7,659]; **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

Date: March 17, 2021

Location: Xinxiang, Henan province

Source: <https://www.chinaaid.org/2021/03/in-closed-trial-xinxiang-court-rejects.html>



## India

Sr Bhagya SD (school principal, charged with forced conversion by a former employee on [February 22, 2021](#); **UPDATE**: released on bail, filed a criminal complaint against her accuser)

Date: March 16, 2021

Location: Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Madhya-Pradesh-releases-nun-accused-of-violating-anti-conversion-law-52641.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**: denied bail by the National Investigation Agency [NIA] Special Court, suffers from Parkinson's)

Date: March 22, 2021

Location: Mumbai

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mumbai-court-rejects-bail-request-for-Fr.-Stan-Swamy-52669.html>

Fr Alex Onampally (condemned the harassment and arrest of two nuns and two postulants on false accusations of forced conversions while travelling by train, called it a “planned attempt to harass and mistreat the nuns...During the journey, the two postulants were dressed in plain clothes and the other two in nuns' habits. When they returned from Delhi earlier in the afternoon and reached Jhansi around 7.30 pm, some Bajrang Dal activists [a branch of the RSS paramilitary organization], who were returning from a pilgrimage, abused and harassed them. Their main allegation was that the two postulants had been taken by the Sisters to convert them to Christianity. They did not accept the postulants' words that they were born Christian...[The nuns were taken into police custody] when Bajrang Dal activists misinformed the police that the nuns were taking them to convert. Hundreds of Bajrang Dal activists created an atmosphere of terror by shouting slogans outside as the nuns entered the police station...The nuns were released around 11.30 pm after a high-ranking police officer verified the matter...It is suspected that there was a conspiracy behind the arrival of about 150 people at the station in a short period of time to attack the nuns. The experience of the four nuns in Jhansi is just the latest example of how social conditions in India are becoming intolerant for other religions...Tens of thousands of priests and nuns are engaged in selfless service in the northern states. The Syro-Malabar Church strongly condemns these violent acts against Christians who are citizens of the country and demands that the State government and the central government punish the culprits by taking severe punitive measures”)

Date: March 19, 2021

Location: Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Hindu-extremists-surround-and-force-two-nuns-and-two-novices-off-a-train-52682.html>



### United Kingdom

Lord David Alton (aged 70, **UPDATE**: sanctioned by the government of China for his opposition to the persecution of Christians, Muslims, Falun Gong, and democracy activists, banned from entering China and all Chinese citizens are banned from meeting with him)

Date: March 26, 2021

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/china-imposes-sanctions-on-british-catholic-human-rights-campaigner>



### United States

Dr Albert Mohler (Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; **UPDATE**: said in response to USA Today sports columnist Hemal Jhaveri's call for Oral Roberts University to be banned

from the NCAA because Christianity is "archaic" and "wildly out of line with modern society and the basic values of human decency": "This is language beyond anything we've yet seen, although the logic has been there all the time...the most dangerous letters when it comes to the continuation of Christian higher education are the letters NCAA, because the NCAA is indeed adopting policies and pointing in directions that will make it impossible for Christian institutions that hold to a biblical standard of morality, or even a biblical definition of male and female, to continue in participation...We're about to find out just how many Christian schools are going to be willing to stand on biblical standards...we're about to find out just how many schools are actually serving the cause of sports, and how many are going to serve the cause of Christ...recognize if it's said about Oral Roberts University today, it will be said about you, your school, your church, your organization, your Christian congregation, tomorrow. Count on it")

Date: March 25, 2021

Source: [https://albertmohler.com/2021/03/25/briefing-3-25-21?utm\\_source=Albert+Mohler&utm\\_campaign=d9d8271df3-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2019\\_04\\_08\\_09\\_12\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_b041ba0d12-d9d8271df3-310339501&mc\\_cid=d9d8271df3&mc\\_eid=0b70cb06fc](https://albertmohler.com/2021/03/25/briefing-3-25-21?utm_source=Albert+Mohler&utm_campaign=d9d8271df3-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_04_08_09_12_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b041ba0d12-d9d8271df3-310339501&mc_cid=d9d8271df3&mc_eid=0b70cb06fc)

### United States - Colorado

Jack Phillips (bakery owner, cited in 2013 for refusing to make a cake for a same gender wedding; the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the state Civil Rights Commission ruling against him and upheld his right to exercise his religious beliefs on June 4, 2018; the state Civil Rights Commission ruled against him in another separate but factually identical case on June 28, 2018; reported on August 15, 2018 to have brought suit against the state Civil Rights Commission which alleged "unconstitutional bullying" against him; the state Civil Rights Commission dropped its case in March 2019 but allowed it to proceed in civil court; **UPDATE**: civil trial begun)

Date: March 22, 2021

Location: Denver

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/after-supreme-court-victory-colorado-baker-in-court-for-declining-gender-transition-cake-42944>

### Event: Ten people were shot dead by a suspected Islamic State sympathizer

Eric Talley (aged 51, husband, father of seven, brother of Kirstin, son of Homer Talley, **shot dead**)

Neven Stanisic (aged 23, coffee machine repairman, 'a deeply religious young man', **shot dead**)

Date: March 22, 2021

Location: Boulder

Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/boulder-mass-shooting-victims-remembered-including-police-officer/story?id=76628529>

and <https://www.denverpost.com/2021/03/23/boulder-shooting-officer-dead-eric-talley/>

and <https://catholicismpure.wordpress.com/2021/03/23/officer-eric-talley-rip/>

## **Today's Martyrs**

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

*or write to*

**2490 Black Rock Turnpike #455**

**Fairfield CT 06825-2400**

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