

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Commentary - 2019-05-19 through 2019-05-25

We have a disappointing story from Sri Lanka on [our report for this week](#), a story that has not had full coverage in the media.



St. Sebastian Church bombing, April 21, 2019, Negombo, Sri Lanka – courtesy AsiaNews

A Sri Lankan pastor, Anton Kyanq, has reported on the Pakistani asylum seekers who have been driven from their homes during rioting in the aftermath of the 2019 Easter Sunday church bombings. The secular media, especially the BBC, has reported on the destruction of mosques and Muslim businesses and the killing of at least one Muslim during the rioting. What has not been reported is that the rioters also have targeted Pakistani Christian refugees.

Here is [an account published on April 26, 2019](#), by the British Pakistani Christian Association (BPCA):

My family and I were attacked in Dalupothoa when my home was broken into and rioters came in and vandalized the property I rented while we were forced to watch - they began to beat us. We were told the violence enacted upon us was in retaliation for the series of recent bomb attacks. I begged them to stop beating us and explained that we were innocent and that there were children in my home. The men said "Our Christian children have been killed why should we save yours?" The men beating [sic] us until other Sri Lankan local residents came to my rescue and explained I was a Christian - even then the gang wanted me out of the area as they said I was a Pakistani first and then Christian.

This account contained no attribution (except to the BPCA publisher, Wilson Chowdhry), and so we reluctantly decided at the time to pass on reporting on this important story. Now Pastor Kyanq's report to the BPCA has allowed us to bring this story to your attention in the manner we would prefer.

This is so sad. The BPCA story of April 26th makes it clear that prior to the Easter bombing St. Sebastian Church in Negombo was highly supportive of the Pakistani refugees. Now members of that church have lashed out against innocent Muslims (including Ahmaddiya Muslims who fled persecution in Pakistan) and the very same Christians they once supported. The reports from the BBC and other media have omitted the Christian dimensions to this story, and so on one hand they failed to disclose this lapse in Christian teaching on forgiveness, and on the other hand they failed to expose very painful motives of hysteria and xenophobia that went beyond anti-Muslim prejudices. The BPCA reports thankfully give us a more complete perspective.

Of course, there is another factor to the riots that has gone unmentioned: the church members who were most supportive of the Pakistani refugees may have been among the more than 80 killed in the Negombo church bombing. The murderers may thus have also robbed the refugees of their greatest support.

Wilson Chowdhry does appear in this week's report ([click here to read in full](#)) in another story: he was a signatory of an open letter which opposed a policy that would impose a de facto sharia blasphemy law in Britain. Other Christians who have appeared on past Today's Martyrs publications also signed, but they were all vastly outnumbered by British Hindus, Sikhs, atheists, and others – a very telling fact about the present state of British Christianity.

Other reports this week concern two Pakistani families who were attacked after the local mosque broadcast false blasphemy accusations against one of them over the mosque loudspeakers, a follow-up story on a Chinese Christian refugee in the Netherlands, several stories from China, and the conversion by trickery of a 13 year old Christian to Islam on Turkish television.

So please read our report and please pray for all concerned. Also, two of the signatories to the open letter, [Wilson Chowdhry](#) and [Bishop Gavin Ashenden](#), have made recent financial appeals on their web sites in support of their ministries. Britain can be considered the locus of current anti-Christian sentiments in the West, and therefore it is a place where the good fight can best be fought.

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For more information please visit our web site at: <http://todaysmartyrs.org/index.php/blog-3/>

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