

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Commentary - 2017-08-20 through 2017-08-26

Anarcho-tyranny is the controversial idea that governments with a bent for repression of liberties often allow criminal elements free reign to prey on the populace, and sometimes will even ally with criminals to do their bidding. Perhaps the greatest example was the Soviet Union, which most readers know was extremely repressive in the use of state power, but which also would excuse career criminals as victims of capitalism; 'ordinary' crime would receive much lower sentences than 'political' offenses.

This week's report ([please click here to read in full](#)) has two stories from China which both tell of Christian congregations under attack from criminals hired by police or real estate developers; in neither case did law enforcement help. It would appear that the only real controversy with anarcho-tyranny is in the applicability to specific situations: certainly some are very real.

There are other examples of governmental failure that, while not exactly fitting the definition of anarcho-tyranny, have similar outcomes for their people. The government in the Central African Republic is not fully functioning, and so the United Nations have sent peacekeepers to help stop the anarchy that has grown out of the recent civil war; our account again shows that the UN troops have continued to be part of the problem, with abandoned citizens in one village left dead in front of a church and clergy speaking of spiritually preparing parishioners for their anticipated deaths. Jihadist terror is another variation: we report on the death of a 7 year Christian student in Barcelona, Spain, and security preparations at the Vatican. Another variation is vigilantism, which is growing in the Philippines' drug war.

Coming full circle, we even have a due process variation from Russia, where a Christian was acquitted of illegal missionary activity but still ruled to be guilty! The government just had to put something negative in his file!

Of course, from a Christian perspective academic political theory is of little worth beyond the ordering of a just society. We are warned repeatedly that such theories may not be made into idols. Let us pray that Christians everywhere will remember this. Let us also pray that all people will use such ideas with discretion and wisdom, so that all will be free to discern and follow God's desires for us.

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For more information please visit our web site at:

<http://todaysmartyrs.org/index.php/blog-3/>

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